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Flash floods slam state

Heavy rains and saturated ground lead to flooding across Vermont; northern towns in Windham County devastated by a series of storms that recalled Tropical Storm Irene's fury barely more than a decade earlier

By Randolph T. Holhut
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Heavy rain fell on Vermont on July 9 and 10 in amounts not seen since Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.

Mountain towns such as Weston and Londonderry took the brunt of a slow-moving series of showers and thunderstorms that delivered up to 6 inches of rain in less than 24 hours. Access to both towns was cut off after flash flooding washed out roads and led to the need for several rescues to be made by water-borne emergency responders.

All local and state resources were deployed to respond to the ongoing disaster. So far, there have been no reports of injuries or deaths related to the flooding, but damage to roads and property was considerable.

"This is an all-hands-on-deck response," Gov. Phil Scott said at a July 10 press conference at the state Emergency Operations Center in Waterbury. "We have not seen rainfall like this since Irene, and in some places, it will surpass even that."

Calling the flooding "historic and catastrophic," Scott said on July 11 that even through the rain had stopped and skies were sunny, "this is not over."

The governor warned that more rain could come later in the week, as dams are at near capacity and rivers and streams are still running well above normal July levels.

Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety Daniel Batsie told reporters at the July 10 news conference that the state's immediate focus would be on saving lives. Property and infrastructure repairs would come later, he said.

On July 9, Scott declared a state of emergency, activating the state's Emergency Operations Center and National Guard. On Monday morning, he anticipated that damages to the state would exceed the threshold to request a federal emergency declaration, which could help secure federal funding to help recovery efforts.

By the end of the day on Monday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that President Joe Biden approved an emergency declaration for all 14 counties of Vermont, with federal disaster relief and assistance made available to the state.

Heavy rain in the hills

In 24 hours, Tropical Storm Irene dumped up to 11 inches of rain on Vermont, causing flash

■ SEE FLASH FLOODING, A2



RICK MCDONOUGH/SPECIAL TO THE COMMONS

Londonderry, shown here on Monday morning, was one of the hardest hit towns in the state in this week's catastrophic flooding.

COLUMN | Reporter's Notebook

A step back in time, a space for girls to be themselves



GREEN MOUNTAIN CAMP FOR GIRLS, VIA VERMONT ARTS & LIVING

Campers at Green Mountain Camp for Girls around the campfire, circa 1940.

Green Mountain Camp for Girls, a place with no mirrors and no cell phones, builds deep connections and enduring friendships

JANICE MARTIN, 96, remembers being awarded a scholarship to Green Mountain Camp for Girls — a place that, even though it was just 6 miles from her childhood home on Canoe Brook Road, "felt very far away."

"I was a country bumpkin, with very little socialization in 1938, when I was 12 years old," says Martin, now a resident of Brattleboro.

As GMC celebrates its 106th anniversary this summer, it remains the longest-continuously-run camp in Vermont, and one of a handful across the nation.

"In the beginning, there were six tents on wooden platforms



FRAN LYNNGAARD HANSEN, a Brattleboro native with deep connections to local history and to people everywhere, is a Commons reporter and columnist.

with cots inside. There were six girls to share the tent with me. We were all about my age. We walked down to the West River to bathe and swim," Martin says.

In fact, the cots were Army surplus from World War I,

■ SEE GREEN MOUNTAIN CAMP, A6

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Recognizing that a vigorous exchange of ideas and information allows democracy to function and is the lifeblood of a community, Vermont Independent Media:
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• promotes local independent journalism,
• fosters civic engagement by building media skills through publication of The Commons and commonsnews.org, and through the Media Mentoring Project.

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SUBMITTING NEWS AND TIPS

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

VOICES

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

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

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

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

Editorials represent the collective voice of The Commons and are written by the editors or by members of the Vermont Independent Media Board of Directors.

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

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

Flash flooding

FROM SECTION FRONT

flooding that killed seven people and damaged or destroyed scores of homes, more than 200 bridges, and more than 500 miles of highways.

By contrast, the rains of July 9 and 10 brought Irene-like levels of precipitation to western parts of Windham County and southern Rutland County that fell on ground already saturated by three weeks of persistent showers and thunderstorms.

While towns in the Connecticut River Valley generally got about 1 to 2 inches of rain in the 34 hours between Sunday night and Tuesday morning, rain totals rose sharply in the towns west of Brattleboro.

The spine of the Green Mountains got considerably more rain, with Andover, which lies between Londonderry and Chester, recording 8.65 inches of rain, according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

Ludlow, just north of Weston and Londonderry, topped out at 5.67 inches. West Wardsboro got 4.53 inches, West Dover got 4.54 inches, Marlboro got 4 inches, Jacksonville got 3.75 inches, and Wilmington got 3.5 inches.

The volume of water that the hill towns in southern Vermont received from the storms could be measured at the river gauges maintained by the NWS.

At North Walpole, along the Connecticut River, the water level jumped from 13 feet early on Monday to 28.22 feet — moderate flood stage — by Tuesday morning, leading to some flooding along Route 5 in Westminster near Allen Brothers Farm Market.

Water levels eventually receded by the end of Tuesday, but the silt-filled water continued to thunder southward to threaten towns along the Connecticut River in western Massachusetts.

The water level on the Williams River in Rockingham rose from 3 feet early on Monday to 15.6 feet — well above flood stage — by Monday night. That was close to the previous crest of 17.9 feet on Aug. 28, 2011.

Water levels receded to 6 feet by Tuesday morning, but not before floodwaters nearly washed away the Worrall Covered Bridge in Bartonsville.

On the West River, just below Townshend Lake, the water level went from 6 feet on Sunday night to 8.26 feet by noon Monday.

Both Ball Mountain Dam in Jamaica and Townshend Dam were performing controlled water releases to cope with rising floodwaters on the West River. Personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers feared that they would have to release a large

amount of water from those two dams, but by Tuesday morning, the Corps announced that water levels had slowly receded and the measure would be unnecessary.

That decision averted a flooding threat for low-lying areas of the West River Valley from Jamaica to Brattleboro.

The threat of more storms in the coming days means that flash flooding will remain a concern for people living near Vermont's rivers and streams. Vermonters can track river forecasts and levels at bit.ly/722-weather-safety.

Residents are also encouraged to register for a Vermont Alert account at vtalert.gov to receive up-to-the-minute safety warnings.

Widespread disruption

According to the Vermont Agency of Transportation, the main state highways into the Weston/Londonderry area — Routes 11 and 100 — suffered major washouts and flooding on Monday. Route 30 was also closed between Winhall and Jamaica but was reopened by noon Monday.

Interstate 89 was closed Monday night between the Montpelier and Middlesex exits due to flooding, but the highway was reopened by Tuesday morning after debris was cleared and the roadway was inspected.

In all, 78 state highways and countless local roads around Vermont were washed out. For a list of current state road closures, visit newengland511.org.

According to Mike Cannon, the state's urban search and rescue program coordinator, 13 swift-water rescue crews from Vermont are responding to emergency calls. They have been assisted by six more crews from North Carolina, Connecticut, and Massachusetts with more personnel from other states en route to Vermont.

The Vermont National Guard added to the response with five helicopters patrolling hard-hit areas, assisted by drones, to search for people trapped in homes or cars.

Cannon said swift-water teams had conducted 117 rescues since July 9 and evacuated nearly 70 people.

In downtown Wilmington, the scene of so much devastation during Irene, the Deerfield River was running near the top of its banks on Monday afternoon and was close to overflowing before the water receded as quickly as it rose late Monday night and Tuesday morning.

"Water has filled all of the floodplains, some basements, a parking lot, and parts of Route



TOM BUCHANAN/SPECIAL TO THE COMMONS

Street signs in Londonderry lost their meaning entirely.



JOSHUA STEELE PHOTOGRAPHY/SPECIAL TO THE COMMONS

The new VT/NH Route 119 Bridge Project filtered debris from the swollen Connecticut River, including boats that were swept away several miles upstream at The Marina.

100," said Town Manager Scott Tucker. "But it doesn't appear it's going to be very costly. People were better prepared because of Irene."

Town officials update Londonderry residents

At the Londonderry Selectboard's emergency meeting on July 11, town officials said that while the town has made extensive progress repairing and reopening the long list of damaged roads, more work remains.

The town is working with several private contractors to expedite the repairs. Selectboard member Taylor Prouty listed the contractors and said, "We're really lucky to have these folks around who want to help. They're all of our friends and neighbors, and we'll never forget them."

Members of the audience also asked about how the town road crew was holding up. Board members said they were tired but doing OK.

So far, the local contractors have access to enough road material to make repairs, the board said.

Despite the swift progress in reopening damaged roads, Prouty offered a word of caution

to drivers. "None of our roads are in good shape. Treat the open roads as — at best — like they're one lane and passable," Prouty told the small audience during the Zoom meeting.

According to board members, the municipality has conducted welfare checks throughout Londonderry.

Board members discussed members of the local business community who are still cleaning up after the storm. Volunteers are needed, they said, adding that any community members who would like to contact local businesses and offer help will be welcomed.

Chris Campany, executive director of the Windham Regional Commission, and Adam Grinold, executive director of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corp., said that the state is still deciding how to collect data about the damage that individual residents and business owners have incurred from the flood.

Campany recommended that if people have a non-emergency need or are looking to report property damage, they should call 211.

Grinold echoed Campany's recommendation, adding the recommendation that individuals and business owners should

keep very good records. He recommended that property owners take a number of before and after photos and to track expenses as well as the number of hours that volunteers work on their behalf.

The Selectboard noted that the town's responsibility for road repair ends at the edge of the road. Damage to driveways and any culverts that are part of those driveways is the responsibility of the landowners.

Members of the audience also recommended that people have their well water tested.

The board approved an emergency road access agreement with landowners Chad and Jessica Landmon to help residents stranded on Cobble Ridge Road and Stone Hollow reach Route 100.

Board member Melissa Brown said she felt proud to live in Londonderry. She thanked the emergency responders, community members, and volunteers helping the town recover from the storm.

Prouty agreed, saying that the number of people helping to clean up the downtown Tuesday demonstrated "a lot of life in the wake of the disaster."

Assessing damage in the Deerfield Valley

Rep. Laura Sibilila, I-Dover, spent most of Monday and Tuesday driving through her district, assessing damages and talking with people affected by the flooding.

Most of the damage she witnessed in Stratton, Dover, Jamaica, and Wardsboro was to roads. In Wardsboro, floodwaters washed away a home, she said, although she had yet to speak to the homeowner.

Sibilila said she planned to visit a woman in Jamaica who said her car sat buried under a pile of boulders.

She said that time will tell whether this storm caused more damage than Irene, but one issue she felt better about was connectivity.

Post-Irene, Sibilila pushed a metaphorical alarm on the poor state of Vermont's rural communications and internet infrastructure. Her concerns, shared by fellow lawmakers, eventually led to the creation of Communications Union Districts, a framework that has allowed the development of local, rural internet networks such as DVfiber.

Repairing roads is the big work right now, she said.

Sibilila and officials from several towns are working to gain access to a gravel bank in Stratton. They hope that using gravel from the local area will save municipal highway crews travel time rather than trucking to several, and more distant, gravel companies for materials.

In Jamaica, town officials were preparing for a late-night meeting on Tuesday to take a holistic look

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KIRSTEN GOTTSCHALK, SPECIAL TO THE COMMONS

Flooding wreaked havoc at the convergence of the West and Connecticut rivers.

at flood damage. Quite a few roads had been damaged, but, in general, town officials said things could have been worse: No one has died, no houses were washed away that are known of, and the rain stopped before it reached the overflow level at Ball Mountain Dam.

Madeline Helsler, substitute librarian at the Jamaica Memorial Library, spent Monday night with friends. While her home is on high ground, she was waiting for the fire department to give Depot Street Bridge the all-clear.

Helsler said the library will stay open as usual for anyone who needs a welcoming place during this stressful time. Only a few have needed to take the library up on its offer, she said. With more rain predicted later this week, she is hoping for the best.

In the early hours of Tuesday, Helsler and several friends walked their friends' horses along Route 30 to higher ground. She said she feels that the community comes together during emergencies.

Few problems in Brattleboro

In Brattleboro, minor flooding was reported at Mountain Home Trailer Park. Town officials said all occupants either evacuated, or decided to shelter in place, on Monday.

Ames Hill and Marlboro roads were also closed briefly. Brattleboro Public Works Director Daniel Tyler said Monday that while all roads were passable by Tuesday, "crews will be completing assessments, prioritizing, and making repairs in the coming days."

Tyler said in the event of road closures due to future rain, up to date closures can be viewed at bit.ly/722-bratt-roads-closed, or contact the Department of Public Works at 802-254-4255.

At a July 11 special meeting of the Selectboard, Chair Ian Goodnow opened the meeting with a response to "the catastrophic flooding that took place on Monday."

"Our thoughts go out to those most affected," he said.

Noting that Brattleboro and its residents were "lucky to escape the worst," he acknowledged those in town in the "marginalized communities" were, indeed, affected.

Goodnow thanked emergency services and other "community partners" for addressing the emergency in addition to tackling a three-alarm fire on Canal Street in the middle of the day.

He called on the town to provide what it can to others "as they begin the long road of rebuilding their communities."

Town Manager John Potter said as of Tuesday afternoon, all rivers and streams in town "have stabilized" and that despite the 50 washouts in town — the worst in the Black Mountain Road area — the highway department expects to have all of them stabilized before the rain currently predicted for Thursday.

Potter added that floodplain restoration work along Whetstone Brook "probably avoided significant evacuations of as many as 120 homes."

How to help

• The Vermont Community Foundation has established the VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund 2023 to coordinate and distribute support to the communities where it is most needed in the days, weeks, and months to come. More information can be found at vermontcf.org/vtfloodresponse.

• Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is currently addressing issues such as temporary housing, food, clothing, and case management to help people access state/federal assistance, cleanup funds,

and more. They can be reached at 800-464-9951 or at sevca@sevca.org.

• The American Red Cross of Northern New England is also assisting with relief efforts. See redcross.org/local/me-nh-vt/get-help.html for more information.

• Vermonters should contact Vermont 211 to report flood damage and to get information on shelters for people affected by the storm and to register with FEMA and the Small Business Administration for recovery help.

• Shelters were opened at 15 sites around Vermont, including Flood Brook School, the Town Hall, and the South Londonderry Baptist Church in Londonderry, the Masonic Lodge in Jamaica, and NewBrook Fire & Rescue in Newfane.

• For those who would like to volunteer to help with recovery efforts, Vermont Emergency Management urges them to sign up formally at vermont.gov/volunteer.

"Please don't self-deploy," the agency posted on Facebook.

More information is available at vermont211.org, or by calling 211.

With additional reporting from Commons reporters Olga Peters, Robert F. Smith, and Virginia Ray, and Sarah Mearhoff and Paul Heintz of VTDigger.

More flood coverage, section B



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MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

College news

• The following local students recently graduated from Castleton University and were recognized during its 236th commencement ceremony: **Kristopher Carroll** of Brattleboro, A.A., general studies; **Devon Harding** of Londonderry, B.A., ecological studies; **Morgen Janovsky** of Wilmington, B.A., criminal justice (magna cum laude); **Rebekah Lazarek** of Westminster, B.A., theater (cum laude); **Jessica Roberts** of Putney, B.A., psychological science; **Maria Page** of West Halifax, B.S., nursing (magna cum laude); and **Jordan Wright** of Brattleboro, B.S., sports management.

• The following local students were honored for academic achievement in the spring 2023 semester at Castleton University: Named to the President's List were **Cameron Allement** of Whitingham and **Maria Page** of West Halifax. Named to the Dean's List were **Sally Densmore** of Wilmington, **Emma Dornburgh** of Whitingham, **Morgen Janovsky** of Wilmington, **Marcus Pratt** of Newfane, **Jenna Robinson** of East Dover, and **Jairen Sanderson** of West Townshend.

• **Liam Ian Allan McNeil** of Brattleboro recently received a B.S. in mechanical engineering, with a minor in mathematics, from Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York.

• The following local students recently earned degrees from Plymouth (N.H.) State University: **Jack Armbruster** of West Dover graduated cum laude with a B.S. in business administration; **Megan Banik** of Westminster graduated cum laude with a B.S. in allied health sciences; **Emily Harris** of Bellows Falls graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in elementary education; **Kathleen Hodsdon** of Bellows Falls graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in nursing; and **Noah Rawling** of Bellows Falls graduated with a B.S. in management.

• The following local students were honored for academic achievement in the spring 2023 semester at Community College of Vermont: Named to the President's List were **Wyatt Schaefer** of Bellows Falls, **Noah Morgan** and **Avery Witman** of Brattleboro, **Alexis Drake** of Dummerston, **Julie Cermola** of Saxtons River, and **Kailuna Holmes** and **Nicholas Petronic** of Townshend. Named to the Dean's List were **John Gibbs** and **Mirela Weis** of Brattleboro, **Sierra Lane** of Dummerston, **Liam Mallan** of Saxtons River, and **Madison Anyan** of Townshend. Named to the Student Honors List for part-time students were **Angela Jardine** and **Jourdan Metcalfe** of Bellows Falls; **Mya Bailey**, **Elijah Barrett**, **Eleanor Cautela-Clouet**, **Joseph Dwyer**, **Emma Ethier**, **Jessica Farquhar**, **Chelsea Lawson**, **Emma Li**, **Daelyn Lynn**, **Alexandra**

McLaughlin, Samantha Richardson, Jason Shatney, Hailey Taylor, and Alexandria Tupper of Brattleboro; **Sierra Gagnon** of East Dover; **Deborah Jacobs** and **Molly Peters** of Guilford; **Rachael Edgar** of Newfane; **Shane Martin** of Putney; **Martha Jordan** of South Londonderry; **Maureen Velsor** of Saxtons River; **Paul Jerz** of Townshend; **Kayla Pendlebury** of Vernon; **Jeffrey Rivard** of West Brattleboro; **Madisyn Illingworth** of Westminster; and **Melissa Sutton** of Wilmington.

• The following local residents were named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts: Earning first honors were **Lydia Hazzard-Leal** of Brattleboro, **Freddie G. Learey** of Brattleboro, **Julianne L. Liebow** of Townshend, **Tori D. MacKay** of South Newfane, **Max H. Spicer** of Williamsville, and **Lucy M. Szpila** of Brattleboro. Earning second honors were **Abbe Kathryn Cravinich** of Bellows Falls, **Kai S. Hammond** of Putney, and **Jack T. Langeloh** of Putney.

• **Liliana Buettner**, an inclusive elementary education major from Dummerston, was named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York.

• **Kade Perrotti**, a computer engineering major from Vernon, and **Eli Leclair**, an electrical engineering major from Brattleboro, were named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology.

• **Sapphire Joy** of Bellows Falls and **Makenna Milbauer** of Grafton were named to the spring 2023 Chancellor's List at University of South Carolina-Beaufort.

• **Tyler Millerick**, a general business major from Vernon, was named to the President's List for the spring 2023 semester at Western New England University in Springfield, Massachusetts.

• **Jamie Jarvis-Stores**, a media arts production major from Putney, was named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at Emerson College in Boston.

Obituaries



• **Sandra Ann Atherton, 70**, of Brattleboro. Died peacefully July 4, 2023, in the comfort of her home with her husband at her side, following a period of declining health. Sandra was born in Townshend on May 10, 1953, the daughter of Richard and June (Smith) Thomas. She was raised and educated in Townshend and Brattleboro and was a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School, Class of 1971. Known for her strong work ethic, Sandra worked for many years for Motel 6 on Putney Road, starting at the motel as a chambermaid and

retiring as manager of the facility. Sandra was known for her pleasant personality and spirit of friendship. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, spending time at the Townshend Dam, going fishing with her husband, and sharing time with her family. On Jan. 4, 1980, in Wilmington, she was married to Kendrick G. Atherton, who survives. Besides her faithful and devoted husband of 43 years, she leaves two brothers, Richard Thomas, Jr. and his wife, Bonnie, of Townshend and Mitchell Thomas and his wife, Laura, of Vernon; one sister, Barbara Cutler of West Townshend; a sister-in-law, Sandra Thomas of Townshend; and many nieces, nephews, and several cousins. Additionally, she leaves her pet Labrador/Golden Retriever "Co Co". Sandra was predeceased by one brother, Donald Thomas, and a sister, Phyllis Stickney. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: In keeping with her final wishes, there are no services scheduled. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To share a memory or offer condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Ralph J. Barnes, 104**, of Westminster. Died on June 21, 2023. He was born on May 21, 1919 in Westminster to the late Harlan and Carrie (Cater) Barnes. Ralph married Louise Ella Wilcox on June 14, 1941 and later divorced. He then married Joyce Jeffs on Oct. 31, 1960; she died in 2005. Ralph worked for Cray Oil, F.W. Whitcomb, Southeastern Vermont Community Action (where he transported people), Charlie Kelton, and C&L Petroleum. Ralph was a member of the Odd Fellows, where he held every office, and the Eastern Draft Horse Association. Ralph was known to tell stories of his childhood, working on the family farm, and driving trucks. He thoroughly enjoyed driving for SEVCA, saying "he was taking odd people to their appointments." Ralph was an avid Bingo player and would set up and call Bingo for the Odd Fellows in Saxtons River as well as the New Brook Fire Department. Ralph could be seen many days having breakfast at Lisa's and lunch and dinner at the Dari Joy. Ralph is survived by his children: Ruth Smith, Douglas (Vicky) Barnes, Judy Budzik and Curtis (Michelle) Barnes. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his siblings Leighton and Joseph Barnes, Beatrice Fisher, and Rhoea Longley. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A service was held on July 5 at Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, followed by burial in Houghtonville Cemetery.

• **Rodger A. Borgeson, 64**, of Spofford, New Hampshire. Died peacefully, surrounded by his family, on June 20, 2023 after a long

battle with cancer. Rodger would never answer his phone, but when the Lord called, he answered on the first ring. He was born on Jan. 28, 1959 in Binghamton, New York to the late Robert and Carolyn Borgeson. In 1977, after graduating from Victor (N.Y.) High School and BOCES (a trade school where he majored in carpentry), he worked many different jobs throughout his life. Some of them included Audio Vision Electronics for 10 years, installing and servicing satellite television systems, and at Hannaford Supermarket in Brattleboro for 12 years. One of his last employers

before retirement was Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, New Hampshire. Rodger was a quiet soul, but full of life. He was a minimalist by nature. He would tinker, repairing and reusing an item instead of purchasing it new. He had a good sense of humor, but not everyone appreciated it. He aspired to be a gourmet cook, watching Julia Child and the Food Network. He had a host of hobbies, including model cars, woodworking, and vintage stereo equipment. His greatest hobby or obsession was his love of recorded music. To him it was more than just songs. If you started talking about music with him, you opened Pandora's Box. He was a wealth of knowledge when it came to the history of rock and other music genres. He had an amazing ability to hear the most minute and obscure tones and lyrics. Many of us miss those details listening to the same recording. His specialty and love was rock music. Name a band, and he could tell you every member, every hit song, and how many weeks they spent in the Top 40. You'd start to sing a lyric and he would tell you which artist sang it and any other recordings. Sadly, given his talents including love and knowledge he never pursued a career in any music field. He had hundreds of thousands of music files, which consumed his time. Among all those recordings, his favorite was "Miles To Nowhere" by Cat Stevens. He said it was his song, and it described him to a T. He is survived by his only son, Rodger Borgeson of Brookline; sisters Karen Elliot (Ken) of Leyden, Massachusetts and Christine Klauk (Darrell) of Elloree, South Carolina; a brother, Ricky Borgeson (Linda) of West Chesterfield, New Hampshire; as well as extended family, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services will be announced at a later date.

• **Ruth Canedy Cane, 100**, of Brattleboro. Died July 5, 2023 at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Born Oct. 13, 1922, in Jacksonville, the third child of William Dana and Mary Jane (Coombs) Canedy, she was educated in the Jacksonville public schools and graduated from Whitingham High School in the class of 1939. After a year there as a postgraduate, she attended business schools in Brattleboro and Springfield, Massachusetts. She was then employed by the British Information Services in New York, but was soon called home by her mother's illness. Back at home, she taught commercial subjects at Whitingham High School for two years, replacing Walter White, who was serving his country in World War II. She was secretary to writer/translator Barrows Mussey of Guilford until 1949, when she returned to New York to join the firm then known as Harper & Brothers as secretary and editorial assistant, remaining there until her marriage in 1957 to Grosvenor Montgomery Cross. They then moved to West Concord, Massachusetts, and later to British Columbia, Canada, Deming, New Mexico, and finally to Kennebunk, Maine, where her husband died in 1994. In 1972, she began a freelance career of indexing books which she continued during her travels, ending at the age of 92 having processed a total of 564 books for nearly 50 different publishers. One of her clients called her "the best in the business." She came back to Brattleboro in 2002, retiring in 2015, and remained there until her death. She was predeceased by her husband and by her two sisters, Rachel Moore of Arlington, Vermont and Harriet Murdock of Brattleboro. Her survivors include two nephews, Millyn Moore of Hartland and William Moore of Colchester and their families; and a niece, Mary Jane Penfield of Brattleboro and her son Colby Hescoc and his fiancée MacKenzie. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: She will be cremated and there will be no services. Donations to the Windham

County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Nicole Gouin "Nicki" Dix, 77**, of West Des Moines, Iowa. Died at Methodist Hospital on June 28, 2023. She died peacefully of natural causes with her future husband, and Nicole was born June 21, 1946 in Sutton, Quebec, Canada to Roland Wilfred Gouin and Mae Emelia (Sturgeon) Gouin. She moved to the United States with her parents and three of her siblings and became a naturalized citizen on May 13, 1957. She attended Brattleboro Union High School, where she met her future husband, and graduated with the class of 1964. Later that year, Nicole married Bernard Eldon Dix, Jr., of Brattleboro on Oct. 10, 1964. Nicki and Bernie started their lives together buying a home in Brattleboro. Later they moved to West Chesterfield, New Hampshire to start their family, returning to Brattleboro in the early 1980's. Following Bernie's passing, Nicki moved to Englewood, Florida, and then Reno, Nevada, before making her final move to West Des Moines. Nicki loved to spend time on crafts and enjoyed learning something new. She started cake decorating in the 1970's and made several wedding cakes for friends and family. One of her more memorable cakes was an enormous Halloween scarecrow that fed the entire St. Michael's elementary school. She then started ceramic painting, macrame, and quilting. Throughout her life, and to the very end, she loved to crochet and knit, often making and donating beanies to premature babies in the NICU. Nicole leaves behind her son, Dennis B. Dix of Norwalk, Iowa; daughter Deborah M. Ahlberg and her husband Dale; granddaughter Taiya M. Glas and her husband Casey; grandson Adam B. Ahlberg; and great-grandchildren Zayleigh and Addilyn Glas, all of Des Moines; her brother Wilfred Gouin of Brattleboro, and her sister Mary Ann Dennis of Syracuse, New York. Nicole was predeceased by her husband of 46 years and her brothers Gerald (Joseph) Gouin, Robert Gouin, Claude Gouin, and John Paul Gouin. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Per Nicole's request, no service is scheduled and she will be interred with her husband in a private cemetery.

• **William E. "Bill" Eckhardt, 99**, of Brattleboro. Died June 26, 2023 at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Bill was born on Jan. 24, 1924 in Mount Vernon, New York to William and Marie (Berghausen) Eckhardt. He joined three sisters at home, Norma ("Nonie"), Eleanor, and Margaret (who died young). Bill attended schools in Mount Vernon, graduating from A.B. Davis High School in 1942. He enrolled at Hobart College, where he played football and lacrosse. He also signed up for the V-12 Officer Training program, then successfully completed Naval Officer training at the Northwestern Midshipman School in Chicago. In 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, eventually receiving a commission as Ensign, serving on the L.C.I. (L.) 548, an infantry landing craft. After the war, Bill returned to Hobart College, earning a B.A. in business administration. He worked as an insurance adjuster at Dun and Bradstreet in New York City, then worked for several years at American Mutual Liability Insurance Co., in Boston. In 1968, Bill began a 55-year career working for Bartlett Tree Experts as a sales representative. In the 1960s, Bill's love of the sea led him to purchase a sailboat, which he upgraded several times to a larger vessel over the years. His last boat, the "Bali Hai," was specially made for him at the Choy Lee Shipyard in Hong Kong. Bill was a Boy Scout troop leader for a number of years while living in Greenwich, Connecticut. In 1968, Bill met the love of his life, Nancy W. Carlson. They shared many common interests, especially sailing. Wedding bells rang for them on Oct. 10, 1970, when they were married at Christ Church in Greenwich. On that day, Bill became a stepfather to Nancy's three teenaged children, Jennifer, Christopher, and Peter. The "step" in stepfather was quickly forgotten, as Bill excelled in all aspects of fatherhood. The family lived in Connecticut, first in Greenwich, then in Fairfield. In 1972, Bill and Nancy purchased Top Notch Farm on East Hill in Townshend, and made their home there for the next 42 years. Bill became very involved in the local community, becoming a Selectman for many years. He was accepted as a Freemason, as well as a Shriner, and was a member of American Legion Post 16. The Eckhardts were faithful members of the Jamaica Community Church for many years. Bill was instrumental in installing a chairlift at the church, as well as a sign in front of the church. He also established an art scholarship program which benefits local Jamaica students who attend Leland & Gray Union High School. On several occasions, Bill even found himself offering a sermon. In 2014, Bill and Nancy sold their hilltop home and moved to Valley Cares Assisted Living facility in Townshend. Bill eventually moved into Pine Heights Rehab Center in Brattleboro in 2018. Bill was predeceased by his parents, as well as a granddaughter, Rebecca Harris; his sisters Margaret, Nicole, and Eleanor; a son, Christopher Carlson; a nephew, Lee Woodward; and nieces Joan Kingsley and Nanette Stansbury. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Nancy W. Eckhardt, a

daughter, Jennifer Harris; a son, Peter (Roxane) Carlson; nephews Peter Kingsley and Grant Woodward, and nieces Laurie Jensen and Barbara Hirtle. Also surviving are grandchildren Todd (Kathryn) Einig, Tracey (Travis) Farrell, Kristin Grossbach, Amy Carlson, Jaclyn (Michael) Kruse, Rachel Carlson, Sarah (Justin) Adams, Jared Carlson (Clarissa Taylor-Wesley) and Jason (Kayla) Carlson; as well as great-grandchildren Ava Einig, Madelyn, and Freya Adams; Alan and Joshua Grossbach; Shayla and Sharice, Dennis, Brayden, Grayson, and Emersyn Kruse; Evangeline and Oaklen Carlson, and Wesley Carlson. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of life service was held at Jamaica Community Church on June 30. Donations to Jamaica Community Church, P.O. Box 54, Jamaica, VT 05343, or Grace Cottage Hospital, 185 Townshend Rd., Townshend, VT 05353. To share a memory or offer condolences to Bill's family, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **William T. "Bill" Huestis III, 76**, of Brattleboro. Died July 1, 2023, with his family at his side, at the Jack Byrne Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Bill was born in Brattleboro on May 26, 1947, the son of William and Isabel (Tupper) Huestis. He was raised and educated in Brattleboro, graduating from Brattleboro Union High School with the Class of 1965. He later enlisted in the Coast Guard serving from 1966 until his honorable discharge in 1969. Upon returning home to Brattleboro, he joined the family business and completed his apprenticeship under his father earning his master plumber's license. Following the death of his father, Bill became president of Huestis Plumbing & Heating and continued with the company following the merger with Fleming Oil Co. and, later, Dead River Co. of Maine. He retired in 2017 following 48 faithful years in the business. At the time of his death, Bill had been employed on a part-time basis with GS Precision of Brattleboro. A lifelong communicant of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Bill was an active volunteer with Bridg's Kitchen, sharing his passion for cooking and preparing his many unique recipes and dishes. Additionally, he held membership in American Legion Post 5. Of his other leisure time activities, Bill enjoyed gardening and time shared with his family. With his wife, he enjoyed dining out at their favorite restaurants and wintering in the Carolinas. He was a faithful and devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, as well as a friend to many. On July 26, 1969 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, he married Ngitchob "Yudah" Ngiralmu, who survives. Besides his wife of nearly 54 years, he leaves one son, Christopher of Brattleboro; a daughter, Kelly Huestis-Colford and her husband Mark of Brattleboro; a sister, Barbara Miller of Brattleboro; two grandchildren, Oliver Huestis and Lillian Fleming; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by two sisters, Corinne Bristol and Catherine Huestis; and a son, Max Huestis. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass was held on July 11 at St. Michael's Catholic Church. Donations to Bridg's Kitchen, 47 Walnut St., Brattleboro, VT 05301. To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Doris LaValley, 99**, formerly of Vernon. Died on July 1, 2023, in Sebring, Florida. She was born on Dec. 22, 1923 in Altona, New York to the late Joseph and Julia (Fisher) Barnaby. She married Oscar Houle in 1942 and was married for 23 years. Two years later, she was re-married to Harold LaValley and moved to Vernon. While in Vermont, she worked at Molly Stark Furniture and Chremeries, as well as doing house cleaning. She moved to Florida in 1984 and worked as a seamstress, sewing suits and curtains at the Marriott inside Disney World. After retiring, she enjoyed cooking, planting flowers, playing cards, line dancing, and spending time with family and friends. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her daughter Patsy Rutty and companion Sheldon Stoke. Doris is survived and will be missed by her nine children: Robert Houle of Westfield, Massachusetts, Sandra Thompson of Old Saybrook, Connecticut, Richard Houle of Sebring, David Houle of Davenport, Florida, Oscar Houle of Alabama, John Houle of Sebring, Tom Houle of Brattleboro, Patrick Houle and his wife Sandra of Vermont, and Donald Houle and his wife Caroline of Brattleboro. She also leaves behind 29 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A graveside committal service will take place on Thursday, July 13, at 11 a.m., at St. Michael's Cemetery in Brattleboro. To leave a message of condolence, visit phaneuf.net.

• **Marita (Coleman) Martin, 82**, of Putney. Died June 29, 2023, after a battle with dementia. Born in 1941, she was the daughter of the late Wilma (Robbins) Bentley and Kenneth Coleman. She was a graduate with the Class of 1959 from Leland

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Windham Unit Docket No.: 23-PR-03769
In re ESTATE of: Lois Sippel

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Lois Sippel (Decedent)
late of Athens, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)

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

Dated: June 27, 2023 c/o Amelia W. L. Darrow, Esq.
Dale Williamson, Executor Secrest & Darrow, PLC
209 Austine Dr, Brattleboro, VT 05301
Name of Publication: The Commons 802-251-6598
Publication Date: July 12, 2023 adarrow@secrestdarrow.com

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

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Windham Unit Docket No.: 23-PR-03421
In re ESTATE of: Alice Bessie Clayton

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Alice Bessie Clayton (Decedent)
late of Vernon, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)

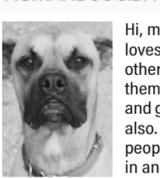
I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court.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

Dated: July 6, 2023 c/o Amelia W. L. Darrow, Esq.
Maxine Rice, Executor Secrest & Darrow, PLC
209 Austine Dr, Brattleboro, VT 05301
Name of Publication: The Commons 802-251-6598
Publication Date: July 12, 2023 adarrow@secrestdarrow.com

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

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elizabethjulia88@aol.com:
802-257-7475



Hi, my name is **Buddy!** I am a very outgoing guy who loves everyone that I meet. I am very playful around other dogs and should be able to live with a home with them. Cats are unknown and any meets should be slow and gradual. I think I would do well in a home with kids also. I really love to pounce around outside with my people. If I sound like the fellow for you, please come in and meet with me.

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Have a dog, cat, or small pet that needs to be spayed or neutered?
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daughter, Jennifer Harris; a son, Peter (Roxane) Carlson; nephews Peter Kingsley and Grant Woodward, and nieces Laurie Jensen and Barbara Hirtle. Also surviving are grandchildren Todd (Kathryn) Einig, Tracey (Travis) Farrell, Kristin Grossbach, Amy Carlson, Jaclyn (Michael) Kruse, Rachel Carlson, Sarah (Justin) Adams, Jared Carlson (Clarissa Taylor-Wesley) and Jason (Kayla) Carlson; as well as great-grandchildren Ava Einig, Madelyn, and Freya Adams; Alan and Joshua Grossbach; Shayla and Sharice, Dennis, Brayden, Grayson, and Emersyn Kruse; Evangeline and Oaklen Carlson, and Wesley Carlson. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of life service was held at Jamaica Community Church on June 30. Donations to Jamaica Community Church, P.O. Box 54, Jamaica, VT 05343, or Grace Cottage Hospital, 185 Townshend Rd., Townshend, VT 05353. To share a memory or offer condolences to Bill's family, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **William T. "Bill" Huestis III, 76**, of Brattleboro. Died July 1, 2023, with his family at his side, at the Jack Byrne Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Bill was born in Brattleboro on May 26, 1947, the son of William and Isabel (Tupper) Huestis. He was raised and educated in Brattleboro, graduating from Brattleboro Union High School with the Class of 1965. He later enlisted in the Coast Guard serving from 1966 until his honorable discharge in 1969. Upon returning home to Brattleboro, he joined the family business and completed his apprenticeship under his father earning his master plumber's license. Following the death of his father, Bill became president of Huestis Plumbing & Heating and continued with the company following the merger with Fleming Oil Co. and, later, Dead River Co. of Maine. He retired in 2017 following 48 faithful years in the business. At the time of his death, Bill had been employed on a part-time basis with GS Precision of Brattleboro. A lifelong communicant of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Bill was an active volunteer with Bridg's Kitchen, sharing his passion for cooking and preparing his many unique recipes and dishes. Additionally, he held membership in American Legion Post 5. Of his other leisure time activities, Bill enjoyed gardening and time shared with his family. With his wife, he enjoyed dining out at their favorite restaurants and wintering in the Carolinas. He was a faithful and devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, as well as a friend to many. On July 26, 1969 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, he married Ngitchob "Yudah" Ngiralmu, who survives. Besides his wife of nearly 54 years, he leaves one son, Christopher of Brattleboro; a daughter, Kelly Huestis-Colford and her husband Mark of Brattleboro; a sister, Barbara Miller of Brattleboro; two grandchildren, Oliver Huestis and Lillian Fleming; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by two sisters, Corinne Bristol and Catherine Huestis; and a son, Max Huestis. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass was held on July 11 at St. Michael's Catholic Church. Donations to Bridg's Kitchen, 47 Walnut St., Brattleboro, VT 05301. To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

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& Gray Seminary in Townshend. Marita is survived by her son, Kevin Ray Martin; sisters Marcia LaCroix, Melody Rodgers, and Margo Paluulis, all of Putney; brothers Raymond Coleman of Springfield, Vermont and Melvin Coleman of Londonderry. She was predeceased by her husband, Neil Martin, and her sister Janice (Coleman) Page. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Per Marita's request, there will be no services. Donations to The Gathering Place, 30 Terrace St., Brattleboro, VT 05301.

• **Eva Mondon, 81**, of Putney. She died peacefully on July 7, 2023. Using the VSED method (vsedresources.com), she chose to

stop eating and drinking on July 1 as a way to find relief from the suffering caused by rheumatoid arthritis, finally allowing her ravaged body to take precedence over her incredible lust for life. Eva was a spirited and inspiring presence in Putney for 54 years and her absence will be acutely felt by her community. There was no one like her. The youngest of eight siblings raised in a house without indoor plumbing, Eva was born in Bartow, Florida on July 16, 1941. She never knew her mother, Elizabeth Hamn Mondon, who was institutionalized shortly after Eva was born. She was fortunate to be mothered by her older sisters since her father, Doda Gordon "Gort" Mondon, was a scary man. "I grew up barefoot and feral, climbing trees, avoiding adults," she said. "I didn't want any of them touching me." She shot fox squirrels and gray squirrels with a .22 to help feed the family. Her father repaired her shoes with bits of copper wire which was useful in drawing blood from the shins of boys who humiliated her at school for her poverty and for wearing feed sack dresses made by an aunt. "Early on, I knew I was a lesbian," Eva said. "I had no interest in boys. But the girls mostly laughed at me because we were so poor." The impossibility of coming out as gay in rural Florida in the very early 1960s launched Eva into a trajectory aimed at leaving her roots far behind. After graduating from Florida State in Tallahassee, she went to Alaska to work with Native and homesteading elementary school children, from 1963 to 1965, as a Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) volunteer, and she stayed on after experiencing the shattering Anchorage earthquake of 1964. After VISTA, she enlisted in the Peace Corps and spent two life-changing years in West Africa, where she learned to make the addictive peanut stew that she sneaked onto the menu 20 years later when she was lunch chef at the Saxtons River Inn. Not wanting to return to the mainland U.S. after Africa, she took a job in the Virgin Islands before returning briefly to Florida to complete the math and science requirements for a master's degree in arts and education at Florida A&M, a historically Black college in Tallahassee. Later on, she joined an international brigade cutting sugar cane in Cuba. Her politics were formed by seeing the effects of poverty everywhere she went in her travels and by encountering the world as a lesbian. In 1969, she came to Putney to finish her master's at Antioch New England, earning her degree in 1971. "I found freedom in Vermont," Eva said. "It was a safe place to come out — the people were wonderful." But there were no jobs in Vermont public schools for out lesbians at that point, so she began her career at Putney Day Care, memorably shaping the lives of hundreds of wide-eyed toddlers and young children who regarded her with awe and adoration. To a two-year-old who was trying to smuggle home a daycare doll when it fell out from beneath her dress, Eva said, "Look, if you're gonna steal something do it right! Stick it in your underwear and you'll get away clean. But bring it back tomorrow, hear me?" She lived with her first great love, JoAnn Golden, at Alice Holway's West Hill boarding house, then in an apartment over the Putney Day Care. In the mid-1970s, she and JoAnn formed a ménage with Marianna Amster in the house they built (Meadow Ark) in Westminster West. Gabrielle Amster ("our daughter") came into Eva's life and has remained central, a source of pride and deep affection. Eva was a genius at friendship. One often left a conversation with her a better person. She expected a lot of herself and being her friend meant allowing her to feel entitled to expect a lot of you, too. At her core, Eva was deeply empathic, wanting most of all to encourage growth and happiness among the large and diverse community of people she loved. She remained charismatically magnetic, despite her battle with constant pain, and part of missing her will be missing so many random encounters with fascinating people at her home. Too impatient to wait for reincarnation, Eva lived several lifetimes concurrently. When first in Putney, she had a sideline as "Lawn Woman," driving from job to job in her beat-up VW Bug with her LawnBoy mower riding shotgun where the passenger seat used to be. Later, she was a fearless EMT first responder and was privileged to serve with the Westminster Fire Department. After becoming certified, she devoted herself to body and energy work. A dyke on the make for some years before publicly proclaiming her celibacy, Eva became a faithful Quaker at Putney Meeting, where she was a "releasé friend" for 10 years, working with traumatized survivors of abuse. She called the Quakers "the bones of social work in this country."

Eva was a role model for the value in deepening one's self-awareness as a means of getting the most out of life and a student of Thich Nhất Hanh — who gave Eva the dharma name True Welcome — and a member of his order of interbeing. She was the center of so much generous attention from her community when she needed it and was an enduring example of how to love the world and treasure its people vigorously while living with a progressive illness. She loved to hand out her card, which read: "EVA MONDON/storytelling • matchmaking/advice sought and unsought/advisor to the lifelorn/word of mouth." MEMORIAL INFORMATION: There will be a celebration of Eva's life at Green Mountain Orchards in Putney on Sunday July 16, at 10 a.m.

• **John S. Ogden, 56**, of Landgrove. Died at his home, surrounded by his family and friends, as well as a loving cat and dog. This was the final stage in a challenging, decade-long journey with rectal cancer, a battle that he fought with strength, determination, and grit until the end. John was a pillar of every community he was ever a part of. After attending Flood Brook Union School, he went to high school at Phillips Andover Academy, graduating with the Class of 1985. He went on to Middlebury College, graduating with the Class of 1989. He served on the Landgrove Selectboard, the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad, and the Peru Fire Department. He was fiercely proud of this very special part of Vermont and was a frequent catalyst for community events — from movie nights in the Ogden barn to a gigantic community concert in his field on the Landgrove flats. John was in perpetual motion and an incredible athlete. He loved cross country skiing, telemark skiing, windsurfing, soccer, and only the most technical of mountain bike trails. He approached each of these pursuits all-in with his signature energetic passion. Even when the treatment for a tumor meant having half of one of his lungs removed, he steadfastly maintained his position at the front of the pack on the Holt Mountain Bike, Ski and Literary Club's group mountain bike rides. His passion for cross-country skiing included racing, coaching, timing, and serving for many years on the boards of directors for both the Stratton Mountain School professional team, as well as the New England Nordic Ski Association. He fostered an enduring love of skiing and biking in all three of his children, always cherishing opportunities to watch them race or to spend time with them on skis or on a bike. A skilled craftsman, his unique and artful woodworking projects live on in homes across the country. Everything he created struck the perfect balance between form and function. Anything that was important to John was made obvious by his infectious enthusiasm, the clearest example of this being his family. Together with his wife, he parented three strong, happy children, each with their unique expression of his passions. He will be sorely missed by everyone within his life, most especially his family. However, we are taking solace in the fact that the community that has always orbited John will continue to hold each other up, working together to keep his zeal for life in our midst. John was predeceased by his parents, Sam and Sheila Ogden. He is survived by his wife, Andrea; his children Katharine, Ben, and Charlotte; his sister Mary; half-brothers Shep and Sam; more nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends than can be counted; and by his constant companion, Leo the dog, who will be missing him right along with everyone else. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: John's family and friends will host a potluck gathering at their home in Landgrove on Friday, July 21, at 4 p.m., to share an evening of music, memories, community, and Vermont summertime. In lieu of flowers, John's request was that everyone spend a little extra time outside — be it on foot, on a bike, or on skis — in his honor.

• **Laura "Susie" Putnam, 85**, of Jacksonville. Died June 8, 2023 at her home, surrounded by her family. Laura was born in North Adams, Massachusetts on Sept. 3, 1937 the daughter of the late Louis and Doris (Page) Furlon. She attended school in Monroe Bridge and graduated from Drury High School in North Adams. Laura was a rural route carrier and also worked inside at the Halifax Post Office for many years. Laura was a member of the Ladies Aid, loved crafts, and was an avid knitter, quilter, sewer, and canvas painter. She was a member of the Red Hatters. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family. Laura is survived by her children Jeff Putnam (Marylee), Lori Marchegiani (Paul Poissant), and Timothy Putnam, all of Halifax; grandchildren Amber, Charles, Lora, Brian, Abigail and Leah; four great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Raymond Putnam whom she married in Readsboro on May 26, 1956. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Funeral services for Laura were held June 23 at Jacksonville Community Church. Interment followed in Jacksonville Cemetery. Donations to the Jacksonville Community Church, in care of Covey-Allen & Shea Funeral Home, P.O. Box 215, Wilmington, VT 05363. To send the family personal condolences, visit sheafuneralhomes.com.

• **Steven E. Rogers, 69**, formerly of West Wardsboro. Died peacefully on June 18, 2023 in Reading (Pa.) Hospital. He was born Aug. 2, 1953. The son of Edward and Jewel (Bassemir) Rogers. He



received his GED from Brattleboro Union High School. Steven was an auto mechanic for most of his life until he became disabled. He married Sharon Allen in November, 1975 and they lived in West Wardsboro until 2005, when they relocated to Fleetwood, Pennsylvania to be near their son and family. Steven was a member of the Wardsboro Fire Department, where he served as its assistant fire chief for several years, and ran a small engine business at his home for many years. Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Jeffrey Allen (Roberta) and grandson Joshua Michael, who was the light of his life. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister Betsy, and several aunts, uncles, and a cousin. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services will be held on July 15 in West Wardsboro Cemetery at 1 p.m., followed by a reception next door. Donations to the Wardsboro Volunteer Fire Department, Wardsboro, VT 05355.



• **Genevieve (Rhoades) Rowell, 95**, of Townshend. Died on June 22, 2023. She was born in Braintree, Vermont on June 3, 1928 to Francis and Pearle (Flint) Rhoades. She graduated from Randolph High School in 1946. She married the love of her life, Wayne Rowell, on Sept. 3, 1946 and enjoyed 68 years of marriage until Wayne's passing in 2014. Growing up, she loved to ride her pony to her grandparents on Braintree Hill and help on the farm. When she married, Genevieve moved with Wayne to the Rowell family farm in Tunbridge and managed it for 10 years until they moved to Wilmington. Genevieve worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Wilmington until her retirement. After retirement, she and Wayne spent 20 years traveling and camping in every state except Hawaii. They journeyed to Alaska twice in a pickup camper where Wayne would catch salmon and she would can them in the camper. They truly enjoyed their adventures while traveling together, eventually purchasing a Class A motorhome and towing a car behind it. Genevieve was a more than 50-year member of the Order of Eastern Star and belonged to Good Sam and the National Campers and Travelers Association. She was an avid knitter, attending Knitting Camp with Elizabeth Zimmerman for several summers. She created several patterns and sold them to knitting magazines. She also taught knitting classes in Wilmington. Later, when her arthritis prevented her from knitting, she created intricate greeting cards which she sold. After Wayne's death, Genevieve moved to Valley Cares in Townshend, where she was active on its board of directors. Genevieve is survived by her five children and their spouses: Richard and Sandra of Gardendale, Alabama, Helen and Frank of St. Albans, Mary and Joel of Randolph, Steven and Janet of Keene, New Hampshire, and Robert and Susan of Newfane. She also leaves nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren (with one more on the way), and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and her husband, she was predeceased by her sister, Lois. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Funeral services will be private. Donations to Valley Cares Inc. 457 Grafton Rd., Townshend, VT 05353. To send the family personal condolences, visit sheafuneralhomes.com.

• **Virginia Stone, 72**, of Bellows Falls. Died at her home on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. She was born on Aug 29, 1950 in Bellows Falls, the daughter of Edward and Leona Moul (Crosby). Virginia attended schools in Bellows Falls. She worked many years for Whitney Blake and Vermont Medical in Bellows Falls and retired from the Grafton Inn. She took great pride in her cake baking/decorating skills. Virginia is survived by her husband of 51 years, Rodney Stone; her sons, Kenneth Hayes (Sarah) of Rockingham, Todd Hayes of Bellows Falls, and Christopher Hayes of Ashland, New Hampshire; a daughter, Michelle Powers (Clem) of Fairlee; sisters Edna Heath of Northampton, Massachusetts and Laurie Smith of Hinsdale, New Hampshire; grandchildren Grace, Matthew, Brody, and Amilya Hayes; Sam and Jacob Kamel; and Autumn Powers. She also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to her parents, Virginia was predeceased by a brother, Charles Moul. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral service was held on July 8 at Immanuel Episcopal Church in Bellows Falls. Donations to Pine Heights, 187 Oak Grove Ave., Brattleboro, VT 05301.



• **Jeanette (Doust) Tenney, 100**, of Bellows Falls. Died on June 16, 2023, after a brief illness. Born in Laconia, New Hampshire on Oct. 18, 1922, she was married three times, widowed twice, and divorced once. She had seven children, and buried three, including losing her daughter Judy at 3 weeks old in the mid-1950s, and more recently her daughters Margaret and Nancy. In recent years, she also lost two of her 14 grandchildren. She is also survived by 21 great-grandchildren and 28 great-great-grandchildren, with two more on the way. She was first widowed in early 1954 with the unexpected death of her first husband, Stanley Smith. He was 34, she

was 32 and suddenly the single mother of four. She moved to Bellows Falls from Keene, New Hampshire at that time, where she would marry Albert Hutchins Sr. in December 1954. She married Claude Tenney of Saxtons River in 1973. Claude died in July 1978. Jeanette was a simple and resilient woman, who's sense of humor seemed to get better with age. And she was tough. Besides the marriages and deaths, she survived both surgery for uterine cancer and a mastectomy for breast cancer. She dealt with congestive heart failure in her final years for well over a decade and, in January of this year, she successfully weathered a bout of COVID-19. She never complained through any of this, and was consistently cheerful and good-natured, always joking with the staff at Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland, in New Hampshire, where she happily spent her last five years. She lived independently in her own home until she was 95. Her years at Maplewood were wonderful for her. After outliving all of her friends and contemporaries, she loved having the Maplewood staff around her, and they loved her. She considered them family, enjoyed all the activities at the home, and said that's where she wanted to die. She got her wish. After a lifetime of taking care of others — in her 70s, she joked that she was still caring for "old people," which she was — she was happy to be in a place where she didn't have to cook or clean. She maintained a good appetite for food and life right up until the end. In fact, she showed very little cognitive or physical decline in her last years until the last week or two before her death, when she began to experience complications from kidney issues. For many years, Jeanette was a member of the Bellows Falls congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. She is survived by her children Carolyn (Smith) Castor of Keene, Robert Smith of Bellows Falls, Sharon Hutchins Smith and husband Michael of Keene, and Albert Hutchins Jr. and wife Patti of Charlestown, New Hampshire. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A graveside remembrance will be held this summer at the convenience of her children. Donations to Maplewood Nursing Home, 201 River Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467.

• **Jared James "Jerry" Welsh, 79**, formerly of Brattleboro. Died on June 23, 2023 in Churchville, Maryland, after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Jerry never had a dull moment. He lived to spend time with his family and friends — whether boating on the Chesapeake Bay, driving his Alfa Romeo, golfing, skiing at Smugglers Notch in Vermont, or engineering a train on the Maryland &

Pennsylvania ("Ma & Pa") Railroad, he brought joy to everything he did. He was an avid sportsman and sports fan — he enjoyed hunting for geese on the Eastern Shore, refereeing ice hockey and football games and, perhaps most of all, cheering on his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers. No matter what he was doing, Jerry was always surrounded by friends, family, and fun. Jerry grew up in Renovo, Pennsylvania, and was one of three sons born to Roscoe and Mary Welsh. He attended the South Kent School in Connecticut and then, upon graduating from Bucknell University in 1967, he became a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps, where he earned his Naval Aviator wings. He served in Vietnam with HMM-364, the "Purple Foxes," as a CH-46 helicopter pilot with 776 combat missions, 38 Air Medals, and a Combat Action Ribbon. He continued his love of flying with the Army National Guard and his own private plane. After the Marine Corps, Jerry entered the printing business working at Maple Press in York, Pennsylvania, where he quickly progressed through numerous roles and into management. His time at Maple Press led him to a move to Brattleboro, where he became the co-owner of The Book Press. He grew that business for many years before taking on a series of leadership roles at John D. Lucas (Cenveo) in Baltimore. His experience, humor, and laughter was well known throughout the industry. He thoroughly enjoyed spending time serving his customers. Jerry is survived by his wife, Patricia of 56 years; his son Jay (Gail) Welsh; daughters Dawn Welsh and Tara Welsh (Zachary Bamberger); beloved grandchildren Hannah, Emily, and Patrick Welsh, and Hotchner Bamberger; his brother David Welsh of Seattle, and sister-in-law Doris Anne Welsh of Boca Raton, Florida. The Welshs have a well-loved extended family in Germany, Tanja Konrad Frohlingsdorf, and her five children. He was also loved by his sister-in-law Lillian "Sue" Gosnell and her children Jeffrey and Kelly Gosnell. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of life will be held in the coming weeks. Donations to the American Cancer Society or the Ma & Pa Railroad Preservation Society, P.O. Box 2262, York, PA 17405-2262.

• **Bruce Wyman, 77**, of West Dover. Died June 21, 2023. Bruce grew up in Blandford, Massachusetts, and lived in West Dover for 45 years. Bruce was an electrician and had a long career at Mount Snow. Bruce proudly served in the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard. He was the president of The Blandford Fair for nearly 40 years. Bruce was predeceased by his companion of 46 years,

Jean Stevens, also of West Dover. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of Bruce's life will be held for family and friends at a time to be determined. Donations to The Blandford Fair, P.O. Box 875, 10 North St., Blandford, MA 01008.



• **Mickey F. Yurkevicz, 71**, of Halifax. Died peacefully at home with family present on June 23, 2023 after a two-year battle with lung cancer. Mickey was born Oct. 27, 1951 in Greenfield, Massachusetts. He grew up in Sunderland, Massachusetts, attending Frontier Regional High School. He graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College in 1973, earning a degree in sociology. He received his master's at York University in Toronto, Canada. He was a man with many talents and careers. His endeavors included a stint as IT manager, starting his own business laying hardwood floors, real estate investments and, most recently, was a postal delivery worker. He loved exploring the dirt roads in his corner of Vermont. Mickey loved nature and all animals, especially his beloved pheasants who return each year to the same nest. He was an avid reader and had a large collection of books in his home, his "library." Mickey loved traveling and made multiple trips across country. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Mary Woods; daughters Margaret Morgan, Emily Yurkevicz, and Kayla Yurkevicz; grandson Fletcher Matthew Hughes; and a sister, Robin Yurkevicz. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: There will be a private celebration of life service in the fall. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society (in honor of his love for animals), P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

Services



• **Graveside committal services with full military honors for Andrew William "Andy" Bird** will be conducted in the family lot in West Brattleboro Cemetery on Mather Road on Saturday, July 22, at 11 a.m. Mr. Bird died unexpectedly at the VA Medical Center in Johnson City, Tennessee on Jan. 5, 2023. To view his full obituary and offer condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.

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Green Mountain Camp

FROM SECTION FRONT

along with mattresses that needed to be stuffed with straw. That same equipment was used through the 1960's, when I was a camper there.

GMC has a positive and powerful history, begun during an age when trousers were not yet the fashion and women wore tight, restrictive corsets. Young women at camp donned pantaloons and sailor tops, as men were not allowed on the campus, allowing them a freedom that most girls could not enjoy at home in their long dresses.

Today, that tradition continues, though for different reasons, as girls and young women of the Muslim faith are allowed to be without head scarves while attending camp.

To this day, mirrors cannot be found on the property, and as the years have gone by, electronics have entered the ranks of unwelcome guests. Many of today's campers arrive without ever having spent a full day (much less a week) without using a cell phone or tablet.

GMC is now, and always has been, a step back in time to the days of playing sports in a field of grass, singing around a campfire, swimming, expressing yourself in arts and crafts, and enjoying hiking trips to a nearby waterfall.

AT THE TIME of the camp's 25th anniversary in 1941, the *Brattleboro Reformer* wrote of the history of the camp.

"It was in 1917 that Mrs. Sarah Bradley Gamble and Mrs. Grace Holbrook Haskell conceived the idea of having a camp for rural girls. The idea has since materialized and has made substantial growth in its program and achievement. Under Miss Edith Bradley, its present director, 150 girls between the ages of eight and 18 are attending throughout a period of six weeks."

That population has increased to 420 children this summer.

The *Reformer* article goes on to explain how Gamble and Haskell originally set the camp up at Marlboro's South Pond in 1917 using equipment borrowed from the Boy Scouts. By 1919, the camp moved to its current location in Dummerston to quarters owned by Wilhelmine Octavia Day, who lived above the site. She later gave the land to the camp.

In those early years, the camp accepted produce in lieu of cash

from families who could not afford to pay the full tuition.

Clara Robinson of Jamaica can attest to that method of tuition exchange. Her mother, Lucy Martin, of Newfane, attended camp when she was 10 years old in the early 1920s.

"My grandfather was a real estate broker, and they had a farm," she remembers with a smile. "He paid my mother's way by bringing bags of potatoes."

In diaries that remain as artifacts of those early days, camp directors' observations evoke the sound of horses' hooves coming up the dirt road, bearing carriages of families with their campers on board.

Robinson followed her mother's footsteps to camp in 1950, this time earning herself a scholarship.

"We didn't have a lot of money. I had a job sweeping the cabin in exchange for tuition. I went to camp as many summers as I could," she said. "I so enjoyed it. I was happy my daughters could attend in the 1960s and '70s."

By 1925, Hildreth Hall, the camp building made of pine and used as a meeting place, was given to the camp by Mabel C. Hildreth in honor of her father-in-law, E. L. Hildreth, "a man whose qualities she and her husband greatly admired," according to the *Reformer* profile.

Hildreth, a well-known printer at the time, housed his shop where the Harmony Parking lot now stands in Brattleboro.

One day, when I worked as the camp's executive director in the early 2000s, a car from Connecticut arrived with visitors, one of whom was a former camper, then in her 90s. When she saw the outside of Hildreth Hall, she sighed with pleasure. "It happened in here!" she said.

We went inside the building, and the woman searched the floor.

"Yes. It was here. This is the spot," she said excitedly.

Confused, and a little concerned about what might happen, I watched in surprise as she broke into a wide smile, and with a soft voice and the most delicate of steps, began to sing and dance.

"Tea for two, and two for tea," she sang in a quiet but strong voice, as she began to soft shoe to the song. She



GREEN MOUNTAIN CAMP FOR GIRLS, VIA VERMONT ARTS & LIVING

Camper in the 1920s engage in the quintessential camp experience: swimming and archery.

remembered every line and every movement.

When she finished dancing and singing, she breathlessly said, "I'd always wished I could learn to soft shoe, and right here, on this spot, I did. I was 12 years old."

She was beaming.

WHILE THE STORIES from past campers vary, for them the magic remains.

Nancy Howard Baker, formerly of Brattleboro, attended camp from the time she was 11 years old in the early '60s. She went through the counselor-in-training program and stayed on until she was 15 years old, working the three two-week sessions all summer.

"I first attended because a kind local woman gave me a scholarship," she says.

Baker most enjoyed making new friends and remarked that living in cabins was a natural place to get to know other campers. Cabins in both the junior and senior units were built in the late 1940s, replacing the tents.

"When I started going to camp, the cabins weren't closed in like they are now. There were no doors and no screens, and we all got eaten alive by mosquitoes!" says Baker with a hearty laugh.

"There are many women from camp with whom I'm still in touch," she says. "Friends made at camp can last a lifetime."



GREEN MOUNTAIN CAMP FOR GIRLS, VIA VERMONT ARTS & LIVING

In the early years of Green Mountain Camp for Girls, the accommodations were army surplus tents from World War I.

In 1928, the white farmhouse on the property was purchased as an administration building. Built close to the turn of the 20th century, "the White House," as it has always been called, is loved by campers and counselors alike.

The White House's secrets include a hidden box, built inside a staircase, used to squirrel money and valuables away from the eyes of strangers since a trip to the bank in Brattleboro would take most of a day by horse and carriage.

The White House has served as a counselor lounge, a camp office, and was most beloved as the camp store. Campers would stand on the long, winding porch in front of the house, and they would transact their business at a window, where they would purchase postcards, pencils, bathing caps, and a few novelties, all from a card table inside the house.

At an upcoming reunion, camp alumnae and friends will have one last opportunity to tour the White House. At the end of the current camp season in August, the building will be coming down and, in its place, an energy efficient, green building will house offices and the camp director year-round.

Alumnae can leave the reunion with a souvenir — a piece of the White House — by donating to the new house building fund.

BILLIE SLADE, the executive director of the camp, wishes the White House could stay but understands the reasoning behind replacing it.

"While it is a house full of memories for all alumnae, it would be more expensive to fix it than replace it at this point in time," she says sadly.

The daughter of Clara Robinson, Slade was the third generation in her family to attend camp. The generations have extended to Slade's daughter and her grandchildren.

Slade will retire this December as the camp's executive director for 12 years. She was a camper and counselor for 11 years, and she spent 12 additional years serving on the camp's board of directors.

Cathy Martin, currently the music director, will also step down in August.



GREEN MOUNTAIN CAMP FOR GIRLS, VIA VERMONT ARTS & LIVING

Girls at camp prepare for tea in Hildreth Hall, 1940.

The two have worked together as partners to bring GMC to the healthiest place it has been in its history over these last 12 years.

"The Board of Trustees, many volunteers, and donations have allowed us to have made so many improvements to the campus over the years, from new beds and mattresses to rebuilding Hildreth Hall and adding a beautiful stone staircase, to ready camp for the next 100 years," says Slade with pride.

For her part, Martin has focused on the continuation of tradition and camp culture through music.

A professional musician, Martin uses her keyboard, banjo, guitar, and 15 ukuleles to bring history and music to campers, and to allow them an opportunity to learn to play the ukulele themselves.

GMC has always treasured a focus on music to bring people together, from its earliest days, when campers would flip through a white booklet of typed song lyrics, to the 1960s, when Camp Co-director Isidore Battino would bring his friend Pete Seeger along as they taught us songs of peace and understanding on their banjos, to the current day where Martin brings music from past and present.

The happy voices of singing campers can still be heard all along Camp Arden Road, which borders the camp to the west, according to the neighbors, just as they have for over 100 years.

"We gather at 8:45 right after breakfast with 15 minutes of singing to start our day," says Martin, "and we sing at the end of the day as well. We continue the songs of our own childhood like 'We Shall Overcome' and 'Deep Blue Sea,' and we sing songs that have themes of peace in the world, understanding, and friendship."

Campers sing those songs "along with the goofy songs that are always fun to do," she says.

"What you learn when you are young stays with you," says Martin. "Being able to see kids dancing on the last day to the theme song that was written just for camp is a beautiful thing. It's rewarding to believe

that these songs will get carried on into the future, just as they did through our own childhood."

ON THIS summer day, four young campers sit at a picnic table, pausing from their activities to speak with their grandmothers. Claire, 8, and her sister Alice, 5, from Helenville, Wisconsin are Slade's granddaughters. Ada, 7, and her sister Geneva, 5, of Windham, are mine.

Slade, Martin, and I all met in the junior unit at camp in 1965, when we were 8 years old. We have remained lifelong friends. Fifty-eight years later, we sit with our granddaughters who share cabins, just as we had so many years ago.

What do these new campers like about GMC?

With a smile and enthusiasm, Ada says, "I love sleeping over. I'm on the bottom bunk, and my friend Claire sleeps over me!"

Claire sits smiling at her new friend.

Alice joins in. "Geneva and I are in the same cabin too! Right next to each other!"

The girls look at each other, all smiles, as they explain how much they love the songs they are singing, the swimming lessons, the art they're creating in the crafts barn, and especially, the new friends they're making.

Slade and I are a little overwhelmed at the scene.

"Could you have possibly imagined this happening when we were kids?" she says shaking her head.

"Not in a million years," I say.

The 106th reunion of Green Mountain Camp for Girls takes place on Saturday, July 15 at the camp (565 Green Mountain Camp Rd., Dummerston). Come as early as 4 p.m. to reconnect to campus and camp friends. A spaghetti dinner will be served at 6 p.m., followed by s'mores and singing around the campfire to the songs of yesterday led by Music Director Cathy Martin. Admission is by donation, with all proceeds earmarked for the building of the new White House.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left: former Green Mountain Camp Director Fran Lynggaard Hansen stands on the left at the stone staircase at Green Mountain Camp for Girls beside her grandchildren Ada and Geneva, followed by their friend Claire, current Director Billie Slade, and her granddaughter, Alice.

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Memories surface as waters rise in Wilmington

Heavy rains make rivers swell — not enough to swamp Main Street Bridge, but plenty high to evoke the trauma of Tropical Storm Irene

By Olga Peters
The Commons

WILMINGTON—“Not again,” murmured onlookers on South Main Street as they watched the North Branch of the Deerfield River overrun its banks and engulf the back parking lot of The Crafts Inn and Memorial Hall.

While a turbulent river kicked at the Main Street Bridge’s underbelly, community members snapped photos and swapped stories about the devastation they witnessed during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.

Across the street, days of non-stop rain had turned the genteel Beaver Brook, often used for wading or catching minnows, into a deep, muddy lake.

The lake, in turn, swallowed the adjacent Buzzy Towne Park,

transforming the recreational area’s standing basketball hoops that poked out of the water that stretched up Beaver Street through the municipal tennis courts and into the Hayford and Baker sports fields.

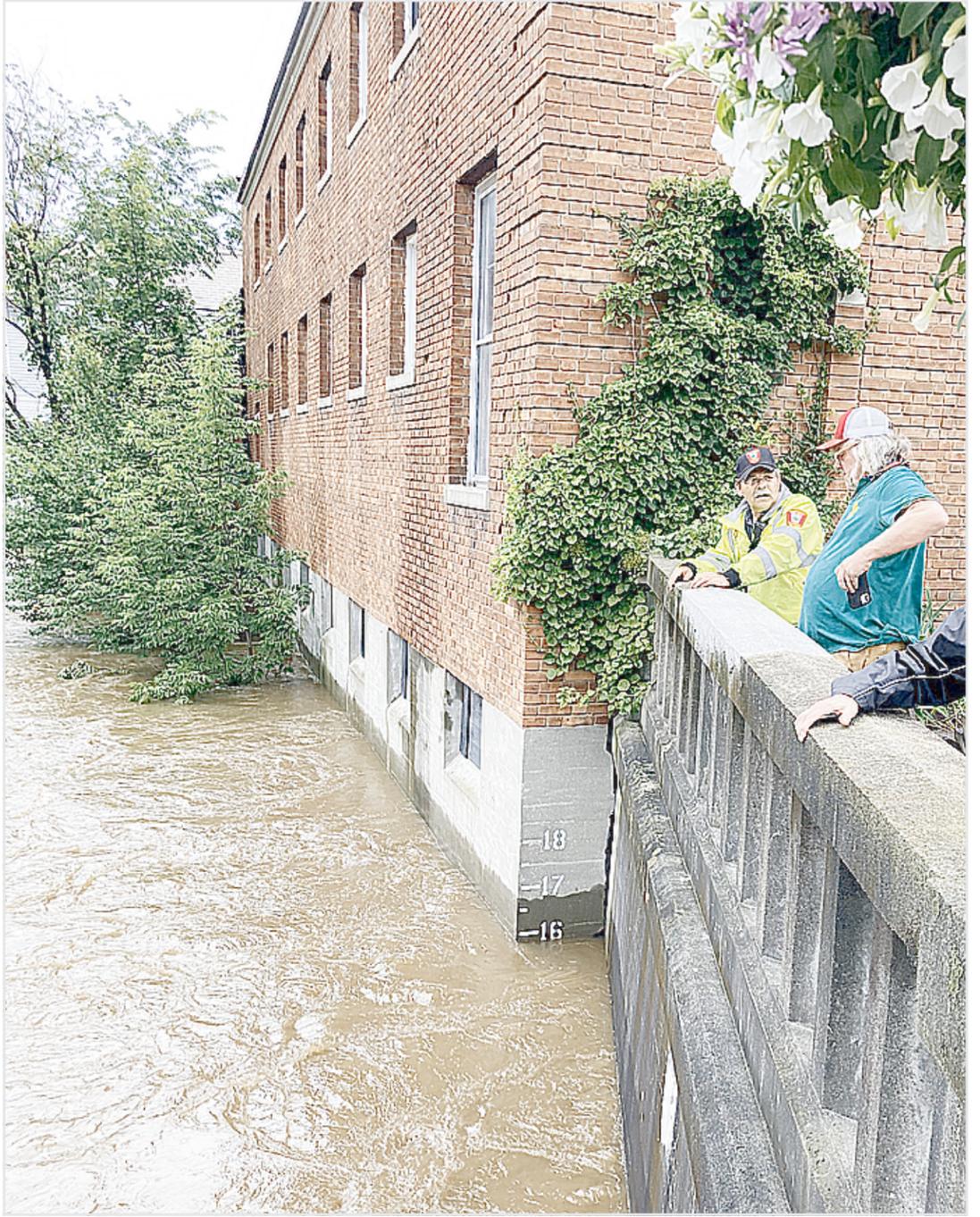
As residents of a low-lying South Main Street apartment pumped water from their rooms, patrons of the Village Pub watched the water from the pub’s deck with mild, if any, curiosity.

At the junction

Wilmington’s downtown consists of a four-way intersection where southern Vermont’s major East-West road, Route 9, and the state’s central North-South road, Route 100, converge.

The Main Street Bridge is a critical part of Route 9. Without it, pedestrians and drivers must

■ SEE FLOOD IN WILMINGTON, B2



Wilmington’s emergency management coordinator and fire chief, Scott Moore, monitors the situation at 4 North Main St., where a gauge painted on the building’s foundation measures the depth of the Deerfield River at just under 16 feet as it crested on Monday afternoon.



In Wilmington, a memorial for Ivana Taseva — swept away in the floodwaters of Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 — serves as a grim reminder while the Deerfield River once again roaring through the back parking lot of The Crafts Inn.



Definitely no parking there: Wilmington’s Buzzy Towne Park on South Main St. is filled with floodwater from Beaver Brook, which normally flows under a bridge near the park and then into the North Branch of the Deerfield River.

LONDONDERRY

‘We all owe her’

Community members give back to the owner of Jelley’s, a neighborhood deli and liquor store — and a community hub — that was flooded by the West River

By Patrick Crowley
ViDigger

LONDONDERRY—In the parking lot outside her store Tuesday, Beverly Jelley was taking inventory.

Holding a yellow legal notebook, she kept a list of food items — some waterlogged — that volunteers were taking from her store and bringing outside. After the food was accounted for, it was

thrown into a dumpster. Jelley’s is a neighborhood staple, a deli and liquor store that also serves as a de facto community meeting place, according to town resident Salina Cobb. Jelley herself is part of the charm.

When Jelley left her store early Monday morning, water from the nearby West River had already entered the building and risen to knee level. She evacuated.

■ SEE JELLEY’S, B2



Beverly Jelley and volunteers clean out her store in Londonderry on Tuesday, July 11.



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• Jamaica Masonic Lodge, 110 VT-30, Jamaica

Londonderry

• Londonderry Flood Brook School, 91 VT-11, Londonderry

• Londonderry Town Hall, 100 Old School Road, Londonderry

• South Londonderry Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., Londonderry

—ViDigger

Flood in Wilmington

FROM SECTION FRONT

take other, circuitous routes to cross the Deerfield River. Historical settlement patterns encroached on the river, with some buildings' foundations serving as part of the river's edge.

Fire Chief Scott Moore, who serves as the town's emergency management coordinator, stood to the side of the bridge watching water and debris zip through the heart of downtown. He said the water in the North Branch of the Deerfield River peaked at approximately 16 feet on Monday, July 10.

The water rose enough to flood the lower areas of downtown, such as the parking lots that border the river's banks on the west side of town.

The water also flooded the lower levels of the Memorial Hall and surrounded the 1836 Country Store, said Town Manager Scott Tucker.

Luckily for Wilmington, the water level started to drop at approximately 4:30 p.m. Monday before it could swamp the Main Street Bridge or reach 2011 levels, he noted.

"Everyone is remaining optimistic," Tucker said.

He said that the water in the North Branch rose quickly to the 16-foot mark starting at 8 a.m. Several store owners were moving items to higher floors.

As Tucker described the scene, two women walked past, telling a police officer about carrying books from the lower shelves of Bartleby's Books on West Main Street to the second floor.

As of Monday afternoon, water overflowed onto a portion of Route 100 between Coldbrook Road and Wheeler's Farm, he said. Great River Hydro and the Wilmington Police Department had remained in contact about monitoring water levels at Harriman Station and Reservoir.

The 2,184-acre reservoir, which feeds the hydroelectric station on the Deerfield River, is on land within Wilmington, Whitingham, and Readsboro.

While water levels were dropping on Monday afternoon, Tucker said it would take a few more days for the rivers to settle down again — weather permitting.

Eyeing the water flowing past the measurement gauge painted on the side of 4 North Main St., Moore said, "I think we're out of danger right now."

Lessons learned

Moore said the municipality learned a lot from Irene and put those lessons to good use in its response to this impending danger.

Over the weekend, the town readied its response before the storm settled over the valley. The fire, police, and highway departments coordinated their responses

as a team, he said.

The town also looped in the state Agency of Transportation to help set up detours and asked drivers to avoid Route 9 as a way of reducing the amount of traffic trying to travel across the Main Street Bridge.

AOT also prepared detour routes in case the bridge would need to be closed, he added.

Moore also staffed the fire station with approximately nine firefighters ready for calls. As it turned out, that afternoon, one of his crews was busy pumping out a basement and another was in Brattleboro providing a mutual aid response to a three-alarm fire.

Police Chief Matthew Murano had sent officers to patrol roads, Moore added. The town prepared the Old School building to use as a shelter, but as of Monday, those plans were not necessary.

"So it's worked out well," said Moore, who had started his morning at 2 a.m. "The thing is to stay ahead of it. And that's what we did this time. And we had everything in place in case we needed it."

Watching the crowd milling around the bridge, Moore said, "When the water gets up like this, everybody, you know, [experiences some] post-traumatic stress, I think, to be honest. But I've lived here all my life, and I've seen [the river] do this many many times."

Even though it seemed the town had missed the worse of the flooding — unlike in 2011 — Moore said people need to remain vigilant.

He urged people to stay out of the rivers and not to drive on water-covered roads.

"This is Vermont, and there's a lot of dips and dives that you don't see — and when they fill up with water, that's when they take you out," he said of water-damaged roads.

Moore thought a lot of the improvement measures made after Irene have helped protect roads in this storm, "But no matter how much you do, Mother Nature has its way and, yes, she is quite bigger than us."

By Tuesday afternoon, Moore was catching his breath and breathing a sigh of relief.

The river had dropped to almost normal levels and it seemed the town's infrastructure had escaped serious damage.

The parking areas on the west side of town behind Crafts Inn showed the worst damage, including a burst sewer line that Public Works had repaired earlier in the day. He couldn't speak to what extent water had inundated the buildings along the river.

But he was certain about one thing.

"We dodged a bullet this time," he said.



The flooded interior of Jelley's store in Londonderry.

PATRICK CROWLEY/VTDIGGER

Jelley's

FROM SECTION FRONT

She was not allowed to return until Tuesday morning. In the meantime, the river continued to rise, devastating a whole row of businesses along a stretch of Route 11.

Jelley returned to find her store a complete mess. Water had reached the cash register. She called her insurance company and was told all the food should be thrown out.

So she, her daughter, and her granddaughter showed up first on Tuesday morning to begin the cleanup. Store employees showed up next.

Then community members arrived to help out.

"People have been here all day long," Jelley said.

The store's own dumpster was quickly filled. A customer dropped off another one, which by 3:30 p.m. Tuesday was about half-full with a full store's worth of deli items — breads, doughnuts, bags of chips, hot dogs, and more.

Inside, the floor of the store was slippery from a layer of mud. The lights were out as volunteers methodically removed all the perishables.

Jelley pointed to the window where a visible water line was marked by dirt.

The water was about 5 inches higher than the water line left behind by Irene's floodwaters, she said.

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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY 13

Performing arts

WEST CHESTERFIELD "The 39 Steps" (based on Alfred Hitchcock's cinematic 1935 masterpiece): Cast of 4 actors, with costume changes/dialects, play over 100 characters in this fast-paced comic tale of an ordinary man mistakenly forced to take to his feet and begin a dangerous and entertaining escapade. Falsely accused of being a spy, follow him on a wild chase across England and Scotland. Along the way he encounters dastardly murders, double-crossing secret agents and, of course, devastatingly beautiful women.
 ▶ 7:30 p.m. *Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays. Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of old time Music Hall Vaudeville, toss in circus tricks, theatrical mime and stage trickery, including a trot across top of a fast moving train, and you have the makings for a riotous, intriguing, thrilling, unmissable comedy.*
 ▶ Through Saturday, July 29.
 ▶ \$17.
 ▶ Actors Theatre Playhouse, Corner Brook & Main St. Information: Tickets/More information: tinyurl.com/5C3a9k6p.

Music

PUTNEY Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series Presents Ukrainian "Ethno-chaos" Band DakhaBrakha: The band has added rhythms of the surrounding world into their music, creating a unique, unforgettable sound. They open up the potential of Ukrainian melodies and bring it to the hearts/consciousness of the younger Ukraine generation and the rest of the world. Accompanied by Indian, Arabic, African, Ukrainian traditional instrumentation, the quartet's astonishingly powerful/uncompromising vocal range creates a trans-national sound rooted in Ukrainian culture.
 ▶ 6 p.m. *Bring a picnic, blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy our concerts. Cash bar available.* In 2010, DakhaBrakha won the prestigious Grand Prix prize named after Sergey Kuryokhin, in the contemporary art sphere and confirmed its place in the culture once again. In 2011, DakhaBrakha was discovered by Australian Womadelaide and began their international music scene ascent. They've since played over 300 concerts and performances and taken part in major international festivals throughout Eastern/Western Europe, Russia, Asia, Australia, North America. Marko Halaneych: vocals, darbuka, tabla, accordion; Iryna Kovalenko: vocals, djembe, bass drums, accordion, percussion, bagay, zgalayka, piano; Olena Tsybulska: vocals, bass drums, percussion, garmoshka; Nina Garenetska: vocals, cello, bass drum.
 ▶ \$20 in advance, \$25 at gate, free for children under age 12.
 ▶ Putney Inn, 57 Putney Landing Rd. Information: Advance tickets/information: nextstagearts.org, 802-387-0102.

PUTNEY Yellow Barn Concert in Memory of Eva Mondon: Tonight's concert is offered in loving memory of Eva Mondon, who died on July 7. A pillar of the Putney community for over 50 years, and an inspiring audience member since our very first years, Eva embodied the spirit of Yellow Barn. Without fail, she listened acutely and then challenged us to make connections, to take care of others, wherever and whenever possible.
 ▶ 8 p.m. *Franco Donatoni Lumen Levke Schulte-Ostermann, piccolo; Anoush Pogosian, clarinet; Itamar Prag, celeste; Jessie Chiang, vibraphone; Hanna Burnett, viola; Nina Kiva, cello. Kaija Saaraha, New Gates; Levke Schulte-Ostermann, flute; Charles Overton, harp; Anuschka Cidlinsky, viola. Georges Lentz Caelli Enarrant (The Heavens Tell) IV Maria Wloszczowska, Astrid Nakamura, violins; Edgar Francis, viola; Eliza Millett, cello; Jessie Chiang, Zoey Cobb, Eduardo Leandro, Matthew Overbay, percussion. Intermission.*
 ▶ Thomas Ades Les eaux (Water) from Lieux retrouvés (Rediscovered places), Op.26. Macintyre Taback, cello; Dominic Cheli, piano. Gerard Grisey Stele, Lei Liang New Ice from Six Seasons, Rebecca Saunders Blue and Gray, Lei Liang Migration from Six Seasons, Hans Abrahamson "Light and Airy" from String Quartet No. 4, Lei Liang Earth from Garden Eight, Lei Liang Darkness from Six Seasons, Lei Liang Heaven from Garden Eight, Jessie Chiang, Matthew Overbay, percussion. Sam Suggs, Cecile-Laure Kouassi, double basses.
 ▶ Katherine Yoon, Julia Mirzoev, violins; Alexander McFarlane, viola; Jakyoung Huh, cello. Charles Overton, harp, Kaija Saaraha, New Gates. Levke Schulte-Ostermann, flute; Charles Overton, harp; Anuschka Cidlinsky, viola. Georges Lentz Caelli Enarrant (The Heavens Tell) IV Maria Wloszczowska, Astrid Nakamura, violins; Edgar Francis, viola; Eliza Millett, cello; Jessie Chiang, Zoey Cobb, Eduardo Leandro, Matthew Overbay, percussion.
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 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Yellow Barn, 49 Main St. Reserve tickets. 802-387-6637; yellowbarn.org.

MARLBORO The 72nd Marlboro Music Season
 ▶ Through Sunday, August 13.
 ▶ \$5 to \$40.
 ▶ Marlboro College Persons Hall/AUditorium, 2582 South Rd. Information: More info: tinyurl.com/4wvkkw6. Questions? Contact us anytime: 802-254-2394 or boxoffice@marlboromusic.org.

Local history

NEWFAINE Stories in Stitches - What Samplers Have to Tell Us: Needlework samplers are pieces of fabric used to showcase embroidery stitches, patterns, techniques often as a way for women to learn/practice their skills. They are visual records of the education of young girls from the past - giving insight into their lives, families, communities. Michele Pagan and Ellen Thompson of the VT Sampler Initiative (VSI) share the long history behind embroidery samplers.
 ▶ 7 p.m. Pagan and Thompson share the work of the VSI with museums countrywide

THURSDAY CONT.

to create an online/accessible database of 18th/19th Century samplers (samplerarchive.org) for scholars and practitioners. The Vermont Sampler Initiative aims to document all American made samplers and related embroideries in VT. The Historical Society of Windham County recently joined them and the nationally recognized Sampler Archive Project to make all of its American needlework samplers available to the public online. "We are excited to be a part of this initiative, not only will we learn more about the samplers and embroideries in our collection, our curators and educators will have access to information about related samplers in other collections."
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Union Hall, 2 Church St. Information: To make an appointment, volunteer, or learn more email: samplersvt@gmail.com.

Kids and families
BRATTLEBORO Storytime at Retreat Farm: Join us for an outdoor Storytime - then visit with the Retreat Farm goats. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy! This Storytime is for all ages. Presented by Retreat Farm and the Children's Room at Brooks Memorial Library, this program is part of the "All Together Now" summer library program.
 ▶ 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays through 8/3/2023. In case of rain, Storytime will be held inside at Retreat Farm.
 ▶ Free and open to the public.
 ▶ Retreat Farm, 45 Farmhouse Sq. Information: 802-490-2270; retreatfarm.org.

Community meals
NEWFAINE Newfane Senior Lunch: Appetizer: Cheese & Crackers followed by Coleslaw, Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Cornbread, Dessert: a Trifle!
 ▶ 12 noon.
 ▶ Suggested donation for meal: \$3.50.
 ▶ Newfane Congregational Church, 11 Church St. Information: Questions: Call Winnie Dolan at 802-365-7870.
WILLIAMSVILLE Breakfast at Williamsville Hall: Open to everyone. Enjoy homemade pastries, tea, coffee, and orange juice. If the weather is good, seating will be outside; if the weather is poor, seating will be inside.
 ▶ 8 - 10:30 a.m. Hall is ADA compliant.
 ▶ This monthly breakfast is complimentary (donations for the Hall are appreciated).
 ▶ Williamsville Hall, Dover Rd. Information: williamsvillehall@gmail.com, williamsvillehall.org.

FRIDAY 14

Performing arts
BRATTLEBORO Baker Street Readers present "A Month of Mystery!": Join James Gelter as Sherlock Holmes, Tony Grobe as Dr. Watson, and special guest stars as they read two spellbinding mysteries back-to-back. Each Friday night features a canonical Holmes tale by Arthur Conan Doyle and a new adventure by James Gelter.
 ▶ 7 p.m. (intermission between stories). Performances continue on Fridays: 7/21, 7/28.
 ▶ Through Friday, July 28.
 ▶ \$10 suggested donation - cash at door.
 ▶ Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main St. Information: For reservations email: bakerstreetreaders@gmail.com.

Music
BRATTLEBORO Delicate Steve with Ruth Garbus and Mythless (Solo)
 ▶ 8 p.m.
 ▶ \$16 in advance, \$20 at door.
 ▶ The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information: Stonechurchvt.com.

Kids and families
BRATTLEBORO TGIF Morning Matinee: The Puppet People - "Puppet Potpourri":
 ▶ 10 a.m. T.G.I.F. is offered through Brattleboro Rec. and Parks in the Rotary Outdoor Theater. If special needs are required, let us know by 5 days in advance. If it rains, show moves indoors to Living Memorial Park-Withington Skating Facility.
 ▶ Free to the public and daycare.
 ▶ Living Memorial Park, Guilford St. Ext. Information: More info: Call Gibson Aiken Office at 802-254-5808.

Well-being
WILLIAMSVILLE Manitou Healing Walk: Walk led by Mike Mayer includes poems or other readings and chances to share about the experience.
 ▶ 4-5 p.m. 4 p.m.: Meet at parking lot. Go 1.4 miles up Sunset Lake Rd. from Williamsville Village, sign on right. Or approx. 5.6 miles over the top of Sunset Lake Rd. from Rt. 9. Healing walks are held every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month until October - rain or shine.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Manitou Project, 300 Sunset Lake Rd. Information: More information: Call Mike at 802-258-8598.

Film and video
WILLIAMSVILLE "The Birdcage" (Rated R): This 1996 comedy, directed by Mike Nichols and adapted by Elaine May, stars Robin Williams, Nathan Lane, Gene Hackman, Dianne Wiest. It's an English language remake of the 1978 Franco-Italian film, "La Cage aux Folles".
 ▶ Film runs 7:30-9:30 p.m. Refreshments served. The Hall is ADA compliant.
 ▶ Admission is by donation and will raise funds for the Williamsville Hall.
 ▶ Williamsville Hall, Dover Rd. Information: More information: williamsvillehall@gmail.com or williamsvillehall.org.

SATURDAY CONT.

a lake. Their marriage is wonderful and catastrophic, like ours with Nature.
 ▶ 7 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays (runs weekends only). By turns satirical, enchanting and tragic, Ondine, written as the Nazis were getting ready to occupy Paris, is considered to be Giraudoux's finest work. Featuring Sean Roberts and Kimm Johnson as the lovers. Directed by John Hadden.
 ▶ Through Sunday, July 30.
 ▶ \$20 adults, \$15 under age 18.
 ▶ Main Street Arts, 37 Main St. Information: Tickets: mainstreetarts.org or at door.

Music
WARDSBORO Hungrytown Returns: Folk music returns as Wardsboro Curtain Call presents Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson - husband-and-wife duo from Townshend VT, better known as Hungrytown. They'll perform new songs from the upcoming album "Circus for Sale." Through many years of worldwide touring, they've crafted Hungrytown into an "artistic hybrid" - Celtic/American, sunshine/ darkness, ballads/psychedeia, joy/despair within same album and same song!
 ▶ 6:30 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. music. Their albums include: "Further West," "Any Forgotten Thing," "Hungrytown 2008," "Sunday Afternoon," "Rebecca Hall Sings." Bring refreshments/ beverages to enjoy in cafe setting.
 ▶ \$10 at door.
 ▶ Wardsboro Town Hall, 71 Main St. Information: More information: kwkmdavis@yahoo.com, 802-896-6810.

BRATTLEBORO Grateful Dead Tribute Bank Wolfman Jack: Join us for two rippin' sets of electric primal dead covers and one set of intimate acoustic dead tunes! Wolfman Jack is a live music project of veteran musicians performing the psychedelic/ electrifying Live Dead era of The Grateful Dead. A true dance band in the style of such legendary venues as The Fillmore West, Carousel Ballroom, Avalon Ballroom - recreating those vintage sets from when the Grateful Dead were cutting their teeth as a live music act.
 ▶ 8 p.m.
 ▶ \$12 in advance, \$15 at door.
 ▶ The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information: 802-579-9960; stonechurchvt.com.

Recreation
Vernon: Hike around Fox Hill Lot forest of the Roaring Brook: Windham Regional Woodlands Assn. hosts this tour of the seldom seen Roaring Brook Wildlife Management Area. It's notable for many different wildlife habitats including a dry oak forest with many varieties of oak - Red, Black, White, Chestnut and Scarlet Oak plus Dogwood and Sassafras and a large natural pool of state-wide significance. Walk led by Martin Langeveld and joined by Bob Zaino - Natural Community Ecologist with VT Fish and Wildlife Dept.
 ▶ 9 a.m. We'll leave from the Langeveld home at 131 Woodland Rd. in Vernon - which abuts area we'll visit. Parking available at his home (4-5 cars) - others can park along Woodland Road. We recommend wearing sturdy shoes, bringing water and hiking poles if you like, being prepared for some light uphill and downhill, with a few 100 ft. of elevation change altogether.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Windham Regional Woodlands Association. Information: windhamwoodlands.org/current-programs.

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

Well-being
BRATTLEBORO Vermont Workers Center offers information about Medicaid Eligibility and Your other Health Concerns: We'll celebrate summer with grilled food and answer your questions about healthcare coverage. Are you concerned about losing your Medicaid, avoid seeing the doctor, or skip prescriptions because of the cost? We hope to meet and talk with you. We use our healthcare stories to advocate for a sustainable healthcare system that supports all of us.
 ▶ 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Parking Lot, 134 - 138 Elliot St. (across from the hi-rise). Karen Hoover: 917-304-1217, fourcats Hoover@gmail.com.

Dance
WINCHESTER Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club: Hawaiian Night. Live music by Champagne Jam.
 ▶ 7-10:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Non-alcoholic beverages available, 50/50 Raffle.
 ▶ \$10 members, \$12 non-members.
 ▶ Elmm Community Center, 21 Durkee St. Information: More info: call Tom: 978-249-6917, 978-790-9322 or Barbara: 802-722-9205, 802-376-0317.

Visual arts and shows
BRATTLEBORO Inner Landscapes: Three Views (Erika Radich, Jessie Pollock, Maggie Cahoon): Maggie Cahoon: "My paintings hint at something quite beyond our ordinary reality and flow into a realm that speaks in color, fluidity, sensing. This language, while unorthodox, is strangely familiar to me, beyond measure." Jessie Pollock: "Nature has always been my inspiration, especially the beauty of moss and stones." Erika Radich: "This work evokes stability and a sense of lightness and hope. Elements are playful and irreverent, falling over and into each other."
 ▶ 7/15, 5-7 p.m. Opening Reception. 8/6, 5 p.m.: Artists Forum. Open Thur.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 12 noon-5 p.m.
 ▶ Through Sunday, August 27.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts, 183 Main St. Information: 802-251-8290; mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com.

Ideas and education
BRATTLEBORO River Cleanup and Cyanotype Workshop - Presented in connection with Aurora Robson: Human Nature Walk: Join educator, gardener, visual artist Midge Evers for a river cleanup and workshop in which participants will use the items they collect to create camera-less photographic images known as cyanotypes. This magical and simple technique, developed in 1842, requires only 3 materials: an object, light-sensitive paper, and the ultraviolet rays of the sun. The result? Striking blue-and-white prints. Evers' work celebrates decomposition and regeneration.
 ▶ 2 p.m. In 2015, Evers began making mushroom spore print art. Her practice involves foraging for mushrooms/plants and sometimes the cyanotype process and

SUNDAY 16

Farmers' markets
PUTNEY Putney Farmers Market with Live Music by The Thunderballs: The Thunderballs, a roots Reggae band led by one of Jamaica's finest singer songwriters - NL Dennis - joins us today.
 ▶ 11-3 p.m. on Sundays. Across from the Putney Food Coop.
 ▶ Putney Farmers Market, 17 Carol Brown Way. Information: putneyfarmersmarket.org.
BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro's Share the Harvest Stand: Free Fresh Produce for All!
 ▶ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sundays - corner of Frost and Elm. (Gardeners may drop off surplus from their gardens from 10:30-closing: before noon preferred).
 ▶ Through Sunday, October 29.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Turning Point, 39 Elm St. Information: 802-257-5600.

Local history
DUMMERSTON Photography Exhibit: "Faces of Dummerston-A Work in Progress": Curated by Charles Fish, display features over 150 photographs of town residents. Some images are ancient; more were taken within living memory. Teachers, farmers, firemen, bankers, truckers, writers, engineers - here they are, some posed, many captured at public events such as the Apple Pie Festival. Project is a work in progress. Some photos are yet to be identified. Visitors are invited to add names and catch errors.
 ▶ 2-4 p.m. on Sundays. Other times by appointment. Schoolhouse is handicap accessible. When pictures come off the walls, they'll be preserved in albums to which new faces will be added over time. Also on display is Fish's collection of cameras/other gear representing photographic practices of past and present.
 ▶ Through Sunday, August 6.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Dummerston Historical Society Schoolhouse, Dummerston Center. Information: gailvt@gmail.com or 802-254-9311.

Community building
SO. NEWFAINE Herb Garden Days: Join us on the farm this summer to grow your knowledge and be in herbal community. Connect with nature in community: Tend the gardens, harvest herbs, ask your herb-growing and wild-crafting questions in a casual, small group setting. Guests often take home divisions of plants, seeds, or stay late to do some wild-crafting on their own, depending on the season.
 ▶ Repeats 8/13 and 9/10. Join one or all of these days, but RSVP is required.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Old Ways Herbal School of Plant Medicine, 569 Dover Rd. Information: Contact us to sign up - spaces are limited to keep the group small: oldwaysherbal.com/contact/.

MONDAY 17

Well-being
Spiritual Practices: The Basics of Meditation (via Zoom): We'll explore the basics of meditation as taught by Paramahansa Yogananda and the Self Realization Fellowship which he founded.
 ▶ 7 p.m. Offered through Halcyon Arts New England.
 ▶ \$9 suggested donation or write in a price.
 ▶ Zoom. Information: Link: tinyurl.com/3m745wyn.

Community building
MARLBORO Joy Sandwich World Tour comes to Marlboro: British contemporary artist Stuart Semple offers spontaneous art Happenings in over 30 locations around

MONDAY CONT.

the globe this July These 'Joy Sandwich' Happenings wrestle with recurring themes in Semple's work - ideas of technological isolation, physical community, connection, and impact of art on societal mental health. In the spirit of the golden age of happenings, these works will erupt and be led entirely by participants.
 ▶ 6 p.m. (doors open 5:30 p.m.) Snacks/ non-alcoholic beverages are provided. The artist used his online community to meet a diverse global group of participants and so far orchestrated organization of these Happenings only via email and video chat. Each group wishing to host a happening was included. From people wanting to host one in their house or back garden, to major museums and cities. Right now, the exact nature of the happenings is secret to allow for spontaneity. The groups don't even know what the action will be - but the artist is set to send them instructions shortly before their performance.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Colonel Williams Inn, 111 Staver Rd. Information: StuartSemple.com/Happenings.

TUESDAY 18

Kids and families
ORFOD Sing and Dance with Robin - On the Commons: For children ages 5 and under and their grownups.
 ▶ 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays through 8/1. Rain location: Brooks Memorial Library.
 ▶ Through Wednesday, August 9.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ The Commons, Rte.10 North.
GUILFORD Storytime: Cathi Wilken presents a program of songs, fingerplays, books and activities for babies, toddlers and older siblings.
 ▶ 2 p.m. on Tuesdays.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd. Information: 802-257-4603.
GUILFORD Stuffed Campout: Bring your stuffed toy and share a snack as you prepare him/her/it to spend the night camping out with other Stuffedies at the Library.
 ▶ 2-4 p.m.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd. Information: More information: 802-257-4603.

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.

WEDNESDAY 19

Music
BRATTLEBORO L'Eclair with Sunking and DJ Rec: Secret Planet Western Mass copresents this journey with the Stone Church and Urgent Message Music. L'Eclair is back with more of their madly psychedelic grooves - reminiscent of CAN, Tangerine Dream, early Tortoise. Sunking is the collective experimental sights/sounds of Seattle natives Rob Granfelt and Antoine Martel. The duo criss-crosses between avant, hip-hop, jazz, and experimental sounds with hazy abandon.
 ▶ 7 p.m. Doors open with opening set of selections courtesy of Peace & Rhythm's DJ Rec. 8 p.m. Live music commences.
 ▶ \$17.50 in advance, \$20 at door.
 ▶ The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information: Tickets: Stonechurchvt.com.

Well-being
S. NEWFAINE Yoga Classes: All levels fluid yoga.
 ▶ 5:15-6:15 p.m. Wednesday classes Rain or shine: in the gardens on nice days and inside studio when it rains. (Also 9-10 a.m. Saturdays).
 ▶ \$15.
 ▶ Ollalie Daylily Garden, 129 Auger Hole Rd. Information: Wendy Johnson: bkjohnson@gmail.com, 802-380-4988.

Community building
VERNON Vernon Community Market: This new market features J&B's Curbside Cafe, handmade crafts, farm produce, baked goods, flowers, and more.
 ▶ 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Open every other Wednesday through Oct. 4.
 ▶ Vernon Community Market, Vernon Recreation Area, 607 Pond Rd. Information: 802-254-9251, VernonVTCommunityMarket@gmail.com.

Ideas and education
DOVER "Pilgrimage": Book Discussion Series hosted by Dover Free Library: Human beings have undertaken pilgrimages of all kinds for thousands of years. Discover a variety of journeys - and whether the seekers find what they are looking for - in these varied writings. "Pilgrimage" is a Vermont Humanities program hosted by Dover Free Library and supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.
 ▶ 7 p.m. Discussions take place on: 7/19, 8/2, 8/16. These sessions are open to the public and accessible to those with disabilities. Books available on loan in advance.
 ▶ Through Wednesday, August 2.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Dover Free Library, 22 Holland Rd. Information: More information: John Flores: 802-348-7488 or john@dovertfreeibrary1913.org.

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Untitled collage by James Renner ca. 2016

To submit your event: calendar@commonsnews.org

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

Dummerston honors a life well lived

With Don Hazelton Day, the Historical Society plans to celebrate the 93-year-old's lifetime of service, offered with 'common sense and kindness'

By Fran Lynggaard Hansen
The Commons

DUMMERSTON—A few years back, a member of the Dummerston Historical Society sought out lifelong resident Don Hazelton to answer a question, one about town history, that members of the group had long wanted answered.

Hazelton, now 93 years old, stood before them, thoughtfully pulling his hand down his beard as he considered the question. A few moments passed.

"That's a good question," he said quietly, and he thought a few seconds more before suggesting, "I think that's a question for an old timer."

The visitor said nothing as Hazelton continued his thought, when suddenly he looked up, laughed his hearty, deep laugh, and said, "Wait a minute — I am the old timer!"

The Dummerston Historical Society will host a party for Hazelton on Thursday, July 20, at 7 p.m., at the Society's school house at 1521 Middle Rd. in Dummerston Center. The public is invited to reminisce with Hazelton and his family about life in town over the course of his more than nine decades.

The celebration will be held in

the building where, over 80 years ago, Hazelton attended school and would go early to fire up the wood stove.

"We wanted to do something special for Don. As neighbors, we have known Don for decades," neighbor and Historical Society member Chuck Fish explains. "After all these years of friendship and kindness, we wanted to do something special for him to recognize all his accomplishments — and simply because he's such a great guy."

A Historical Society press release described Hazelton's life as "one of enterprise and service."

He was a member of the Brattleboro High School class of 1948, where he received the Austine Prize as one of the four top students.

Following stateside duties as an Air Force electrician during the Korean War, Hazelton worked for a time at the Scott Farm and as a delivery man with Bob Bolster.

He then returned to the family farm in Dummerston Center, joining his father and mother, Merton and Hazel, to harvest strawberries, potatoes, and apples, and to produce maple syrup.

Hazelton's daughter Phyllis Isbell, now living in New Mexico, says she still lives by a few good "Don-isms."

"He always said, 'Quality, not quantity, is how we should work.' And that's why when we were picking strawberries, no white tips on the fruit were allowed!" she remembered, laughing.

"It's good advice for life, too," she observed.

Hazelton built his own home near the farm, after his marriage to the former Carolyn Jones, better known as "Bunny," in 1951. They raised five children. Many of their children plan to come home for the celebration this week.

Bunny and Don Hazelton were always active in community affairs. They were chosen the Grange Citizens of the Year and were also co-presidents of the Maple Leaf Square Dance Club.

"Dad is so woven into the fabric of Dummerston. Both my parents were," said daughter Jeanette Hazelton Fairhurst.

"Dad was there for it all, whether it was picking charity quarts of strawberries to



Don Hazelton, center, is one of the guys who help fill up the Dummerston wood pantry. Flanking him are Merrill Barton, left, and Charles Richardson, right.

contribute to the Grange supper, even when he was busy with his own business, or helping park cars up behind my grandparents' house for the Pie Festival," she added.

"He does what needs doing," Fairhurst said. "He addresses things before someone asks him to help. He's always taught us to see things that need doing and to make things better. He doesn't make a big deal out of it; he doesn't need a lot of fuss."

Service to community

Hazelton, who became an EMT and firefighter in the mid-1970s, was a member of both the Dummerston Fire Department

and Rescue Inc. and was awarded EMT of the Year at the Vermont State Firefighters' Association convention.

"I think of all the nights that I was waiting for Don to arrive for a Rescue call," said Bess Richardson, of Dummerston, who was also a longtime member of Rescue Inc.

"I was so darned glad to see him showing up," she said. "He was reliable. He knew where everything was. He knew what to do. When he came in the door I relaxed because I had backup and support. He was so good at it."

Richardson also described "that very subtle sense of humor that just pops out when you least expect it," she said. "He's one of

my favorite people — he truly is."

When the local church started a wood pantry, Hazelton joined on with his wood splitter, giving countless hours to cutting, splitting, stacking, and delivering wood to those who need it.

Charlie Richardson, a fellow "wood angel," is also a fan.

"He's been one of the main helpers in the wood pantry. He's very reliable and he works hard for us. He's such a great guy," Richardson said with conviction.

Hazelton has also served as custodian for the Dummerston Center Cemetery.

Common sense and kindness

"Many small towns are

fortunate to have public-spirited citizens like Don," the Historical Society wrote in its press release.

"But he is also loved by friends and neighbors for countless acts of kindness, sometimes requiring hours of work with his ever-present tractor.

"If you offered to pay him, he would say, 'No, it's a neighborly thing' in a tone of voice that suggested you should know better how such things should be done."

Jeanette Hazelton Fairhurst is grateful for her father's wisdom.

"Dad brings common sense to any situation, which in this day and age can be so very uncommon," she said. "Common sense and kindness. That's what he's all about."



Don Hazelton in a photograph published on the cover of the June 16, 1948 edition of the *Brattleboro Reformer*. He was one of the top four graduates in his class at Brattleboro High School.

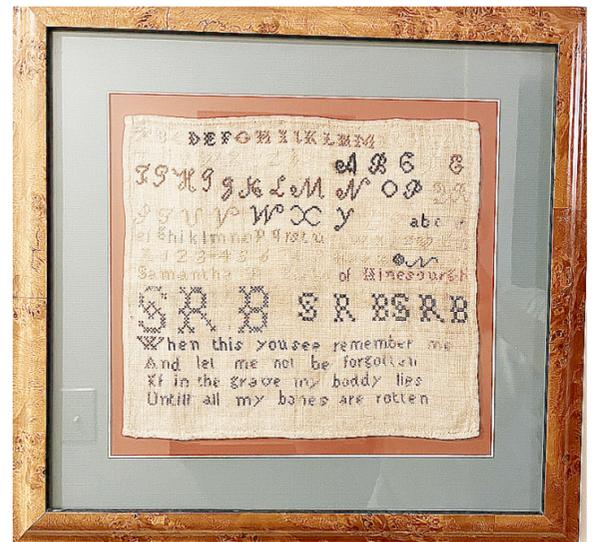
Stitches in time

Vermont Sampler Initiative seeks to

locate and document

historic embroideries

around the state



COURTESY PHOTO

"When you see this, remember me and let me not be forgotten; if in the grave, my body lies until all my bones are rotten." — Hinesburg schoolgirl's sampler, c. 1820.

By Annie Landenberger
The Commons

NEWFANE—The Vermont Sampler Initiative (VSI), a statewide effort to locate, photograph, and document all American samplers and related embroideries held in Vermont public and private collections, is coming to town.

Needlework samplers — pieces of loosely woven fabric stitched with letters, numbers, aphorisms and images — were used to "showcase embroidery stitches, patterns, and techniques, often as a way for women to learn and practice their skills," according to the Vermont Historical Society (vermonthistory.org).

VSI is a branch of the nationwide Sampler Initiative (samplerarchive.org), which is focused on such needlework projects produced throughout the United States from the late 17th century up to the Civil War era.

As a means of learning more about sampler needlework in the Historical Society of Windham County (HSWC) collection and, according to Vice President Laura Wallingford-Bacon, "to make connections across the country with family histories, communities, and historic events," the organization will host the VSI for two events this week.

On Thursday, July 13, at 7 p.m., in Newfane Village's Union Hall, VSI's two coordinators, Michele Pagan and Ellen Thompson, will present "Stories in Stitches — What Samplers Have to Tell Us."

Pagan and Thompson will share the long history behind samplers and what they can reveal about the past — about

A sampler embroidered by a Hinesburg schoolgirl, circa 1820.

Vermonters' lives, families, communities, standards, and education.

Then, on Saturday, July 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the HSWC hosts the follow-up Vermont Sampler ID day, also at Union Hall, to which the public is welcome to bring antique samplers and girlhood embroideries for assessment.

Participants will take home not only information about their piece, but also a high-resolution print of the photo taken of the work for inclusion in the Sampler Archive online database (samplerarchive.org).

The program, according to a HSWC news release, "is a way to share that information with other curators, educators, genealogists, and students nationwide" through the organization's growing archive.

Supported in part by a Vermont Council on the Humanities grant, the event is free, though donations are welcome to cover the cost of a professional photographer's services. Walk-ins are welcome, but if one intends to bring more than three pieces, an appointment should be made.

According to the website of the Shelburne Museum, a key player in the initiative, this is a "collaborative effort with local museums, historical societies, historic homes, private collectors, and descendants [seeking] to contribute to a broader understanding of the state's early history and the women who devoted their lives to educating Vermont's daughters."

'We've got to fix this'

Pagan, a textile conservator in private practice in East Dorset, likes to say she's "preserving history one piece of fabric at a

time." She joined the Sampler Initiative after the Bennington Museum called on her to do a webinar about its sampler collection.

In researching the Bennington collection, Pagan discovered Thompson, based in Middlebury, who had discovered some 200 Vermont samplers in collections nationwide.

Having served as the textile conservator on the Vermont Painted Theater Curtain conservation effort, Pagan knows Vermont's towns.

She and Thompson noted that a seminal 1993 publication showcased hundreds of samplers from around the U.S. but Vermonters' work was not represented.

Pagan recalls that both she and Thompson concluded, "We've got to fix this."

"We now have identified almost 500 samplers in or from Vermont," she said.

A reflection of women's literacy

While younger girls' work seemed primitive, the needlework on their samplers became more polished and elaborate as their skills evolved. Teens' subject matter would show progress from ABCs and numbers to quotes from the Bible, verse, family members' names, and often a litany of virtues.

Samplers were popular in Europe before they hit American households but across the Atlantic they did not have the same educational purpose as they did here. Pagan explains that a girl or teen's ability to finish the sampler signaled that the family was doing well enough to spare her from household or farm chores and allow her time to focus on her needlework — and basic literacy skills.

Beyond a village school, where an education included demonstrating reading and writing on a sampler, some girls were sent to board at schools in larger towns in the region. There, too, the sampler was essential, as was literacy.

Tracing the development of education for young women, Pagan says it's clear that the old adage was honored: "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

"Early Americans knew that if you had an educated woman in the family, you would do well," she adds.

Literacy was a marketable skill that could be bartered. Moreover, a complete sampler — often framed and hung — would indicate to a suitor that the maker was ready to be married, that she was dependable, and that she'd be a virtuous young mother.

Five museums host VSI

The HSWC is one of five museums statewide to host the VSI. The Newfane event will be the fourth ID day in the state after Bennington, Shelburne, and Barre. The last will take place in Middlebury.

Wallingford-Bacon adds that HSWC is pleased to be one of the five.

"Visitors to the Society's County Museum in Newfane can see a special guest exhibit of Vermont samplers as well as the Society's own collection of samplers," she adds.

The VSI also seeks volunteers to assist with the Initiative. To make an appointment, volunteer, or learn more, contact samplersvt@gmail.com.

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The ARTS

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

page C1

COLUMN | Arts Notebook

Constant, but ever-changing

Rock River Artists Open Studio Tour offers a mix of old and new

GOOGLE “ROCK RIVER.” You’ll find lots of local entities that boast that handle. A beautiful tributary feeding first the West, then the Connecticut River, its massive rock formations are staid, but the river never is — even on the driest of days. The rocks are constant around which the ever-changing river flows.

Visiting Rock River Artists (RRA) studios recently to catch up on plans for their Open Studio Tour coming up this weekend, I was struck by just that: constancy and flow.

Those in the old guard — several having been with the RRA for its full 31 years — are still producing extraordinary fine art and craft while experimenting with new shapes, forms, and techniques. And they’re embracing new members — younger artists eager to



ANNIE LANDENBERGER is a freelance writer who contributes regularly to these pages. She also is founder and artistic director of Rock River Players and is one half of the musical duo Bard Owl with partner T. Breeze Verdant.

be part of this collective.

For three decades, interrupted only by Covid, the RRA members have opened their studios to the public on the third weekend of every July, inviting visitors to view creative processes, to engage and interact and, yes, to purchase what they might not find anywhere else.

Having earned its following well beyond Southern Vermont, the Rock River Artists’ Studio Tour this year features 12 artists in a range of media from functional ceramics to thread on fabric: Mucuy Bolles, pottery; Richard Foye, raku pottery; Georgie, oil

painting; Steven Meyer, painting; Gianna Robinson, painting; Carol Ross, functional pottery; Roger Sandes, painting and prints; Deidre Scherer, thread on fabric; Matthew Tell, pottery; Christine Triebert, photography; Mary Welsh, collage; and, posthumously, Ellen Darrow, to whose memory this year’s tour is dedicated with a retrospective, “Ellen Darrow/Aho: A Lifetime of Making Art,” on view at Olallie Daylily Gardens.

Born in 1933, Darrow, who died in March, lived for 61 years in South Newfane, where she’s left a legacy in various media from clay carvings to

pastels, collages to watercolor.

Having studied fine art in various venues from American University to Windham College and workshop settings in Putney, “she did art all the time,” her son Chris Darrow recalls. “She valued art and the process of exploration [...] and she was prone to whimsy.”

In the garden shed on the family farm, one can see as much of her work on a napkin, a stone, a cheese box lid as in sketch books and on canvases. “She was a consummate artist, compelled to create,” Darrow adds.

A Newfane Selectboard member for years, she was a mainstay in Newfane, a frequenter of events, a champion of causes; kind to the core, a lover of nature: As her eyesight deteriorated in recent years, she would often say to her son, he recalls: “Let’s go out and lead me about the garden.”

HERE’S WHO’S WHO ON the tour:

• Potter Mucuy Bolles was born in a Mayan village in Yucatan, Mexico, to an American archeologist father and a Mexican mother who, she says, “taught me about Mayan culture: the language, the customs, the beliefs. [...] I have tried to infuse my work with Mayan motifs, hieroglyphs, and mythology. The pine needle weaving adds texture and homage to the rich history of textiles in Mayan culture; the feathers used to adorn the headdresses add depth and color as well as the emotional element of the fleeting magic of life embodied by the image of birds in flight.”

• Richard Foye, who makes his own glazes for his raku-fired pottery, has an enduring following that finds him and his work in his South Newfane studio, at the NH League of Craftsmen’s Fair held every

August at Mount Sunapee, and at the Stowe Foliage Arts Festival where he sees customers from around the U.S., as well as from Europe and Canada.

Rarely standing still when not at the wheel, Foye’s working on a new glaze — “green pine needle,” he calls it — for new shapes. Visiting him is a kick: surrounded by his creations shaped with elegant soft curves and long lines, you’ll inevitably be engaged by his raconteur’s banter and sharp wit.

• “The [RRA] tour offers incentive I need to keep creating,” says painter Steven Meyer, who works in black ink, water, and ammonia on Yupo paper. “Forward momentum is really important when you’re an artist.”

Rendering New England scenes evocative and austere, Meyer works “a lot with

■ SEE ROCK RIVER ARTISTS, C3



“Snuggs,” designed by Elliot Esposito, age 9, and created in glass by Jordana Korsen.

JOSHUA FARR, COURTESY PHOTO

GLASSTASTIC returns to Brattleboro museum

BRATTLEBORO—Wonderful, whimsical creatures — with names like Ogy, Squish, and Snuggs — take center stage in the 2023 edition of Glasstastic, a popular biennial exhibition at Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) that features collaborations between K–6 students and professional glass artists.

Through Oct. 9, a total of 11 glass sculptures are on display alongside the drawings and descriptions that inspired them. This year, the glass creatures live in an immersive habitat designed by local artist Cynthia Parker-Houghton. The resulting exhibition reflects and celebrates the creativity of the children and the ingenuity of the artists who faithfully rendered each creature’s features in glass.

“Bringing the Glasstastic menagerie to life requires the glass artists to experiment with processes, materials, and a variety of glass-working techniques,” wrote co-curators Kirsten Martsi and Sarah Freeman. “In some cases, molten glass was gathered on the end of a hollow pipe, rolled, stretched, and

given form with the artist’s breath. For flame-worked sculptures, brightly colored rods of glass were heated with a torch and manipulated to create intricate details.”

“Creating ‘Catacorn’ touched me deeply,” glass artist Randi Solin said. “Creating a new color was a really fun process, and the creature felt like it had its own personality, like I was birthing a new being. I carried it around the studio for a week, and it always brightened my mood. The kids’ imaginative spirit is so heartwarming; I really love helping bring their drawings to life.”

“Having the honor of working with the kids’ ideas really stretches us as artists,” Marta Bernbaum added. “We get to use techniques or processes that we don’t practice daily, or maybe even ever, in our own bodies of work. That’s really exciting!”

The young artists whose designs were selected this year are Phoebe Benik, Elliot Esposito, Jorja Hill, Quinn Hobbie, Taelyn Jennings, Cori Kelly, Sylvan Koicuba, Leo

Neeper, Willow Ngoma, Esme Sagarena-Harlan, and Isolde Tierney.

Every one of the approximately 500 other drawings submitted for consideration is also available for viewing both at the museum and on the BMAC website. The glass artists are Josh Bernbaum, Marta Bernbaum, Jocelyn Brown, Bob Burch, Allie Dercoli, Robert DuGrenier, Zak Grace, Jordana Korsen, Sally Prash, Randi Solin, and Jen Violette.

At the close of the exhibit, students will be able to take home their drawings and the glass sculptures they inspired.

Glasstastic 2023 is supported in part by gifts from Elizabeth Catlin and Jared Flynn, Janet Hertzberg, Martha LoMonaco and Karl Ruling, Mel Martin and Pat Howell, Leo Schiff and Joy Hammond, and Carolyn Thall and Aidan Finnan.

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

Back to the ‘Big Barn’

Yellow Barn’s 54th season features more than 40 composers and an opera by Hilda Paredes

By Annie Landenberger
The Commons

PUTNEY—The Yellow Barn Summer Festival distinguishes itself as an international chamber music hub that, according to its website (yellowbarn.org), “encourages discovery in the studio, classroom, and concert hall; explores the craft of musical interpretation; and illuminates our world through the unique experience of music.”

A participant’s journey begins well before the festival opens. “Four weeks before their arrival, participants receive their assigned repertoire and are notified when each work will be performed and rehearsals will begin,” the festival organizers write at yellowbarn.org/philosophy. “Participants are expected [...] to commit to performance — a vitally important part of the development of musicians and their relationship to the music they play. Performance is not regarded as the ultimate goal but as part of a unified process of interpretation and communication, exploration and discovery.”

True to form, musicians have gathered in Putney from the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia for Yellow Barn’s 54th season to present an eclectic range of old and new works through Aug. 5.

Performed by all participants — faculty and students commingling — the season features more than 40 composers showcasing the eclecticism for which Yellow Barn is lauded, ranging from 16th

century’s John Taverner to nearly 30 21st-century composers with both big and lesser-known names from each century in between — Frescobaldi, Purcell, Mozart, Brahms, Haydn, Britten, Janáček, Bartók, Elgar, Webern, Cage, Milhaud, and Ives, among them.

About his approach to crafting a lineup, Seth Knopp, now in his 26th year as artistic director, says the pieces that have come to be part of the summer festival show relationships among different periods and styles all chosen with a “pretty subjective ear.”

Music, asserts Knopp, does not exist solely to please: it builds synergy and enhances relationships among makers and listeners; at the same time, he says, “music can address ills society presents.”

Of this year’s fare, he adds, “there’s a Mozartian thread that goes through the season rearing its head at unexpected times.”

He paused, and then added, “I’d rather not say how.”

Summer gala: a program of musical, cultural exploration

Yellow Barn’s 2023 summer gala to support its ample fellowship program features a collection of spirituals arranged by Stephen Andrew Taylor and *Harriet: Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*, a chamber opera by Hilda Paredes.

With a libretto based on poems by Mayra Santos-Febres and dialogues by Lex Bohlmeijer, this

■ SEE YELLOW BARN, C4

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COLUMN | Creative Conversations

Artistry and power

A folk rock duo pays tribute to Simon & Garfunkel

FOREVER SIMON & GARFUNKEL, a musical tribute group, will perform at Next Stage Arts Project on Wednesday, July 12. This duo of Sean Altman, 62, and Jack Skuller, 27, has been called a “Spring-Winter musical romance,” since the two have a three-decade age difference.

Next Stage co-founder Billy Straus, a Putney resident, met Altman in college in the early 1980s. The two have enjoyed a lifelong friendship and musical collaboration, including work on the PBS television series *Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?* — Altman wrote the famous theme song — as well as numerous albums.

Straus recalls the genesis of Altman and Skuller’s Forever Simon & Garfunkel work when he was sharing a cab ride with the two musicians, who perform together as The Everly Set, a tribute act honoring the work of the Everly Brothers. “We were on our way back from scouting a recording studio in Queens and riding through a blizzard in a yellow cab,” Straus recalls. “Passing the sign to get on the Ed Koch Bridge, I remarked that ‘any New Yorker of a certain age will always know this as the 59th Street Bridge.’”

“Sean, who is of that age, started riffing: ‘... slow down, you move too fast...’ and Jack immediately kicked in with the harmony part — a perfect, impromptu a cappella rendition of ‘Feelin’ Groovy.’”

Straus goes on to say, “The vocal blend was seamless and it planted the seed of putting together a whole night of this songbook. They had already dabbled in S&G material. Their first time singing live together was in NYC’s Losers Lounge tribute series when Jack was just 14. They did a stellar performance of ‘Mrs. Robinson’ — also a highlight of the current show.”

Altman, widely regarded as “the Father of Modern A Cappella” for his 11 years of work with Rockapella — an American a cappella music group he formed in 1986 in New York City — has also released six albums of original songs. His work has been featured in TV and radio, including *Saturday Night Live*, NPR’s *Fresh Air with Terry Gross*, *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, *The Colbert Report*, and *Schoolhouse Rock*.

Altman has twice performed at the White House, has shared concert stages with Billy Joel, Steve Miller, Whoopi Goldberg, Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, Jay Leno, and Joey Ramone, and has recorded with Steve Miller, XTC, John Cale, Richie Havens, and They Might Be Giants.

Skuller lives in Union City, New Jersey, and signed his first recording contract at 14 years old. His debut single, “Love Is a Drum,” was called “arguably the best single released by anyone [that] year” by *The Examiner*, and *The New York Post* labeled him “a mini Jack White.”

As a teen, Skuller performed his original music for thousands of people across the U.S. as a



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.

Disney recording artist. He’s appeared on FOX-TV’s *Good Day New York*, on Amy Poehler’s *Smart Girls*, and with the Grammy Foundation. His music was selected for an ASPCA campaign. The Songwriters Hall of Fame recognized Skuller with the Buddy Holly Prize.

He found early success and had a blues rock band, The Skullers, which is still played on the radio today. Then he put out his first full-length solo album of originals, *Draw the Lucky Card*. When reached at home, Skuller adds, “Sean and I are very lucky we get to perform our favorite songs and be ourselves for a couple of hours. It’s really special to be able to elicit such a profound response from the audience with these classic songs and rich history.”

“When I met Sean in N.Y.C. at the Losers Lounge, we were paired to sing ‘Mrs. Robinson,’ and we had such a great blend. We kept the friendship alive, and whenever we ran into each other through the years we picked up a guitar and sang Everly Brothers songs.”

About their chemistry Skuller notes, “When I’m performing with Sean, it’s really pure joy because we love the music and we love singing together. We truly started The Everly Set for fun. I didn’t expect us to be on the road for most of the year. It was kind of a lucky thing.”

Skuller adds, “We’re different kinds of performers but it works. We appreciate and respect each other a lot. There’s a lot of humor in the show and we can be self-deprecating. Sean is one of the youngest people I know at heart!”

Keith Marks, Next Stage Arts Project executive director, notes that Simon & Garfunkel’s legacy “can’t be understated — they forged a new chapter in American music. This tribute to Paul [Simon] and Art [Garfunkel] is beyond an evening of great music — it’s a celebration of the artistry and power of the music.”

Skuller concludes, “If Paul and Art were to see our show today, I hope they would appreciate our dedication to the integrity of their music. I think they would really like our Everly Brothers show since that is the music they grew up on.”

“We are always thrilled to perform at Next Stage in Putney. The acoustics are great, we love the town and we always hang out at the Putney Diner. We love to have fun and we are unapologetically ourselves. We hope to transport the audience to a time when these songs first took the world by storm.”

The Commons spoke with Altman to talk about Forever Simon & Garfunkel and The Everly

Brothers tributes and the “musical romance.” Here’s an excerpt.

VICTORIA CHERTOK: I’m interested that you have ties to the local area. How did you and Billy Straus first connect?

SEAN ALTMAN: Billy and I met when he recorded my folk duo, my college a cappella group and my new wave band at Brown University.

My band idolized Billy’s band Redline, so we were friends and he was a mentor. When I was out of school and formed Rockapella, Billy was our first producer and frequent song collaborator. We still work together on a lot of projects.

V.C.: Tell me about your two tributes and what you’re doing musically today.

S.A.: Jack and I created our Everly Brothers tribute, The Everly Set, in 2015. We created Forever Simon & Garfunkel in 2020.

The Everly Brothers were Simon and Garfunkel’s biggest influence. In 1957, when their “Bye Bye Love” and “Wake Up Little Susie” first hit the airwaves, Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel were 15 years old and were huddled over their transistor radios in Queens, New York, mesmerized by the sound of Phil and Don.

They were signed as a teen duo called Tom & Jerry and they had a top 40 single “Hey Schoolgirl” which was basically an Everly soundalike, but they were still dropped by their record label within a year.

They both went off to their respective colleges and didn’t reunite until 1964, after Paul had polished his songwriting chops and had become infatuated with Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and the burgeoning folk movement.

It felt very natural for me and Jack, having mastered the Everly hits, to add the Simon & Garfunkel repertoire.

V.C.: Right! You’re still touring with the Everly Set, as well as Forever Simon & Garfunkel?

S.A.: Yes, in fact, it’s interesting because in any given week we’ll be doing both concerts, so it keeps it fresh for us.

V.C.: What is your vocal part?

S.A.: As a middle-aged man, I’ve somehow figured out how to sing the high parts of twentysomething Art Garfunkel, which has its challenges!

V.C.: I’m sure. You met Jack at a variety show?

S.A.: Yeah, in 2010, 14-year-old Jack and I were paired to sing one song at a variety show, and we had an instant vocal blend. We started guesting at each other’s solo concerts, and we

formed The Everly Set when he was 18. We started out doing house concerts but soon signed with an agent in Los Angeles and have been touring together for six years.

V.C.: How many shows do you perform in one year?

S.A.: Last year we probably did almost 100. It was our biggest year because we had full national tours. Maybe 50 shows each of both acts.

V.C.: That’s incredible! What is it about this music that keeps people wanting more?

S.A.: Simon & Garfunkel’s music helped define many people’s youth, including my own. I feel privileged to be able to perform these songs, as I’m such a fan myself! There are so many hits that Jack and I had to really work to squeeze in a few of our favorite deep cuts.

Of course, we do all the classics: “Sound of Silence,” “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” “The Boxer,” “I Am a Rock,” “Cecilia,” “Mrs. Robinson,” “Hazy Shade of Winter,” “Only Living Boy in New York,” “The 59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin’ Groovy),” as well as a few of Paul Simon’s solo songs that lend themselves to two-part harmony.

V.C.: Do you think it’s also a kind of nostalgia for that time — the ‘60s and ‘70s?

S.A.: Yeah, absolutely! And I was at the 1981 Central Park concert when they reunited. Over a half a million people were there, and it’s now considered one of the greatest shows of all time.

Simon & Garfunkel was the first group that I really fell in love with. And when I was a kid, I was listening to those records. My parents had them, and I was subconsciously memorizing all the parts. It was very useful when Jack and I started working on the vocals because I already knew both parts.

Learning the guitar parts was a lot more challenging. That’s where Jack really shines, because Paul’s guitar playing was very inventive. Jack was more of a rocker than a folk picker, and he had to study Paul’s parts. He does a wonderful job of recreating some of those beautiful guitar parts.

Jack and I do a lot of shows as a duo, and we also do a lot of shows with a bass player and a drummer. The duo shows have a particular intimacy that we love, and it’s also more authentic to Simon & Garfunkel heyday performances.

We don’t try to look like them and we’re not dressing like them. We feel like we’re leading the audience on a celebration of the music.

Forever Simon & Garfunkel performs, Wednesday, July 12 at 7 p.m. at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill, downtown Putney. Tickets are \$20 in advance (nextstagearts.org) and \$24 at the door, or \$10 for livestream. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. See the website for more information, or call 802-387-0102.

GOTAN OPINION?

(Of course you do! You’re from Windham County!)



that have not yet appeared elsewhere.

Got something on your mind? Send contributions to our Letters from Readers section (500 words or fewer strongly recommended) to voices@commonsnews.org; the deadline is Friday to be considered for next week’s paper. When space is an issue, we give priority to words

Ukrainian ethno-chaos band to perform

PUTNEY—The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents Ukrainian band DakhBrakha on Thursday, July 13, at 6 p.m. at The Putney Inn, 57 Putney Landing Rd. This performance is co-presented with The Stone Church.

“Easily one of the most exciting artists to emerge from the global music scene in the past few years, DakhBrakha brings Ukrainian music into the 21st century with creative force,” Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts, said in a news release. “They’ve headlined stages around the world,

and we are overjoyed about the opportunity of presenting them in Putney.”

DakhBrakha is a music quartet from Kyiv, Ukraine. Reflecting fundamental elements of sound and soul, their self-described “ethno-chaos” band creates a world of unexpected new music.

The quartet was created in 2004 at the Kyiv Center of Contemporary Art “DAKH” by the avant-garde theater director Vladyslav Troitskyi and given the name that means “give/take” in the old Ukrainian language. Theater work has left its mark on the band performances — their

shows are always staged with a strong visual element.

After experimenting with Ukrainian folk music, the band added rhythms of the surrounding world into their music, thus creating “a bright, unique, and unforgettable sound.” DakhBrakha strives to help open up the potential of Ukrainian melodies and to bring it to the hearts and consciousness of the younger generation in Ukraine and the rest of the world as well.

Accompanied by Indian, Arabic, African, and Ukrainian traditional instrumentation, the quartet’s vocal range creates a

trans-national sound rooted in Ukrainian culture. At the crossroads of Ukrainian folklore and theater, their musical spectrum is “at first intimate, then riotous, plumbing the depths of contemporary roots and rhythms, inspiring “cultural and artistic liberation.”

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate, and children under 12 admitted free. Next Stage will provide a cash bar. Advance tickets are available at nextstagearts.org. For information, call 802-387-0102.

Baker Street Readers present a ‘Month of Mystery’

BRATTLEBORO—The Baker Street Readers will present “A Month of Mystery” throughout July at the Hooker-Dunham Theater and Gallery.

Each Friday, the Readers will present two Sherlock Holmes mysteries, one from the original canon by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and another by the Readers’ co-founder, James Gelter.

Each story will feature Gelter reading as Sherlock Holmes, Tony Grobe as Dr. Watson, and a rotating cast of special guests, including Anders Burrows, Patrick Caron, Veda Crewe, Nell Curley, Geof Dolman, Christian Drake, Jessica Gelter, Herral Hamilton, Bruce Holloway, Hazel Kinnersley, Olivia McNeely, Daniel Patterson, Jesse Tidd, and Robert Wellington.

Conan Doyle debuted Sherlock Holmes in the novel *A Study in Scarlet* in 1887. But when he began writing short stories featuring the “world’s first consulting detective,” the character captured the public’s imagination and popularized the mystery genre. The Readers have performed dozens of these stories in the past.

For the Month of Mystery, they will be reading Conan Doyle’s *The Adventure of the Devil’s Foot*, *The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez*, *The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax*, and *The Problem of Thor Bridge*.



James Gelter and Tony Grobe

Gelter is a playwright and author who has written numerous pastiches of Conan Doyle’s original short stories, many of which have been published in volumes of the *MX Anthology of New Sherlock Holmes Stories*. His latest, “The Adventure of the Nyeisoin Palace,” will be published this

summer as part of the anthology *The Consultations of Sherlock Holmes* by Belanger Books.

For the Month of Mystery, the Readers will be performing his stories *The Adventure of the Sketched Bride*, *The Grey Man*, *The Tragedy at Longpool*, and *The Adventure of the Sisters*

McClelland.

Performances are Fridays, July 14, 21, and 28, at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10, cash at the door. To reserve a seat, email bakerstreetreaders@gmail.com. Each show will be different, so the Readers encourage you to come to as many performances as possible.

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Rock River Artists

rocks and old barns. I love November and December — it's stick season, when Mother Nature shares her bare bones. I'm in love with the process," he adds. "If you look closely at my work, you see the layers, the textures, the drips. I start out with a quick sketch and I make a mess, then I tighten it and tighten it," yielding intricate texture as he works with brushes, squeegees, steel wool, Q-Tips, paper towels, fingers, rags, sticks, sponges, "whatever I have handy."

• Gianna Robinson has been venturing more these days into pointillism, a technique in which small, distinct dots of color are applied in patterns to form an image. "I like to play around," she says, trying to pare the elements in each piece down to an essential aesthetic she describes as "calming, but in an invigorating way, like you would feel if you went out to Grout Pond."

Painting peacefully, she says, "gives me that feeling like I'm falling in love for the first time and everything gets bright and crisp and it's buzzing" in landscapes of favorite local scenes and in abstractions too. Robinson shows at a few different local venues and will have her second show at Newfane's Moore Free Library in October.

• Throwing mostly at the Wheelhouse Clay Center in Brattleboro, Carol Ross offers her pottery at the Farmers Market in Brattleboro every other week, at the Peru Fair, on the RRA tour, and from her home gallery, which she says is "always open and I welcome

visitors." Ross has been honing a new glaze, green fog, a soft green matte that graces her modern, functional pottery.

Characterized as simple, clean, Asian, Scandinavian, and minimalist, Ross's work has no surface design or texture. Having been a graphic designer in New York, Boston, and locally, she says, "I love design and I've always gravitated toward clarity and simplicity: I believe that shows in my work." Her passion for what she does is manifest in her home gallery. "I'm at an age," she says, "where I don't want this to become work. I just love doing it."

• Georgie Runkle — known professionally as Georgie — says on the RRA website: "My paintings are deliberate. They are a mosaic of complex color and shapes arranged on a canvas to create a visual expression of an inner landscape. [...] I am a plein air painter. As you drive through southern Vermont you may see me painting along the roadside, in a field, or beside a barn... anywhere that the setting has attracted my aesthetic sensibility."

• For more than 40 years, Roger Sandes has, according to his artist's statement, incorporated into his paintings "symbols of life, fertility, and civilization. [...] I assemble these images in ways that highlight their natural beauty and abstract form, and integrate or synthesize elements of modern art and folk art, nature and artificial. By balancing the simple and complex, I hope to create objects of contemplation that will attract the eye immediately

FROM SECTION FRONT

and also reward subsequent examination."

• Prolific and showing her work widely in exhibits, private collections, and in texts, Deidre Scherer says "there's a lot of new work" to see this year. Focusing more now on what she calls "inner contours," Scherer continues to create still lifes and portraits. While producing new works, such as "Brilliance," and a series of hands in relief, she's recreating, using prints of older pieces and weaving them with translucent paper to create complex meaning with heart.

With so many of her subjects being us humans as we age, Scherer focuses on the reality of mortality and on the inevitable cycle of life. Scherer's news of note: "Sisters, Sitting" is now in the collection of the Rhode Island School of Design Museum in Providence, Rhode Island. Created in honor of Hildegard Bachert and Edith Schnabel, this double portrait was recently donated by Dorothy Kerzner Lipsky. Another piece, "Stories," has been added to the Bennington Museum's permanent collection through the generous donation of collectors Sharron and Frank Kropa.

• Potter Matthew Tell notes on his website that "My dialogue with clay is articulated in the 6,000 year old tradition of the functional vessel. I like the idea of my pieces becoming part of people's everyday life. I am influenced by my environment, the Green Mountains of Vermont. This is reflective in the suggestive landscapes and colorful earth-tone glaze

Marlboro Music opens its 2023 season this weekend

MARLBORO—The 2023 Marlboro Music Festival invites audiences to Potash Hill for the first concerts of the season and free open rehearsals in Persons Auditorium.

From among the more than 75 pieces that were rehearsed last week, Marlboro artists have chosen six fascinating works to share, from Mozart and Haydn string quartets to Janáček's *Mládí* for woodwind sextet.

The program on Saturday, July 15, at 8:30 p.m., also offers a rare opportunity to hear Marlboro's Artistic Directors Mitsuko Uchida and Jonathan Biss collaborating on Schubert's *Allegro in A Minor, D. 947* ("Lebensstürme"). Each of the other ensembles pairs what the festival describes

as "some of the world's most extraordinary emerging musicians" with Marlboro senior artists such as flutist Marina Piccinini, violinist Scott St. John, violist Sharon Wei, and cellist Peter Wiley.

Limited seating is available for Saturday evening's concert at Persons Auditorium. Tickets are \$20-\$40 from marlboromusic.org or the Marlboro box office (802-254-2394).

The Sunday, July 16 performance is sold out, but the box office is maintaining a waiting list for returned tickets. Audience members may contact the reception desk for more information at 802-254-2394 or reception@marlboromusic.org.

overlays I use to decorate my pots."

• Of her recent work, Christine Triebert says that with 30 years of photo images in store, she's no longer capturing images as her main art form. Instead, she's applying from her vast collection to "create functional objects for the home" — primarily lampshades and pillows.

Repurposing images — botanical, still life, abstract — she teams, in turn, with South Newfane woodworker Chris Erickson, Brattleboro ceramicist Steve Proctor, and blacksmith Aaron Anderson at Small Town Forge in Grafton to grow her marketed collection and to do custom work following an intricate in-studio process.

On the RRA tour, visitors can buy from her firsts and, under a sale tent on her serene Rock River property, find old frames and prints, notecards, calendars, and posters. Currently she sells from her studio, online, and through Artful Home, a gallery-like curated site with a tight jury process that treats artists well, she says. It's a worldwide market for her aesthetic that is clean, graphic, harmonious, balanced, simple, spatial: elegant contemporary.

• In her artist's statement, Mary Welsh says: "My collages are depictions of what we all take for granted — houses, rooms, and their contents. Viewing these scenes evokes memories and fantasies of what we know about houses and rooms, and these memories and fantasies become incorporated in our experience of the work. Some things are exactly what they appear to be; some things are not. [...] I use found materials placed in new contexts to ask questions about appearances and reality and to stimulate our imaginations about new possibilities."

As the RRA urges on rockriverartists.com, "Get a behind-the-scenes look into the unique locations where each artist's work is made. Take a trip through our rural villages

— visit rustic studios down country lanes, or high up in the hills with spectacular views; visit studios with lush gardens and landscaping; and studios tucked away in the woods, or along the river's edge — and see how and where art is made in Vermont."

The RRA Studio Tour will take place Saturday and Sunday, July 15 and 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It begins at the Old Schoolhouse, 387 Dover Rd., at the intersection of Dover and Auger Hole roads in South Newfane. There visitors can view samplings of work from each featured artist, enter a raffle, and grab a map to guide them from Auger Hole Road in South Newfane to South Wardsboro Road in Newfane Village. Ravi, of the Willow Retreat in South Newfane, will offer authentic Indian fare as take out on Willow's lawn from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days. For more information, contact Gianna Robinson at giannapaint@gmail.com or 802-380-4448.



COURTESY PHOTO

Hungrytown

Hungrytown returns to Wardsboro for July 15 concert

WARDSBORO—Folk music returns to Wardsboro on Saturday, July 15, as Wardsboro Curtain Call presents Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson, the husband-and-wife duo better known as Hungrytown, from nearby Townshend. They will be performing their new songs from the upcoming album *Circus for Sale*.

Through many years of worldwide touring, Hall and Anderson have crafted Hungrytown into what they call an "artistic hybrid," which includes "Celtic and Americana, ballads and psychedelia, sunshine and darkness, joy and despair," both within the same album and the same song. Their albums include *Further West*, *Any Forgotten Thing*, *Hungrytown*, *Sunday Afternoon*,

and *Rebecca Hall Sings!*

Hungrytown didn't close up shop during the pandemic. They spent their time organically crafting *Circus for Sale*. A review from Jeni Hankins, a singer-songwriter from Appalachia now living in England, states "*Circus for Sale* is the soundtrack for the film we all lived during the pandemic and the sequel for the life we are living now."

Their most recent album is "part wistful reflection and part forecast of things to come, always conveyed with precisely the right words married to a waterfall of companion folk sounds," say organizers.

The show takes place in the Wardsboro Town Hall; doors open at 6:30 p.m., and music

begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door. Plan to bring your own refreshments and beverages to enjoy in the café setting. For more information, email kwkmdavis@yahoo.com or call 802-896-6810.

Actors Theatre Playhouse presents 'The 39 Steps'

Actors Theatre Playhouse's (ATP) latest production, *The 39 Steps*, opens on Thursday, July 13, with performances on Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights, July 13-29, starting at 7:30 p.m.

In this ATP production of Patrick Barlow's award-winning play, a cast of four actors, complete with costume changes and dialects, play more than 100 characters. According to the news release, an ordinary man is mistakenly forced to take to his feet and begin an extraordinarily dangerous and entertaining escapade.

The cast of Gregory Lesch, Nicole Caron, Eric Morgan, and Sadie Fischesser create a dizzying spectacle of characters and locations, all under the direction of Marilyn Tullgren.

Based on Alfred Hitchcock's cinematic 1935 masterpiece and John Buchan's best-selling spy novel, *The 39 Steps* follows a man falsely accused of being a spy on a wild chase across England and Scotland, packing espionage, train rides, bridge climbing, plane

chases, murder and romance into a thrilling comedic adventure.

Along the way, he encounters dastardly murders, double-crossing secret agents, and, of course, devastatingly beautiful women. Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with juicy spy novel, add a dash of old time Music Hall Vaudeville, toss in some circus tricks and theatrical mime and stage trickery, including a trot across the top of a fast moving train, "and you have the makings for an intriguing, thrilling, riotous, and unmissable night of comedy," say organizers.

The play, a parody of the Hitchcock and Buchan works, has garnered several awards, including two Tony Awards, one for Best Lighting Design in a Play and one for Best Sound Design in a Play; and two Drama Desk Awards, one for Outstanding Lighting Design and one for Unique Theatrical Experience.

For tickets and more information, visit atplayhouse.org.

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July 10-16

CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079

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<p>Here We Are - Tim Wessel, Video Producer, Brattleboro Selectboard 2017-23: Mon 8p, Tues 12:25p, Wed 9p, Sat 12:25p, Sun 5:25p</p> <p>The World Fusion Show - Ep # 156 - Yehuda Glantz: Mon 5:30p, Tues 1p, Wed 9:30a, Thurs 1:30p, Sat 6:30p, Sun 9:30a</p> <p>Veterans Events - Brattleboro Memorial Day 2023: Mon 3p, Tues 8p, Thurs 2p, Fri 12:15p, Sat 8p</p> <p>Community Conversations on Compassion - Unsung Hero Award Ceremony 2023: Mon 8:35p, Tues 9:20p, Wed 12:20p, Thurs 12:15p & 3:20p, Fri 1:45p</p> <p>Windham County Genealogy Interest Group - Dipping Your Toe in Irish Genealogy Research: Mon 12:20p, Tues 3:15p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 2:20p, Sat 9a, Sun 6p</p> <p>Brooks Memorial Library - Green Mountain Stories by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman: Tues 10a, Wed 4:30p, Fri 6:30a, Sun 7:45p</p> <p>Brattleboro Fourth of July Parade - 2023: Mon 6:40p, Tues 6:40p, Wed 6:40p, Fri 6:40p, Sat 10:30a & 5p</p> <p>Brooks Memorial Library - Green Mountain Stories by Brent Kendrick: Tues 5:30a, Thurs 4p, Sun 12:30p</p> <p>Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Fennell: Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p</p> <p>Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p</p> <p>News Block: WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p Reformer News Break: Mon-Fri 12:05p & 6:05p</p> <p>St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a</p> <p>Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service: Tue 9a, Sat 5:30p, Sun 10a</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p</p> <p>Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service: Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a</p> <p>St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass: Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p</p>	<p>Brattleboro Selectboard Special Mtg. 7/11/23: Tues 6:15p (LIVE), Thurs 1p, Sun 6p</p> <p>Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 7/10/23: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 11:45a</p> <p>Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 7/10/23: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2:15p</p> <p>West River Education District Mtg. 7/10/23: Sat 8:30p, Sun 6a</p> <p>Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 7/11/23: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p</p> <p>Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 7/12/23: Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 12p</p> <p>Putney Selectboard Mtg. 7/12/23: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 2:30p</p> <p>Windham Elementary School Board Mtg. 7/12/23: Sat 6p, Sun 8:30a</p> <p>Guilford Conservation and Planning Commissions Special Joint Mtg. 6/15/23: Mon 6:15p, Tues 7a, Wed 12p, Fri 6a, Sat 3p</p> <p>Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 6/20/23: Mon 5:30a, Tues 5p, Wed 7:30a, Sat 11a, Sun 11a</p> <p>Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 6/27/23: Wed 8:30a, Thurs 10p</p> <p>Brattleboro Union High School Graduation 2023: Mon 10:30a, Wed 6a, Thurs 8:30p</p> <p>BAMS Move-Up Day 2023: Mon 5:30p, Sat 2:30p</p> <p>Leland and Gray Graduation 2023: Mon 6:30a, Tues 3:45p, Wed 10:30a</p> <p>Town Matters - Weekly Episode: Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p</p> <p>The David Pakman Show: Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p</p>
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Note: Schedule subject to change.

View full schedule and watch online at brattleborotv.org

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

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Yellow Barn

FROM SECTION FRONT

U.S. premiere features Claron McFadden, soprano; Melissa Wimbish, soprano; Nico Couck, guitar; SoYoung Choi, violin; Eduardo Leandro, percussion; and Monica Gil Giraldo, electronics.

"Hilda's music has depth and complexity," Knopp says, calling it "music that benefits from real exploration" and not surface treatment.

"Her music reflects both her inner ear and the topics about which she writes," he continues. "She's passionate about her own heritage, the language of that, the culture of her background as she draws on the literature of Mexico."

Paredes is also "extremely interested in the inner workings and mystery of music," Knopp notes, citing both the playfulness and the seriousness of her compositions.

"Harriet is a portrait of the African-American freedom fighter and former slave Harriet Tubman," said Paredes in a 2018 interview with Dutch music reviewer Thea Derks, when the opera had its world premiere in Amsterdam.

"I find much inspiration in the rich cultural life of my native Mexico," Paredes said. "I often work together with Mexican poets and artists, but I also follow other musical traditions. In terms of rhythm and structure, I am inspired by the music of North India."

"However, I avoid quoting or imitating traditional music — except when the subject asks for it, as in the case of Harriet. I like to put poetry to music and address psychological, political, gender and humanitarian issues in my operas."

"It's a wonderful, powerful piece that people should hear," says Knopp. Tubman's is a "complex story in a complex history to which Parades brings a unique

perspective and sensitivity."

The production involves theatrical elements such as lighting and scenic video which, notes festival's executive director, Catherine Stephan, "won't be a first for YB." The production ensemble, she reports, "will do anything to make this [premiere] possible at Yellow Barn."

"It's very fulfilling to be among such passionate creators," she says.

New faculty come to Vermont

There are several new faculty at Yellow Barn this summer — all from overseas, Knopp notes.

They include Maria Wloszczowska, violinist from Poland; Daniel Bates, oboist from the United Kingdom; Guy Ben Zion, viola, Germany; Lilli Maijala, viola, Finland; Alasdair Beatson, pianist, Scotland; and Nico Couck, guitarist, Belgium.

They join a host of regulars — among them, Natasha Brofsky, Stephen Coxe, Gilbert Kalish, Lucy Shelton, and many others who have returned summer after summer to the place that's been called by violinist Anthony Marwood, a Yellow Barn musician since 2000, "an artistic center of gravity."

Yellow Barn's summer concert venue, the Big Barn, is located on Main Street in downtown Putney, just off Exit 4 of Interstate 91. Concerts run July 13-15; 20-22; 25-29; and July 31-Aug. 5. All are in the Big Barn and begin at 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted. The Tuesday, July 25 concert is free, offering works by Ligeti, Paredes, Beethoven, and Dvořák. Otherwise, tickets range from \$17 to \$35. To reserve, email info@yellowbarn.org, or call 802-387-6637. Capacity for the gala is limited; reservations are necessary and can be made by writing catherine@yellowbarn.org.



Seth Knopp, on stage at far left, is now in his 24th year as artistic director at Yellow Barn in Putney.

COURTESY PHOTO

Hilda Paredes, creator of the chamber opera, "Harriet, Scenes from the Life of Harriet Tubman," is this season's artist in residence at Yellow Barn in Putney.



COURTESY PHOTO

"Dream Room" (2023) by Erika Radich.

Mitchell-Giddings presents 'Inner Landscapes'

BRATTLEBORO—Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts, 183 Main St., presents "Inner Landscapes: Three Views," paintings and collaged prints by New Hampshire artists Maggie Cahoon, Jessie Pollock, and Erika Radich.

An opening and artists reception will take place on Saturday, July 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. The show continues through Aug. 27, and all are invited to an artist forum scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 6, at 5 p.m.

Cahoon, Pollock, and Radich bring together their "unique and highly personal, nonfigurative imagery to fashion an exhibition of deep, reflective, imaginative spaces while responding through a diverse palette of explosive color," organizers say.

Within her series of paintings titled *Beyond Measure*, alcohol inks offer Cahoon the freedom to "explore a world of lucid and sensual color. With diaphanous veils and swirls, the artist generates a sense of peace and mystery." Cahoon invites viewers to "this place that offers no words or labels, asking one to look close, or stand back, and bathe in something beyond measure."

In her series *Petrichor* — the

scent that occurs when it rains after a long dry spell — Pollock introduces the viewer to "a vision of a world of atmosphere and grit, soft and rugged, influenced by our changing climate, vanishing landscape, and the mysterious energy of stones."

Radich organizes cut pieces of discarded or repurposed prints into *Refuge*, what she calls her "village of collages" that may

be viewed as community and connection. Tippy or balanced, Radich's structures "remove the weight of isolation from our lives and transport us to a place of optimism and hope."

Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts is open Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-251-8290 or mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com.

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The artwork of Erika Radich, Jessie Pollock, and Magie Cahoon will be on exhibit at Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts through Aug. 27.



COURTESY PHOTO

"Untitled #25" (2023) by Maggie Cahoon.

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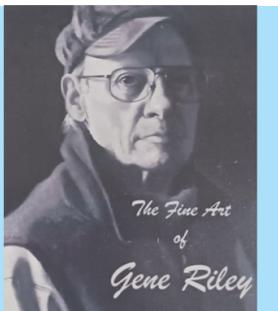
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Local Artist and Vermont Native Gene Riley has published a book of his works over his five decades as a painter.

The 152 page book contains 140 pages of color images of his works and several pages of black and white images of drawings.

The book is available at Everyone's Books at 25 Elliot Street in Brattleboro, Vermont.



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OPEN LETTER



TOM BUCHANAN/SPECIAL TO THE COMMONS

Federal government will provide emergency relief for Vermont in the aftermath of this week's flooding

Washington, D.C.

DEAR FELLOW VERMONTER,
As we all know, Vermont is now experiencing our worst natural disaster since 1927. Many hundreds of homes and businesses have been damaged by the terrible flooding that we are seeing throughout the state, and there is concern that more rain may bring even further damage.

Sen. Welch, Rep. Balint, and I are working with the Governor's office to make sure that every possible federal resource comes to Vermont as quickly as possible. I am very appreciative that President Biden, whom I spoke to today, signed a federal emergency declaration for Vermont as soon as he could. Today, I also spoke with FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, who will be leading that agency's response to this crisis.

If you are a household or a local business owner who has been impacted by the floods so far, please stay tuned here for updates on how you can access support.

However, please also remember: *This crisis is not over.* Rivers are still at flood stage, and more rain is forecasted. Vermonters should continue to follow all directions from emergency responders and heed all road signs.

It is looking like the Montpelier/Barre area and Ludlow/Londonderry/Andover/Weston and surrounding towns have been hit hardest at the moment. Many other areas and towns have also experienced serious flooding.

VERMONT'S swift water rescue teams have now performed more

BERNIE SANDERS is the senior senator representing Vermont in the United States Senate.

than 100 rescues throughout the state. Additional teams from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and North Carolina are here and also assisting. More teams are en route.

There are also Vermont National Guard helicopters in the air assisting in rescue operations and evacuations, with support from the New Hampshire Guard. State troopers are deployed throughout the state assisting stranded drivers, performing wellness checks, and more.

Let me once again thank all of the road crews and emergency response teams who are working around the clock to protect lives and property. They are real heroes and heroines.

Remember: There are countless road washouts around the state. When driving, *do not take any chances.* Stay away from rivers and flooded areas. Keep yourself and your family safe by staying well clear of damaged and flooded areas.

Please respect all detours and never drive across a flooded road. Any individual should report a life-threatening situation by dialing 911.

Here are some resources:

- For a list of state road closures, visit newengland511.org.
- Use the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service's website to

track river forecasts and levels at bit.ly/722-vt-flood-predict.

- Register for Vermont Alerts at vtalert.gov to receive up-to-the-minute safety warnings.
- For additional alerts and sources of information, including language translations, additional best practices, and more: bit.ly/722-bernie-flood-resources.

I KNOW THAT many who have not personally been affected are anxious to help your fellow Vermonters during this difficult time.

Please know that your support will be needed in the coming days and weeks. We are still in the very early stages of this disaster, and responders are focused on evacuations and preventing loss of life.

Right now, officials ask that any volunteer efforts remain local to your community. *The best way to help is by checking in on your friends and neighbors.*

This recovery will be long. To get through this together, we will need many helping hands in the coming weeks, months, and even years.

You can also sign up to volunteer at Vermont.gov/volunteer. Once you submit your information, the state will contact you as soon as you're needed and will connect you with a local organization or volunteer group.

It is important that no one self-deploy at this time, as doing so could put you or others at risk.

Editor's note

Owing to the realities that customarily ensue when natural disasters hit a newspaper's coverage area, this week's Voices is small, with more contributions awaiting publication than we've ever had in our newspaper's history. We appreciate the patience of contributors and are working to put together a huge Voices section for next week's paper. We aren't satisfied with how long some of you are waiting. We really do appreciate your contributions. —*Jeff Potter*

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VIEWPOINT

Our only home

The time to use the most aggressive technology and legislative power to treat this is now — it has always been “now,” and we’re past due. It requires political courage and individual responsibility.

THERE ARE MANY troubling forces at play in our current zeitgeist and politics that are demanding the attention of our president and legislators.

Keeping tabs on current events and the status of our sociopolitical machine is dizzying. But the problem of climate change — the future of our planet — is the backdrop and integral piece to much of the inequities and catastrophes we are facing and witnessing.

Though politically it can seem as though climate change is a partisan issue, it is a problem that does not discriminate.

Each person on this planet is vulnerable to the effects of climate change — individuals, families, and cultures. It is illusory to see ourselves as being separate or unaffected by these disasters.

WE ARE LOSING precious time, and the integrity of Mother Earth is rapidly being exhausted. We know this, and I think it’s worth being a broken record about it.

Speaking for myself, I feel tremendous anticipatory grief looking ahead to a time where we may not have the gift of nature as our refuge.

We are not just part of this Earth — we are entirely made of it. If ever I’ve felt despairing or like I didn’t belong, I have turned to nature to see the imperfections and kindness of life reflected at me, reminding me that we always have a home here.

Earth is a source of deep meaning for many, and that meaning transcends geography and culture. It is how we can see ourselves as siblings, no matter our differences. This globe is an anomaly and a profound teacher.

The Greenland ice cap is deteriorating at an alarming rate, as well as glaciers in Antarctica.

The Great Barrier Reef is experiencing unprecedented, large swaths of coral bleaching that is irreversible.

Wildfires are now frequent, and the resultant air quality fallout

Guilford

TARYN HEON is a clinical social worker, social justice/peer advocate, and writer.

can be experienced from hundreds, even thousands, of miles away. We have produced and emitted particulates and pollutants that are so ubiquitous that scientists cannot yet quantify them.

IF WE DO NOT immediately intervene, the loss of biodiversity will be irreparable. All these systems work together so that we as humans can live on this planet. It is how we remain sheltered, fed, protected from weather fluctuations, and natural disasters.

As explained by scientist Johan Rockström in *Breaking Boundaries: The Science of Our Planet*, we have surpassed what is called the Holocene geologic age, and we are now situated in the Anthropocene age, in which our climate is no longer naturally evolving and changing; instead, human activity has exaggerated and thwarted the natural processes of the planet, creating a new era of geologic vulnerability.

We are the species to have caused this degree of planetary instability, and consequently it is our responsibility to reverse its course.

THE TIME TO USE the most aggressive technology and legislative power to treat this is now — it has always been “now,” and we’re past due. It requires political courage and individual responsibility.

We can pass legislation to respond appropriately to the multiply declared, resounding scientific alarm that we are, in fact, in danger, to a proportion that we may not even be able to cognize.

It can be hard to know how any one person can intervene, and a collective helplessness can sometimes stew in the background. While we can make conscious effort to be mindful of our consumption, we also need to be able to count on leaders with legislative power to make brave decisions.

This issue can no longer be a side project or appendage to other,

seemingly more-pressing policy concerns. All sociopolitical concerns must be considered within the context of a deteriorating planet if we are to be attuned and accurately responsive.

The dystopia of losing our planet is not a remote, far-off possibility: it is already here, and human lives, flora and fauna, are dying because of it.

WE NEED President Biden to swiftly declare climate change a national emergency and to encourage his constituents and other nations to follow suit.

Biden could use the Defense Production Act of 1950 (DPA), which both he and, previously, President Trump relied upon to compel manufacturers to prioritize COVID-19-related materials (masks, ventilators, and the like).

The DPA grants the president greater authority to finance and bolster green industrial policy projects, which could be used in tandem with the climate investments ushered in by the Inflation Reduction Act. This would help reduce obstacles to the transition toward clean energy.

Doing so would, in part, move the country out of what can feel like a legislative inertia toward the issue of climate change, expediting the process as is clearly necessary.

THIS IS OUR one and only home. Three million years of human evolution, ingenuity, tradition, culture, creativity, and cooperation have taken place on this singular, life-bearing planet.

We can be humbled by the complexity, wisdom, and perseverance of the many other sentient creatures and organisms that accompany us.

The happenstance of having life in this universe is an improbable miracle, and it’s our precarious task to steward it for our children and generations to come.

NEWS

For Vermont youth, politics meets the personal

Students glean behind-the-scenes takes from a who’s who of state leaders at the Governor’s Institute on Global Issues & Youth Action at Landmark College

By Kevin O’Connor

VtDigger

PUTNEY—High schoolers at the Governor’s Institute on Global Issues & Youth Action, cell phones in hand, pointed to U.S. Rep. Becca Balint as the political pioneer trumpeted by the *Teen Vogue* headline on their screens as “Vermont’s first woman and LGBTQ+ federal representative.”

But the subject herself knows the less-reported flip side.

“It’s not just the stories that people tell about us, it’s the stories that we tell about ourselves,” the 55-year-old shared with students at the start of the week-long session on June 26. “When I was in my 40s, the story I had about myself was that I missed my opportunity to run for office,

that it was too late, that I should have gotten started in my 20s, and that there was no way that I could be in politics.”

Then Balint won a bid for state senator in 2014, becoming that chamber’s majority leader in 2016 and president pro tempore in 2021 before launching her successful congressional campaign last fall.

“It was only after I changed my story that I was able to run for office,” she said. “These stories can keep us small. What’s keeping you small?”

That’s just one of the questions 55 young attendees — meeting with a who’s who of state leaders at Landmark College — have been asked to mull as they aim to go big.

Teens listened, for example, as U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.,

dropped his stump speech on June 27 to inquire about what they wanted to know. Those assembled threw him every hot topic in the headlines, eliciting many classic sound bites (“You know what oligarchy means?” he asked), as well as a few surprises.

Take Sanders’ thoughts on school shootings.

“It’s such a horrible thing,” he said, “but until recently, I kind of chickened out and almost never talked about it. Just a couple of weeks ago, I met with family members of young people who were killed. They had pictures of their kids. I never know what to say. What are you going to say?”

Another student asked how Sanders prepared for presidential debates.

“With great anxiety,” the two-time Democratic primary candidate replied.

Sanders noted his interest in youth issues dated back to 1981, when he first won election as Burlington mayor by 10 votes and set up an office on the subject.

“I also got a wife out of that,” he joked of his former municipal-department-head-turned-spouse, Jane O’Meara Sanders.

‘So many ways to make change’

The Global Issues & Youth Action program is one of eight nonprofit, nonpartisan Governor’s Institutes — others include the arts, engineering, entrepreneurship, environmental science, health and medicine, mathematics, and technology — that take place each summer at college campuses statewide.

“I really want youth to understand there are so many different ways to make change in the world,” said state Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, the new director of the Global Issues & Youth Action program when

she isn’t chairing the House Ways and Means Committee. “There’s rallying and letter writing, but there’s also being a legislator, being a bureaucrat, being a journalist ...”

That’s why the institute guest list also includes Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas and Treasurer Mike Pieciak, the newly resettled Afghan refugees who create murals as the ArtLords, Brattleboro contradance caller and musician Andy Davis, Cambridge drag entertainer Emoji Nightmare, Oscar Mayer heir turned Guilford author Chuck Collins and, by video, Republican Gov. Phil Scott.

Maggie Meserve, a 17-year-old soon-to-be Springfield High

School senior, appreciated the mix of personal and professional insights woven through 10 days of classes and conversations.

“It’s definitely cool to see someone in more of a human way than you get to normally,” Meserve said. “It inspires me to think about if I want to do this kind of work — and know it’s possible for me to.”

That’s what the annual institutes, celebrating their 40th anniversary, work to inspire.

“I think the earlier young people start paying attention and feel[ing] the possibility of social change, the better off we all are,” Kornheiser said. “A lot of political action is motivated by outrage. I want folks to see that hope and

stories are much more sustaining forces.”

Then again, Balint revealed another source of fuel when asked about her new political power.

“Power?” the representative said to students.

In the U.S. House, “the Democrats are in the minority, and I spend day in and day out fighting with extremists in the Republican conference about basic facts,” Balint said.

“What I do have control over is how I interact with people,” she continued. “Today, I told my staff to cancel three Zoom meetings so I could be here. You have to take the joy when you can.”

Local fundraisers support ongoing relief efforts in Ukraine

free in exchange for the promise of a donation to a nonprofit supporting efforts with Ukraine and refugees. The signs are available at the Saxtons River Distillery locations in Brattleboro: the shop on 2 Elliot Street, and its distillery at 155 Chickering Drive.

“We need to keep this war in the public eye, as Putin is counting on using war fatigue in the United States and Europe to his advantage,” Secret said. “Therefore, the lawn signs serve as a visible reminder in our neighborhoods that the war continues.”

There continues to be enormous need both on the ground in Ukraine and to help the more than eight million Ukrainians who have fled as refugees, the news release points out. People are encouraged to donate to one of the following nonprofit organizations. See lithuanianvermont.com for links.

• Blue/Yellow USA: Provides nonlethal supplies to Ukrainian soldiers and volunteers, such as medical supplies, optics and communications equipment, and bulletproof vests. The number of wounded is increasing exponentially, thus the urgent need for combat application tourniquets and Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK).

• Ukrainian Center in Vilnius, Lithuania. With over 70,000 refugees in Lithuania, the Ukrainian Center hosts cultural events, training courses, speaking clubs, sports activities, refugee assistance and ongoing psychological

assistance.

• Ukrainian Refugee Aid in Lithuania. The Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Connecticut are collaborating with their community members in Lithuania assisting Ukrainian refugees. The funds provide psychological counseling, programs for children, child care for working mothers, and medical support, and support families with greater need, especially those with medical problems.

Additionally, Christian Stromberg, owner of Saxtons River Distillery, and a sibling of Kerry, has produced a new product, Snowdrop Vodka, where profits from the sale are donated to Blue/Yellow USA.

“As my ancestors were forced to flee Lithuania and start over back in 1905, I understand what is at stake for today’s Ukrainian people. That is why it is so crucial for me to give back to charities like Friends of Blue/Yellow that support those who are displaced and need help,” said Stromberg. The vodka can be purchased at his two locations.

Lithuania, with its own history of Soviet occupation, is a leader in Europe in opposing the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and is hosting a NATO Summit on July 11 and 12.

“This war is about more than Ukraine — it has global ramifications for democracy,” said Secret. “Please remember Ukraine this summer and make a donation of any amount.”

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AROUND THE TOWNS

Breakfast served at Williamsville Hall on July 13

WILLIAMSVILLE — Breakfast at the Williamsville Hall, 35 Dover Rd., will be served on Thursday, July 13, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. This monthly breakfast is complimentary and donations for the Hall are appreciated. The meal is open to everyone.

Homemade pastries, tea, coffee, and orange juice will be served. If the weather is suitable, seating will be outside; otherwise, seating will be inside. The Hall is ADA compliant. For more information, email williamsvillehall@gmail.com or visit williamsvillehall.org.

Rec. Dept. hosts TGIF Morning Matinees

BRATTLEBORO — The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Department is again offering its TGIF Morning Matinees. All TGIF shows are free to the public as well as daycares. Shows begin at 10 a.m. on Fridays, and will be held at the Living Memorial Park Rotary Outdoor Theater. In the event of rain, all shows will be moved indoors to the Withington Skating Facility.

Shows include The Puppet People and *Puppet Potpourri* on July 14, Kevin O'Keefe and his Circus Minimus on July 21, juggling with Jason Tardy on July 28, Chris Poulos and his BMX Bike Show (indoors at Withington Rink) on Aug. 4, and Magic By George on Aug. 11.

If there are special needs required for this program, let the Rec. Dept. know at least five days in advance. For more information, call their Gibson-Aiken Center office at 802-254-5808.

Guilford Cares to begin a seniors support group

GUILFORD — Guilford seniors (65 and older) are invited to attend a new support group which will meet on the first and

third Thursday of the month at the Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd., from 1 to 2 p.m.

The group will gather regularly to talk about the challenges of aging in place. Deb Albright, retired nurse and professional facilitator, will help the group follow some simple guidelines, but participants will determine what comes up for discussion. A range of topics, including health and fitness, loneliness, communication with family, and change, will be discussed. Fellow seniors will have insights and helpful ideas to share.

For more information or to request a ride, contact Guilford Cares at 802-579-1350 or guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com.

Monthly produce distribution in Putney

PUTNEY — The Vermont Foodbank and the Putney Foodshelf co-sponsor a monthly food drop of free produce and some nonperishables on the fourth Thursday of every month from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. on Alice Holway Drive (in front of Putney Meadows, the white building across from the Putney Coop and Putney Fire Station).

All are welcome. This is a drive-up service. Bags provided. The next monthly food drop is Thursday, July 27.

Farm to Family Coupon program starts summer season

WATERBURY — More Vermonters now have access to fresh, local produce across the state through the "Farm to Family Coupon" program. Approximately \$164,000 in coupons are now available to help eligible Vermonters buy locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables at participating farmers' markets and farm stands. Coupons are issued on a first-come, first-served basis, and may be used at any of the 60 markets and farm stands enrolled in the program this summer.

Vermont households with incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty level and households participating in the Vermont Department of Health's WIC Program (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) are eligible for the program. People can apply through their local WIC office or local community action agency. Dial 2-1-1 for local agency contact information.

Current income limits are \$2,248 a month for a single person, \$3,041 for a couple, \$3,833 for a family of three, \$4,625 for a family of four, and \$5,418 for a family of five. To learn more, go to bit.ly/722-coupon.

Where's Waldo? In Bellows Falls

BELLOWS FALLS — Waldo, the iconic children's book character in the red-and-white-striped shirt and black-rimmed specs

is visiting 25 local businesses throughout the Bellows Falls and Westminster area, starting this week.

"Find Waldo Local" is a free, family-friendly summer activity supporting local businesses, including Jim's Arcade, Athens Pizza, M&T Bank, Pizza Palace, Busy Bees, and Allen Brothers Farmstead. This year's event is co-sponsored by Village Square Booksellers and the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA) Promotions Committee.

Participating businesses will place a small cardboard cutout of the iconic character somewhere within their establishments.

Anyone who wishes to participate can pick up a "Find Waldo Local in Bellows Falls VT!" stamp card at the bookstore, which contains the names of all the participating sites. With each Waldo they spot, they can get their card stamped or

signed by a staff person in the participating shop. Waldo has also misplaced his glasses at Village Square Booksellers, so eagle-eyed hunters can find those as well.

When participants have collected at least 10 signatures, they can claim a Waldo temporary tattoo and a coupon for \$1 off a *Where's Waldo* book from Village Square Books (limited to the first 125 Waldo-Spotters) back at the bookstore. Collecting store stamps or signatures at 20 or more businesses will entitle diligent seekers entry into a grand-prize drawing for Waldo books and paraphernalia. The drawing takes place during Rockingham Old Home Days Weekend on Saturday, August 5, at 10 a.m.

There is no charge to participate, and the hunt lasts for the entire month of July. For more information about hunting for Waldo in Bellows Falls, contact Village Square Booksellers at 802-463-9404 or info@villagesquarebooks.com.

villagesquarebooks.com.

WHPA invites public comments on conservation management plan

The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association (WHPA) is inviting public comment on its latest Conservation Management Plan, which is available at bit.ly/722-pinnacle.

The WHPA Reserve encompasses five blocks of land, totaling about 2,725 acres and 25.7 miles of trails in the towns of Westminster, Rockingham, Grafton, Athens, Brookline, and Townshend. Comments on the plan are welcome through July 31 at WHPAtrails@gmail.com.

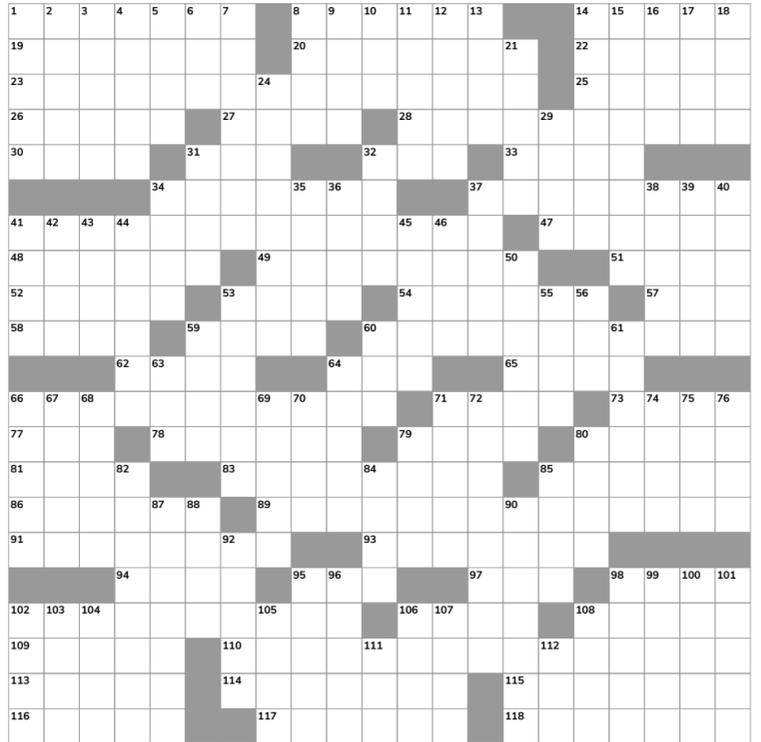
WHPA is a nonprofit founded in 1992 whose mission is to conserve and make accessible the lands along the Windmill Hill Ridge and nearby areas.

JOON PAHK
THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

"Title of Puzzle"

Across

1. Throb
8. Cold comfort?
14. Domed home
19. Gollum's true name
20. Was barely able to see
22. Gem from a bivalve
23. Value meal?
25. Put an edge on
26. Love, Italian-style
27. Some breads or whiskeys
28. Seaside place to be pampered?
30. What has a nose, legs, and body, but no head
31. "I never thought about it that way"
32. Greek X
33. Less than some
34. Shot taken in defense?
37. The way it was meant to be
41. Item needed for men's singles table tennis?
47. San __ (neighborhood of San Diego)
48. "Do I have a volunteer?"
49. Restaurants
51. Coagulate
52. What an activist or witness may take
53. Two, for binary
54. Not yet filled
57. Newark airport code
58. Gambling game
59. Venus de Milo's lack
60. Gait that's ungainly but precise?



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Down

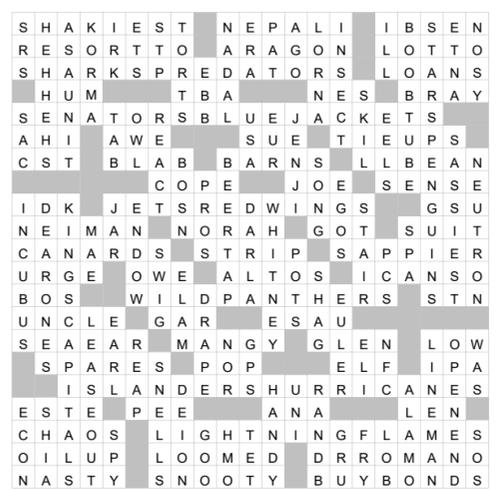
6. The Raptors, on scoreboards
7. Painter born Doménikos Theotokópoulos
8. Hungarian author Kertész
9. __ it (takes a taxi)
10. Part of a campus address
11. Spot for a sub
12. Traditional Vietnamese garment
13. [This could be bad!]
14. More than 2 billion of them have been sold since 2007
15. Like some domes
16. See 103-Down
17. Pitcher Hershiser
18. Ye __ Shoppe
21. Itty-bitty
24. Coverup for dark circles
29. Wyoming city named for Buffalo Bill
31. This blows hard
32. Give up
34. Purvey
35. "No bid"
36. Singer Ruess of fun.
37. Hardwood tree
38. Wasn't in gear
39. Sound from a hangry person's throat or stomach
40. __ Dame
41. Lounge like a lizard
42. Cost of a hand
43. Printer color
44. Graduation distinction
45. Celtic cleric
46. Actress Bai __
50. Glossy fabric
53. Comedian Aidy
55. Opposite of a sip
56. Sunbather's goal
59. Structure with a keystone
60. No-win situation?
61. Openly resisted
63. "So that's your game!"
64. "That being said..." in brief
66. Actress Campbell
67. Part of RCMP and RAF

68. Per __ (yearly)
69. "Dagnabbit!"
70. Song subtitled "The Banana Boat Song"
71. Blues pioneer Waters
72. "That might be true"
74. Pie crust ingredient
75. Tech exec Dash
76. Late soccer legend
79. German beer
80. "omg 2 funny"
82. Respond sharply to criticism
84. Soccer great Wambach
85. This: Sp.
87. Mortal people?
88. Copenhagen, e.g.
90. At first glance
92. Scrounge

95. Plant life
96. Morgan __ (Arthurian sorceress)
98. Work the runway
99. Poet Lorde
100. Grade in the high 70s
101. Walls
102. Gueck or quahog
103. With 16-Down, movie that did not quite win Best Picture
104. Les États-__
105. Pulls on, as threads?
106. Editor's "Actually, leave this in"
107. Very, very
108. Like a wet noodle
111. NFL three-pointers
112. Bouncing baby of fiction

Last issue's solution

"Ice Capades"



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PUBLICATION OF THE COMMONS CROSSWORD IS UNDERWRITTEN BY



TEACHER NEEDED

for Windham Elementary School, a K6 school located in Windham, VT.

Enrollment is in the high teens. Job requirements include licensure in VT, or the ability to be provisionally licensed while completing the necessary requirements.

Experience is preferred.

Windham School District is an EOE.

Please send resume and cover letter to bthibault@windhamcentral.org.

TEACHING PRINCIPAL NEEDED

for Windham Elementary School, a K6 school located in Windham, VT.

Enrollment is in the high teens, the school is set up with two multi-age classrooms - one teacher of which is also the principal. Job requirements include both licensure areas in VT, or the ability to be provisionally licensed while completing the necessary requirements. Experience is preferred.

Windham School District is an EOE.

Please send resume and cover letter to bthibault@windhamcentral.org.



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COLUMN | Sports Roundup

Post 5 takes first place in Legion ball

Brattleboro Post 5 is off to a great start to its American Legion Baseball season. After Post 5 lost its first league game to Bennington Post 13 on June 18, Brattleboro has since won 11 of 12 league games to take control of first place in the Southern Division with an 11-2 record.

On July 1 at Tenney Field, Post 5 — and pitchers Jolie and Jayke Glidden — swept a doubleheader with Manchester Union Underground.

Jolie was the winning pitcher in a 4-1 win in the game. He went the distance, scattering four hits with two strikeouts and one walk. The infield defense helped him out with three double plays.

Jackson Emery drove in the tying run in the second inning on a groundout, Harper Cutler got the go-ahead run across in the fifth on a fielder's choice, and Alex McClelland hit a two-run double in the sixth.

Jayke went six innings to get the win in game 2, a tight 2-0 win for Post 5. He struck out seven and walked two in holding Manchester to four hits. Emery singled and eventually scored on a passed ball in the fifth inning, and Evan Wright drove in another run in the sixth on an infield hit. Emery then struck two batters in the seventh to earn a save.

Post 5 kept it rolling with a pair of wins against Lakes Region. On July 5 at Tenney Field, Alex Bingham threw 6 2/3 innings of five-hit ball to get the win in a 2-0 victory.

When Bingham hit his pitch limit with two outs in the seventh, Jolie Glidden came on to get the last out and the save. Brattleboro scored both of its runs in the fifth inning.

The next night, in Castleton, a big sixth inning led Brattleboro to a 9-3 win. Emery held Lakes Region to two hits over five innings to earn the win. A two-run double by Turner Clews was the big hit as Post 5 scored twice in the first inning.

The Brattleboro bats then went silent until the sixth, when Post 5 scored seven runs on five hits, with a two-run triple from Aidan Davis and doubles from Clews and Emery. Davis and



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.

Wright each pitched an inning of relief to close out the win. Post 5 finished up with 11 hits in all, with Davis and Zinabu McNiece each with three hits and Clews hitting a pair of doubles.

Post 5 then had get through a pair of weekend doubleheaders on the road — two against Bellows Falls Post 37 and a pair against Bennington Post 13 — and managed to win three of the four games.

Against Bellows Falls on July 8, they split the two games with Post 5 winning 14-4 in six innings in the first game and losing 7-6 in eight innings in the second game.

Davis led the way in the first game with four hits and five RBIs with a home run, a double, and two singles. McNiece had a hit and three RBIs, while Bingham had a hit with two RBIs. Jolie Glidden went 3 2/3 innings to earn the win, with Jayke Glidden and Eric Kurucz finishing up on the mound.

The second game was tight, with Kurucz taking the loss in relief of Wright and Davis. Three errors in the eighth inning gave Bellows Falls a walk-off win. Brattleboro had seven hits in the game, with Sam Bogart driving in three runs on two hits, while Clews had two hits and an RBI.

On July 9 in Bennington, Brattleboro swept Post 13, winning the first game, 14-3, and taking the second game, 10-7. Post 5 is a good position to hang to the top spot in the Southern Division as with just another week left in the regular season.

Little League round-up

• The Brattleboro 12-U Little League All-Stars began play in the District 2 tournament last week.

On July 8 at South Main Street Field, Brattleboro rallied to beat Rutland County, 9-8, in a back-and-forth game that wasn't settled until the final out. Rutland took a 3-1 lead after two innings and boosted

that lead to 6-2 with a three-run third inning.

Brattleboro started their comeback in the bottom of the third with a two-run double by Nolan Domanski to cut the Rutland lead to 6-4. Strong relief pitching from Azyi Crews held the line until Brattleboro exploded for five runs in the fifth inning. Crews drew a bases-loaded walk, Shaun Emery-Greene got two runs home on a fielding error, Axton Crowley had a RBI single, and Carson Depue got another run home on a ground out for a 9-6 lead.

It turned out Brattleboro needed all five of those runs, for Rutland made a big comeback in the sixth inning. Crowley, playing at second base, got the game's final out with a patient play on a ground ball that, if misplayed, would have given Rutland the lead. That play earned him the team's Most Valuable Player award, an oversized gold chain given to the star of each game.

Manager Chad Gundry, who guided Brattleboro to a state title last year, said after the game that this year's team is not quite as dominant in terms of pitching and hitting, but Crews, Crowley, Domanski, and Emery-Greene have performed well in the tournament thus far and they have gotten more than enough offense to win games.

With a 3-1 record in the round robin stage of the district tournament, Brattleboro earned the second seed and will host third-seeded Rutland in the elimination round on July 12 at 5:30 p.m. Bennington is the top seed in the tournament.

• The Brattleboro 10-U team has also been playing well in the round-robin stage of their District 2 tournament, clinching the top seed with a 8-4 win over Rutland County on July 8.

Brattleboro will host the winner of the Bennington-Rutland elimination game on July 13.

Guerino, Cole win Firecracker 4-Miler

• Jason Guerino of Vernon and Deepti Cole of Brighton, Massachusetts were the winners of this year's 48th annual Firecracker 4-Miler on July 4.

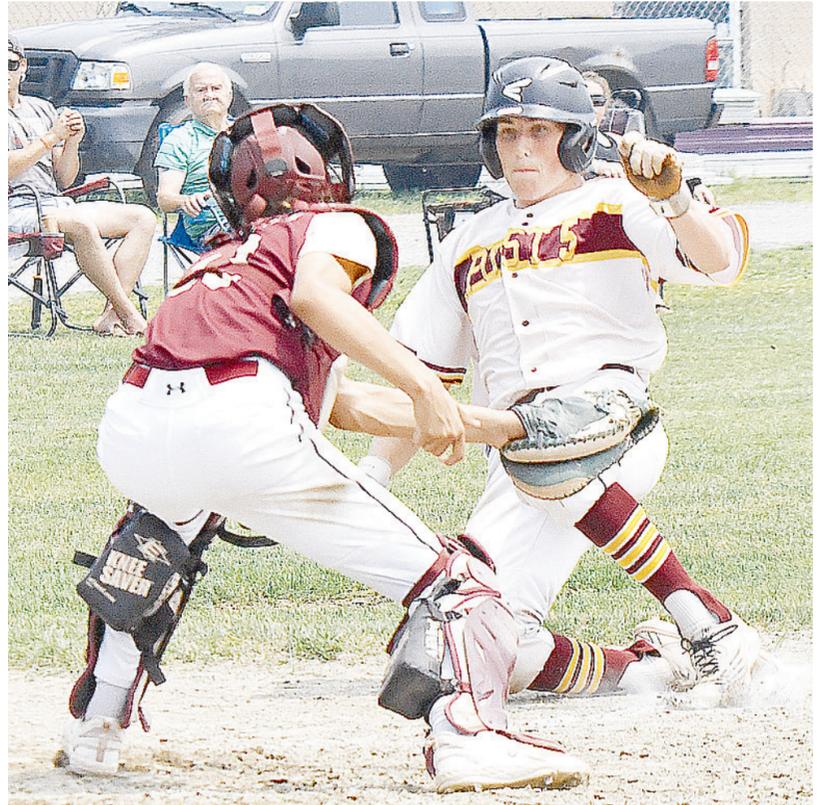
The 24-year-old Guerino, who finished sixth last year in his first try racing through the streets of Brattleboro, was the top male finisher with a time of 25 minutes, 24 seconds.

Cole, 42, another second-timer in the event, finished fourth overall and was the top female finisher in 26:42. John Hirsch, 48, of New York City was second in 25:52 and Josh Wooten, 40, of Brattleboro was third in 26:16.

Eve Pomazi, 24, of Brattleboro was the second-place finisher for the women. Her time of 27:50 was good enough for seventh overall.

There were 72 finishers in all, a smaller field compared to past years, in this race organized by the Red Clover Rovers running club. Complete results can be found at runsignup.com/Race/Results/21519#resultSetId=391270;perPage=100.

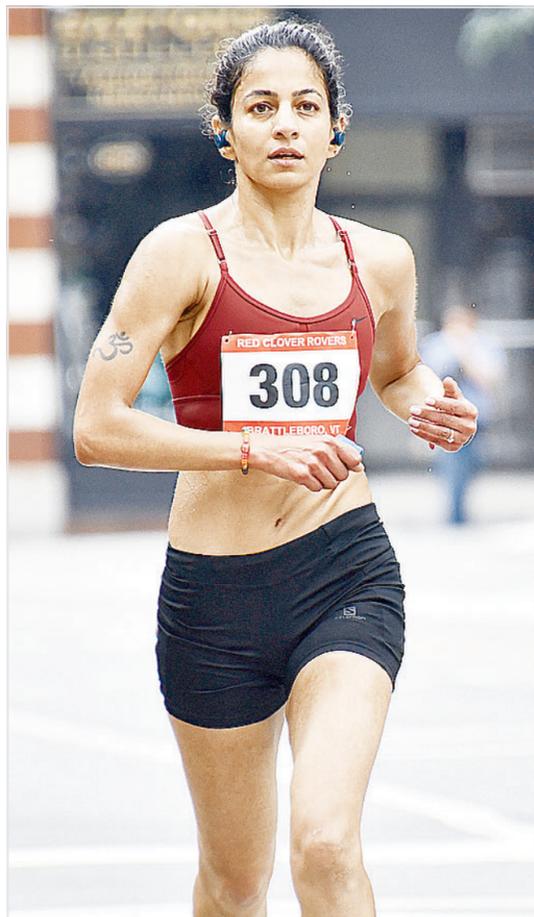
Deepti Cole of Brighton, Massachusetts was the women's winner of the annual Firecracker 4-Miler road race on July 4 in Brattleboro.



Brattleboro Post 5 baserunner Alex McClelland slides safely into home in the sixth inning of the first game of a July 1 doubleheader against Manchester Union United at Tenney Field.



Brattleboro second baseman Axton Crowley, left, and first baseman Shaun Emery-Greene celebrated after they combined to get the final out in a 9-8 win over Rutland County in a Little League playoff game on July 8.



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

Honors for Sportsmen Inc.

• Sportsmen Inc. in Guilford has been the local classroom for many hunter education classes for more than 35 years. Recently, the club was awarded the Outstanding Partner to Hunter Education in Vermont Award by the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife's hunter education division.

Two distinct teams teach at Sportsmen Inc. — the team led by Don Rosinski, and the team formerly led by Herb Meyer, now led by Gary Sherer. Each year, Sportsmen Inc. sponsors at least three Hunter/Bowhunter education courses. Vermonters are required to pass the basic hunter education course before they can purchase their first hunting license.

The club's property in Guilford is the ideal setting for teaching hunter safety, as well as proper handling of firearms, for students of all ages. The emphasis that the Fish & Wildlife Department has put on training has paid big dividends in the sharp reduction in fatalities during deer hunting season over the past three decades. There were no hunting deaths reported in Vermont in 2021 and 2022.

Volunteers do all the safety

training in Vermont, and the Sportsmen Inc. folks who have given so much of their time to important task are greatly deserving of the department's honors.

Senior bowling roundup

• At the midpoint of the spring/summer season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl, Slo Movers and Turkeys (both 33-17) are tied for first place with No Splits (32-18) in second place. Five Pins (31-19) is in third, followed by Skippers (27.5-22.5), The Bowlers (26-14), Stayin' Alive (24.5-35.5), High Rollers (21-29), and Wrecking Crew (18-32).

In Week 9 action on June 29, Carol Gloski had the women's high handicap game (229), while Diane Cooke had the high handicap series (637). Chuck Adams had the men's high handicap game (270) and series (703), while Turkeys had the high team handicap game (851) and Skippers had the high handicap series (2,461).

Adams led the men's scratch scoring with a 697 series that featured games of 268, 238, and 191. Robert Rigby had a 574 series, with games of 198 and 195, while John Walker

had a 583 series with games of 201 and 197. Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 546 series with a 192 game, and Milt Sherman had a 535 series with a 227 game.

Gloski had the women's high scratch series (472) and game (181); she also had a 173 game. Cooke had a 161 game, while Shirley Aiken and Nancy Dalzell both had a 160 game.

In Week 10 action on July 6, Doris Lake had the women's high handicap game (230), while Vicki Butynski had the high handicap series (637). Charlie Marchant had the men's high handicap game (261) and Jerry Dunham had the high handicap series (667), while No Splits had the high team handicap game (873) and Turkeys had the high handicap series (2,461).

Corriveau Sr. led the men's scratch scoring with a 543 series that featured games of 214 and 191. Dunham also had a 565 series with a 202 game, while Rigby had a 529 series, Adams had a 528 series, Gary Montgomery had a 514 series with a 192 game, and Sherman had a 505 series. Walker had a 197 game.

Dalzell had the women's high scratch series (472) and game (160), while Butynski rolled a 144.

Thank you!

The Commons would like to thank everyone who made a contribution during our annual Spring Fundraiser!



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