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Decommissioning of Vermont Yankee continues at full speed

But with a court taking storage in Texas off the table, the former nuclear plant's spent fuel will 'sit where it's been sitting for some time,' NorthStar CEO says

By Emma Cotton
VtDigger

VERNON—On Oct. 10, a giant yellow machine called a “concrete cracker” turned a building at the former Vermont Yankee nuclear plant into rubble.

Workers have been deconstructing the building, which formerly housed a steam turbine, for

several weeks. It was one component of the boiling-water reactor system that, at one time, produced 35% of the state's electric needs.

The nuclear plant operated from 1972 until 2014, when its then-owner, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, closed the plant after it was no longer able

■ SEE VERMONT YANKEE, A6

Putney seeks comments about proposed town plan

Selectboard plan two meetings — on Oct. 24 and Nov. 8 — to seek comments on newest revision to long-term document to address ‘strategic direction and priorities’

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

PUTNEY—A plan to make the town “an inclusive, safe and resilient rural community where residents, businesses and organizations thrive, and live life in harmony with nature and each other” will be presented for public comment at hearings scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 24 and Wednesday, Nov. 8. Both meetings start at 5:30 p.m. in Town Hall.

The Planning Commission's draft of the 2023 Putney Town Plan addresses this vision via several “strategic directions/priorities.” They include:

- Create a sustainable village and local economy that effectively meet the needs of residents and visitors.

- Increase the availability, accessibility, and quality of housing to meet the needs of all residents.

- Increase community-wide connectedness, health, and well-being.

- Preserve natural landscapes and ecosystem biodiversity in partnership with adjacent communities.

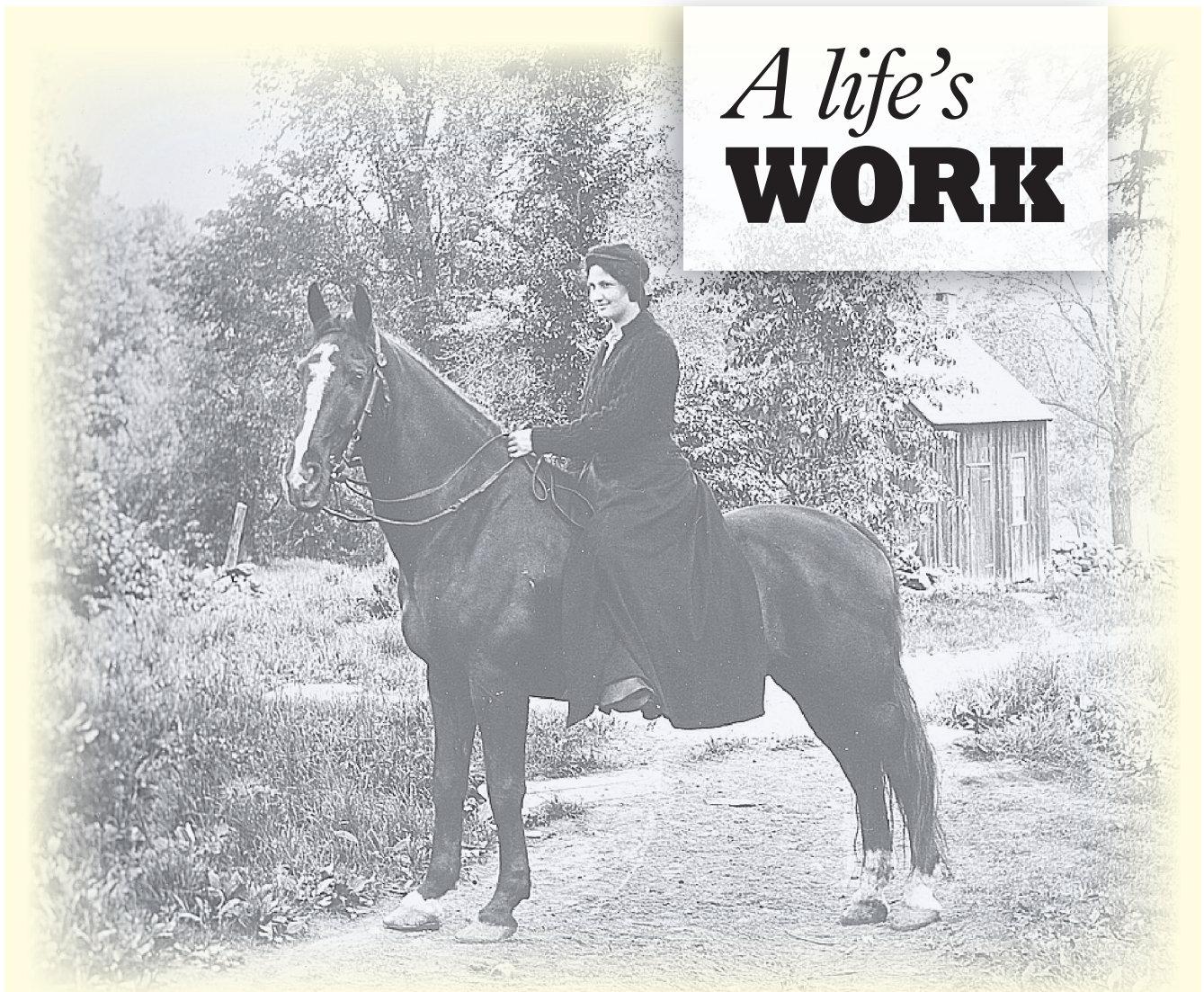
- Reduce and mitigate community-wide contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and prepare all for the intensifying impacts of rapid climate change.

Key differences between the

proposed plan and the current one from 2015, which expires at the end of the year, says Planning Commission Chair Susan Coakley, are that the new one has an updated “look and feel that features a graphically rich format optimized for online viewing, particularly of the maps and other graphics” and it uses “more content text with call-out boxes and references and links to other relevant documents.”

The draft plan is written to

■ SEE TOWN PLAN, A2



A life's WORK

COURTESY PHOTO

In her younger days, Dr. Grace Burnett made house calls by horseback.

Dummerston Historical Society celebrates the life of Dr. Grace Burnett — one of the state's first female physicians, who delivered thousands of babies in Windham County — and her nearly 50 years in medicine

By Fran Lynggaard Hansen
The Commons

DUMMERSTON—In 2004, Carolyn Peck created *We Remember Dr. Grace Burnett*, a film about the fifth woman to practice medicine in Vermont and Brattleboro's first female physician.

Burnett, one of the town's most beloved citizens, delivered the filmmaker, who lived across the street from her and her family, and who employed her

mother in the medical office.

The film was shown locally and was eventually donated to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. But amid the chaos of renovations to the hospital campus at the time, the work vanished.

It's now been found, and will be shown as part of a free afternoon of learning, “Dr. Grace Burnett; A Country Doctor,” presented by longtime Brattleboro physician Dr. Robert Tortolani, on Sunday, Oct. 22, at 2 p.m.

Burnett's professional focus included family medicine in addition to her

interest in obstetrics and gynecology.

She had once been married and divorced but had no children. After her death in 1963, her few remaining relatives scheduled an estate auction to dispose of her property and sell her father's house in West Dummerston.

An ad in the *Brattleboro Reformer* announced that Paul W. Lawton, auctioneer and appraiser of real estate, would sell the home and the doctor's many belongings, including her 30 wagons, sleighs, and buggies, and an authentic

■ SEE DOCTOR'S LEGACY, A3



ROBERT F. SMITH/THE COMMONS

Michael Gigante, a patron of Andrews Inn, and Thom Herman and Jeremy Youst, who purchased the inn in 1979, were at the relocation of the Andrews Inn historic marker on Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day.

Marking HISTORY

Andrews Inn celebrated for its significance in the lives of New England's LGBTQ+ community with a more visible place for the marker honoring its history

By Robert F. Smith
The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—On Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day, the LGBTQ community celebrated the relocation of the Andrews Inn historic marker on The Square.

The event also celebrated the naming of what now is the Andrews Inn Lounge, part of the Ciao Popolo Restaurant, and the installation of a plaque and photos there commemorating the building's history.

Andrews Inn was a historic gay bar, nightclub, and inn that operated from 1973 to 1984, one of the few safe places for LGBTQ people to gather in all of New England and the only one in a rural region.

The inn helped shape the

greater Bellows Falls community over the past several decades, said Betsy Thurston, the executive director of the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA), one of the event's sponsors.

She noted that the event was intended to “honor the spiritual gatekeepers” of the inn, who included Michael Gigante; Thom Herman and Jeremy Youst, who attended the event; Fletcher Proctor, who was unable to attend; and John Moises and Eva Mondon, who have passed away.

Moises founded the Andrews Inn in the Windham Hotel building on The Square.

The current hotel, the fifth on this site since 1817, was built in 1933, replacing one destroyed by fire. The building houses the hotel and Ciao Popolo restaurant

and several retail storefronts. It has been under restoration since 2008.

One unique aspect of the hotel is that its ballroom sits directly over a still-very-active railroad tunnel that was built under The Square in 1851 for the Vermont Valley Railroad.

Safe and accepting

Since 2019, a state historic plaque on the side of the building has marked the history of both the Windham Hotel building and the Andrews Inn. This year, that plaque was relocated to a more visible spot near the entrance of the building and turned so that the Andrews Inn history is prominently featured.

From 1973 to 1984, Andrews Inn offered bars, discos, lodging,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Town plan

FROM SECTION FRONT

address state municipal planning goals, established two years after the current town plan was adopted. It is written to address the “vision and strategic priorities” of community members.

The proposed town plan was developed with extensive community outreach during the past year, including building on the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) community visit.

That community visioning project, which took place in 2022 and 2023, resulted in a report and action plan, “Our Future Putney.”

That initiative identified community priorities to improve the quality of life here. More than 250 people attended three VCRD meetings and task forces for housing solutions, revitalizing the downtown, and developing community centers.

The Planning Commission built on that work and last winter and spring held community meetings to present draft town plan content and invite questions and comments.

Planners also partnered with the Putney Conservation Commission to draft the section about natural resources.

Finally, commissioners conducted a town-wide survey and reached out to community members who were not able to attend the Future Putney meetings.

All comments received in writing are available to the public on the town website.

Implementing the plan

Also new in the proposed 2023 plan is the integrated implementation plan that addresses the objectives and policies in the first part of the plan.



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“The Planning Commission is committed to continuing to engage the community and access resources to implement and track progress to realize the 2023 Putney Town Plan vision and plan,” says Coakley. “Even as the Selectboard prepares for the final two public hearings, we are already working with town staff and the Selectboard to leverage state and federal funds using [funding from the American Rescue Plan Act] to implement recommendations.”

In this way, Coakley continues, the plan is intended “to guide a renewal of Putney to address a long-term decline in the local economy, a severe lack of access to affordable housing, and the challenges of climate change.”

“We are hopeful that Putney, a center for human development, arts, and community-scale agriculture, has a bright future that balances the needs of a diverse, welcoming community with long-term sustainability and conservation of our natural resources,” she says. “We have challenges, but we are working together in new, inspiring ways.”

The eight-year plan includes eight chapters, each with recommended objectives, policies, and actions, summarized in an integrated implementation plan of proposed actions.

The chapters include: Vision and Strategic Priorities, Natural Resources and Land Use, Housing, Energy, Economic Development, Community Facilities and Services, Transportation, Resilience, and Implementation Plan.

Implementation actions listed include:

- Ensuring through the development review process and maintenance agreements that any private roads meet town standards (ongoing; led by zoning administrator).
- Reviewing and revising the land use regulations as necessary to ensure that private roads and driveways incorporate stormwater management that will be more resilient to climate change (years 1-4; led by Planning Commission).
- Considering the condition and capability of roads when establishing allowed densities of development under the land use regulations (years 1-4; led by Planning Commission).
- Continuing to participate in the Traffic Advisory Committee hosted by the Windham Regional Commission (ongoing; led by town manager).
- Maintaining a current,



PUTNEY TOWN PLAN
2023 • 2031

PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVED DRAFT

PUTNEY.ORG

Putney Planning Commission Chair Susan Coakley says the new town plan has an updated “look and feel that features a graphically rich format optimized for online viewing, particularly of the maps and other graphics.”

adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan, by undertaking an annual review process that evaluates the effectiveness of the implementation program and addresses additional identified hazards and response resources (ongoing; led by town manager).

• Conducting a yearly review and adoption of the Local Emergency Management Plan to maintain state Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund membership (ongoing; led by town manager).

• Exploring the creation of a standing Putney emergency response network that brings together municipal services and local social service agencies to prepare for and coordinate volunteer responses to community crises (ongoing; led by town manager).

• Continuing to participate in the Regional Emergency Management Committee (ongoing; led by fire chief).

• Appointing leadership for and seek funding and partnerships to identify, and recommend solutions to mitigate and respond to additional threats to public health, safety, and well-being (years 1-4; led by Selectboard).

• Providing suitable local facilities where residents can safely shelter and access food, medicine, and needed services during a disaster or emergency (ongoing; led by town manager).

• Requiring all new development to adequately manage stormwater to prevent damage to

public infrastructure (years 1-4; led by Planning Commission).

• Adopting road and driveway standards that ensure all new development meets minimum requirements for emergency access (ongoing; led by Selectboard).

• Require that utilities installed to serve new development be placed underground where feasible (years 1-4; led by Planning Commission).

• Continuing to monitor the health of and remove diseased hazard trees within public rights of way (ongoing; led by tree warden and Highway Department).

How to participate

The Selectboard will hold a public hearing as a hybrid meeting, both in-person and via videoconferencing.

The town cautions that “while the board will strive to provide means for those attending remotely to participate in the public hearing, technical difficulties or reasons that otherwise prevent or interrupt remote public participation are possible.”

PUTNEY

Meg Mott presents ‘Must Free Speech Endure Hate Speech?’ at Putney Library

PUTNEY—Meg Mott, former Marlboro College professor will lead a discussion entitled “Must Free Speech Endure Hate Speech?” at Putney Public Library, 55 Main St., on Oct. 25, at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone loves free speech in theory, she says, but trouble often comes when someone else’s speech disturbs social norms.

According to organizers, “Why should Nazis be given permission to march through a predominantly Jewish neighborhood? Why should anti-gay zealots be allowed to protest military funerals? The short answer to these actual Supreme Court cases is that the First Amendment protects the right to express outrageous things in public. It even protects a person’s ability to say harmful things.”

Mott says the debate over free speech is itself a good thing. “We should all be concerned about the effects speech has on the social fabric, and we should all be concerned about giving the state the power to punish people for things they say,” she said.

The First Amendment, she explains, is the principle guardrail in our constitutional democracy. “Once we start fearing our enemies more than we love our

freedoms, the temptation to silence them with the law can be overpowering. Luckily, the First Amendment prevents us from ceding to our worse angels. We have to work things out and stop putting our enemies in jail.”

The talk’s title is designed to be an open question, says Mott. Some participants may believe that the better answer to that question is no. Others will rally behind the principle of free speech. “What matters,” says Mott, “is that we understand the good arguments on both sides of this question. Without that hard-won intelligence, freedom loses all meaning.”

The Putney library is where Mott began her career as a self-proclaimed Constitution Wrangler, when Librarian Emily Zervas and Trustee Janice Baldwin were looking for a series of talks that would bring a divided community together after the 2016 election. That request spawned the award-winning “Debating Our Rights” series, in which contentious issues are unpacked toward greater understanding.

Mott’s talk is sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council and admission is free of charge.



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■ Doctor's legacy

FROM SECTION FRONT

Concord coach, which Burnett had lent out a few times for weddings of friends and family.

In attendance that day was Dummerston resident Sylvio "Shorty" Forrett, who purchased the photo albums, papers, and medical books from Burnett's estate. Forrett, who died in 2019, later donated them to the Dummerston Historical Society.

Charles Fish, a member of the Dummerston Historical Society's board of directors, is thrilled to have them. "We were so fortunate that Shorty Forrett attended the auction and had the foresight to purchase this important piece of local history and later donate it to the Society," he said. "We're very grateful to [him] and his family."

Enter Tortolani, whose father practiced medicine in rural Connecticut in much the same way as Grace Burnett did here.

"I got a call from Chuck Fish. He and the Dummerston Historical Society were interested in learning more about Dr. Burnett's medical practice," Tortolani said.

Tortolani said that Fish has been studying Burnett's medical library of approximately 50 books and her papers in the Historical Society holdings and "was looking for someone to collaborate on an event where we explored her life and what her medical practice might have been like compared to today."

Tortolani says he followed in the footsteps of his physician father, who practiced about 20 years after Dr. Burnett began her career.

Between Burnett's legacy, his father's career, and his own medical practice, Tortolani has knowledge of about the last century of how medicine was practiced.

"I've been in Brattleboro for 50 years and had a family practice here for 44 years," he said. "I've been keeping my hand in medicine without the exhaustion of a full practice since my retirement. I'm very interested in medical history."

A century of changes in medicine

Tortolani says that after the film screening, he will speak with a focus on how medicine might have been practiced in Vermont during Burnett's time.

Among the 50 books in the Burnett collection is a copy of *The Principles and Practice of Medicine: Designed for the Use of Practitioners and Students of Medicine*, by Sir William Osler, a Canadian physician and one of the founders of Johns Hopkins Hospital who pioneered the concept of clinical training for medical students. The book was first published in 1892.

"It was the textbook from the early 1900s through the 1930s," Tortolani says, "It was an important text for her practice of medicine."

Tortolani has also been studying the medical history of the area and came across a letter that a patient in Springfield, Vermont wrote to her doctor in Bellows Falls, before the advent of the telephone.

"It says, 'I have a sore throat, and can you come and see me?'" Tortolani said.

"This was back in the old days," the doctor continued. "You sent your eldest son out on a horse to put the letter in the mail, and since mail was delivered twice a day it was likely to reach the doctor at mail delivery that afternoon so that the doctor could arrive the following day."

Why not just go get the doctor? "If the son had ridden all the way to the doctor's house, he likely would have been out on a

call anyway," says Tortolani with a chuckle, as he added, "The quickest way to reach the doctor was through the mail."

From the farm to a medical career

In 1961, Rev. Fred Miller, upon bestowing the Brattleboro Chamber of Commerce's Greater Brattleboro Citizen of the Year award to Burnett, said, "In an era spanning two World Wars when the value of life has fallen to an all-time low, it is indeed refreshing to stand in the presence of one whose entire life's story is filled with a 'reverence for life.'"

One of four children, Grace Burnett grew up on a farm in West Dummerston, attended school through the ninth grade in a one-room schoolhouse, and graduated from Brattleboro High School in 1905. Burnett insisted she wanted to become a doctor even when she was a child and pretended to treat her beloved animals on the farm.

After a brief stint teaching, and some time working in Brattleboro at a textile factory manufacturing overalls, she completed medical school in Michigan, and graduated from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 1912. Working almost to the day she died in 1963, she served the Brattleboro area for nearly 50 years.

Her years of her practice, which began shortly before the deadly Flu pandemic in 1918-19, saw her going from riding horseback or driving to farms and houses all over the county, first by buggy and then by automobile. The call to rush to a patient's bedside that would first come via a knock on her door eventually came via a telephone call.

No matter the form of transportation or communication, she would respond to calls at all hours of the day or night to attend to someone who was ill or injured a home or an accident site.

"I'm really looking forward to talking about her. She's a famous physician who was a wonderful doctor and deserves a lot of attention," Tortolani said. "We're all really excited about the event."

Memories of a beloved doctor

Burnett's memories are alive in many local residents, some of whom she attended at their own birth or the birth of their siblings.

Don Hazelton, now 93, remembers the birth of his sister at the family farm in Dummerston Center, one which Burnett attended.

"By 1936, she had an automobile, but she used to come visit our farm in a horse and buggy," he said. "She loved her horses; we all knew that."

"I was born by her, as far as I know. In 1936, my sister Carol was born at home, too," Hazelton said.

"I came home and peeked in my mother's bedroom and Carol had just arrived, but they kicked me out of there in a hurry," he recalled. "Nowadays, you go and set up at a hospital but, in those days, Dr. Burnett might go out to deliver a baby and stay there for three days if the baby or the mother wasn't well."

Having begun her practice locally in 1914, Burnett had already delivered more than 3,000 babies by 1931.

Hazelton noted that Dr. Burnett wasn't always paid in cash.

"That was in the middle of the Great Depression," he said. "She might get a carrot or two, or something from the farm."

Hazelton remembers both her home in West Dummerston — where she grew up and had "a barn that had just about anything



Dr. Grace Burnett

COURTESY PHOTO

and everything in it" — and her own home on the corner of Western Avenue and Northern Avenue in Brattleboro, which "also had a barn where we used to build floats for the [Brattleboro High School] alumni parade."

That house was later torn down to build Interstate 91. It was located right where Exit 2 in Brattleboro now stands.

West Brattleboro resident Janice Wright Bodor, who died in 2003, once wrote that West Brattleboro residents knew "not to speak with Dr. Burnett when they saw her on horseback on Western Avenue, knowing that she was probably in a hurry to get to someone's house."

These observations and kind sentiment are echoed in Elsie Tier's tender memoir about Dr. Burnett. Tier described herself as Burnett's "office girl."

"She was a loving and generous doctor," Tier wrote. "On

a call she would check out the whole family, not just the sick person, and the pay could be made with wood, hay, lace, or handiwork...all was pleasantly accepted. People said they felt better just for talking with her."

Local resident Mandy Barbara, 97, remembers Burnett's power of speech.

"Her voice was soft, and she was very kind. I can't ever picture her raising her voice to anything. She had a big heart. She always had her big collie dog with her. The dog didn't come in the house, but usually waited in the car," noted Barbara.

She also remembers that Burnett "wasn't the neatest person, I can tell you that!"

Barbara noted that Burnett "was my mother's doctor when my sister was born. It was a home delivery, but she didn't get there in time. My grandmother did the honors. Dr. Burnett came long

after. The year was May 1930."

Barbara's father was an accountant who recorded every penny he spent in a little book.

"Here's an entry," she says. "On Jan. 30, 1930, Dr. Burnett was paid \$2 when she visited our house to get ready for my sister's birth in May. On May 23, here I see they made a phone call for 15 cents to the doctor. To do that, my father would have had to drive to a little store in Vernon."

Barbara thinks her mother was very happy to have a female doctor.

"People were very modest then. They'd rather die than have a man look at them," she said.

"People were happy with her," Barbara added with a warm smile. Well, not everyone.

David Chase, a local screenwriter, actor, author, and playwright, wrote, "I was born at home in West Brattleboro. Not a lot of people can say that. Dr.

Grace Burnett was the doctor during my mother's pregnancy, and she believed in home births."

Chase said his mother switched doctors after she learned that "Dr. Burnett often took the phone off the hook so she could get some sleep. These were the days (1941-42) long before 911, and the idea that she couldn't reach a doctor to treat some crisis was too much for my mother."

Dr. Burnett eventually established a practice on Elliot Street in Brattleboro, above where the Blueberry Haus is now located. Mandy Barbara visited her there in 1944.

"She was so happy to think that was going to be a nurse. I had smallpox vaccinations and whatever else was required. I was 17. She said, 'I'm not going to charge you anything,'" Barbara said.

"That was so like her," she added. "She had a big heart."

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Scholar will discuss U.S.-China relationship

BRATTLEBORO—After decades of active engagement between the United States and China, the relationship has recently been characterized by conflict and mutual suspicion. How did we get here? Are we in a new cold war?

For the Windham World Affairs Council's monthly lecture, Sara Newland, an assistant professor of government at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, will speak on Friday, Oct. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at 118 Elliot to address these questions, describe the trajectory of the U.S.-China relationship, and explore prospects for future conflict and cooperation.

Newland is a scholar of local politics in China and Taiwan and seeks to understand the behavior

of local officials as domestic public servants and as actors in international relations.

Her scholarship focuses on subnational diplomacy and, in particular, on the role that state and local officials play in the complicated relationships between the U.S., China, and Taiwan.

This is an in-person event with a Zoom option. Admission is free, but a \$10 donation is suggested. To register, visit US-China.eventbrite.com.

For more information about the Windham World Affairs Council, visit windhamworldaffairsCouncil.org. For more information about the program, contact Susan Healy, administrative director, at windhamworldaffairsCouncil@gmail.com or 781-422-9485.

MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

Obituaries



• **Sylvia J. Barton, 99**, of Springfield, Vermont. Died on Oct. 11, 2023 of Covid. Sylvia was the second of four daughters born to George R. and Gladys (Ward) Braley at home on West Hill in Putney on April 8, 1924. Her family moved to the Braley Farm on Westminster West Road when Sylvia was three years old. She was able to walk to her one-room schoolhouse. She graduated from Brattleboro High School with the Class of 1943. On April 21, 1945, at the Putney Federated Church, she married George M. Barton. Together, they raised four children. Their marriage later ended in divorce. Sylvia was a member of the Golden Rule Chapter #3, Order of the Eastern Star for 64 years, the Putney Federated Church, the Putney Fortnightly Club (co-founded by her grandmother Lizzy (Gould) Braley), and the Home Demonstration Group. She had been a 4-H leader, with a focus on sewing. Under her direction, the students received blue ribbons on their projects. She had been a member of the Putney Federated Church and served as its last clerk, as well as being secretary for the Rural Letter Carriers. Sylvia worked for Aiken's Nursery, The Vermonter candymakers, and Green Mountain Well Drilling prior to becoming affiliated with Grotto Floral Arts, which supplied the floral department of W.T. Grant department stores. Following the demise of W.T. Grant, she became co-owner of Grotto Associates, representing many handcrafted items. Early on, she taught an artificial flower arranging class in their storefront in Putney. Prior to her retirement at 85, she was a sales representative for various gift items throughout New England. In 2004, she moved from Putney to Springfield, where she retired to enjoy her love of gardening, sewing and cooking — particularly potato salad and chocolate cake. She enjoyed travel, visiting the Southwest and taking a cruise to Alaska. Always up for a new adventure, she rode her first horse when she was 69. Sylvia is survived by her children, Merrill Barton and his wife Ruth of Dummerston, Jean Rolfe of Claremont, New Hampshire, Anne and her husband Jerry Bartley of

Albuquerque, New Mexico, and James Barton of Springfield; grandchildren George and John Barton, Nadine (Bryan) Sweet, Shelley (Chip) Howard, Robert Rolfe, Heather (Alex) Anaya, and David (Jennifer) Bartley; seven great-grandchildren, eight great-great-grandchildren, as well as nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sisters Harriet Aplin, Ruth Allard, and Gladys Miller, her son-in-law Richard Rolfe, and her grandson Raymond Rolfe. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral service was held at the Congregational Church of Westminster West on Oct. 17, followed by burial in Westminster West Cemetery. Donations to Senior Solutions at seniorsolutionsvt.org.

• **John Evans Carroll, 66**, of South Londonderry. Died on Sept. 23, 2023, surrounded by family at his home. Born on May 16, 1957 on Staten Island, New York, he was the son of the late Adrienne E. and John M. Carroll. John moved to South Londonderry in 1987. He, later, married Robin Hopkinson, and they had two children, Evan M. Carroll and Jamie A. Carroll. Ever the giving man, he also adopted his entire neighborhood, as surrogate family, and cared for them as much as his own. Pets and children were attracted to John like a magnet to metal and the admiration was mutual. John started Carroll Mechanical, Inc., a heating and refrigeration business that touched the lives of many, and his family business continues to do so. "Johnny on the spot" loved to fix things and valued being helpful to others. A talented mechanic/engineer, John could fix anything and was known for his ability to fix things that no one else could. A renaissance man, he served his community throughout his lifetime and he adhered to the old adage that "a friend in need is a friend indeed." John had a lot of friends! He had a passion for boating and being out on the water. An avid boatman, he had a lifetime of fond memories — sailing on his Penguin, family sailing trips aboard the Red Fox, canoeing in Canada and, more recently, cruising around Lake Bomoseen or Lake Winnepesaukee on his Thistle sailboat or Boston Whaler, the O'Hana. Sailing away, John's big heart and booming laughter will be forever missed. John is survived by his wife and children, as well as his sister Leslie P. Carroll, brother James M. Carroll, and many beloved nieces and nephews. He is also being missed by his faithful dog, Ellie

the Corgi, and his beloved cat, Sprinkles. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: There will be a private remembrance and celebration of life at a later date. Donations to the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Grace Cottage Hospital, and Bayada Hospice, who were among the friends, neighbors, and kind healers that helped care and share in John's final days. To view John's online tribute, send condolences to the family, or for more information, visit csnh.com.

• **Margaret "Peg" Haviland, 79**, West Newbury, Vermont. Died peacefully in North Haverhill, New Hampshire on Oct. 7, 2023. She was born Margaret Ann Barry on April 1, 1944 in Brattleboro to Harold Barry and Pauline (McGinnis) Barry. While she lived in various places — Massachusetts, Germany, California and Montana — she always called Vermont home, and ultimately spent most of her life living on the top of Brock Hill in West Newbury with her husband of 50 years, Russell Haviland. Peg was a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School and Becker Junior College. She followed her passions for recreation and education throughout her entire career — most notably, as an assistant teacher at Thetford Elementary School for over 20 years. Peg was also a ski instructor and the longtime Director of the Halls Lake Swim Program in West Newbury. Her greatest achievement, however, was her family. Peg was a mom to five children — Christopher, Samuel, Leslie, Patrick, and Brenna — whom she raised to be kind, generous, and hard working. Later in life, she was the best Grammie to 10 grandchildren: Kaleb, Colin, Jillian, Aryana, Brodie, Malakai, Bennett, Conor, Charlotte, and Lilah. Peg showed her love through food, orchestrating holiday meals and baking cookies and pies with her grandchildren with snow-capped mountains in view through her kitchen window. She was at her happiest when visiting Bailey Island, Maine: overlooking the ocean, black coffee in hand and a book in her lap. Peg is survived by her husband, Russell Haviland of West Newbury; a brother, Michael Barry of Brattleboro; her children and grandchildren; her daughters-in-law Lynne Audet Haviland and Ashley Haviland; and numerous cousins who were more like siblings. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Her life will be celebrated on Oct. 28, at 11 a.m. at Ricker Funeral Home of Woodsville, New Hampshire. To offer condolences, visit rickerfh.com.

• **Jane Grass Hurley, 94**, of Brattleboro. Died on Oct. 11, 2023 at Pine Heights nursing home in Brattleboro. Born in Merrick, Long Island, New York on Sept. 14, 1929, daughter of the late Fred and Loretta Muhlbauer, she was a 1946 graduate from Mepham High School and received a B.S. in elementary education from the State University of New York at Cortland in 1950. Jane married Albert Grass on Aug. 6, 1950. She taught third grade in Ithaca, New York and fourth grade at the Academy School in West Brattleboro for a short time. Jane married Edward Hurley in 1996. They had 19 wonderful years together before Ed's death in 2010. She taught baton twirling and dance in all the Brattleboro schools from 1965 to 1994, which she was passionate about. The highlight of her career was preparing the Brattleboro Union High School Majorettes for their performance in the 1981 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. The BUHS Band is the only band in the state of Vermont to ever achieve this honor. She

served on the Brattleboro Winter Carnival Board, was a member of The American Association of University Women, and served as co-chair of hospitality for eight years. Jane also served on the Community Chest board in the early 1970s. She leaves her three children, Linda "Lindy" Grass Poling and her husband Dr. Barclay Poling of Williamsburg, Virginia, Dr. William Grass and his wife Elizabeth of Greenfield, Massachusetts, and Dr. Jeffrey Grass and wife Lorrie of Shaker Heights, Ohio; and grandchildren Ashley E. Poling, Christina Grass Reynolds, Alexandra Grass Wood, Maxx Grass, and Samm Grass. Jane was predeceased by her beloved husband Edward Hurley, her brother Dr. William Muhlbauer, and her grandson Nicholas Grass. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A gathering was held on Oct. 18 at Ker Phaneuf Funeral Home in Brattleboro, with a private burial service. Donations to the Brattleboro Union High School Band Department, Brattleboro Union High School, Attn.: Kathy Venice, 131 Fairground Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301. To send condolences to the family, visit phaneuf.net.



• **Betty Jane McCormick, 85**, formerly of Marlboro. Died Oct. 9, 2023 at the home of her daughter in Princeton, Kentucky, where she has made her home for the last several years. Mrs. McCormick was born in Marlboro on April 4, 1938, the daughter of Walter D. and Hazel N. (Worden) Radcliffe. She was raised and educated in Marlboro and was a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School with the class of 1956. On Oct. 13, 1959, in Auburn, New York, she married George "Mac" McCormick, who predeceased her in 2005. She received her nurse training at Franklin County Public Hospital, now Baystate Franklin Medical Center, in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Mrs. McCormick went on to attend St. Joseph's College in Windham, Maine, where she majored in health care administration, receiving her BSPA certification. She worked her entire career in health care, with her first position at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. She later joined the staff at the Brattleboro Retreat and became Director of Nurses at the Retreat's former nursing home, Linden Lodge, until 1997. Mrs. McCormick became social services director at Vernon Green Nursing Home, with her last position with Doctors Bookwalter and Gadowski, where she worked part-time. Active fraternally in Brattleboro, she was a life member and past president of the VFW Carl M. Dessaint Post 1034 Auxiliary; was a member of both the American Legion Post 5 A Auxiliary and Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary, Brattleboro Aerie 2445; and was the past high priestess of Nile Court. Mrs. McCormick was also a member of Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Detachment 798, where she was a past president. Following her move to Kentucky, she became a member of the Ogden Memorial United Methodist Church in Princeton. Recently, she had been attending Trinity Global Methodist Church. She was also a member of the Princeton American Legion Auxiliary, where she had been president of the unit. She enjoyed spending time with her friends and family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her family meant the world to her. She also enjoyed traveling, gardening, boating, and dancing. Following the death of

her husband, she became an active volunteer. Survivors include daughters, Shelby Fernette of North Kingston, Rhode Island and Lori Mansur of Princeton; a brother, Richard Radcliffe of Marlboro; a sister, Barbara Shallow of Richmond, Virginia; and 10 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by a son, James "Jimmy" McCormick and his wife Dawn McCormick; and grandsons Nathan Head, Brian McCormick, Ryan Smith, and Kyle Smith and his wife Julie Charren. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside committal services were conducted in Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery on Oct. 14, where she was laid to rest beside her husband. Donations to Shriners' Childrens Hospital, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104; or Mary Kendall House Campus, 201 Phillip Court, Owensboro, KY 42303. To share a memory or offer condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.



• **Sally Ann Perry, 83**, of Dummerston. Died Oct. 4, 2023 at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, following a brief illness. Mrs. Perry was born in Claremont, New Hampshire on May 26, 1940, the daughter of Leonard Alton and Mary (Balch) Howard. At an early age, she moved with her family to Putney, where she attended local schools and was a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School. On May 10, 1959, at Dummerston Congregational Church, she married Frederick Issac Perry, who predeceased her on Nov. 10, 2007. Sally prided herself as a devoted wife and mother whose life centered around her family. An avid bowler, she was active in the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League and competed in many New England Regional tournaments. She won several competitions throughout the years and had the reputation of being an excellent bowler. She and her husband spent good times touring in a vintage Triumph sports car to many meets and shows. She also enjoyed socializing with her many friends and church family and cherished time spent with her family. Sally was an excellent cook and baker and was known for her amazing apple pies. Survivors include one daughter, Samantha Grover and her husband Mike of Newfane; one son, Darcy Perry and his wife Elizabeth of Broadway, North Carolina; two brothers, Bruce and Sam Howard; two grandchildren, Edward Johnson of Westminster and Angela Perry of Broadway; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Scott and his wife Kate; Donna and her husband Tom; and Diane and her husband John; and several nieces and nephews. Sally is predeceased by her brother-in-law, Jay Baldwin, her father-in-law, Dave Baldwin, and mother-in-law, Phylis Baldwin. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A memorial service was held Oct. 14 at Dummerston Congregational Church. She will be laid to rest next to her beloved husband in Dummerston Center Cemetery at a later date. Donations to Dummerston Cares, P.O. Box 302, West Dummerston, VT 05357. To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Cheryl A. Scott** of Readsboro died on Oct. 3, 2023, following a lengthy battle with lung cancer. She was at her home with loving family members present and nearby. Born in 1946, Cheryl attended Whitingham School and went on to work in various jobs in the Deerfield Valley. She spent most of her working career at the Deerfield Valley Supply/WW Building Supply in Wilmington, greeting customers with a smile and telling them stories about her grandchildren. Cheryl married Robert Scott on Sept. 25, 1999, after being significant others for many years before that. She will be remembered as a "spitfire" who was always smiling, a loyal friend, her courageousness and, most important to her, as "Nana." Cheryl enjoyed any activity that had to do with children, reading books, collecting angels, hummingbirds, and spending time with family and friends. She was an active member in her community and served on the Ladies Auxiliary and Readsboro Lions Club. Cheryl was preceded in death by stepfather Carrol Bird, mother Helen Bird, brother Harold Williams, and stepbrother Carroll (Babe) A. Bird. Those left to cherish her memory are her husband Robert Scott of Readsboro, children John F. Carrier of Brattleboro, Jerome Carrier of Readsboro,

and Jollene (Joe) Mahon of West Dover; grandchildren Jillian and James Mahon of West Dover; stepchildren Dean (Dawn) Scott of Readsboro, Lee (Michelle) Scott of Limerick, Maine; and Heidi Scott of Montague, Massachusetts; as well as treasured step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and dear friends. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A memorial service was held at Readsboro School on Oct. 14. Donations to Bayada Hospice or the Readsboro Lions Club.



• **Ella Wilmot, 94**, of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Died July 21, 2023 at Crosslands Retirement Community, where she had lived for more than 30 years with her husband, Leonard "Bud" Wilmot, who died in 2020. Ella was born in 1929 and raised in Worcester, Massachusetts, the only child of Irving Benjamin and Goldie May (Willis) Loud. In addition to her parents, she was raised by her beloved aunt, Ruby "Nannie" Willis, who was also a member of the household. As a child, Ella particularly enjoyed participating in Camp Fire Girls and learning skills to live in the outdoors. She became a camp counselor and created lifelong friendships with the girls she met at Marion's Camp in Sutton, Massachusetts. Her camping spirit continued when she made two cross country trips as an adult. The first was in 1965 with her husband and two daughters, and the second in 1973 in an orange VW van they named The Pumpkin Coach. Bud and Ella and Martha camped in the national parks and replicated much of the trip Ella had made across the country as a child with her parents in 1939. Ella graduated with a degree in physics from Bates College in 1949 where she met Bud. She went on to do graduate work in physics at Wellesley College while Bud completed studies at Andover Newton Divinity School. Ella and Bud first settled in Fall River, Massachusetts when Bud started his first job as associate minister. Their daughter, Ruth Ella, was born in 1952 and Ella began her role as a minister's wife. A few years later, Bud became the Minister of Christian Education for Children at the Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, where their second daughter, Martha Ann, was born in 1960. In Charlotte, Ella was active in the church women's circle, AAUW, and the League of Women Voters and spent much of her days using her geometric and spatial skills creating tailored clothing for Bud and her growing girls. She also enjoyed annual summer car trips and continued to travel in retirement as she and Bud attended nearly 60 Elderhostel (Road Scholar) trips throughout the U.S. and abroad. In 1973, Ella and Bud with Martha moved to Oxon Hill, Maryland, and Ella became a docent in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. She appreciated the rigorous education and the opportunity to use her strong academic skills in order to qualify to give tours to tourists and school groups focusing particularly on Native America history and culture. Ella and Bud moved to Malvern, Pennsylvania, in the greater Philadelphia area, in 1979 where Ella joined a local quilting group. Until arthritis made it impossible, she created beautiful quilts and developed her skills at needlepoint, embroidery, sewing, and knitting. Bud and Ella shared their life together at Crosslands, where Ella was an active member in the community and especially enjoyed learning to create pottery on the wheel. Ella was attracted to Quakerism after both daughters attended Earlham College. Bud and Ella became active in the Quaker worship group at Crosslands where she served as treasurer for a period of time. Ella instilled the values of frugality, self-sufficiency, and self-confidence in both her daughters and granddaughter. She was always quick to encourage and support them in learning how to do anything from changing the oil in a car, knitting a sweater, or figuring out how to fix a leaky toilet. At a time when gender stereotypes were still prevalent, she fought for Martha to take industrial arts rather than the required home economics course for girls. Ella is survived by her daughters Ruth Ella (William Warriner) of Brattleboro, Martha Ann (Abigail Littlefield) of Westminster West, and her granddaughter Rachael of Philadelphia. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: None provided.

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.

NUTS 'n' BOLTS

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STATE OF VERMONT	
SUPERIOR COURT Windham Unit In re ESTATE of: Nancy Kaepfel	PROBATE DIVISION Docket No.: 23-PR-04999
NOTICE TO CREDITORS	
To the Creditors of: Nancy Kaepfel (Decedent) late of Brattleboro, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)	
I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.	
Dated: October 16, 2023	126 East Street Charlestown, NH 03603
Name of Publication: The Commons	
Publication Date: October 18, 2023	
Name of Probate Court: Windham Probate Division	
Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, 2nd Floor, Brattleboro, VT 05301	

Absence is a house so vast that inside you will pass through its walls and hang pictures on the air.

—PABLO NERUDA

Veterans Town Hall event comes to Brattleboro

Event seeks to foster understanding between veterans and civilians

By Randolph T. Holhut
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Vets Town Hall, a Vermont-based nonprofit that aims to increase understanding between veterans and civilians, is partnering with local organizations to host five events in Brattleboro and other sites around the state in early November.

According to a news release, veterans of all eras “are invited to speak for up to 10 minutes each about what their service means to them. Non-veterans are encouraged to attend and listen. These events are free and nonpolitical, and all perspectives are valued.”

The Brattleboro event will be held on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 1 p.m., at American Legion Post 5 on Linden Street.

“We know that since the end of the draft [in 1973], many people have little idea about what it means to be in the military,” Dr. Robert Tortolani told *The Commons*. “It’s basically an effort to educate the community about the military and what it is all about, with veterans sharing their stories.”

A longtime physician in Brattleboro, Tortolani served as an Army doctor in 1968 and 1969 in Vietnam, at the height of U.S. involvement in the war. He was a surgeon assigned to an infantry battalion in the 1st Air Cavalry Division, and, as he once described it, “I was doing house calls constantly in helicopters.”

Tortolani has been one of the organizers of the weekly Tuesday Coffee Hour at Post 5, when veterans swap stories about their experiences in the military over coffee and doughnuts. In a way, the Nov. 5 event in Brattleboro is an expansion of these gatherings.



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT COMMONS FILE PHOTO

Dr. Robert Tortolani, who served as an Army doctor in 1968 and 1969 in Vietnam, speaks at the Memorial Day service on the Common in Brattleboro in 2014.

Honoring stories

“Having an opportunity to gather with community members assists with the reintegration process and makes it possible for us to move beyond a narrative of conflict by honoring and sharing our stories,” Jon Turner, Vets Town Hall board member and emcee at the Colchester location, said in a news release. “Attending these gatherings is a reminder of the community we wish to embrace after military service.”

Vets Town Halls were originated by journalist and author Sebastian Junger (*War, Tribe*), who partnered with U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton, who served as a Marine Corps infantry captain in the Iraq War, on the first such event in Marblehead, Massachusetts in 2015.

For several years after, events took place throughout the country but without a centralized way for people to learn more about them. The first one in Vermont took place in November 2017 in Burlington led by local event planner Kristen Eaton. They have since continued annually in Vermont, with a break in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eaton, who is not a veteran herself, said that “there’s something profound about listening without judgment or interruption, and that’s a very real way to show up for our community members who are veterans. Vets Town Halls offer non-veterans an opportunity to gain a more nuanced understanding of the experiences of those who have served in the military.”

Junger, along with Turner and Eaton, formed the nonprofit Vets Town Hall last year with the aim of establishing these events in every state — and eventually in every community — in the United States.

Nationally, Vets Town Hall provides resources and consultations on best practices to those interested in starting events. In Vermont, the nonprofit is more hands-on, directly facilitating some events, and helping with publicity and outreach for all in-state Vets Town Halls.

This year’s Vets Town Halls are supported in part by Vermont Humanities. With events scheduled in Bradford, Colchester, Rutland, and South Royalton, as

well as Brattleboro, organizers say it is the most expansive program they’ve held in Vermont.

“Support of our military does not start with a ‘support the troops’ bumper sticker and culminate with grilled chicken on Memorial Day weekend,” said Rutland Vets Town Hall emcee Kyle Aines in a news release.

“As military members struggle to reintegrate back into society, it is imperative that society have a clear understanding of what they are transitioning from. The Vets Town Hall is that bridge and connection.”

For more information, visit vtvetstowhall.org or email vermont@vetstowhall.org.

The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.

— NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF

WSESD board fills vacancy

Matthew Schibley appointed to fill the term of former member Lana Dever

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Matthew Schibley has been appointed to the Windham Southeast School District School Board by unanimous vote to fill a vacant seat until the March election.

Schibley was one of seven candidates for the seat left open when former board member Lana Dever resigned in June, citing her need to focus on her family.

The executive director at The NEARI School in Easthampton, Massachusetts, Schibley started that position in August. The NEARI School — officially, the New England Adolescent Research Institute — is a 12-month day school for learning-disabled, emotionally disturbed, neurologically challenged students ages 7-22.

Schibley holds a master’s degree in counseling psychology from Antioch University. He is a licensed clinical mental health counselor in Vermont.

He previously served as director of residential life and interim dean of students at The Greenwood School in Putney. Most recently, for six years, he supervised an outpatient mental health clinic and school-based program with Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) in southeastern Vermont.

Schibley lives in Brattleboro with his wife and their two sons.

“We’re grateful they attend Green Street School,” he said. “When I heard of the board vacancy, I felt compelled to throw my hat in the ring because I care about Brattleboro and the students in Brattleboro. I care about our educational system, and so I thought if there’s an



COURTESY PHOTO

Matthew Schibley and his two sons, both of whom attend Green Street School in Brattleboro.

opportunity to help, I’d stand up for that.”

Asked, as all candidates were, how they feel they could contribute to the process of dealing with the current and ongoing sexual abuse investigation coming to a close and trying to bring justice and healing to the community, Schibley noted his experience as a clinical mental health counselor.

“What I think I could bring to bear is sort of a focus on the entire community impact and ensuring there is a place for all of those needs to be met and those voices to be heard,” he said. “I feel I could bring the mental health component to the table.”

The six other candidates were Brian Hughes, Rich Leavy, Rikki Risatti, Colleen Savage, Liz Hibbard Strong, and Laure Olivia Sweetnam.

“I’m certainly looking forward to serving the town and the school board and supporting it more going forward,” Schibley said after his appointment.

Following a 14-minute executive session, Board Chair Kelly Young called the deliberation — the board’s third attempt to fill Dever’s seat — “pleasantly difficult because the first time around we received no candidates expressing interest and then we received one candidate that had to withdraw for personal reasons.”

She thanked all seven for their interest in “helping us serve the community and students” and encouraged them all to run for a full term in their respective towns’ Annual Town Elections in March and “continue to participate.”

Vernon Historians present historic photographic images of town on Oct. 22

VERNON—On Sunday, Oct. 22, at 2:30 p.m., the Vernon Historians will present a program of photographic images at Vernon Union Church, 2631 Fort Bridgman Rd., illustrating the history of the area once known as Vernon Center.

The slides will include the Whited Building, which served many functions in town until the 1950s; the “Tea House”; Central Park and the Central Park train

stop; Bushnell’s Museum; the ferry to New Hampshire; the original Church before a fire destroyed it; and many other interesting scenes.

Historians will share the collection of photographs along with brief stories about the places and people they depict, as well as the part those subjects have played in the town’s history.

Vernon Union Church has beautiful stained glass windows,

including a Tiffany, and historic architectural features. It is wheelchair-accessible.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend. As always, admission is free, and refreshments will be served. At 2 p.m., immediately preceding the program, the Vernon Historians membership will hold its annual business meeting.

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MEDIA MENTORING PROJECT

Resistance: How the Arts affect Social and Political Change

Panel Discussion Wednesday, October 18 7pm via Zoom

Photo courtesy ArtLords & BS&L

The public is invited to attend a panel discussion that explores how the arts are a powerful tool for social and political change.

Panelists:

- Elayne Clift – Award winning writer, journalist, and author.
- Jeanette Staley – Research-based collage artist, educator and activist.
- Nancy Wolfe – Independent film-maker, journalist, writer, teacher at Democracy Now! and elsewhere.
- Abdullah Khan and Negina Azimi – members of ArtLords, a global Afghan led movement using art for peace-building and social transformation.

Moderator: Joyce Marcel – Writer of award-winning cover stories for Vermont Business Magazine and political writer for *The Commons*.

Give to support **Vermont Independent Media MENTORING** commonsnews.networkforgood.com

For the Zoom link, email vermontartsliving@gmail.com

If you would like to watch the discussion LIVE – look for the link on *The Commons* Facebook page.



The deconstruction of the former Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon continues. The reactor containment building on the right, seen here during a media tour on Oct. 10, is empty and is the last large structure on the site.

Vermont Yankee

FROM SECTION FRONT

to compete with cheaper electricity produced by natural gas power plants.

In 2019, the private company NorthStar purchased the derelict plant and began the decommissioning process, with a goal of completely disassembling it by 2030.

Now, the only buildings remaining on the property are offices and the tower that formerly held the nuclear reactor.

Scott State, chief executive officer at NorthStar, said at an Oct. 10 press conference that the company is still on track to have the entire property decommissioned before the end of 2026, four years ahead of schedule.

All of its work so far has occurred without significant safety incidents, he said, and the project's cost will remain within its \$600 million budget.

When the work is done, the lot will appear empty, State said, with one exception: spent fuel, which is stored in dry casks designed to protect people and the environment from dangerous levels of radiation.

Currently, the company does not have a plan for the radioactive waste, which can remain radioactive for thousands of years.

While NorthStar had planned to remove the casks and send them to a temporary storage

facility in Texas, a federal court ruling in August took that option off the table, concluding that the license for the facility was invalid.

"As it stands today, spent fuel is going to sit where it's been sitting for some time," State told reporters.

A yearslong saga

The ruling by the 5th Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals is the latest development in a yearslong saga over storing the country's spent fuel.

Congress has required the U.S. Department of Energy to find a permanent storage location for all of the country's spent fuel. In 2002, it directed the country's spent fuel to be stored in a deep geological repository on Yucca Mountain in Nevada. But in 2011, after a spate of opposition from that state and region, the federal government withdrew funding.

Meanwhile, most of the country's nuclear waste remains on the same respective sites where it was produced.

Until the Department of Energy finds a permanent storage site, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which regulates nuclear energy in the United States, has attempted to license sites for temporarily storing spent fuel.

While NorthStar planned to send its spent fuel to the Texas site, that state's government, along with oil and gas extraction companies Fasken Land and Minerals, Ltd., argued that the NRC did not have the authority to license any temporary storage facilities.

In August, the 5th Circuit sided with Texas, ruling that the commission did not have authority under the Atomic Energy Act to grant a license, meaning "we don't have a licensed facility anymore," State said.

Asked what's next, the Northstar CEO said the NRC will have to decide whether to challenge the court's decision and, if so, attempt to persuade the U.S. Supreme Court to review the matter.

The issue is not NorthStar's fight, according to State.

"I think, ultimately, there's going to have to be some meeting of the minds amongst the various states that host nuclear facilities," he said.

Meanwhile, the dry casks are stable and could sit at that site for hundreds of years before degrading, State said.

"That facility will remain as it is, today, fully guarded, until that fuel is gone," he said. "So, in perpetuity is how long that fuel can stay there."

Marker moved

FROM SECTION FRONT

and food for a mainly gay clientele in a safe and accepting place. Urban and rural LGBTQ people gathered there freely, while at the same time straight people were welcomed and enjoyed the Inn's festive, entertaining, and welcoming atmosphere.

The inn, founded by Moises, whose family owned the hotel building, was eventually sold to and operated by Herman and Youst from 1979 until it closed in 1984, a time of unprecedented cultural change in gay rights. Vermont's place as the center of the back-to-the-land movement included a strong feminist and lesbian contingent, all of which impacted the Inn's history.

When the AIDS epidemic broke onto the scene in the 1980s, Andrews Inn was a space for local, rural LGBTQ people to meet with a fair amount of safety, as well as a destination for gay visitors from larger Northeast cities.

Thurston said that a significant group of people who visited the Inn in those years when it was active "fell in love with Bellows Falls." Many of them moved to the region and "invested so much" time, energy, and money into the community.

They bought and renovated homes there, created businesses and organizations, became involved in local government, and were instrumental in the rehabilitation of several major buildings and other important projects in the village. Many of those individuals either attended or were mentioned at the event.

Thurston noted that throughout 2023 the community had created a special calendar of events recognizing and celebrating LGBTQ pride. Noting the growing hatred and anti-LGBTQ rhetoric, she said it was important to celebrate how the Inn had created an atmosphere in the greater community of "welcoming and being open to diversity."

"We choose love," she said.

Darlene Doane currently operates the Ciao Popolo restaurant, which hosted the event, in the former Andrews Inn, and said that she has renamed part of the facility the Andrews Inn Lounge.

"I'm honored to do this," Doane said. "It's a big deal."

The rededicated Andrews Inn Lounge has photos of the inn's founders, and Doane said she's hoping to get her hands on one of the original Andrews Inn signs for the room as well.

Gail Golec, who used six episodes of her *Secret Life of Death* podcast to discuss and document



ROBERT F. SMITH/THE COMMONS

A rainbow "Pride" banner hangs over The Square in Bellows Falls to make National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.

the history of Andrews Inn, was one of the event's speakers.

"This is very exciting to me, and a beautiful thing," Golec said. In creating her podcast about the Inn, she said she was able to get different generations of the LGBTQ community talking about Bellows Falls and its importance to them.

"This is our town, too," Golec said of the town's LGBTQ residents. She said she wondered why some people are "reluctant to be proud of their history. Most people here had no idea of the importance of Andrews Inn to the LGBTQ movement."

She said that "slowly, the outside world" — those who have not been involved in the LGBTQ movement — is becoming aware of the importance of the Andrews Inn in the movement's history.

As it turned out, Oct. 11 is also the birthday of Cleve Jones, the author, human rights and gay liberation activist who, among many other things, founded the AIDS Memorial Quilt project.

In his honor, the event concluded with the presentation and consumption of a rainbow-decorated birthday cake that read, "Happy Birth-Gay! We love you Cleve!"

While participants enjoyed dinner and the birthday cake, individuals spontaneously shared their memories of the days when Andrews Inn was an active center for the LGBTQ community in New England.

Scott Belt, who works at Ciao Popolo and helped host the event, said that he had many fun memories of going to Andrews Inn when he was young and was very excited to once again be reconnected with Herman and Youst.

Those two men, on the other hand, said they had not been back in the space for decades, and said they were "thrilled to return" there, while Gigante noted that "it seemed smaller than he remembered."

Youst recalled that he was often behind the bar in the ballroom and served as handyman for the Inn, which, he said, gave him the privilege of "holding the spade" in the pictures they took with the relocated historic marker.

He said he remembered well the night in 1981 when the Star Hotel, next door to the Inn, burned down, taking the lives of two young Bellows Falls firefighters, Dana Fuller and Terry Brown. Youst said he'd been on the Inn's roof that night taking photos of the tragic fire. Today, the site of the hotel is a park, where a memorial commemorates the lives of the two firemen.

'Value and longevity'

Susan MacNeil, who ran the Keene AIDS Project for 15 years and is a founding member of the Pride Planning Committee in Bellows Falls, hosted the proceedings.

MacNeil said that the event was just one of several this year in Bellows Falls that highlighted the "value and longevity of the story of" the Andrews Inn.

In a time of "ugly, hateful rhetoric," MacNeil said she was proud of her community for putting up banners downtown in The Square celebrating Gay Pride.

"This is a very important part of Bellows Falls' history," MacNeil said. "What happened here was so historic."

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A printmaking pioneer marks his 100th show

‘Dan Welden: Solo 100’ celebrates collaboration and innovation from an artist whose career has spanned six decades

By Victoria Chertok
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Dan Welden, master printmaker, painter, author, and educator, will exhibit his largest solo show to date — “Dan Welden: Solo 100” — of 15 paintings and works on canvas and paper at Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts.

On Saturday, Oct. 21 — the show’s opening day — the public is invited to the premier screening of a documentary film, *Lasting Impressions: The Dan Welden Documentary*, at 3:30 p.m., followed by an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m.

The film, directed by Welden’s son, Carl Welden, is billed as “a love letter to the creator, his work, and his humanity.” The film has already garnered praise from several of his contemporaries, including Kiki Smith, Eric Fischl, Alice Aycock, Helen Harrison, and Roy Nicholson.

The Commons caught up with Welden, 82, of Sag Harbor, New York, as he was unloading his paintings and hybrid prints at Mitchell-Giddings earlier this week for his 100th show.

“I love sharing the work!” Welden said when asked about the milestone and his largest and most prestigious show in New England.

Welden attributes the show’s size and stature to his inclusion of work he made in collaboration with such artists as Willem and Elaine de Kooning, Kiki Smith, Eric Fischl, Dan Flavin, and others, which accounts for about a third of the show’s offerings.

“Since the early 1980s, I began working with these artists in printmaking,” Welden said. “I guess the first artist in this show was Elaine de Kooning, and later

on I worked with her husband Willem and it grew from there.”

The show also includes his paintings and his hybrid works. Another milestone is that Welden served as master printer of what he calls the “masterworks” — original prints that have never been shown before.

These offerings include works by Roy Nicholson and Carol Hunt, two of Welden’s best friends.

“My best friend Roy did some remarkable works,” Welden said. “They are the blockbusters of this show.”

A 60-year career

Welden has been making art for over 60 years. His creative curiosity and love of the printmaking process have made him a sought-after instructor.

“As a printmaker, I find ‘line’ becomes key to the work,” he observed. “The tools may vary — crayon on stone, steel blades on wood, diamond-tipped power tools on glass, or a screwdriver on museum board — as I work and play.”

“Printmaking is a creative process as opposed to a reproductive process,” he said. “It puts another level of integrity into the work. I collaborated with these amazing people to facilitate their creativity.”

“When you’re doing posters or newspapers you push a button that says ‘print,’” Welden added. “We don’t do that: We sweat, sometimes bleed, sometimes [shed] tears. Whether I’m doing it with others or myself, there are always rewards.”

When prints become one

“I think the most interesting of my works in this show are the

■ SEE WELDEN, B5

Ghosts — but not scary ghosts



MICHELLE FRESHSEE/COURTESY PHOTO COMMONS FILE; RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS (INSERT)
James Gelter (shown in character during the 2015 Forest of Mystery) and Jessica Gelter (inset) are once again staging Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center’s annual fundraising and community-building performance event celebrating the nonprofit organization’s place and mission.

‘Ghosts of Bonnyvale’ conjures up the people and animals of bygone eras — including the ghost of founder Paul Stockwell — in this year’s Forest of Mystery at BEEC

“For many generations, those who have passed through this very land have worked to spin us closer to a better world.”
— Dorothea Stockwell, character in “Ghosts of Bonnyvale,” BEEC’s 2023 Forest of Mystery

By Annie Landenberger
The Commons

WEST BRATTLEBORO—For over 30 years, Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC) has been producing the Forest of Mystery as a major fundraiser for the nonprofit that connects area people to the natural world.

“But it has become so much more than that,” says Belle Coles, BEEC’s board president.

“To be out in the woods on an October night on a torchlit trail is magic enough, and then when you add the

high-quality community theater and storytelling, the work of a community of cast, designers, [and other volunteers], it really is just a wonderful experience,” adds Environmental Educator Patti Smith, who has worked at BEEC since it was founded in 1991.

“The Forest of Mystery makes the night forest an enchanted place for everyone,” she said, adding that “the golden light of candles and torches and the company of fellow travelers creates a singular blend of cozy and exciting.”

The bulk of the BEEC income comes from grants, program fees, and memberships. Coles refers to FoM as a “fun-raiser,” while Smith calls the FoM more of a “friend-raiser and community builder.”

This year, the performance invites participants to “travel through the eons past and meet the former denizens of this land.”

■ SEE FOREST OF MYSTERY, B4

Film shines light on domestic abuse, ‘a silent epidemic’

‘Hide,’ a psychological thriller, to be screened at Latchis in collaboration with Women’s Freedom Center

By Annie Landenberger
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—*Hide*, a psychological thriller about a resilient woman fighting back against her husband’s escalating gaslighting and abuse during the pandemic lockdown, is coming to the Latchis Theatre on Saturday, Oct. 21.

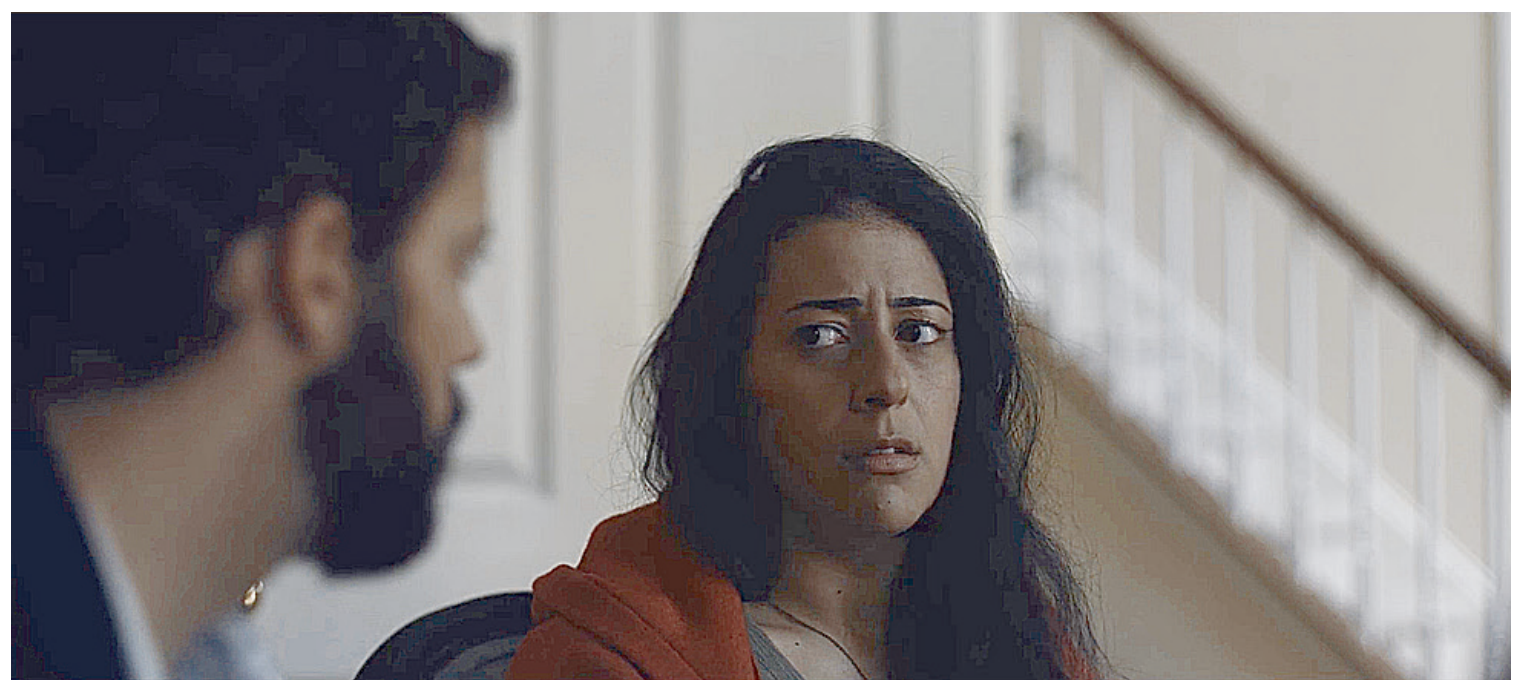
The screening of the feature-length film, written and directed by Ben Samuels, is in collaboration with the Women’s Freedom Center (WFC) in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Samuels, based in Brooklyn, New York, is a 2009 graduate of Tufts University, where he double-majored in psychology and drama, “but I always felt like they were the same major,” he quips.

Though Tufts “didn’t have a film program, I found people there who were just as passionate as I was and we just kept making movies,” as he’d been doing for years, first inspired at home.

“When I was in fifth grade, my father asked if I just wanted to have friends over to run around the backyard for my birthday or if I wanted to make a movie,” he says, noting that “that’s pretty much the moment when my life changed.”

■ SEE ‘HIDE’, B3



Nadine Malouf and Ben Samuels in a scene from Samuels’ film *Hide*.

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Guilford Center Stage presents 'Haunts of the Season'

GUILFORD—Guilford Center Stage's first autumn production in four years brings *Haunts of the Season* to the stage at Broad Brook Community Center on Oct. 20-22.

The production is helmed by local playwright-director Michael Nethercott with a cast of 16. The show is a combination of original plays by Nethercott and a bevy of creepy classics.

Included are monologues, songs, and poems by Edgar Allan Poe, William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson and others. Robert Frost's poem/play "The Witch of Coos" is among the offerings. Also featured are several works by Nethercott himself, with influences by Vermont legends, ghost lore, and *The Twilight Zone*.

The cast includes (in alphabetical order) Richard Epstein, Cyndi Cain Fitzgerald, Jennifer Gagnon, Jenny Holan, Archer Holland, Julie Holland, Cassandra Holloway, Joel Kaemmerlen, Cassidy Majer, Stewart

McDermet, Aaron Morse, Hunter Savage, Marvin Shedd, Carolyn Taylor-Olson, and Bob Tucker. Nethercott acts as host. Stage Manager for this production is Sue Shedd, with tech work by Maria Pugnetti. Don McLean is producer.

This is Guilford Center Stage's 11th production since its founding in 2015, and its fourth Nethercott show. Previously, he presented a program of his one-acts, an original full-length play, and his adaptation of *Spoon River* for the stage.

Guilford Center Stage, a project of Broad Brook Grange, has a stated mission that includes the presentation of plays connected to Guilford, to its 1896 Grange hall, to Vermont, and to rural life. Premieres and productions of little-known works are a special mission.

Recently, the Community Center has been fully renovated, with state-of-the-art safety systems, backup power, and full

accessibility, including an elevator to the second-floor performance venue. A fundraiser earlier this year provided air purifiers to the venue. Funds are still being raised for that acquisition, and for room-darkening window shades, already in place.

A special addition to opening night on Friday will be a silent auction, with bids accepted before the show and at intermission, to support the theater group's use of the Community Center. Winners will be able to take their loot home with them at the conclusion of the show.

Haunts of the Season will run for three performances: Friday, Oct. 20 and Saturday Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. General admission is \$13; cash or check payable to Broad Brook Grange. For an additional fee, tickets can be ordered online at bpt.me/6072501, or by phone at 800-838-3006. Tickets at the door will be as available.



A scene from the Guilford Center Stage production of "Haunts of the Season" to debut on Oct 20-22. From left are Aaron Morse, Stewart McDermet, Cyndi Cain Fitzgerald, and Richard Epstein. Cassidy Majer is in the foreground.

arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY CONT.	SATURDAY	SATURDAY CONT.	TUESDAY	
19	20	<p>Free</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: 802-463-4270; rockinghamlibrary.org. <p>BELLOWS FALLS Penelope Arms Solo Spotlight Opening: Arms works in oil and acrylic to paint landscapes inspired by the light, atmosphere, colors of the changing New England landscape. She creates dense compositions emphasizing the shadows, dramatic light, obscured horizons of her subjects. Her work is a balance between detail, realism, brushstrokes and textures, giving a sense of appreciation and nostalgia to each painting. Her passion for hands-on practice and learning has taken her on many journeys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10/20: 5-7 p.m.: Join the Gallery on 3rd Friday Gallery Night in Historic Downtown Bellows Falls for opening reception. Wheelchair accessible: Call 802-289-0104 upon arrival. Through Saturday, December 9. Canal Street Art Gallery, 23 Canal St. Information: More information: Mike: 802-289-0104, or email artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com. <p>BELLOWS FALLS Martha & John "A love story of yoga and art": Exhibit of luminous oil paintings of the VT landscape by the late Martha Nichols and paintings of brightly colored abstract mathematical designs inspired by yoga tradition of the yantra by John van der Does. "Elements of landscape or sky are used as a design foundation for each piece. Evolves from there until I'm satisfied that a sense of glowing color has been achieved. My interest in obtaining a glow of color comes from my meditation experience."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10/20, 5-7 p.m.: Opening Reception. Wheelchair accessible. Through Saturday, December 9. Canal Street Art Gallery, 23 Canal St. Information: Mike: 802-289-0104, or email artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com. <p>Music</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO World Singing Day: Come together with friends and neighbors to raise your voice and raise your spirit by singing a wide variety of favorite songs. Lyrics will be projected on a big screen, so we will all know the words. Live guitar accompaniment will be provided by Rich Grumbine. All ages are encouraged to attend - the more, the merrier!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brookslibraryvt.org. <p>Government</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Windham World Affairs Council presents Dr. Sara Newland: "The US and China - From Old Friends to the New Cold War": After decades of active engagement between the US and China, the US-China relationship has recently been characterized by conflict and mutual suspicion. How did we get here? Are we in a "New Cold War"? This talk by Sara Newland will describe the trajectory of the US-China relationship and discuss prospects for future conflict and cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 p.m. Dr. Sara Newland seeks to understand the behavior of local officials as domestic public servants and actors in international relations. Her research on local governance: public service provision was published in <i>China Quarterly and Governance</i>. New work focuses on subnational diplomacy, especially the role that state/local officials play in the complicated relationships between the U.S., China, Taiwan. Free. Donations welcome. One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: 118elliott.com. <p>Community building</p> <p>GUILFORD Hot Dog Roast: A chance to meet Trustees and Friends of the Library while we roast hot dogs and marshmallows. Children under age 6 must be accompanied by an adult.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd. Information: 802-257-4603; guilfordfreelibraryvt.org. <p>Visual arts and shows</p> <p>BELLOWS FALLS Rick McEachern's Art Reception: These oil paintings evoke thoughts of everyday life, hinting at stories about to be imagined. QR code next to each painting provides viewer with a brief artist commentary. All paintings available for purchase. McEachern participated in intensive art workshops in Boston, Old Lyme, CT, and Florence, Italy. In addition to Brattleboro, his work has been exhibited in Boston and Chicago. Musician Ken Rokicki will be playing guitar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-7 p.m. Reception open to the public. McEachern also hosts a weekly podcast and show on FACT TV, "Eager To Know," where he speaks with creative people of all sorts. 	<p>energy circus romp full of acrobatics, aerials, stunts. Sure to be a frighteningly good time!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 p.m. on 10/21, 4 p.m. on 10/22. Through Sunday, October 22. \$12 under age 12 or senior, \$15 general seating, \$25 VIP, free under age 2. New England Center for Circus Arts (Trapeziun), 10 Town Crier Dr. Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/5f63txvh 802-254-9780; necenterforcircusarts.org. <p>Well-being</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Zen Center (In-Person or wherever you are): One way to engage with the ecological crisis: This group chants briefly and then sits in silence for a half hour. All are welcome to join this peaceful action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00-1:35 p.m. on Saturdays. Free. Wells Fountain, south side Windham County District Courthouse, Jct. Putney Rd. & Main St. (Rte 30). <p>Community building</p> <p>DUMMERSTON Harvest Dinner at Scott Farm: This 5-course dinner created by a Vermont Table is specially designed to pair with Scott Farm's own hard cider. A fabulous silent auction with amazing prizes will add to the grandeur. All ticket sales directly support Scott Farm in our resiliency efforts following the May freeze.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 p.m. \$150. "All ticket sales directly support Scott Farm in our resiliency efforts following the May freeze." Scott Farm, 707 Kipling Rd. Information: 802-254-6868; scottfarmvermont.com. <p>BELLOWS FALLS Bellows Falls Community Bike Project hosts "Soiree Fundraiser to kick off our Capital Campaign to Buy our Building": Join us for an evening of music (local jazz ensemble SWING LOW), food, and fun! The Bike Project belongs to the community and your support will help to ensure a stable base for the organization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6-9 p.m. Delicious hors d'oeuvres, sweet treats, Silent Auction. Cash bar by the Moose. Tickets \$50 (includes 1 beer, wine or soft drink). Moose Lodge Family Center, 59 Westminster St. More information, email bonnie@bfbike.org or call 802-460-0662. Purchase tickets: tinyurl.com/Soiree-Fundraiser-Tickets (Space is limited - 100 tickets available). <p>Visual arts and shows</p> <p>PUTNEY "Portals" - series of abstract paintings by Liz Hawkes deNiord: Liz's dynamic paintings reflect her immersion in the physical process as well as her love of saturated, radiant color and luminosity. The paintings are both dreamlike and grounded. Her process is one of multiple layering, scraping, covering up, and building up heavily textured surfaces with palette knife and paint. Paintings emerge layered with pure colors creating an iridescent quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10/21 Reception: 1-3 p.m. More information on Liz and her work: www.lizhawkesdeNiord.com. Through Saturday, December 2. Free. Putney Public Library, 55 Main St. Information: Mon-Fri.: 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. (Sept. and Oct.): 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sat. (Nov.): 10 a.m.-3 p.m. <p>BRATTLEBORO "Solo 100" Opening and Artist Reception - Dan Welden: Celebrating Welden's milestone 100th solo exhibition and his 82nd birthday, with almost 60 years as printmaker, painter, author, educator, inventor of the solarplate etching process, his presence in the world of printmaking is ubiquitous and profound. "Solo 100" revolves around his paintings and prints and first-time showing of 'masterworks,' hand-pulled collaborative impressions created with current/past masters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10/21: 5-7 p.m.: Opening and Artist Reception with a debut at 3:30 p.m. of documentary film "Lasting Impressions." Artists include William and Elaine de Kooning, Kiki Smith, Eric Fischl, Dan Flavin and host of others. 11/30: 5 p.m.: Artist Talk and Demonstration. Through Sunday, January 14, 2024. Free. Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts, 183 Main St. Information: 802-251-8290; mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com. <p>Celebrations and festivals</p> <p>WARDSBORO The 20th Gilfeather Turnip Festival and Gilfeather Turnip Contest: America's best turnip culinary event! Join the whole town for Gilfeather turnip soup at the outdoor soup kiosk, turnip flavored treats, farmers' market, craft vendors, children's games, 1000+ pounds of turnip, library book sale, turnip seeds. Also on sale are turnip-themed gifts and more. Enter</p>	<p>the Turnip Contest! Awards for the largest Gilfeather turnip grown from seed or seedling, in or out of town and most creative name - enter yours to win!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rain or shine. Three locations: Wardsboro Town Hall, Wardsboro Public Library, The Big Tent - all on Main Street. Sponsoring Organization: Trustees of the Wardsboro Public Library. With support from the Friends of the Wardsboro Library, The Wardsboro School Club and Boy Scout troop 461. Free admission. \$5 parking donation. Wardsboro Public Library, 170 Main St. Information: 802-896-6988; wardsboropubliclibrary.org. 	22	25
WEDNESDAY						
25						
<p>Government</p> <p>PUTNEY Free Mott presents: Must Free Speech Endure Hate Speech?: Everyone loves free speech in theory except when it disturbs social norms. Why should Nazis have permission to march through a predominantly Jewish neighborhood? Anti-gay zealots protest military funerals? Short answer to these Supreme Court cases is that the 1st Amendment protects the right to express outrageous/harmful things in public. When municipalities tried to criminalize hate speech, the Supreme Court has called foul.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 p.m. Talk is sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council. Free. Putney Public Library, 55 Main St. Information: 802-257-4407; putneylibrary.org/events. <p>Community building</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Windham World Affairs Council - Members & Friends Salon: Today's salon provides an opportunity to discuss importance of "thinking globally, acting locally." Several members have suggested a salon to discuss direct actions necessary to achieve energy sustainability in the river towns of our region. More information to follow on featured guests. Feel free to contact us with suggested topics for this conversation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 p.m. Free. One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: 118elliott.com. <p>BRATTLEBORO Death Cafe at Experienced Goods: "At a Death Cafe people, often strangers, gather to eat snacks, drink tea, and discuss death. Our objective is 'to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (&#64257;nite) lives.' A Death Cafe is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It's a discussion group rather than grief support or counseling session."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6-8 p.m. Free. Experienced Goods, 77 Flat St. Information: Space is limited, please RSVP: info@brattleborohospice.org or 802-257-0775. 						
24						
<p style="text-align: right;"><i>To submit your event: calendar@commonsnews.org</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday</i></p>						

Landscape artist discusses his work

BRATTLEBORO—Is it a park bench? A playground? A place of comfort and serenity? “Land Lift” — the sculpture made of steel, earth, and grass by landscape artist Bob Boemig that lies in front of the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) — is all those things.

Originally intended to last only a few weeks, the sculpture turns 30 this year. To mark the occasion, Boemig will give a talk at BMAC on Sunday, Oct. 22, at 3 p.m. He will discuss how “Land Lift” came to be, and how it relates to other public artworks he has created over the years.

Since Boemig installed “Land Lift” in 1993, many people have approached him to say that they played on the sculpture as a kid. “It’s given me a great deal of joy, because it’s here in the town I was brought up in,” he says. “Not many artists have that opportunity.”

For more than 40 years, Boemig has been creating outdoor landscape sculptures for a variety of institutions, including the deCordova Museum, Williams College, and the Hood Museum at Dartmouth College. He says his artistic intention is to respond to the characteristics of the environment he’s working in—to complement and enhance, not contradict.

“I look for a spot that is less used and try to make it usable,” he explains. “I don’t like creating something that takes away from something else around it. My main goal is to create a free-flowing entrance into something that pulls you in without realizing



“Land Lift,” a sculpture by Bob Boemig, has graced the front yard of the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center since 1993.

that it is actually a sculpture.”

For “Land Lift,” Boemig imagined “changing the landscape just a little bit, so the ground looked as though it was being raised up, almost like a magic carpet.” That approach succeeded so well that, 30 years later, the sculpture has become an organic part of the museum.

“It would be difficult — and sad — to imagine BMAC without it,” says BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld.

Calling himself a “backyard artist,” Boemig recalls how the construction of Interstates 91 and 89 captured his imagination as a kid. “It was such an eye-opening experience to see them contour the land and make that little green stripe between north and south, crossing the state,” he says.

Today, Boemig collaborates with landscapers and construction workers who operate excavators, backhoes, and dump trucks to move the earth, grass, and metal

in his projects, but back when he was in art school, he began much more simply—with a shovel as his sculpting tool.

He says, “Sometimes people are sitting on my work and they don’t even realize it’s a piece of sculpture, and to me, that’s great. That’s what I think public art is all about.”

Visitors are invited to arrive early or stay late to spend time with—and on—“Land Lift,” and to enjoy refreshments provided

by Cai’s Dim Sum Catering. Admission is free. For more information, call 802-257-0124 or visit brattleboromuseum.org.



Painter Julia Jensen offers studio visit on Oct. 21



Julia Jensen

COURTESY PHOTO

WESTMINSTER WEST—As part of the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) “Hidden in the Hills” series that celebrates southern Vermont artists, painter Julia Jensen opens her Westminster West studio to the public on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 3 p.m.

Jensen will give visitors a tour of the studio and discuss her work, which she describes as focusing on expressive, dreamlike landscapes that are filled with light and movement.

Jensen divides her time between southern Vermont and Nantucket, and her oil paintings “reflect her deep connection to both regions.” In a news release, museum organizers write, “her vibrant yet restrained palette and the quality of light in her paintings recall the Skagen and Funen painters of her ancestral Danish homeland.”

Jensen’s work is featured in many private and public collections, including those of the state of Vermont, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, and University of Vermont Medical Center. Her work has been exhibited at BMAC, Art at the Kent, the Vermont Arts Council’s Spotlight Gallery, and many other institutions. Several of her paintings are currently on display at the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, through the U.S. State Department’s Art in Embassies program.

Admission to this event is free for BMAC members and \$10 for all others. Space is limited, so registration is required; visit brattleboromuseum.org or call 802-257-0124, ext. 101. The address of the studio will be provided after registration. Refreshments will follow the tour and discussion.

‘Hide’

His father shot with a VHS camera while he and his friends enacted a five-minute James Bond parody his father had scripted.

Challenging notions of victimhood

At bensamuels.com, one can see the scope and depth of Samuels’ social-justice-centered film work. The inspiration for *Hide* came because, he recalls, “I had a friend who’d organically moved out of our friends’ group. There were no red flags; none of us gave it a second thought.”

The friend got married and moved away, “and we all just gradually lost touch — something that can happen with any friend,” he says.

When she resurfaced a few years later, “she shared that she’d been through an emotionally-abusive marriage and was just starting on her journey to healing and recovery,” Samuels continues.

“Everything that she described really challenged every notion I’d had of what a victim was,” the filmmaker says. “She had been so empowered and had so much caring and agency — she was the last person I thought would be in a situation like that; but the reality is: This touches everybody. It touches every walk of life; it doesn’t discriminate on gender, on race, on socioeconomic.”

Samuels called abuse “the silent epidemic.”

“And the more I became aware of that, the more I realized there hadn’t been a film — at least not one that I’d seen — that really

told an authentic story,” he says. He was unaware of a film that told of the “slow, gradual escalation that abusers follow, the slow dismantling of another human being’s sense of self-worth, self-confidence.”

“As my friend bravely shared her story, I realized the nuances of gaslighting — of emotional abuse — were terrifying,” Samuels says. “And they’re all around.”

He adds that “I wanted to fully reveal what I thought was going unheard and, hopefully, through the process I could inspire and empower others to have the conversation” about domestic abuse.

Described on latchis.com as “visually mesmerizing and emotionally arresting, the film’s pace and pathos pull us into a story that will feel uncomfortably familiar to too many of us. The film is intended to inspire survivors to seek support services and empower their escape.”

Samuels made the film “at the height of pandemic, so everyone was in their own lockdown, which only enhanced the work we were doing.”

He says that isolation “brought a certain intensity and tension to the idea of the film” at a time when “people couldn’t call for help — they were trapped.”

Sparking difficult discussion

Samuels is currently on the road with the film for a 14-state, three-week tour of the country to be present at screenings hosted at nonprofit cinemas, partnering with women’s shelters, crisis

centers, and YWCAs to spark community dialogue around domestic violence.

The Latchis stop was facilitated by Willa Dana of Brattleboro, an intern with Samuels’ production company.

Dana, a sophomore studying filmmaking and journalism at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York, “keyed into our mission,” Samuels recalls, “and said ‘there’s a theater in my hometown I grew up going to, and there’s the Women’s Freedom Center.’”

“Willa really built this into our itinerary,” he says. “I’m so glad she did: I think it’s going to be one of the most beautiful theaters that we go to in one of the most incredible communities that we visit. I think it’s just a perfect alignment.”

Dana’s role “has primarily been making contact with many different domestic violence and women’s organizations across the country, and finding towns along the way where we wanted to screen the film,” she says.

“I immediately thought of Brattleboro as a potential stop and knew we would have a fantastic community there to support this project,” she continues.

Shari, an advocate and the community outreach coordinator for the Women’s Freedom Center — whose last name is withheld by the organization out of precaution given the violence that’s adjacent to work with survivors of domestic violence — says “we’re grateful when artists of different media bring such close up

FROM SECTION FRONT

compelling work to community conversations.”

Having been an advocate for decades, the last 14 at the WFC, she reports that domestic violence is seeing an uptick nationwide.

“We certainly are back to pre-lockdown numbers — we’re super busy,” Shari says.

The pandemic and the current times have exacerbated domestic violence; thus, she adds, “we deeply appreciate any time other groups bring these issues to light.”

And film is a most potent means of doing so: “*Hide* is riveting as a thriller, but all too common in peoples’ lived experience,” she says.

Having “played a couple film festivals,” Samuels says, *Hide* “snagged a best actress award for the lead female, Loena, played by Nadine Malouf.”

“Her performance is transfixing,” he says. “She brought humanity to a role that’s challenging to play.”

Samuels and Malouf will take part in a post-show discussion, alongside advocates of the Women’s Freedom Center. Tickets for the 7 p.m. showing of Hide (89 minutes) on Oct. 21 at the Latchis are \$20 and available in advance at bit.ly/736-hide or at the door. More information about Hide — and about a crowdfunding effort to support the awareness campaign — is on Samuel’s website (bensamuels.com).

Schoolhouse was built in 1860 as a one-room schoolhouse and served local children into the 1950s. It is now a community center hosting concerts, art events, health and wellness classes, and a private space for community members to pursue their passions such as dance and martial arts. Admission is \$15 (suggested



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Hi, I'm the one and only **Jackie Chan!** I am a sweet, affectionate, snuggly, loud boy who wants a kingdom of my own! I love belly rubs and being babied. My favorite thing to do is lay in the windowsills in the sun. I would do best in a home with no other cats as I don't get along well with them. Dogs would be new to me so a slow intro would be best.

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Parking donated by Hide — and about a crowdfunding effort to support the awareness campaign — is on Samuel's website (bensamuels.com).

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SAT. & SUN.	2 & 6:40 PM
MON.-THUR	6:40 PM

TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR

FRIDAY	8 PM
SATURDAY	3 & 8 PM
SUNDAY	2 & 6:30 PM
THURSDAY	6 PM

HOCUS POCUS PG

FRIDAY	4:15 / 6:45 / 8:40
SATURDAY	2 / 6:45 / 8:40
SUNDAY	2 & 6:45
MON.-THUR.	4:15 & 6:45

HAUNTING IN VENICE PG-13

SATURDAY	2:15 PM
SUNDAY	2:15 & 6:50 PM
MON.-THUR.	4 & 6:50 PM

‘Ramp Up the Schoolhouse’ fundraiser features Jesse Lepkoff

SOUTH NEWFANE—Vermont Blues Society 2022 Contest winner and singer-songwriter Jesse Lepkoff will present an afternoon of original songs in both Brazilian bossa nova and blues styles at the South Newfane Schoolhouse, 387 Dover Rd., on Sunday, Oct. 22, at 4 p.m.

described by organizers as having “the sophistication of art song or the knee-slapping earthiness of 1930s-style blues. His lyrics can be romantic, humorous, witty, or ironic, depending on the song.” They note he has been honored worldwide for his versatile musical talents in various genres.

The South Newfane Schoolhouse was built in 1860 as a one-room schoolhouse and served local children into the 1950s. It is now a community center hosting concerts, art events, health and wellness classes, and a private space for community members to pursue their passions such as dance and martial arts. Admission is \$15 (suggested

donation), and part of the proceeds will help pay for a wheelchair-accessible ramp for the building, which is owned and maintained by the South Newfane Community Association. Everyone is welcome. For more information, text 802-579-5943 or call 802-254-2273.

'Martha & John: a love story of yoga and art' opens at Canal Street Art Gallery

BELLOWS FALLS—Canal Street Art Gallery (CSAG), 23 Canal St., presents *Martha & John: a love story of yoga and art*, exhibiting oil paintings of the Vermont landscape by the late Martha Nichols and abstract mathematical designs inspired by the yogic tradition of the yantra painted by John van der Does.

Martha & John opens Oct. 20 and is on view through Dec. 9. There will be an opening reception during 3rd Friday Gallery Night in Historic Downtown Bellows Falls from 5 to 7 p.m.

"Color, light, and more recently, sound are my primary interests," Nichols once wrote. "We are surrounded by ever-changing light, color, and sound as we go about our days in the landscape. I explore the vast variety of colors which I can mix, and their interactions with each new painting."

"The elements of the landscape or sky are used as a foundation for the design of each piece. It evolves from there until I am satisfied that some sense of glowing color has been achieved. My interest in obtaining a glow of color really comes from my meditation experience. Light and color in the landscape ultimately act as metaphors for inner exploration, as I continue to grow through meditation."

The artist relates how he came to know Martha, or "Marty," through a series of chance meetings, chiefly funerals. After the death of her previous husband, van der Does says their relationship "really got started when

I sent her a bunch of lilies on Easter. She visited me at the Dexter House on 86th Street, a low-cost transient hotel, and was smitten when she saw me in a tiny room sitting on my bed in the lotus position.

"We got married and took marriage vows with the Self-Realization Fellowship [Greenfield Retreat] in Front Royal, Virginia. Marty studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, and her artwork concerns inner growth and the spiritual realms. She was connected to Paramahansa and the Self-Realization Fellowship."

The gallery hosts a screening of Andrew Eppler's film *Mysore Yoga Traditions* on Friday, Nov. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. Following will be a talk by van der Does on Vedic mathematics, a system reconstructed from Sanskrit texts by Sri Bharati Krishna Tirthaji. Attendees then are invited to practice asanas, or yoga postures, in the gallery, led by the artist. Participants are encouraged to bring their own yoga mat. Space is limited.

Eppler's film is a documentary in which the elders, scholars, philosophers, yogis, and spiritual leaders of the community express their views on what yoga is, its original intention, and how they feel about the way it is being taught and practiced around the world.

All CSAG events are free. For wheelchair access, call 802-289-0104 upon arrival.

Linden Eller joins Working Artist Program at Canal Street Art Gallery

BELLOWS FALLS (PR)—Canal Street Art Gallery, 24 Canal St., presents Linden Eller, the newest artist to participate in the Working Artist Program. Eller's work is on view through Dec. 8.

The artist, based in Mount Holly, says she uses mixed media and painting to create work centering around the theme of memory architecture — its process of alterations, renewals, and inaccuracies.

The Working Artist Program now provides two artist studios and exhibition spaces within the Art Gallery. Artists process their own sales and curate their own

space, all during regular gallery hours. The public is invited to visit the gallery to meet working artists.

Eller uses a variety of materials, including paper, found fragments, transparencies, sewing thread, paint, pencil, ink, and pastels. She blends autobiographical narratives with collective subjects that travel a spectrum from delight to aches. Eller said she thinks of her collages and paintings as layered field recordings that represent a oneness — multiple perspectives and repetitions of the same shared story.

Born in 1984, Eller spent her youth in the urban Sonoran desert of Phoenix, Arizona, before moving to Southern California to obtain her bachelor's degree in studio art.

She's since lived and worked across Europe, Asia, and Oceania. Eller's work has been published and exhibited internationally, and she works as an art educator.

Canal Street Art Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about the Working Artist Program or the gallery, go to canalstreetartgallery.com, call Mike Noyes at 802-289-0104, or email artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com.

Forest of Mystery

FROM SECTION FRONT

Each year the Forest of Mystery takes a different tack, say Jess and Jay Gelter, who've co-created, written, and directed the event for over 10 years. They took that role from Guilford writer Michael Nethercott, who had created the FoM events since BEEC's inception.

"We love to explore new themes and think about how we can communicate environmental messages that are accessible and fun and that celebrate the mystery of the forest," says Jess Gelter.

"If it's comic one year, it may be scary the next. Each year is a new script," Jay Gelter says. "We always want it to be an experience such that, even if you've come in previous years, you still have no idea what to expect."

"For us as writers and artists we like to push ourselves in different directions," he adds.

Gelter recalls being at the well-loved Bonnyvale tradition as a teenager.

"I couldn't tell you what it was about," he says. "I just remember the magic of walking through the woods by torchlight [...] The lighting does a lot of the work for us. [It] is such a magical experience — everything else is icing on the cake."

This year, the theme of FoM is "Ghosts of Bonnyvale."

According to Jess Gelter, "the original inspiration was that we wanted to celebrate the history [of BEEC] by looking at what else had [happened] on this land before this time; we wanted to explore hidden ghosts to tell the story."

Not "scary ghosts," Jay Gelter adds.

"I was really interested in the concept of ghosts as memories," he explains. "Whenever we think about what the new season will be — the new style of the show — we do a lot of researching and exploring, so I read some of my favorite ghost stories and realized a lot of them had to do with memories."

So the couple "started to think about what memories does this particular parcel of land hold" — with a focus on the time spanning 1790 to 1990 — "and what can we do to bring those stories to the fore."

Coles adds that "the story will take on particular significance,

as our Environmental Center has just completed the renovation of the Stockwell Farmhouse, constructed in the 1790s, which will become our Center's new offices, meeting space, and classrooms."

Ghosts galore

BEEC was the vision of Paul Stockwell, who retired in Brattleboro after a long career teaching science at the high school and college level, including at Brattleboro High School and at Lyndon State College, and whose life culminated in the founding of the nonprofit with his wife, Dorothea.

Coles describes Stockwell, who died in 2001 at age 96, as "a forward-thinking, somewhat eccentric man."

"When he retired, he and his wife Dorothea, bought the farm on Bonnyvale, and experimented with ways of sharing this beautiful land with others. It had been a potters' commune, then an environmental school, and later evolved into the environmental center that we have today," she says.

In "Ghosts of Bonnyvale," Coles continues, "Stockwell's ghost will summon the other historical spirits as the story unfolds, along the lamp-lit trails of Heifer Hill."

Among other characters featured in the performance: David Wood, an early New England abolitionist, who'd lived on the property with his father; and Mrs. Sarah Dunklee, one of West Brattleboro's earliest settlers, who had a reputation for going out into the woods and being chased by wild animals.

"Wolves, catamounts, bear, elk — incredible animals that have disappeared," Jess Gelter says: their ghosts are featured, too, as are those of trees and prehistoric mammoths that had lived on the land.

Bringing the ghosts to life

Thousands of volunteer hours pour into one of the area's most cherished seasonal events.

"Ghosts of Bonnyvale" involves some 60 performers, designers, and makers who bring the concept to life on the creative side and dozens of volunteers who "keep the torches lit, who



COURTESY PHOTO

The ghost of Paul Stockwell, one of the founders of the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC), is one of the characters in this year's Forest of Mystery.

clear the trails in advance, and who bring treats to the actors in the woods," Jess Gelter explains. The abundant company features those working on publicity and management as well.

Coles assists Jess Gelter in producing the many costumes required and functions as a producer, taking care of sponsorships, publicity, volunteers for each night, bake sale stocking, and jack-o'-lantern production. "In addition, I manage the food," she says, preparing a meal for the actors before they go out into the woods each night.

The Gelters both have called Brattleboro their home since their teen years, when both worked with Bob Kramsky, retired theater director at Brattleboro Union High School. Jess Gelter studied theater at Boston University and currently works in arts administration; Jay Gelter had acted professionally in theater in Florida and then discovered "I didn't like acting as a job — clock in, clock out."

Instead, he says, "I fell in love with community theater. I loved the concept of creating our own opportunities."

He returned to Vermont and

connected with his future wife, who shares his passion for the positive power of community theater, "when I didn't cast him in my play," she interjects with a wink.

"Within a year, we were putting a show together to tour to schools. I knew then that I wanted to professionally work in amateur theater," adds Jay Gelter whose credits include productions with Sandglass, NEYT, and groups in nearby Massachusetts.

BEEC, 1223 Bonnyvale Road, West Brattleboro, The Forest of Mystery is offered Thursday, Oct. 19, with journeys beginning every 20 minutes, from 6:15 to 7:35 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20 and 21, with journeys that begin every 15 minutes, from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. Journeys last an hour and follow a trail through meadow and forest that is about 1/4 mile long. (Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 22). Admission is \$20 for adults, \$12 for children; reservations are available on eventbrite.com. Questions should be communicated to admin@beec.org or 802-257-5785. For more information on BEEC, visit beec.org.

Masters of Sonic Liberation series begins at 118 Elliot

BRATTLEBORO—The KaneLoggiaHypothesis presents "Masters of Sonic Liberation," a new performance series highlighting artists in the field of experimental music at 118 Elliot on three Saturdays: Oct. 28, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16.

"Arising from the modes of improvisation, free jazz, noise, avant-garde, modern composition, electronics, electro-acoustic, vocal work, and traditional instrumentation," say organizers, "the unifying principle of these artists is their dedication to exploratory, hypothetical, investigational, probing, observational,

theoretical, innovative, inventive, radical, avant-garde, anti-normative, alternative, fringe, unfamiliar, unorthodox, unconventional, unusual, eccentric, avant-garde, avant-core, free thinking, way-out music."

Organizers say both physical and streaming audiences "will be treated to unique sounds and first-time-ever performances, guaranteed to inspire wonder, amazement and delight. Each evening will bring the listener deeper into the world of musicians who have left the norms and abandoned the pop and easy listening culture to continually

investigate and create music of the greatest depth and personal expression that reaches directly into the algebra of the mind, heart, and soul."

Curated by improviser and sax/flute/electronics artist Bonnie Kane, the series features musicians based in New York and New England, including Aron Namenwirth, Federico Balducci, Marc Edwards, Tor Snyder, Takuma Kanaiwa, Eric Dahmen, Dave Pek, Glynis Lomon, Ayumi Ishito, Dei Xhrist, Bonnie Kane and John Loggia.

The host of the series, KaneLoggiaHypothesis, is the

experimental duo of improvisors Bonnie Kane and John Loggia. Kane is known as a pioneer in electronic processing for flute and saxophone. She says she is captivated by the focus required to be in the moment of creation, and the purity found there. Loggia, a multi-instrumentalist, has been described as drawing the percussive nature out of each instrument he plays: drums, piano, electronics, and guitar.

For details on the series, visit 118elliott.com. Doors open at 7 p.m.; a \$10 donation is suggested. 118 Elliot, a gallery and performance space, is at 118 Elliot St.

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Epsilon Spires hosts Viking spirit ritual

BRATTLEBORO—Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St., presents "Freyja's Wisdom: Spirit Magic Ritual and Rune Divination," in partnership with In Situ Polyculture Commons, a new artist residency in Westminster. The performance will take place at Epsilon Spires on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Heiðsær (pronounced *Hathesire*) is a group of touring witches reviving the Old Norse vödur traveling seeress tradition. Their first Vermont event will be an immersive experience incorporating ritual, song, and divination as performance. "Freyja's Wisdom" is an opportunity to engage with the divine power of Freyja, Norse goddess of love, war, and magic, "as Heiðsær conjures her embodied insights for all those who seek her in this immersive ritual experience," say organizers.

Attendees will be able to step

forth to ask questions and receive guidance from the heart of Viking mythology. "Enthralling and empowering, this event transcends the ordinary, inviting you to connect with the past in a truly extraordinary way. Whether already deeply familiar with Old Norse traditions, or simply passingly curious, Heiðsær's visit promises to be inspiring, enthralling and empowering."

In addition to the ritual performance, the visiting seeresses will make personal divinations and readings available, which may incorporate the traditional Fupark runes, pendulums, or tarot cards. These will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the end of the event.

During the seidr ritual performance, "the goddess Freyja has asked that an offering basket be placed at her feet, to receive any offerings people would like to

give," says Lux Heljardóttir, the leader of the event. "Offerings are by no means required in order to speak with her during the event. Attendees may bring their own offerings, and some offerings will be made available for those who do not choose to bring any. Freyja requests specifically yellow flowers, or fruit."

Heljardóttir is a professional völvur, or seeress, from New York with over 20 years of experience. She will be joined by her three trained völvur: Melissa Óðsdóttir, Jade Njórundóttir, and Lis Friggjardóttir.

The visiting group will be hosted at In Situ Polyculture's campus in Westminster. This marks the second collaborative event between the two Vermont nonprofits, in which visiting artists retreat or stay at In Situ and schedule a public performance or event at Epsilon Spires. The

two organizations say they look forward to further collaboration and opportunities to uplift their unique missions.

Epsilon Spires is also partnering with Golden Rule Mead from Middlebury, who will be on-site on the evening of the event, offering their small-batch mead, including a special brew purpose-made for Heiðsær's visit. "Freyja's Tears" was brewed with strawberry, linden and cowslip primrose, and may also be served with edible gold. Mead is a sacred ritual to the Norse vödur tradition.

Seasonal treats from Burrow & Hearth bakery will also be on offer. Tickets can be reserved at epsilonspires.org. For any questions, contact Candace at hello@insitupolyculture.org.

NECCA offers some spooky circus fun on Oct. 21, 22

BRATTLEBORO—New England Center for Circus Arts' circus coaches will be performing a family-friendly, Halloween-themed extravaganza on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m., and October 22 at 4 p.m.

The Circus Spooktacular is a "high-energy circus romp," say organizers, "full of acrobatics, aerials, and stunts featuring elite instructors and special guests of the New England Center for Circus Arts. This creative cauldron is led by Evil Red and the Wolf and is sure to be a frighteningly good time."

Co-director Victoria Quine is a long time coach at NECCA

and currently leads the youth troupe. She explains that this show is unique at NECCA in that "it is a peer-led space for coaches and staff to work collaboratively to create a narrative show."

The performance will feature ensemble work from the cast, who say they consider it a welcome change from the solo work that they often do when they perform away from NECCA.

One highlight of the show is The Graveyard Act, a big group production number featuring dance and acrobatics. Quine describes the act as "so much fun to create!" Nine acrobats and

collaborate on this piece which, she says, "promises to be the most fun you've had in a graveyard this year!"

NECCA's fall session begins this week and is open for enrollment for youth and adults with many of the instructors who are performing in the show. Katie Schmidt, director of youth programming, is co-director of the show and is appearing as a spider in one "creepy-crawly" aerial act.

Classes include grounded classes, such as trampoline, with another coach-prime, Levi Helton. Helton plays The Wolf in a twisting rendition of the classic tale and will perform an

aerial sling duet with Gramma, reimagined as a love story. Other acts include pumpkins on spinning wheels and bats and fireflies.

All performers are coaches at the circus school, housed in the custom-built Trapezium.

Tickets for the Spooktacular are \$12 (under 12/senior), \$15 general seating, \$25 VIP, under 2 free. Reserve tickets at necenterforcircusarts.org (necenterforcircusarts.org/about/circus-spooktacular/circusschool.org). As always at NECCA shows, there is the opportunity to volunteer at the show to receive a free ticket. This information is also on the ticketing portal.

Welden

FROM SECTION FRONT

Aesop's Fables series," Welden said of his works on paper, noting that these works came from "something I found at an old abandoned barn" at Hampton Bays Arts Group, an arts colony on Long Island that operated from the World War II era until the late 1960s.

There, he found "old zinc plates which were supposed to be used for etching and they sat for 50 years and they were oxidizing."

"I pried them apart with a screwdriver and saw what nature did," he said, and he used that natural damage to the plates in the creative process.

Welden said his passion for painting returned when the Covid lockdown took place. He says he had an "exuberant feeling that he had to paint." He uses mixed media: mostly acrylics, and occasionally traces of crayon, and even a ballpoint pen.

When asked what he means by "hybrid prints," he says, "They are independent of each other but they become one, where one starts and one ends, you can see texture in some of them."

Becoming an artist

Welden grew up in the Bronx and spent weekends and summers at his grandfather's place in Babylon, New York. He was not really a city kid so he loved spending time on Long Island.

He says he doesn't really know when he first envisioned himself as an artist. But he said his fifth-grade teacher, Augusta A. Hoffman, was a wonderful inspiration and encouraged him.

"She instructed the class to draw on newsprint and then, if it was good enough, you would

get to use manila paper," he said.

After Welden's first drawing, he said, she told him directly that he would never have to use the newsprint first and gave him permission to "use the better-quality manila paper all the time."

"After high school, I wanted to be an architect," Welden said. "I was very good at that. I was very precise and exact."

After being rejected by all seven universities he applied to initially, his guidance counselor suggested he remain in high school for an additional year. He did, and he took chemistry, biology, and more art classes.

Eventually he got accepted to the Adelphi College Suffolk Division, a tiny satellite of the larger academic institution.

"The dean had empathy for me," Welden said. "He said, 'We'll put you in on probation.' I ran for the class president, as I could make better posters than anyone else. I started a fraternity, and I was very good at sports. I was a gymnast, played football, basketball, and was captain of the squash team."

In a 2012 interview posted at the Adelphi website, Welden credited a professor at the college, Albert Kelley, with encouraging him to pursue art as a career.

"One day Al Kelley suggested I create big paintings," Welden said in the interview. "He went out and bought me 33 yards of canvas so that I could make paintings 6½ by 7½ feet high. He provided me with the tools and support. He believed in me."

Welden's canvas paintings are very large and colorful. As described by the show's publicity materials, the artist "may enlist his endlessly meandering lines to



Artist Dan Welden poses with "Tony Baloney" and "Monk's Yoga," two mixed-media works from his show "Dan Welden: Solo 100," which runs from Oct. 21 until Jan. 14, 2024 at Mitchell-Giddings.

VICTORIA CHERTOK THE COMMONS

define or corral expanding areas of color, as in *Glimmering Myrtle* or *Tony Baloney*. In the large mixed-media painting *Northman*, the boundary edges of a central, painted rectangle rupture in a frenzied rush of spilled release."

"With *Hairy Hare*, a unique etched and mixed media hybrid print, Welden the cartographer crisscrosses the textured

topography of a nameless state on an east-west network of penciled and incised highways. He masterfully masses handfuls of fine, short, bent, hairlike marks in the appropriately titled solarplate etching *Panda's Haircut*, as though swept across a barber shop floor."

Welden graduated from Adelphi in 1964. He taught art in high schools while he pursued a master's degree in art there, which he earned in 1967.

From there, he studied at The Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, Germany under teacher Kurt Lohwasser, "my mentor and my friend," Welden said in the Adelphi interview.

While under Lohwasser's wing, Welden said that his "interest in printmaking was piqued."

Pioneer in printmaking

An pioneer of polymer printmaking in 1971, Welden has been in the forefront of his field's creative and technical possibilities.

With his Solarplates (a name he coined as easier to understand than the word "photopolymer"), "I discovered sunlight and water could do just about everything I mastered with lithographic stones, copper plates, wood, and serigraphy," he said.

"Solarplates do not use acids, hazardous materials, and chemicals the other printmaking methods required," Welden explained. That appealed to him.

His friend and mentor Kurt Lohwasser "put it in my hands and told me to figure it out," he said — and the process of determining what to do and how to do it was what interested me the most."

The medium permits the creation of "high and deep surfaces," the artist observes.

Solarplates offer "multiple approaches," Welden said. "You can express yourself in many different

ways on the plate: paint, draw, work on a piece of glass, and even photographically."

Welden marketed the plates and co-authored the book *Printmaking in the Sun* with Australian artist and scientist Pauline Muir. "The process revolutionized printmaking history," he said.

A worldwide teacher

Petria Mitchell, co-owner of Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts, estimates that Welden has "taught thousands of artists in many countries, including working with indigenous peoples globally."

When not making art, Welden has traveled to every continent and has visited 54 countries so far. He plans to return to New Zealand, his favorite country, for the 11th time.

"This is such a distinct honor to exhibit Dan Welden's work," Mitchell said. "It's such a dream to be able to work with him."

The artist says he loves teaching, both one-to-one and in workshops of large groups. He continues to inspire artists, teachers, and students around the world in workshops where

he demonstrates how to make Solarplates and printing both intaglio and relief plates.

Whatever the medium, the creative process is a constant.

"Being one with and allowing the ego to fade away and let the process dictate the ebb and flow of the hand," Welden noted, "is the climatic unveiling of the unknown."

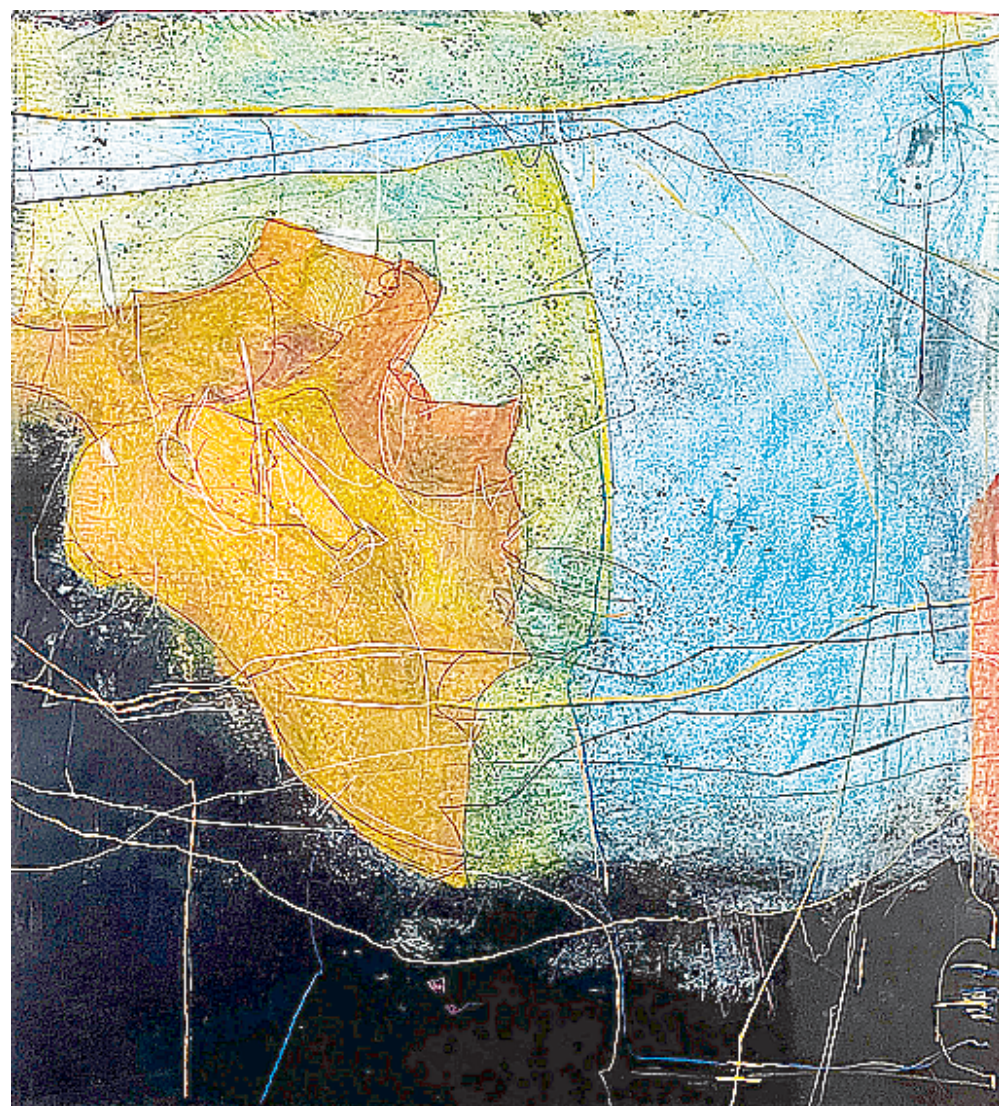
Dan Welden's solo exhibition, "Dan Welden: Solo 100," opens at Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts, 181-183 Main St., Brattleboro, on Saturday, Oct. 21 and runs until Jan. 14, 2024.

The debut of his documentary film, *Lasting Impressions: The Dan Welden Documentary*, takes place on Oct. 21 at 3:30 p.m., and an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. will allow attendees to meet the artist.

An artist talk and printmaking demonstration is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 30 at 5 p.m.

For more information about the exhibit, visit mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com/upcoming-exhibits.

For more information about the artist, visit danwelden.com.



"Hairy Hare," 2022, by Dan Welden. Zinc etching with mixed media, 39.5 in. x 36 in.

Arts Alive plans second 'field trip' to downtown Brattleboro arts venues

BRATTLEBORO—On Saturday, Oct. 28, at 10 a.m., Arts Alive invites artists and creatives to connect to Brattleboro through its local arts spaces. This field trip will convene at 10 a.m. at the River Gallery School of Art on Main Street.

With the community art school's gallery as the backdrop, participants will hear about a few local visual arts programs and businesses directly from the arts leaders who run them. Afterwards, visitors will tour the nearby Vermont Artisan Designs and Stone Church. Arts Alive will provide coffee, tea, and fresh baked goods.

To begin, River Gallery School of Art board member Carolyn DiNicola will give an introduction to the school, including a brief overview of its history, current programming, and various opportunities for artists and arts enthusiasts to get involved.

Following, Downtown Brattleboro Association (DBA) Creative Director Erin Scaggs will tell the story of Gallery Walk. As the founder of the current version of Gallery Walk, she will describe the seasonal monthly event that enlivens Brattleboro downtown and unites the local creative community. Also the program director for the Stone Church, Scaggs will

also share about the Victorian-Gothic concert and event venue and her role within it.

Afterward, a short walk through the River Gallery School will segue into a tour of Vermont Artisan Designs, just up Main Street. Owner Greg Worden will lead participants through the two-level store and gallery space. He will talk about how he's created and maintained a stable downtown arts retail space and how the business advocates for the market for American crafts.

John Dimick, a Brattleboro-based watercolorist featured in the store, will talk about his work and relationship with Vermont

Artisan Designs.

Finally, Scaggs will offer a tour of the Stone Church. The 140-year-old structure, whose character has been preserved through careful restoration, is juxtaposed weekly with rock, punk, folk, and metal music concerts, among other events.

Register at monadnockartsalive.org/artist-field-trips. Field Trips are \$12 to cover the cost of refreshments and \$7 for Arts Alive members. Limited space is available on most field trips. For information about accessibility, contact 603-283-0944 or nina@monadnockartsalive.org.

'Regenerating Life' film series opens at Brooks Memorial Library

BRATTLEBORO—Edible Brattleboro invites the public to experience what they call Climate Optimism at a series of screenings and discussions at Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St., of *Regenerating Life*, a feature-length documentary that takes an ecological approach to unraveling the climate crisis.

The film's thesis is that humankind's relentless destruction of nature has caused the climate crisis, and it proposes that we can reverse this destructive process by

regenerating life.

Filmmaker John Feldman explores how life regulates the climate through photosynthesis and the carbon cycle, the water cycle, the dung cycle, and a vast interconnected soil network of fungi, microorganisms, and plant roots.

"He dives into the economic and political systems that have encouraged this destruction of Earth through the relentless quest for wealth and domination and follows people who are working on solutions, looking for

ways to repair the damage," say organizers.

"By working with nature, [these people] are restoring the forests, fields, wetlands, and oceans. They are regenerating soils to grow healthy food and build healthy communities as a solution to the climate crisis."

The sessions will take place on three consecutive Wednesdays beginning at 7 p.m.:

• Part 1 on Oct. 18, "Water Cools the Planet," features Didi Pershouse, who was interviewed

in the film, for a post-film discussion.

• Part 2 on Oct. 25, "Life Sustains the Climate," has Feldman joining the discussion via Zoom.

• Part 3 concludes the series on Nov. 1 with "Small Farms Feed the World."

These events are free and accessible to people in wheelchairs. For more information, contact Brooks Memorial Library at 802-254-5290 or visit brookslibraryvt.org.

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Three bands with N.E. roots push boundaries of styles, genres

Damon & Naomi, Dredd Foole, and Wet Tuna will perform at Epsilon Spires on Oct. 19

IN HONOR of the vintage English nursery rhyme (“Thursday’s child has far to go”), Epsilon Spires presents a midweek lineup on Thursday, Oct. 19, of three far-ranging musical acts, each one pushing the boundaries of song styles and genres.

The common denominator? All earned the bulk of their musical cred in New England.

Damon Krukowski and Naomi Yang of Damon & Naomi began playing music together in the late 1980s as the rhythm section, co-songwriters, and sometimes singers, with guitarist Dean Wareham, in the Boston-based band, Galaxie 500.

Their atmospheric, lo-fi psych drew comparisons to local hero Jonathan Richman, the Velvet Underground, and Spacemen 3. Their music also caught the attention of legendary mononymous producer and Shimmy Disc record label head Kramer, who worked with the band on most of their albums and EPs.

After Galaxie 500 split up in 1991, Krukowski and Yang released one three-song EP under the moniker Pierre Etoile, and then decided to call it quits in the music world. The pair shifted their creative focus to their independent book-publishing company, Exact Change.

But that plan didn’t last long. Kramer pulled them back into the studio, where, as Damon & Naomi, they recorded the album *More Sad Hits*, released in 1992. From there, Krukowski and Yang teamed up with Kate Biggar and Wayne Rogers, of Crystalized Movements, to form a four-piece psych-rock band, Magic Hour, putting out three LPs in the mid-’90s.

Meanwhile, Krukowski and Yang continued recording as Damon & Naomi and began shedding the “psych” part of their sound in favor of dreamy acoustic stylings. The duo released records on Shimmy Disc,

WENDY M. LEVY, a former reporter and columnist for this newspaper, is the host of the radio program “Wreck Your Own Adventure” on WFMU’s Give the Drummer Radio, which airs Mondays, from 3 to 6 p.m., at wfmufm.com/playlists/WY. The Commons’ Deeper Dive column gives artists, arts organizations, and other nonprofits elbow room to write in first person and/or be unabashedly opinionated, passionate, and analytical about their own creative work and events.

Rough Trade, and Sub Pop before forming their own label, 20-20-20, in 2005.

Damon & Naomi spent the late ’90s and early ’00s recording albums in their own studio in Cambridge, Massachusetts; touring; collaborating with Japanese psych band Ghost; publishing books; and helping produce a two-DVD set of Galaxie 500 videos.

Yang recently wrote, directed, and photographed a feature-length boxing documentary, *Never Be a Punching Bag for Nobody*, for which she also recorded the film’s original soundtrack.

Pitchfork called Damon & Naomi’s most recent album, *A Sky Record* (2021, 20-20-20) “a calming and tender reflection on appreciating what you have in uncertain times.”

And *Aquarium Drunkard* noted the album “is one of Damon & Naomi’s most purely gorgeous sounding records — and considering the glories of what’s come before, that’s a real accomplishment.”

SECOND ON THE BILL is Dredd Foole, also known as Dredd Foole & the Din, the stage name of Brattleboro resident Dan Ireton. Dredd Foole also got his musical start in Boston, this time in the fertile early-1980s post-punk and experimental power-pop scene.

Ireton, as Dredd Foole, recorded the two-song single “Songs in Heat” with Mission of Burma as his backing band. A live recording of this combo, captured during two 1983 Boston gigs, was released in August as “Dredd Foole & the Din: We Will Fall”

on the Chicago label Corbett vs. Dempsey. After Mission of Burma (temporarily) split up in 1983, a spinoff group, Volcano Suns, backed up Dredd Foole for countless live performances and two LPs.

Dredd Foole’s presence in the underground scene coincided with the rise in popularity of the influential, Boston-based independent music magazine *Forced Exposure*. Ireton’s studio releases and live performances were frequently and lovingly covered by THIS publication that leaned heavily toward the acerbic.

In one review, the publication’s founder, Jimmy Johnson, wrote: “Fact is, with this gig and another the following week at [the Boston music venue] the Rat, [Dredd Foole] made a firm bid for consideration as the best in-the-flesh band around, period. Forget any qualifiers. That good. [...]Other bands did play, but after this, who could care?”

In the early ’90s, *Forced Exposure* released on its own record label what would be Dredd Foole’s last album for an entire decade, *In Quest of Tense*. In it, Ireton leans more heavily into psychedelic folk, a harbinger of things to come.

After moving to Brattleboro in 2000, Ireton resumed his musical activity and not only found himself among adherents of the southeast Vermont/western Massachusetts New Weird America scene, but he also helped create it.

After performing in the 2003 Brattleboro Free Folk Festival, Ireton’s current output and previous works received the attention from critics and other musicians they deserved, and

are admitted free.

Advance tickets are available online at nextstagearts.org. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar, and food from The HANGRY Traveler and Vermont Gelato will be available to purchase. For more information, call 802-387-0102.

Next Stage hosts Antje Duvekot, Pete Bernhard on Oct. 22

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present an evening of contemporary folk music with Antje Duvekot and Pete Bernhard at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill, on Sunday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m.

Duvekot is a German-born, American-raised singer-songwriter whose songs “have been critically praised for their hard-won wisdom, dark-eyed realism, and street-smart romanticism,” organizers note in a news release. They continue: “Her bicultural upbringing and relative newness to English have helped shape her



Damon Krukowski and Naomi Yang began playing music together in the late 1980s, as the rhythm section, co-songwriters, and sometimes singers, with guitarist Dean Wareham, in the Boston-based band, Galaxie 500.

Ireton was recognized as a highly influential presence in the nascent freak-folk world.

Like Half Japanese and Sunburned Hand of the Man (the latter of which Ireton has recorded and performed with), Dredd Foole’s music has helped bridge the gap between punk rock and experimental psych-folk.

ONE OF THE AREA ARTISTS Ireton has collaborated with is Matt Valentine, who brings one of his bands, Wet Tuna, to this event’s lineup.

Wet Tuna is comprised of Valentine and Erika Elder. Elder and Valentine also record and perform under the name “MV + EE.” Combining jammy psych and heady dub, Wet Tuna’s 2018 debut album,

Livin’ the Die (Feeding Tube Records, 2018), included liner notes written by former *Forced Exposure* writer — and current Feeding Tube co-owner — Byron Coley.

Coley’s description firmly placed Wet Tuna in the long lineage of hippie-punk genre-benders such as Gong, Hawkwind, and Faust: “Around these spumes of electric menace you’ll find rings of crazy space burble and vocals so deeply layered they sound like something happening in the back of David Allen’s brain. But large swathes of the album are rurally expansive, as befits the mountainside on which it was recorded.”

Since then, Wet Tuna has recorded 14 LPs for Three Lobed Recordings and Valentine and

Elder’s own label, Child of Microtones, one live album from a 2017 performance at Greenfield’s The Root Cellar (now known as 10 Forward), and they have played on numerous area stages.

It’s a rare delight to see three acts, with so much regional musical history and influence, on one bill.

Don’t miss this one.

Damon & Naomi, Dredd Foole, and Wet Tuna on Thursday, Oct. 19, at Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St., Brattleboro. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and music starts at 8 p.m. Admission is sliding scale, starting at \$10. For more information and tickets, visit epsilonspires.org.

Next Stage presents double bill featuring Walter Parks & The Unlawful Assembly and Big Lazy

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, presents a double bill featuring the reimagined historic spirituals and hymns of Walter Parks & The Unlawful Assembly, and the “guitar noir/crime jazz” of Big Lazy, on Friday, Oct. 27, at 7:30 p.m.

“Walter’s work with Richie Havens has informed a lot of his career, and he has become an educator on the history of blues, roots, and Americana. The pairing with Big Lazy is an evening of music that won’t be easily forgotten,” said Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage, in a news release.

The Unlawful Assembly reimagines and tributes historic spirituals and hymns. Leader-guitarist-singer Walter Parks, longtime sideman to Woodstock legend Richie Havens, is joined by featured artists drummer-producer Steven Williams and Ada Dyer, who toured worldwide with Bruce Springsteen, on vocals.

In one live-concert experience, The Unlawful Assembly “is the soundtrack to American black history — old-school spirituals, gospel, blues, and prison work chants intertwine with swamp hollers, shaped-note hymns and Appalachian reels of white homesteader origin,” states their website.

Parks’ native northeast Florida swampy feel borrows from southern rock, jazz, early 1970s soul, and a few gospel interpretations that “rest joyfully upon a foundation of modern electronic loops.”

New York City’s instrumental trio Big Lazy has performed for over 20 years, creating film music and playing events at venues ranging from the Whitney Museum of American Art to the Opéra de Lyon. Band members on their website say they deliver “cinematic music and legendary live performances.”

Band leader Stephen Ulrich plays electric guitar, Andrew Hall

is on acoustic bass, and Yuval Lion, on drums. The band’s current line-up also features arranger, composer, and keyboardist Marlyse Simmons, of the bands Bio Ritmo and Miramar.

Ulrich released his first solo album, *Music from This American Life*, on Barbès Records earlier this year. The album is a collection of 10 pieces Ulrich was commissioned to write for Ira Glass’s iconic public radio program of the same name. “At once shadowy and optimistic, Ulrich’s music weaves a melodic and textural foundation through many TAL episodes.”

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and \$10 for access to the live stream. Advance tickets are available at nextstagearts.org. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For more information, call 802-387-0102.

Burlington Taiko brings traditional Japanese drumming to Putney

PUTNEY—The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents a concert of traditional Japanese taiko drumming with Burlington Taiko, on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 3 p.m., at Cooper Field, 41 Sand Hill Rd.

For more than 30 years, Burlington Taiko has educated New England communities about Japanese culture and entertained them with traditional Taiko drumming.

“There is something unique about Japanese Taiko drumming, from its style to its sound,” Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts, said in a news release.

“One of the driving forces behind the curation of our programming is to bring wholly unique cultural experiences to our region, and Burlington Taiko delivers at the highest level.”

Honored three times by the International Taiko community, the group has been invited to perform in Japan. With hundreds of performances under their belt, they say, they’ve performed for an estimated half a million people.

Attendees are invited to bring lawn chairs or blankets for outdoor seating on the softball field. Tickets are \$20 advance, \$25 at the door, and kids 12 and under

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October 19, 20, 21

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Saxtons River Art Guild hosts painting workshop on Oct. 21

SAXTONS RIVER—The Saxtons River Art Guild will host a one-day workshop with Vermont watercolorist John Dimick on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School St., from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Workshop fees are \$70 for SRAG members and \$90 for nonmembers.

The theme of the workshop is “Painting Urban Landscapes.” This is open to all abilities with some watercolor experience suggested. Participants will need to bring a completed drawing, as well as a 1-inch flat brush. Dimick will guide a value study of buildings, starting with underpainting

in Payne’s gray, followed by splattering the background, and then painting the local color.

Artists interested in the urban landscape theme and work in other media can contact Dimick to discuss the possibilities of registering for this workshop. In addition to working in watercolors, he has painted urban and architectural scenes in oils.

Dimick has won awards at various juried shows. Vermont Artisans Designs in Brattleboro carries many of his paintings, prints, and notecards. He was the cover artist featured in the January/February edition of *Monadnock Table* magazine.

Writer Diana Damato described his work as ranging from “nature-based scenes to city sites, including locations in downtown Brattleboro, machine shops, unique perspectives of bridges, and western United States and European settings.”

Examples of his work may be viewed on his website, johndimickartist.com.

The Saxtons River Art Guild is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote and encourage the advancement of the fine arts with about 80 members throughout the Monadnock region in New Hampshire, the southern Connecticut River

Valley area of Vermont, and western Massachusetts.

Their activities include: exhibit and sales venues, classes and workshops, open studio time and plein air gatherings, and trips to museums and galleries. An art scholarship is awarded yearly to a qualified senior from an area high school who is going on to a four-year major in the arts.

SRAG will provide coffee and tea at the workshop; participants should bring a lunch. To register or for more information, contact Carolyn Berglund at poohbear@ne.rr.com. Masks and COVID-19 vaccinations are required to attend.

VIEWPOINT

‘Truth is just a plane ticket away’

The Israeli victims of these horrendous acts of violence by Palestinian militants deserve our heartfelt sympathy. When the conversation ends there, only half the story is told.

WHEN I WAS an adolescent in the 1980s, one of the great contemporary prophets was Bono, the front singer in the Irish rock band U2, which would later be considered the greatest rock band in the world. I felt that Bono represented me. He cared about people and was upset with the powers that be. In my understanding, he wanted change without violence. One of my favorite songs was “I Threw a Brick Through a Window.” I particularly liked the bridge, where Bono sings, “No one, no one is blinder than he who will not see.” I remember once, in a conversation, quoting those lines by the great Bono. My friend smiled and said that Bono must have read his Bible. There, I learned that even Bono stand on the shoulders of the greats of the past.

Brattleboro

IT HURTS ME DEEPLY, it aches my heart, to read about the brutal, violent actions of Hamas militants towards innocent, civilian Israelis. To me, it is inexcusable to target and kill civilians, especially children and mothers. When so many people here in the U.S. express heartfelt sympathy for the Israeli victims of these horrendous acts of violence by Palestinian militants, I completely agree. Where I don’t agree, though, is when the conversation ends there, with only half the story told — the part where Israelis are victims of murderous, barbarian violence from Palestinian terrorists. That’s when I think of Bono’s words that no one is blinder, than he who will not see.

BACK IN THE 1980s, when I had my man crush on Bono, I read news stories about Black South Africans fighting to end apartheid. Sometimes, this struggle for justice would lead some to do horrific acts of violence toward white South Africans. One such action took place in Durban in 1986, when a paramilitary wing of the African National Congress bombed a beachfront bar, killing three and injuring 69.

LASSE SCHMIDT lived in the West Bank for 18 months in the early 2000s. Originally from Denmark, where he worked as a reporter, he moved to the U.S. 20 years ago and, in 2005, graduated from the School for International Training with a master’s degree in conflict transformation.

I am convinced that most of us today will agree that it makes no sense to talk about these brutal acts of violence by Black South Africans without at the same time talking about the fact that they lived under a racist, oppressive dictatorship, where the white minority with brutal force held down the Black majority. In the same way, we cannot intelligently talk about how some Danish resistance fighters during World War II, in cold blood, executed fellow Danes for collaborating with Nazi Germany without taking into account that the majority of Danes for years had suffered under a Germany occupation that crushed their pride and self-determination. If we do, in fact, agree on the need to consider the complex realities behind the above-mentioned historical examples, how come we are not able to apply the same standard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Why do we accept the lopsided public conversation in the U.S., so stubbornly focused on violence committed by Palestinians, without looking at the context? Without bringing into account the 750,000 Palestinians, who were expelled from their homes by Jewish militias 75 years ago? Without considering that Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza



Burnt residential building in Kibbutz Be’eri, near Gaza, after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas. At least 1,400 Israelis were killed in the surprise orchestrated attacks that day, including residents at eight kibbutzes in southern Israel and 260 people at a music festival.

for nearly 60 years have lived under a brutal, military occupation? WHEN WE CONDEMN the violence of Hamas, we must also condemn that Palestinians routinely are arrested and imprisoned (sometimes for years) without knowing why, without the right to a lawyer, without ever seeing a judge. We must also condemn that the Israeli military routinely puts Palestinian towns and villages under curfew for days, even weeks, without any forewarning. Here, I feel a need to explain that this type of curfew means that any Palestinian is ordered to stay put, precisely where they were when the curfew was called, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until it is lifted.

It means that Israeli soldiers are patrolling the empty streets of Palestinian towns with a license to shoot at anyone who moves. We must condemn that Palestinians, both individually and collectively, have no meaningful form of self-determination. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT the vicious violence committed by Palestinian militants on innocent Israeli civilians, we must also talk about how the Israeli military puts up checkpoints or road closures inside the West Bank, wherever and whenever they want, for as long as they want, thereby preventing people from getting to work or school. We must talk about the Palestinian land confiscated by the state

VIEWPOINT

A destructive and painful path

Within every country, you will find good people who just want to live in peace. The majority of the Earth’s population longs for peace — yet wars are our species’ default behavior.

LIKE SO MANY, I was horrified when I heard about the Hamas attack on Israel. My first thought: *How could Hamas possibly justify such brutality toward Israeli citizens and care so little about the people of Gaza, given Israel’s well-known history of over-the-top retaliation against any Palestinian uprisings, be they peaceful or violent? If the images and descriptions of heinous cruelty doesn’t keep one up at night, what would?* My second thought: *What the hell did anyone expect?* The whole Israeli–Palestinian nightmare was a setup from the start. The displace, discard, and dismiss policy debacle portended endless war. Decade after decade, generation after generation of Palestinians have suffered the humiliation of

SUSAN ODEGARD cares for pets and gardens.

Israel’s boot-on-the-neck treatment, resulting in constant deprivation, denigration, and lives riddled with innumerable losses: loved ones, land, homes, livelihoods, dignity, freedom. Who among us knows for certain how they would react when chained to such a life in what many call an open-air prison? And how revolting to witness the world’s obsequiousness toward Israel, no matter how aggressive, how extreme their responses to any threats, perceived or real. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict encapsulates

VIEWPOINT

To be critical of the Israeli state is not antisemitism

‘This attack came at a time when those who represent the right in both Israel and the United States seem to accept and encourage more creative cruelty every day’

RECENTLY, in my bookstore in Brattleboro, a belligerent man came blustering up to the front desk to yell at us for displaying a Black Lives Matter sign in our window. Why? Because he claimed that Black Lives Matter stands for murdering “my people” at this terrible time. My staff and I all made it clear to this man that our sign stays up because actual Black lives matter to us. And, as I am every bit as Jewish as this creep, I was able to deflate his self-righteousness a tiny bit, but he continued to rattle on

NANCY BRAUS, an independent bookseller, is a longtime activist who contributes often to these pages.

about the unfairness of our refusing to follow his orders about what should be in our front window. The far right has taken it upon themselves to instruct the rest of us as to how to think, how to act, and how to raise the children they are forcing women to birth. As far as the Israeli and American Zionist



The peaceful, pastoral views to meadows and hills will captivate you! The ever changing cloudscapes and the way sunlight dances with shadows add everyday delight! In West Guilford, nestled away on 18 acres, this 1868 square foot, contemporary six room home, surrounded by mature woodlands was built by the current owners in 1974. Planned with simple lines outside, designed inside with personality and large windows for the kitchen, living room and primary bedroom to enjoy the lovely views. There are vaulted ceilings, light filled rooms, front entry w/cedar closet, a spacious living room with a centerpiece fireplace, a loft library with a sleeping alcove, the cheeriest of eat in kitchens with plentiful storage, counter space, views and a 16’ x 10’ deck. The versatile layout offers a dining room if desired, or a office/den as it is used now. The primary bedroom has a three quarter bath with a shower. A stackable laundry was added to the craft room/bedroom closet. The 20 foot long covered deck off the living room and primary bedroom looks over a lawn, a rambling stone wall to the meadow and mountain views. Entry porch has EV charger. There is two bay basement garage with high ceilings, ample work space, washer, dryer and laundry sink. The 32 x 40 barn has a workroom and a loft.

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The aftermath of an Israeli airstrike on the El-Remal area in Gaza City on Oct. 9.

Flicker user Wafa, Creative Commons (BY-NC), license via Wikimedia Commons

■ Painful path

FROM SECTION FRONT

human history in all its depravity, and I wonder how differently this chapter would have played out without the billions of U.S. assistance, year after year.

Your tax dollars at work, folks.

TO THOSE WHO are calling me an antisemite for my opinions, I going to turn off my censor button and admit that I think your form of censorship is intellectually and morally weak.

Israel has been masterful in their ability to convince parts of the world, including many politicians, media, and older U.S. citizens, that all Palestinians support Hamas.

Not true. According to a recent Washington Institute poll, 57% of Gazans and 52% of Palestinians in the West Bank support Hamas. Pew Research conducted a poll in March and April of this year, showing 35% of Israelis think a peaceful two-state solution can be achieved, constituting a 15-point drop since 2013.

I can only imagine how low that number is today.

Think of how unfair it would be for all Americans to be lumped together as violent, imperialistic racists given

our history, our crazy gun culture, and our aggressive foreign “interventions.” Abu Ghraib, anyone?

According to a 2005 Gallup poll, 56% of Americans were not willing to support the use of torture on suspected terrorists who had possible information on future attacks to America.

MY POINT IS THAT within every country, you will find good people who just want to live in peace.

Indeed, my sense is that the majority of the Earth’s population longs for peace — yet wars are our species’ default behavior for reasons that I will never understand.

Is it “survival of the fittest” run amok? Overpopulation? Not enough resources?

I don’t know.

I know only that — as I’ve written previously — I’ll go to my grave not understanding my own species, and it saddens me that instead of making a commitment to never sink as low as one’s aggressors and seek peaceful reconciliations, many countries just ratchet up the violence again and again.

Israel is one of the poster children of this destructive and painful path.

■ Truth

of Israel to build separation walls or Israeli settlements, deep inside the West Bank.

We must talk about how innocent, civilian Palestinians, most often teenage boys, are killed by Israeli snipers on the grounds that they have participated in peaceful demonstrations against the occupation, inside their own town and villages, on Palestinian land, deep inside the West Bank.

THIS MIGHT BE a good time to mention that 20 years ago, I lived in the West Bank for 18 months.

First, I worked as a peace activist (or, as we call ourselves in my native Denmark, Guardians of the Peace). Later on, I taught English at a community center in the West Bank town of Jenin and eventually at the Arab American University.

During those months, I participated in nonviolent Palestinian demonstrations and actions against the Israeli occupation.

I was once arrested for demonstrating against the construction of the separation wall on Palestinian land. I spent 24 hours in an Israeli prison before I was released by an Israeli judge, who reprimanded the military police for having arrested me without any justifiable cause whatsoever.

I have often thought how differently a Palestinian would have been treated in that same situation, in the same courtroom.

ONCE, HAVING JUST left Israel and Palestine to go home for a visit, I was in a taxi with a chatty driver. When he realized I was currently living in the West Bank, he started sharing with me his analysis of the conflict.

I quickly realized that his opinions was based solely on information from the media. That was just one of the many times I have been talked to about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by someone with no

knowledge about the situation other than what they had acquired from — the often biased and one-sided — reporting in the media (such as Fox News and MSNBC).

Sometimes, I would be talked to about a conflict between two equal sides. Sometimes, about Palestinian terrorists fueled by hatred and innocent Israelis just trying to defend themselves.

IN THE BEGINNING, I was surprised by these experiences. Why were so many people more eager to serve me their media-based truths than they were in asking me, who had lived in the West Bank and spent more than a month in Israel, about my experiences?

After some time, I came up with this way to respond to their biased narratives: “Truth is just a plane ticket away.”

The thing is, of those I have met who have spent significant time in the West Bank or Gaza and gotten to know regular Palestinians, every single

FROM SECTION FRONT

person believes that the root cause of the violence between Israelis and Palestinians is the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the siege on Gaza.

This is no matter their political or religious orientation, and this group includes Jewish friends and relatives of mine.

Today, I would like to pass forward my challenge: Truth is just a plane ticket away. In my view, if you want to support the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and the siege on Gaza, the least you can do is to make an effort to understand the cost it has for regular, civilian Palestinians. While they might pay with their lives, you just have to pay the price of a plane ticket.

Or you can trust those who have already been there.

Who have witnessed the Palestinian reality firsthand.

Who say in unison that the pain, anger, fear and violence primarily stems from the Israeli occupation.

ANOTHER FACTOR to consider: For those of us who live in countries where voting is still an option and corruption can still be overturned, at least to some degree, we have to take responsibility for electing awful people, often again and again.

Just two of many examples: Israel keeps electing Bibi Netanyahu, and Americans might very well re-elect Donald Trump. Why? Both are extremely immoral and aggressive men.

Conversely, time and time again, it’s the peacemakers who are assassinated: Rabin in Israel; Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and others in America.

What does that say about us?

IN OUR COUNTRY, Dr. Benjamin Rush, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, penned an essay in 1793 calling for what amounted to a Department of Peace.

Throughout our history,

several proposals have emerged to revive that idea, including ones by Dennis Kucinich, when he served in the House of Representatives and as a candidate running for president in 2008.

Kucinich was roundly mocked for his views. How incredibly discouraging that such

a department has never seen the light of day, much less has ever been seriously considered.

Will the doves among us ever prevail?

IN 1962, Bob Dylan wrote the poignant and forever-relevant song “Blowin’ in the Wind.” It became an anthem for both U.S.

civil rights and the Vietnam War era’s peace movements.

Dear reader, I’d like to gently suggest that you go have a listen.

Then, after you’ve wiped away your tears, go do something nice for a neighbor.

The one you don’t like.

■ Antisemitism

FROM SECTION FRONT

response to the Hamas attack, there seems to be a complete lack of tolerance for any sympathy with the plight of those who are essentially prisoners in Gaza. Any and all remarks of concern for the Palestinians are disdained, as if these are not human beings who have the same rights as the rest of us.

This attack came at a time when those who represent the

right in both Israel and the United States seem to accept and encourage more creative cruelty every day.

In an interview with Sky News, former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett raged at the newsreader for even asking about the well-being of innocent Palestinian babies in hospitals.

“Are you seriously [...] asking me about Palestinian civilians?” he asked. “What is wrong with you?”

AS A PROGRESSIVE, secular Jew, I have always spoken out about the excesses of the Israeli apartheid state.

I was fed a diet of lies as a child in religious school. We were told that we, the Jews, “made the desert bloom.” We were always being asked for contributions to “plant a tree in Israel.”

We never were informed that there were actually living humans in that territory and that they actually had a thriving business of harvesting olives from the many trees that the Palestinians had planted over the generations.

I never learned about the Palestinians until the Six-Day War in 1967. It was truly a surprise, as religious school at a Reform (meaning relatively progressive) temple had created such a compelling story of this land being created where there was no life.

JEWISH AMERICANS are a small but incredibly varied population, as far as our beliefs. We

tend to be over-represented in progressive politics, to the consternation of many on the right.

The person who brought the progressive movement out in the open in contemporary U.S. politics, Bernie Sanders, is a secular Jew. Many of the most articulate and outspoken left voices tend to be Jewish, from Naomi Klein to Noam Chomsky.

To be critical of the Israeli state is not antisemitism, despite the constant accusations. The real danger of antisemitism in the United States emerges from the right and their conspiracies, as the old and tired hate-filled screeds about Jews are revived and fed to a new generation.

They seem to hate actual Jews even as they defend every action taken by Israel. We as Jews who believe that many of Israel’s actions are war crimes are compelled to use our voices to oppose this potential genocide.

To be most effective, we serve as a counterweight to the overwhelming and almost unchallenged mainstream support of Israel.

MY BOOKSTORE will continue to display our Black Lives Matter sign in the window, along with the many others representing such positions as a woman’s right to choose and support for the LGBTQ community.

If someone presents us with a sign supporting the ability of the Palestinians to exist in peace, that sign will proudly grace our window, too.

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Paving underway on Frost, Elm streets

BRATTLEBORO — Northeast Paving (a contractor for Brattleboro Public Works) will continue paving work on Frost and Elm street and Lynde Place this week through Friday, Oct. 20. The work is expected to be completed this week, weather permitting.

Crews will be working between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. No parking will be allowed on the streets, and motorists should expect delays in the area and seek alternate routes.

For more information or questions, contact Highway Supervisor Darren Pacheco at 802-254-4255 or dpacheco@brattleboro.gov.

West West film series debuts with 'Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai'

WESTMINSTER WEST — A screening and artist talk-back of *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai* will take place at the Westminster West Congregational Church, 44 Church St., on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

This film by Lisa Merton and Alan Dater tells the story of 2004 Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai, whose simple act of planting trees grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, protect human rights, and defend democracy.

As described in a news release, the film is set in the context of Kenya's politically and environmentally tumultuous 1980s and 1990s and "captures a worldview in which nothing is impossible and gives a loving, and intimate portrait of Wangari Maathai."

A discussion with Merton and Dater will follow the screening.

Admission is by donation, and light refreshments will be available.

This film debuts a four-film series featuring talkbacks by neighbors involved in their creation. Subsequent Sundays will feature:

- *Johnny Cash! The Man, His World, His Music* (1969) on Oct. 29, a musical documentary whose three filmmakers included Dater.
- Jo Dery's short film *Georgia's Line* (2001) and Laina Barakat's *Light Attaching to a Girl* (2022), presented by producer Jennifer Latham on Nov. 5.
- Michael Moore's *Capitalism*,

a *Love Story* (2009), presented by Line Producer Jennifer Latham on Nov. 12.

Brooks Library hosts a look at car culture and its influence on the planet

BRATTLEBORO — In Vermont, our cars appear to many of us as natural as our mountains, moose, and fall colors. However, with climate change bearing down on our state, carbon emissions are now seen by concerned Vermonters as the prime issue with our auto-centric culture. But could we be missing something even bigger?

Join Dave Cohen for a free workshop, *Our Cars, Our Bodies, Our Earth* — and an examination of what he calls "the influence of the automobile on our minds and bodies that probes the fascinatingly elusive psychology of the automobile and its pervasive influence on our vision of the world and place in it" — on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m., in the main reading room of Brooks Memorial Library.

Cohen says he will focus on "how the collective super-sizing of our bodies in cars (power, weight, speed, size, noise etc.) has profoundly transformed the integrity of our sacred relations to both the human and more-than-human worlds. Furthermore, we will explore how this immense power is perhaps undermining our response to the most significant crisis we have ever faced — climate change."

Most importantly, he adds, "we'll embark on a world tour of remarkable efforts that are challenging automobilism — the unbridled and indiscriminate use of motor vehicles. We will consider how Vermont can greatly benefit from this burst of innovation (planning, micromobility, technology, psychology and more) that is inspiring human-scale living, a reconsideration of our place in the world, and helping us to move beyond a 1950's model of automobilism and transportation consumerism."

Cohen, an integrative psychotherapist in Brattleboro specializing in ecopsychology, founded VBike, a Vermont advocacy group dedicated to promoting new bike design and technologies for everyday mobility and providing free e-bike and e-cargo bike consultations to all Vermonters. His

AROUND THE TOWNS

work is featured on numerous podcasts and highlighted in the internationally screened cargo-bike documentary *Motherload*.

The venue is accessible to people in wheelchairs. For more information, call 802-254-5290 or visit brookslibraryvt.org.

Hospice offers holiday grief support, Death Cafe

BRATTLEBORO — Brattleboro Area Hospice will host a pair of events dealing with death, grief support, and the holidays.

On Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., a Holiday Grief Support and Memorial at the organization's headquarters at 191 Canal St. will provide an evening of grief support and a time to remember loved ones around the holidays.

Hospice staff will offer coping skills, time to share stories and

concerns, and non-religious ornaments on which a name or message can be written and which can then be hung on a tree.

There is no need to register for the program, and you don't have to be a current Hospice client to participate.

On Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 6 to 8 p.m., Brattleboro Area Hospice will host a death café at Experienced Goods, 80 Flat St.

In many traditions, according to organizers, "October is the season when the veil between the world of the living and the spirit world is the thinnest." At a death café, people — often strangers — gather to eat snacks, drink tea, and discuss death. The objective is "to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives."

A death café is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives, or themes; it does not provide grief support

or counseling. As space is limited, attendees should register in advance at info@brattleborohospice.org or 802-257-0775.

Senior lunch served in Dummerston

BRATTLEBORO — Evening Star Grange and Senior Solutions will present their second meal in October on Wednesday, Oct. 25, with takeout meals available for pickup from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and in-house serving at noon.

On the menu this week is golumpki (both meat and veggie-based), roasted red potatoes, and root vegetables with lemon breeze for dessert.

Reservations are strongly suggested "to help us prepare enough food," organizers explain, "but if you forget, come anyway."

To register, call the Grange Hall at 802-254-1138 and leave your name, phone number, the number of meals wanted, and

whether you are eating in or taking it home.

A donation of \$3 for those 60 and older and \$4 for the younger folks is suggested.

Explore the petroglyphs of the West River on guided walk

BRATTLEBORO (WANTASTEGOK) — On Oct. 25, at 4 p.m., Rich Holschuh, director of the Atowi Project, will lead a free guided walk along the site of petroglyphs in Wantastegok (West River/Brattleboro).

Those participating in the event, organized by Putney Community Cares in collaboration with Atowi Project, will learn more about the significance of the petroglyphs in Abenaki cosmology, both in history and their relevance today as a sacred site.

Gather at 350 Putney Rd.; enter off Eaton Avenue, corner lot.

THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

JOON PAHK

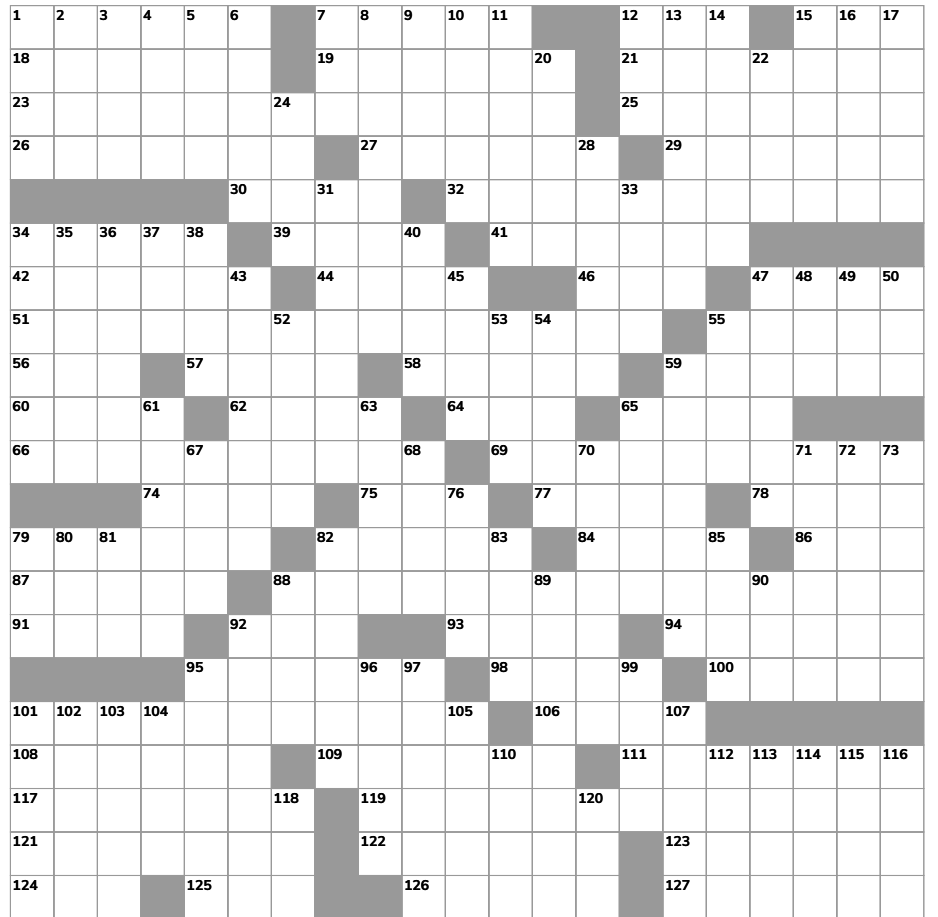
"Forefathers"

Across

- Venus, to Serena
- Treble staff symbol
- Epiphany exclamation
- Tax pro, for short
- Punctual
- Chew out
- Kennel club event
- Be unkind to
- Czech composer Bedrich (anagram of "Namaste")
- Perfectly behaved
- Like some German nouns
- Accustoms (to)
- Sushi seaweed
- Rip off a restaurant
- Green shots
- Nickname of former Red Sox manager Terry Francona
- Actress Syms
- Grandma in Guadalajara
- Huge
- Hazard in "The Hurt Locker": Abbr.
- Down fast
- Utterly boring
- Pretense
- Double-stranded molecule
- Boggy stretch
- Was on TV
- CeCe Winans genre
- Sicilian volcano
- "Bubbly" Nestlé chocolate bar
- Bit of advice
- Greek house, for short
- Hamilton-Burr face-off, e.g.
- Commonplace
- Base's counterpart
- Anguilliform fish
- Mend socks
- Easter Island monoliths
- "Be right with you"
- "Hometown" composer Mitchell
- Kilo thousandth
- Reading material for literary agents: Abbr.
- Goes into space?
- Reassure everybody
- Banks of fashion
- All right
- Golden Massachusetts State House feature
- Number one Hun
- Charge with a crime
- Abbr. on a "Welcome to" sign
- Atlantic or Pacific
- Move with a mouse
- Promissory notes
- Like work from home
- Expedition
- Caine, in "The Muppet Christmas Carol"
- Magical tokens
- Pierce Brosnan's final Bond film
- Fish out of water
- Lure into a crime
- Breathe with difficulty
- Body spray brand
- Decimal base
- "CBS Mornings" host King
- Ovid's book of love poems

Down

- Value meal drink
- Part of, as a plot
- Unaccompanied
- See 68-Down
- Name that's a fruit backward
- Sticky secretion

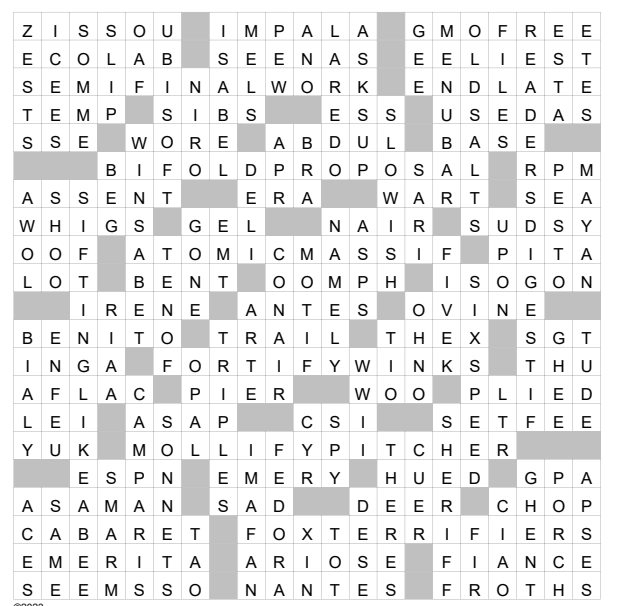


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- Test for an aspiring PhD student
- Pork in a burrito
- Like many sports broadcasts
- Record-breaking marathoner Kipchoge
- "Truth be told..."
- What in-app purchases might disable
- Chimpanzee, gorilla, or Neanderthal
- Meeting points?
- Longtime Bruins captain Zdeno
- Corn bread loaves
- Inundated (with)
- Itty-bitty
- Simple earring
- Dundee denizen
- Depended
- Nice location?
- Assert
- Falsified, as one's résumé
- African philosophy emphasizing human collectivism
- New Orleans university
- Aviv
- Criticize harshly
- Dept. of Labor agcy.
- lion (species native to India)
- Silly goose
- Tailor-made
- Joint at the top of the femur
- Application
- Styling stuff
- Movie judge who says, "I am the law"
- Very dry
- Lukewarm
- Egg on
- City with the Alhambra
- Nome's home
- Track great Jesse
- Bridge alternative
- 2022 WNBA champions
- With 4-Down, twice-monthly event
- Foe of the X-Men
- "Train to Busan" menace
- Home of the Latino Walk of Fame: Abbr.
- Leaf producer
- Wasn't on the level
- Choose
- Opposite of "yea"
- Go wrong
- Japanese martial art
- Blackthorn berry
- Line of Android phones
- Frank (2010 Wall Street reform act)
- What you might pick up for talk radio
- Greenwich std.
- Bening of "Captain Marvel"
- Reply to "What happened to the last cookie?"
- Earthy
- Schlepping
- Sign of neglect
- Serious play
- Dance version of a hit song, say
- Entertain
- Rose Zhang's sport
- Michelangelo masterpiece
- Unstressed vowel
- one (none)
- Diane of NPR
- Twistable treat
- Polish/German border river
- Steady look
- What a colon can represent
- "Last four digits" ID
- Unclose, to a bard

Last issue's solution

"Full of Possibilities"



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bc tv LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Oct. 16-22

CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079

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Here We Are - Michael Fuller, T.J. Buckley's, Owner and Chef. Mon 8p, Tues 3:15p, Wed 9a, Thurs 1:20p, Sat 12:20p & 8p, Sun 5:20p	Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 10/17/23: Tues 6:15p (LIVE), Thurs 1p, Sat 8:30p, Sun 8:30a
The World Fusion Show - Ep# 163 - Olox. Mon 5:30p, Wed 12:30p, Thurs 6a, Sat 9p, Sun 10a & 4:30p	Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 10/16/23: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 11:45a
Media Mentoring Project - Resistance: How the Arts affect Social and Political Change. Wed 7p (LIVE)	River Valleys Unified School District Board Mtg. 10/16/23: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2:15p
Mitchell Giddings Fine Arts - Fran Bull. Mon 2:45p, Tues 9a, Wed 8:30p, Thurs 4:15p, Fri 6a, Sat 2p, Sun 6p	Guilford Selectboard Capital Asset Management Public Mtg. 10/16/23: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p
Couch Potato Productions - 78th Guilford Fair - The Horse Draw. Tues 8p, Wed 3:30p, Thurs 9a, Fri 12:30p, Sat 10a, Sun 7:40p	Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 10/17/23: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 2:30p
Brattleboro Gallery Walk - October 6th, 2023. Fri 5:30p, Sat 8:30p, Sun 9:30a & 4p	Windham Elementary School Board Mtg. 10/17/23: Sat 6p, Sun 6a
Landmark College Presents - Rajnil Eddins - The Value of Our Stories. Mon 8:30p, Tues 5:45a, Wed 11a, Thurs 3:15p, Fri 10a, Sat 6p, Sun 6a	Putney Selectboard Mtg. 10/18/23: Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 12p
Stained Glass Windows of St. Michaels - Week 7: St. Catherine of Alexandria. Mon 7a, Tues 12:30p, Wed 1p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 4:30p, Sat 6a	Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 10/18/23: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 2:30p
Horses Sing None of It - Ep704 - Tony Silva. Mon 2:15p, Wed 9:30a, Thurs 6:30a, Fri 4p & 9:30p, Sat 5:30p, Sun 10:30a	Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 10/9/23: Mon 11a, Tues 3:45p, Sat 11a
Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Fennell. Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p	West River Education District Board Mtg. 10/10/23: Wed 10:45a, Fri 4:45p, Sun 8p
Vermontitude - Weekly Episode. Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p	Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 10/10/23: Mon 6:15p, Tues 6:15a
News Block: WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p Reformer News Break: Mon-Fri 12:05p & 6:05p BUHS-TV News: Mon-Fri 12:15p & 6:30p	Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 10/10/23: Mon 9a, Tues 12p, Wed 6:45a
St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service. Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a	Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 10/11/23: Mon 2:30p, Wed 8:45, Sun 6p
Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service. Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p	Brattleboro Charter Revision Commission Mtg. 9/21/23: Tues 2p, Thurs 11:5a
Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service. Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a	Town Matters - Weekly Episode. Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p
St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass. Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p	The David Pakman Show. Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p

Note: Schedule subject to change.

View full schedule and watch online at brattleborotv.org

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COLUMN | Sports Roundup

Bears keep football playoff hopes alive

Reeling after two big losses to Hartford and Keene, the Brattleboro Bears varsity football team have dusted themselves off and are now starting to play their best at the right time of the season.

After outlasting Bellows Falls for a win on Oct. 6, the Bears put together another solid effort in defeating Rutland, 21-7, in the Senior Night game at Natowich Field on Oct. 13.

Against Rutland, it was Bears running back Noah Perusse's time to shine. He ran the ball for nearly 150 yards and a pair of touchdowns, thanks to excellent blocking by the Bears' offensive line. Quarterback Karson Elliott also played well, throwing one touchdown pass to tight end Jackson Emery and leading a balanced offensive attack.

The defense, led by linemen Sam Maddow and Colby Bristol, held Rutland to one touchdown and forced an important turnover in the third quarter that ended a potential scoring drive. Aside from a few ill-timed penalties, the Bears performed well in all phases of the game and, as a result, beat Rutland for the first time in 18 years.

Both teams struggled to score in the first half, but Brattleboro struck first with a 50-yard touchdown pass from Elliott to Emery for a 7-0 lead with 6:59 to go in the first quarter. Rutland tied the game with 2:09 left in the second quarter. Aided by couple of penalties on the Bears, Rutland quarterback Noah Brutomesso finished a 47-yard scoring drive with a 1-yard sneak.

The Bears took control right away in the third quarter. After stopping Rutland cold on its first series, Elliott connected with Emery and Cam Cruz for a pair of first downs and Perusse finished the job with a 20-yard touchdown run for a 14-7 lead with 7:17 left in the third.

Rutland then was driving for a touchdown when the Bears made the defensive play of the game when Brutomesso was stripped of the ball on a quarterback keeper and defensive back James Davies came up with the ball with 5:12 left in the third.

Brattleboro turned that Rutland mistake into points when Perusse finished a 75-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown run on the first play of the fourth quarter to make it 21-7. The Bears' defense took over from there to secure Brattleboro's most important win of the season.

Brattleboro (3-3-1) and Rutland (2-5) entered this game in ninth and 10th place, respectively, in the Division I standings. Since only the top eight teams advance to the playoffs, winning this game was crucial for keeping the Bears' postseason hopes alive. The Bears now have the No. 6 spot in Division I and face No. 2 Burr & Burton in Manchester in the regular season finale this Friday night.

Terriers edge Vikings

Despite a rare two-game losing streak, Bellows Falls entered their Oct. 14 game with the Lyndon Vikings with a firm grip on the No. 3 spot in Division II. However, to hang



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.

on to that spot and a chance to host a first-round playoff game, the Terriers were faced with the task of beating the Vikings in Lyndonville without their best playmaker. BF barely did so in a dramatic 21-20 win.

Running back, kick returner, and defensive back Walker James was well on his way to a career game. James had 111 yards on six carries and would have been credited with a 85-yard interception return for a touchdown had it not been negated by a BF penalty. But James was hurt late in the second quarter after a 20-yard run and never returned to action.

At that point, BF was trailing 20-14. But sophomore running back Blake Bertrand and seldom-used senior receiver Curtis Green saved the day for the Terriers. Bertrand and teammates Jesse Darrell and Remy Lacroix picked up the slack for James on offense and Green finished a 10-play, 61-yard scoring drive to start the third quarter with a 34-yard catch from quarterback Cole Moore for what ultimately was the winning touchdown with 5:20 left in the third.

This game was not an easy one for BF. Lyndon started the game with a touchdown catch by Wyatt Mason for a 7-0 lead with 9:43 left in the first quarter. The Terriers responded with four long runs by James and an 11-yard touchdown run by Darrell to tie the game with 7:45 left in the first.

James intercepted Lyndon quarterback Ethan Lussier on the Vikings' next series, but after the apparent pick-6 was wiped off the scoreboard, the Terriers still would get a touchdown out of the turnover as BF drove from its own 18-yard line with runs from James and Darrell to set up a 1-yard quarterback sneak by Moore and a 14-7 BF lead with 2:09 left in the first quarter.

Lyndon tied the game with a 2-yard run by Lussier with 10:48 left in the second quarter, then shocked BF with a successful onside kick play to give the Vikings a chance to take the lead. Chase Sanville scored on a 4-yard run, but Lussier missed the extra point for a 20-14 Lyndon lead with 7:17 left in the second.

After James got hurt during the next BF series, a Moore pass was intercepted in the end zone by Lyndon's Beckett Bailey. But Lyndon could not make anything of it, and Lussier was intercepted near the goal line by Lacroix to end the first half.

Moore's touchdown throw to Green in the third quarter was the only pass he completed in the game. But that ended up being enough, that and kicker Tristan Boylan being perfect on all three of his point-after attempts. The remainder of the game belonged



Brattleboro running back Noah Perusse (1) ran for nearly 150 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the Bears' 21-7 victory over Rutland on Oct. 13.

RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT COMMONS FILE PHOTO

to the BF defense, which kept the pressure on Lussier, and to Bertrand, who did a lot of hard running in the fourth quarter to eat up the clock.

Lyndon had one last chance to win the game as they got the ball on their own 3-yard line after a successful goal line stand on defense with 3:31 to play. Lussier had two good chances in the final seconds with a pair of pass plays, but both were deflected by BF and the Terriers walked off the field with a 4-3 record and still possessing a chance to host a home playoff game.

Now 4-3, BF will make another trip to the Northeast in the Kingdom this Saturday at 1 p.m. to play No. 2 North Country in Newport to close out the regular season.

Boys' soccer

Twin Valley stayed undefeated last week, starting with a 2-0 win over Leland & Gray at Hayford Field on Oct. 9. Steven Oyer scored on a free kick from 23 yards out in the eighth minute, and Hunter Roth got the insurance goal in the 45th minute, assisted by Cody Magnant.

The Wildcats had a 20-2 advantage in shots on goal, as Rebels goalkeeper Theo Kelloway made 18 saves to keep his team in the game. Twin Valley keeper Kaelyn Lackey had two saves in the victory.

Twin Valley kept rolling with a 6-0 win over White River Valley on Oct. 11 in South Royalton. Roth scored four goals, while Magnant had a goal and two assists and Brayden Brown had a goal and an assist. Garret Cunningham also had two assists, and Lackey needed just two saves to earn another shutout win. The Wildcats finished the week with an 11-0 record.

Brattleboro got shut out by Wahconah Regional, 3-0, on Oct. 9 in Dalton, Massachusetts, but rebounded with a 3-0 win over Leland & Gray on Oct. 11 at Natowich Field. Ozzie VanHendrick scored off a corner kick from Charlie Kinnersley to give the Bears a 1-0 lead at the half. In the second half, Brattleboro got goals from Emmett Hoyer and Gordie Kalill to seal the victory. With a 2-1 loss to Burr & Burton on Oct. 13, the Bears head into the final week of the season with a 8-3-1 record.

Rivendell rolled over Bellows Falls, 8-1, in Westminster on Oct. 9. The Terriers then had to forfeit a game to Green Mountain on Oct. 11 due to a lack of players.

Girls' soccer

Brattleboro lost in overtime to the Woodstock Wasps, 3-2, in the Senior Night game at Natowich Field on Oct. 9. The winning goal came in the first minute of overtime during a scramble in the Bears' goal area.

Sadie Cheslawski got the Bears' first goal in the 21st minute, but Woodstock's Leah Kuhnert scored in the 24th minute to tie the game, and the Wasps took the lead with a goal from Skye Culley in the 42nd minute. Brattleboro's Montana Frehee broke the tie in the 72nd minute, with Kaitlyn Pattison assisting, to force overtime. Bears goalkeeper Abigail Henry made 11 saves.

Against Burr & Burton on Oct. 12 at Natowich Field, the Bears were shut out, 4-0. Addie Redden scored two second-half goals for the Bulldogs, Megan Carson and Josie Powers also added goals.

Mary Sanderson scored four goals and Maggie Parker had a goal and three assists as Leland & Gray defeated White River Valley, 5-2, on Oct. 10 in South Royalton.

Two of Sanderson's goals came in the first half, with Ava Lecours assisting on one of them. Parker got her goal, assisted by Jacy Stillwagon to give the Rebels a 3-1 lead at half-time. Parker set up Sanderson's third and fourth goals in the second half as the Rebels put 20 shots on the White River goal. Rebels goalkeeper Annabelle Brookes made 10 saves.

West Rutland scored three goals in the second half to beat Twin Valley, 3-0, on Oct. 10. Camryn Williams, Hayley Raiche, and Ashley Beaulieu were the goal scorers for the hosts.

Bellows Falls lost to Rivendell, 3-0, on Oct. 10 in Orford, New Hampshire, and lost a road game to Randolph, 6-0, on Oct. 13 to fall to 1-9.

Field hockey

Otter Valley scored three goals in the second half to shut out Brattleboro, 4-0, at Sawyer Field on Oct. 9. Sophie Parker led the Otters with two goals.

The Bears then bounced back with a 1-0 win over Springfield in their Senior Day game on Oct. 11 at Sawyer Field. Erika Favreau scored the lone goal of the game in the final minute of the first half off a penalty corner. Brattleboro put 20 shots on the Springfield net and controlled the ball for most of the game. Bears goalie Erika Fletcher did not face a shot on goal as Brattleboro finished the week at 4-8.

Woodstock made a pair of first quarter goals by Marley Olmstead and Hannah Gubbins stand up in a 2-0 win over Bellows Falls in Westminster on Oct. 10. BF goalie Livie Clough kept her team in the game with five saves, while Wasps goalie Paige Stone made eight saves to earn the shutout.

The Terriers then had their toughest game of the season against the Essex Hornets on Oct. 12 in Westminster, as the teams played to a scoreless tie. While BF had a 13-3 edge in shots, Essex had a 9-7 advantage in penalty corners in this battle of Division I heavyweights. BF finished last week at 5-4-1 and have four games on top for this week, the final week of the regular season in Vermont.

Cross-country

Brattleboro built upon some strong performances at the Woods Trail Run at Thetford Academy on Oct. 7 with a record-setting run by Nico Conathan-Leach at its only home meet of the season on Oct. 10 at Fort Dummer State Park.

Conathan-Leach set a course record in winning the boys' race with a time of 18 minutes, 8 seconds. The Bears finished second to the Burr & Burton boys, with Mount Anthony finishing third. Rounding out the Brattleboro finishers were Jonas Ackerman-Hovis (12th, 21:05), Miles Ackerman-Hovis (14th, 21:19), Galen Fogarty (16th, 22:11) and Jude Anders (17th, 22:12).

The girls' event was won by Stratton Mountain School, followed by Burr & Burton, Mount Anthony, and Brattleboro. Stratton's Leigh Niedeck won the race in 23:05, Tillie Farwell was Brattleboro's top finisher, finishing 14th in 27:32. Brattleboro's Elliana Galdamez finished 19th with

a personal best time of 28:34, followed by teammates Evie Kiehle (21st, 30:06), Priya Kitzmiller (26th) and Addison DeVault (27th).

Unified soccer

Brattleboro was runner-up to Rutland in the state Unified soccer tournament on Oct. 11 at Norwich University in Northfield.

Unified soccer is played 5-on-5 on a reduced-sized field and, as in Unified basketball, the partners facilitate play while the athletes do the scoring. While Brattleboro lost its first match to Woodstock, 4-3, and lost the second to Rutland, 3-2, both were competitive and all of the Brattleboro athletes scored a goal in the tournament.

Senior bowling roundup

The standings got jumbled again after Week 6 of the fall/winter season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on Oct. 12. Stepping Stones had a 1-4 week, while Hairiers had a 3-2 week to leave both teams tied for first at 23-7. Skippers and Four Seasons (both 18-12) are now tied for second, followed by Four Pins and High Rollers (both 16-14), Dumblebor (15-15), No Splits (13-17), and PEWJ (3-27).

Deb Kolpa and Nancy Dalzell both had the women's high handicap game (237) and Pam Greenblott had the high handicap series (672). Charlie Marchant had the men's high handicap game (247), while John Laamanen had the high handicap series (687). Four Seasons had the high team handicap game (916) and series (2,564).

Robert Rigby had the men's high scratch series (673) with games of 237, 225, and 211. John Walker had a 546 series with a 208 game, Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 524 series with a 190 game, Skip Shine had a 517 series, Jerry Dunham had a 508 series, Marchant had a 504 series with a 194 game, and Chuck Adams had a 195 game.

Carol Gloski had the women's high scratch series (498) with games of 185 and 176, while Kolpa had games of 178 and 161, and Dalzell rolled a 177.

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