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BCTV leader will leave a station in good hands

Cor Trowbridge will step down in December after serving as executive director of BCTV for 18 years

By Olga Peters
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—This article is supposed to be about Cor Trowbridge.

Yet, as she consults the press release she wrote announcing that she will step down after 18 years as Brattleboro Community Television's executive director, she uses the opportunity to pitch the station.

"For me, that's the headline: BCTV is in great shape and completely ready to go to the next level with a new leader," she said.

BCTV was the first station of its kind in Vermont. Between its four full-time staff members, six part-timers, and approximately 50 community producers, the media center releases an average of 1,200 hours of local programming a year.

Known as a PEG (Public, Educational, and Government) station, BCTV is one of 24 public access media centers in the state. Noncommercial PEG stations welcome all perspectives and all voices. They are charged with fostering civic engagement and government transparency.

Approximately 75% of the station's funding comes through cable subscription fees in BCTV's eight-town viewing area.

'Every day is different'

In 2006, Trowbridge joined a station that was in a state of turmoil.

Previous executive directors had skills that were more technical than administrative, a few membership kerfuffles had erupted, and the station's board had turned over multiple times.

Trowbridge and her husband, Hugh Silbaugh, had recently returned to the area after working in Massachusetts. She had honed her administrative skills at previous jobs, including as assistant town planner and grants administrator for the town of Brattleboro.

"For me, it's been a great match," she said. "I really wanted to be a part of a team, and really enjoy the constant change. Every day is different. Every time we do something, it's different."

According to the station's press release, under Trowbridge's leadership, BCTV "broadened its coverage area, [and] doubled its budget and output of local programming."

As a new hire, Trowbridge oversaw the station's transition from analog to digital for a

region that included Brattleboro, Guilford, and Vernon. And over the years, she has seen the popularization of streaming video, cord-cutting consumers, smartphones that can record digital video of broadcast quality, and the instant adoption of video-conferencing software during a public health emergency.

But in 2006, "Our broadcasting method was this rack of DVD decks, that a computer program cut between," she said. "There were four or five hours in the middle of the day where we weren't sending out any programming because that was the time when our technician was programming all the decks."

She also embarked on a three-year process of establishing a contract with Comcast in order to receive PEG fees, which Vermont requires as part of cable franchise contracts. The effort became Trowbridge's first big legal undertaking. As part of the contract process, the station conducted extensive outreach, phone banking, and a community needs assessment.

Later she would undertake a similar process with Southern Vermont Cable. This second contract expanded the station's coverage to include Dummerston, Jamaica, Newfane, and Townshend.

The COVID-19 lockdown of 2020 was a catalyst for the station to pivot again. People needed access to information and to watch municipal meetings — yet, everyone was stuck at home.

Trowbridge and BCTV's staff

■ SEE TROWBRIDGE, A5



Steve Haisley of Putney stands beside his award-winning ice fishing shack.

NANCY A. OLSON/SPECIAL TO THE COMMONS

With his new business, Putney man pays tribute to the opportunity he got to turn his life around

By Nancy A. Olson
Special to The Commons

PUTNEY—Steven Haisley has developed a CBD-infused salve, which he has named Second Chance. That's because when he was offered a second chance, he took it.

And it changed his life. "About 23 years ago, I got sober," he said. "I was one of those people you read about in the papers, time after time. I was on probation, and I was given a choice: jail or rehab. I chose rehab."

Haisley had started coming to the Brattleboro area in his late teens, hanging around the Windham College campus in Putney.

"It was kind of 'fear and loathing' in Vermont back then," he said, alluding to Hunter S. Thompson's drug-fueled gonzo journalism. "It was party, party, party."

Once sober, Haisley took up carpentry and established a career locally. He renewed his childhood interest in fishing and built himself an ice fishing shack, which he called "Second Chance."

It's constructed from recycled materials,

true to the building's name. The mahogany floor and walls are recycled pallets, the cedar ceiling is left over from jobs he did, and a shelf is from a cabinet in a judge's office.

Haisley's fishing shack won an award in 2021 in the inaugural Artful Ice Shanties Design-Build Competition, sponsored by the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center in partnership with the Retreat Farm. The award was for "Most Likely to Catch a Fish, a.k.a. 'The Real Deal.'"

Photos of the fishing shacks entered in

■ SEE SECOND CHANCES, A2

Museum makes a move — suddenly

The Southern Vermont Natural History is closed for a quicker-than-planned move to its new location — a change that opens new possibilities

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

MARLBORO — While the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum on Hogback Mountain has closed, the organization remains open as a nonprofit, providing its signature nature-based education programs and hosting periodic classes, camps, and events at its Mountainside location at 117 Adams Cross Rd.

Museum Managing Director Michael Clough explains that building conditions precipitated the decision to make the move a bit sooner than anticipated, although it has long been the plan.

"A lot of the problems with the building have been ongoing for

the last few years," he says, noting a critical event was abundant summer rain that caused "quite a blossom of mold."

"Our plan was doing exactly what we're doing but, unfortunately, we've had to do it a little faster," Clough says.

The museum was founded in Wilmington in 1997, but its taxidermy had been at the scenic Hogback overlook since the late 1960s as the Luman Ranger Nelson Natural History Collection. It houses one of the largest collections of native bird and mammal mounts in the Northeast and incorporates interactive and live animal exhibits, including birds of prey, reptiles and amphibians, native trout and salmon, and exotic insects

■ SEE MUSEUM, A2



The Southern Vermont Natural History Museum has closed in anticipation of moving from its current facility, the former Marlboro Inn at the Hogback Mountain overlook, to its very own facilities at a former daycare center on Adams Crossroad.

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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:
• creates a forum for community participation,
• promotes local independent journalism,
• fosters civic engagement by building media skills through publication of *The Commons* and *commonsnews.org*, and through the Media Mentoring Project.

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SUBMITTING NEWS AND TIPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Without our volunteers, this newspaper would exist only in our imaginations.

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



One of the denizens of the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum in this 2012 photo.

Museum

and spiders. The museum's natural history collection is primarily the work of Nelson, a noted naturalist and taxidermist of the early 1900s. The collection includes about 250 species of bird and mammal found in the Northeastern United States, and more than 600 individual mounts.

The museum sees close to 7,000 visitors annually, and its outreach programs reach thousands more throughout the region.

The project to temporarily store one of the largest taxidermy collections of native species in Vermont and set up for live educational animals to be housed at the new site while continuing to host programming off-site around the region is a daunting one.

"We're still in transition, so the new site isn't open yet," Clough says. "We are in the process of moving our offices, staff, animals, and volunteer program to Adams Crossroad, where Mountainside is located."

Mountainside, the property the Museum acquired by donation about two years ago, includes 7 acres of land and trails, a 1,600-square-foot building, and a new outdoor pavilion. It is the site of the former Pool Learning Center.

What will be missing for now at the new site, says Clough, is the taxidermy exhibit.

"We will relocate all the live program animals there, though. Trying to get the huge snapping turtle tank into the building is currently a point of discussion," he says with a laugh.

Clough says the new location will ultimately be set up much better for programming, which is the only thing that is expected to happen on site and be open to the public — for now.

Most of the taxidermy will be stored in a climate- and humidity-controlled facility, with some on loan and some exhibited.

While the museum rented the Wilmington site, it owns the Marlboro site, and although the current building on the premises there is small, Clough says it "will serve us great for now."

Ownership also allows the group to raise money for improvements.

Fundraising for the today, and tomorrow

The museum has set up a GoFundMe page (bit.ly/738-museum) with the goal of raising \$8,000 to finish building animal enclosures and fully relocate personnel and animals soonest. To date, almost \$2,600 has been raised.

"Once we have ourselves settled in, we'll start working on the capital campaign to build the bigger, stronger, better, natural

history museum," Clough says, emphasizing that Museum officials are seeking public input about what this would look like and where it might be.

"This — a year, probably, down the road — will be focused on building a museum to house the collection and really be a Vermont museum of natural history," he says. "The plan is to build something more modern that will have better access."

The museum is funded primarily through grants, private donations, and program revenue. Clough notes the Museum does not currently have an endowment and says one of the reasons for hiring new Executive Director Katherine Wheeler was "her experience in fundraising and building the sort of financial infrastructure that the museum needs to move forward."

Despite the logistics of protecting living animals and a priceless collection while on the move, Clough says this is "definitely an exciting time" for the museum.

"Even though there is still lots more to do, we have seen a great upwelling of community support for this move," he says, noting help from a number of local businesses and both the Brattleboro Area and Deerfield Valley chambers of commerce.

Learn more about upcoming programs at vermontmuseum.org or call 802-380-8919.

Second chances

FROM SECTION FRONT

the competition comprised an exhibit at the museum. He was interviewed by the Vermont Folklife Center. In 2022, his shack again won, this time for "Finest Craftsmanship," in the second annual Artful Ice Shanties contest.

Each winter, when Haisley sets his fishing shack up on the Retreat Meadows, he notes the irony of sitting in his shack, looking across the ice at the probation office to the north and the Brattleboro Retreat to the west — two entities that have played such a large role in his life.

A few years ago, he received an award for good citizenship. "I took it to the probation office to show my former probation officer," Haisley said, "and told him not to give up because what he does makes a difference."

with CBD from hemp supplied by Green Mountain Orchards in Putney.

That's all. "I like to say the hemp goes to the spa," Haisley said. "I heat the hemp in the coconut oil up to 200 degrees F and let it steep."

This process extracts the terpenes — the natural chemical compounds found in the plant — gently and naturally. "The hemp is not damaged," he said.

Haisley said he has sent his product to two testing labs, and there is very little tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the major psychoactive ingredient in cannabis, hemp's botanical relative.

"It's the CBD that you want," he said. "That's the magic. It doesn't get you high, but it relieves pain."

A new direction: CBD

As the decades have passed, Haisley said, he has found that his body requires longer and longer recovery times from the physical demands of carpentry. Also, the pandemic meant fewer people were calling for carpentry work.

Haisley needed a new direction. He heard people talking about CBD (cannabidiol) and decided to investigate.

"Other similar products have up to 31 ingredients," he said. "That means people with chemical sensitivities are much less likely to be able to use them. I wanted to develop something simple. There is no need to make it complicated. Life is complicated enough."

Haisley developed his salve, Second Chance, available in solid form. The only ingredients are coconut oil infused

More second chances

At first, Haisley gave the product to friends to try. Results were dramatic.

"People were telling me that the product was fantastic," Haisley said. "A person with arthritis in their hands and feet said, 'I can go for walks now, and at night I can sleep.' A competitive athlete said it eased the pain after training hard. A store clerk said it took away the pain of being on their feet all day."

Second Chance salve retails at \$40 for a 3 oz. jar. It is available in Putney at Green Mountain Orchards, Putney Co-op, Putney General Store, and West Hill Shop.

"I feel as though I'm giving all these people a second chance," Haisley said. "It's gratifying."

PUTNEY

Next Stage hosts Osher lectures

PUTNEY — Putney Community Cares is presenting a pair of Osher Lifelong Learning events at Next Stage in Putney and online. These events, sponsored by the University of Vermont, require advance registration, and events will be cancelled due to low enrollment, if necessary.

On Sunday, Nov. 12, from 10 a.m. to noon, William "Bill" Holiday will host "JFK Assassination — What They Told Me." The talk is based on his upcoming book of the same name detailing experiences related to him by eyewitnesses to various aspects of the assassination. Holiday taught social studies

at Brattleboro Union High School for 28 years.

Some witnesses in this book are researchers, some are doctors who tried to save President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald; one is an ambulance driver, another, a 17-year-old woman who was in Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963. "It's a complicated case," says Holiday, "and this book makes no effort to solve it or suggest the mountain of theories as to who was involved or what motivation he/she/they might have had."

On Sunday, Dec. 3, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Emily Monosson presents "Blight: Fungi and the Coming Pandemic," about the devastating impacts of emergent, or relatively new, fungal pathogens across species.

Monosson says that wildlife, crops, and forests — humans too — are all potential hosts for deadly fungal pathogens. Following readings of selected chapter excerpts, there will be plenty of time for more in-depth discussion of the problems of fungal pandemics and epidemics and possible strategies for prevention, resurrection or protection of susceptible species.

Register online at bit.ly/738-osher. The cost is \$8 per lecture, or \$15 for both. Participants who choose the online option will receive a reminder email one day prior to the lecture date, which will include login info.



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COLUMN | Deeper Dive

Changing of the gavel

Windham County NAACP welcomes new president, honors other leaders at annual dinner

BATTLEBORO — ANTER ABOUT the theme “Celebrating Democracy” was well received by the incoming Windham County NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) President Wichie Artu as he received the gavel on Oct. 21 at the Fourth Annual Freedom Fund Dinner.

Xusana Davis, the Vermont racial equity director and featured speaker for the evening, suggested that given the state of current affairs, it might be better to suggest a title more along the lines of “Working Toward a Better Democracy.”

U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., carried on the same theme describing her experience in the House of Representatives during this time of historic gridlock. Nonetheless, there was much to celebrate.

The outgoing president of the Windham County NAACP, Steffen Gillom, along with the current president of the Rutland NAACP, Mia Schultz, had just been elected to the NEAC (New England Area Conference of the NAACP) executive team, as first and second vice presidents, respectively, along with Kayon Morgan, who was elected vice president for NEAC’s Youth Council.

Artu was lauded for helping create data governance structures for Vermont’s Bureau of Racial Justice Statistics to address criminal justice system racial inequities and coordinating with the Vermont Department of Health, COVID vaccine clinics for more than 1,100 Vermonters of color using new

REV. DR. LISE SPARROW is chair of religious affairs for the Windham County NAACP. An ordained pastor of the United Church of Christ, she is the retired pastor of the Guilford Community Church. The Commons’ Deeper Dive column gives nonprofits elbow room to write in first person and/or be unabashedly opinionated, passionate, and analytical about their own creative work and events.

trust-building data collection methods.

He also generated a qualitative report for the Department of Health that speaks to the methods and common themes around why people chose to get vaccinated or not.

Imogene Drakes, recipient of the Community Service Award, had worked with Dr. Tony Blousson to eliminate a clinical algorithm from the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital system that was disadvantageous to Black and African American people before the National Kidney Foundation issued a general recommendation for its correction. Drakes is an advocate for pregnant and expecting mothers in the health care system.

Maira Tungatarova, recipient of the “Above and Beyond” Award, was an unlikely NAACP treasurer for the past four years, having served in high-level positions in Uzbekistan before coming to the U.S. She was lauded for not only learning the NAACP systems but making them effective locally.



Outgoing NAACP of Windham County President Steffen Gillom proudly displays his Lifetime Achievement Award as Wichie Artu, incoming president of the local branch, looks on.

Samirah Evans wove her soulful jazz and blues selections through out the evening. Cliff Wood, the orchestrator of the event, called it a labor of love for the Beloved Community and expressed his appreciation for the more than 200 diverse Vermonters in attendance in support of the work of the Windham County NAACP.

The NAACP works across the United States with partners and volunteers to promote justice and diversity in a wide range of issues.

Ignorance and prejudice are the handmaidens of propaganda. Our mission, therefore, is to confront ignorance with knowledge, bigotry with tolerance, and isolation with the outstretched hand of generosity. Racism can, will, and must be defeated.

—KOFI ANNAN



Maira Tungatarova received the Above and Beyond Service Award.



Imogene Drakes, recipient of the Community Service Award, with Diana Wahle, chair of health justice, and Christopher Dougherty, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital chief executive officer.

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MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

Obituaries



• **Joel Fletcher Bengtson, 43**, of Brattleboro. Died Oct. 9, 2023 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock

Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire, where he had been an inpatient since Aug. 19. He died peacefully following years of declining health that included diabetes which he was diagnosed with when he was four years old. He was born in Brattleboro on June 12, 1981, the son of the late Christopher and Carol (Stark) Bengtson. He was raised and educated in Brattleboro, attending Brattleboro Union High School. Joel went on to attend Academy of Design, a commercial arts college, in Tampa, Florida. Of his pastimes and interests, Joel enjoyed dirt biking, spending time socializing with his friends, cars, and sketching, which he was gifted at. Joel also had a deep love for nature and animals. Survivors include his sister, Trista Bengtson and her fiancé Shayne of Dummerston; several aunts and uncles that include Douglas and Billie Stark of West Brattleboro, Linda and Joseph Hill of Clifton Park, New York, and Craig Bengtson of Brattleboro; and many cousins. Additionally, he leaves several close friends. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: There are no formal funeral services planned. A memorial gathering will be held at a future date, to be announced by his family. A GoFundMe account has been set up in Joel's name to help with funeral and medical expenses at [gofundme.com/f/joel-bengtson](https://www.gofundme.com/f/joel-bengtson). To share a memory or offer condolences to the family, visit [atamaniuk.com](https://www.atamaniuk.com).



• **Eugene Elmer Bills Jr., 64**, of Wardsboro. Died Oct. 21, 2023 at his home, surrounded by his family. Eugene

was born in Townshend on May 29, 1959, the son of the late Eugene Elmer Bills Sr. and Evelyn Karen (Vose). He attended Wardsboro schools and graduated from Leland & Gray Union High School. Eugene worked as a logger for many years, was a heavy equipment operator for area construction companies, and was on the road crew for the town of Athens. He was a member of the

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

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Wardsboro Selectboard for many years and was on the Cemetery Commission. His true passion was logging and running a skidder. He truly loved working, but also enjoyed traveling the back roads of southern Vermont (with a couple of vacation trips to Florida) and cherished times spent with his family, especially his children and grandchildren. Eugene is survived by his life partner, Julia A. Harrington of Wardsboro; children Alisha Milbeck (Robert) and Gordon Bills (Hannah), both of Leominster, Massachusetts; brothers Dennis Bills (Melissa) and Brent Bills and his sister Wendy Lackey, all of Wardsboro; stepchildren Kayla Barker of Jamaica and Kyle Barker of Granville, New York; and grandchildren Chaselynn, Kaydance, Everett, Ayden, Wyatt, and Kylie. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: At the request of the family, there are no formal funeral services. Donations to the American Cancer Society, in care of Covey Allen & Shea Funeral Home, P.O. Box 215, Wilmington, VT 05363. To send condolences, visit [sheafuneralhomes.com](https://www.sheafuneralhomes.com).



• **Faye L. Bishop, 75**, formerly of Guilford. Died Oct. 19, 2023 at Vernon Green Nursing

Home, following an extended period of declining health. Affectionately known to everyone as "Midge", she was born in Bristol, Connecticut on June 1, 1948, the daughter of Olavi and Beverly (Berry) Nurmi. At an early age, with her family, she moved to Brattleboro, where she was raised and educated. She was a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School, Class of 1966. Midge worked several jobs that included driving a taxicab, working at several factories and Burger King, and for several small markets which included Gouger's Market and Deli on Canal Street. She enjoyed crocheting and needlework, watching Western movies and her favorite evening game shows as well as playing Bingo. Midge was known for her wonderful sense of humor and spirit of friendship. During her earlier years, she attended West Brattleboro Baptist Church on Western Avenue. Midge is survived by the pride of her life, son Kristopher Bishop and his companion, Tracy, of Brimfield, Massachusetts; sisters Kathy Behnke and her husband, George, of Pensacola, Florida and Linda Boisvert and her husband Gerard of Canton, Georgia; granddaughter Korrin Bishop and great-granddaughter Charlie Porter; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles. Additionally, she leaves very close friends, Beverly Bly, Georgia Boyce, and Donna Bell. She was predeceased by one son, Leonard; brothers Keith and Ted; a sister, Carolyn; and a nephew, Matthew Nurmi. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside services will be conducted Saturday, Nov. 4, at 11 a.m., in Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery. A reception will follow the services to be held at the Elk's Home on Putney Road. Donations to Vernon Green Nursing Home Activities Fund, 61 Greenway Drive, Vernon, VT 05354. To offer condolences, visit [atamaniuk.com](https://www.atamaniuk.com).

• **John Stanley "Jack" Cavolick, 82**, of Colrain,



Massachusetts. Died at home in Colrain on October 22, 2023. Jack came roaring into this lifetime on June 14, 1941, on the

culsp of Father's Day, causing confusion about his actual birthday for the rest of his life — his mother claimed both dates of birth for him. He was the first-born son of John and Rose (Nizolek) Cavolick. Jack led a pack of 26 cousins in Stamford, Connecticut. The extended family gathered every Sunday at Nanny and Jaji's farm, where Jack lived his first nine years corralling Rhode Island Red chickens. The death of Jack's father when he was 14 left him in need of men who could guide him. At his Uncle Eddie's Bit 'N' Bridle dude ranch in Stony Creek, New York, he rode broncos and courted fun and trouble until joining the Marine Corps at the age of 17. The Marines taught Jack honor, discipline, fidelity, and service, giving him a chance to see the world. At the end of his tour of duty, Jack moved to New York and studied at Columbia University in pursuit of a career as a veterinarian. A different path unfolded when he began a four-year apprenticeship as a master carpenter, leading to 30 years of work as a carpenter and builder of fine homes. His businesses included Cavolick & Petrillo Construction in Quechee, Vermont, and Cavolick Construction and Habitat Construction in Enfield, Connecticut, where he earned awards as a designer-builder. Jack's last career was as a gardener, while remodeling an 1892 parsonage and barn in Colrain, serving the town as a Selectboard member, animal control officer, emergency management director, and on many other boards. Always an adventurer and lover of nature, at 65 he worked as a whitewater raft guide at Zoar Outdoors. In his 70s, he studied art at Greenfield Community College for three years. At the age of 80, he planted an orchard of 30 fruit trees to bear fruit for another generation. Jack's curiosity and love of lifelong learning inspired his voracious and constant reading — often juggling 10 books at once and over 100 pages a day. He could teach himself almost any skill by reading and kinesthetic learning. A master chef and culinary wizard, Jack leaves a collection of hundreds of cookbooks and favorite recipes. He will always be remembered for sumptuous dinners around the dining room table and the fascinating and far-ranging conversations he led there. Jack's family includes his wife of 28 years, Leslie Fraser, his daughter Corinne Cavolick, sons Christopher and Dakota, grandsons Kentaro, Kota, and Kaito, his brother Wayne and wife Jenny and their three children, sister Kathy Dean, sister Judy and her husband Sonny Ruggieri, nieces Ashley and Kelsey and nephew Tucker, and niece Jaclyn and her husband Drake Hastings and their two children, along with many cousins, dear friends, and his beloved dogs Archie, Belle, and Tilly Rose. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of Jack's life will be held Nov. 11, at 1 p.m., at the First Congregational Church of Ashfield His wish is for some of his ashes to be distributed near Brandon Gap in Vermont, and for some to remain with his wife and

pets in Colrain. Esophageal cancer brought Jack's love of cooking and sharing meals to an end in June, but a potluck fundraiser in support of community meals and local food banks, made with Jack's favorite recipes, will be celebrated at a later date.

• **Bernard Denton "Bernie" Harty, 75**, of North Walpole, New Hampshire. Died on Oct. 25, 2023. He said his last goodbye, surrounded by family, comforted with the thoughts and prayers of lifelong friends, nieces and nephews, and many others who knew him and with the exceptional end of life care and caring of the Springfield Hospital staff. Born on March 21, 1948, the fifth son of six to Lt. Colonel James and Rosemary (Bixby) Harty of North Walpole, Bernie was proud to hail from North Walpole where he resided for much of his life and most recently for many years at the three-generation family home on 3 Birch St. He was predeceased by brothers Jimmy, Eddy, Bobby and Billy. He is survived by his daughter Lindsey and granddaughter Hanne of Weston, brother Moe and wife Diane of North Walpole, their daughters Maura Fletcher and family of Keene, New Hampshire, and Erin White and family of North Walpole, and many nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. Family, family traditions and his lifelong friends were very important to Bernie. He graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1966; attended Vesper George School of Art in Boston, the University of Vermont, and Bowman Technical School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he learned the craft of watch and jewelry making. He worked in retail sales for most of his career, first at Dexter's Clothing in Bellows Falls; co-owned the Thomas-Denton clothing store with his brother, Jimmy in Newport, Vermont; worked for Cote's Jewelers in Bellows Falls; and owned and operated Harty Jewelers of Bellows Falls and Brattleboro. Bernie was very creative and artistically talented, employing those talents in many ways throughout his life yet most notably creating and building floats with the Class of 1966 for the annual Bellows Falls High School Alumni Parade. The Class of '66 was the class to beat for many years and the annual float building experience and the camaraderie of that experience was a lifelong passion! A dream for Bernie was to attend the Rose Bowl Parade, which he realized in 1990. The family is sure that Bernie is now thinking that just maybe the Class of '66 has one last big win in the coming years. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass was held on Oct. 28 at St. Peter's Church in North Walpole, with burial to follow at St. Peter's Cemetery. Donations to the Bellows Falls High School Alumni Association ABC Fund, to support float building, at P.O. Box 172, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

• **Jean Marie Joslin, 84**, of Wardsboro. Died peacefully on Sept. 24, 2023. She was born Nov. 19, 1938, the daughter of Roy and Ruth (Pierson) Garland. She was raised in Guilford and Whitingham, and educated in Whitingham schools. On April 20 1956, she married Donald Joslin. She was employed at Browns Store in West Wardsboro, drove a school bus, and then eventually started her own cleaning business, J+M Cleaning. She was active in her community, and her door was open to all. She was known for her love of horses, her strong work ethic, and her infectious smile. She is predeceased by her parents,

her brother Clifford Garland, her beloved husband Donald Joslin, and her daughter Kathy Joslin. She is survived by her brother Stuart Garland and his wife Rita of Jacksonville, nephew Rusty Garland and his daughter (great-niece) Chelsea Garland, and niece Cindy Barkus and her husband Craig; sister-in-law Christine and her husband David Rafus; sons Robert Joslin and his wife Yvonne of Wardsboro, Kenneth Joslin of Wardsboro, and Daniel Joslin of Wilmington; grandchildren Thomas Carleton, Candie Bernard and her husband Paul, Shirley Butler and her husband Dan, Crystal Joslin, Robert Jr., Samantha and Robin Joslin; great-grandchildren Elizabeth Lopilato and Melody Colburn, Will and Sophie Valet, Abigail Carleton, Peyton and Talyah Robey; and great-great-grandchildren Mason, Marek and Zaylee Colburn, and a lifetime of friends. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: She was a devout Jehovah's Witness. Services will be held at a later date, announced by the family. She would not have asked for donations, however you can make one in her memory to the Windham County Humane Society.

• **Alexander Seamus McCann, 37**, of Brattleboro. Died on Sept. 21, 2023. Alex was born on June 24, 1986, in Hanover, New Hampshire, and was the beloved son of Palma Lord. He was a kind and gentle soul who had a deep love for his family, pets, and friends. Alex attended Academy School and Brattleboro Middle School before graduating from BUHS in 2004. He furthered his education at the Motorcycle Mechanics Institute in Orlando, Florida, graduating in 2006. Professionally, Alex served as the manager at the AT&T store in Brattleboro. Prior to that, he worked at the Brattleboro Retreat and Walmart, showcasing his dedication and work ethic. Alex had an extraordinary ability to make friends effortlessly, often without saying a word. His infectious smile had the power to brighten even the darkest of days. He possessed a compassionate heart and was always there for those he cared about. Passionate about learning, Alex referred to himself as the "King of Useless Knowledge," although his vast knowledge was never truly useless. He spent countless hours immersed in books about the Romanoffs, medieval times, and various religious beliefs. Alex had a genuine love for art, including oil painting, music, and writing. His sense of humor was infectious, and he had a knack for making others laugh. His catchphrase, "That's what she said," was not only a favorite game but also a testament to his quick wit. Alex treated everyone with kindness, compassion, and respect, always striving to create a world where people were kind to one another and withheld judgment, as he understood that everyone carries their own burdens. Alex worshiped at home, studying various religions and their beliefs, ranging from Catholicism to Judaism. His curiosity and open-mindedness allowed him to explore different faiths. In his free time, Alex indulged in his hobbies, which included art, music, and writing. He was particularly passionate about his ongoing book project on medieval times. Additionally, Alex was an avid gamer, enjoying online gaming sessions with his friends, particularly playing World of Warcraft. He will be remembered for his unwavering friendship, which lasted a lifetime.

In addition to his mother, Alex is survived by his sister, Chrystal (Roberts) Lester and brother-in-law, Roy Lester of Newfane; his niece Jasmine Smith of Newfane; his brother, Michael Roberts of Newfane; and two nephews, Austin Nichols of Vernon and Drake Smith from Brattleboro. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Alma Lord, his father, Stephen Tracy, and paternal grandparents Lionel and Martha Tracy. In addition, Alex is survived by several aunts, uncles and cousins. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of his life will take place on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 1:30 p.m., at the Community Bible Chapel, 107 Atwood St., Brattleboro.

• **Colleen (Caccivio) Murphy, 88**, of Brattleboro. Died suddenly on Oct. 24, 2023. Born in Plainfield, Vermont, she lived her early years in Barre before moving to Brattleboro with her family in 1951, where she graduated from St. Michael's High School in 1953. She will be remembered as a loving wife, wonderful mother, doting grandmother, and all around generous and thoughtful person. After high school, Colleen worked at the Grand Union where she met the love of her life, Sylvester Murphy, who was a recent emigrant from Ireland. After their wedding in the summer of 1958, Colleen began married life as a military wife. While her husband was stationed in New London, Connecticut, she stayed in Brattleboro and attended Thompson School for Practical Nursing, obtaining her LPN and working in pediatrics at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Beginning in 1961, their Navy travels took them to South Carolina, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and ultimately back to Brattleboro. Her husband Sylvester remembers her being a strong and capable person — a real "trouper" — raising three children, taking care of the household, finances, and managing their family life alone while he would be out to sea for up to three months at a time. After settling back in Brattleboro, Colleen worked for Chomerics, the Putney Nursery, and the Brattleboro Retreat where she worked for more than 25 years and was known for being a joyful co-worker, always upbeat and positive, decorating her office for every holiday and celebration during the year. On Easter in 2015, Colleen and Sylvester renewed their vows at home with their children and grandchildren bearing witness and their daughter Sharon officiating. She enjoyed spending time with her family, especially supporting her grandchildren in all their endeavors from school sporting events, music concerts and plays, to ballet performances. She loved doing Crosswords and jigsaw puzzles, listening to jazz (Louis Armstrong being her favorite) and gardening. She was a avid Red Sox fan, supporting her favorite player David "Big Papi" Ortiz. She had fun on her trips to the casino with her husband and other family members, especially her sister-in-law, June. Colleen loved doing little things for people, and would always greet you with a smile and handshake or hug. She will be missed by neighbors with whom she would share newspapers and magazines with, or make rhubarb pies and breads for, or corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick's day. She always had dog biscuits on hand for her furry friends. Her friends at the bank remember her fondly for her Irish Soda Bread and cards on St. Patrick's Day, and always greeting them by name as she insisted on doing all her business face-to-face. Her parents, Iglie and Pauline (Wright) Caccivio, along with two of her children — Michael, her infant son who died at birth, and her daughter Kerry, who died at the age of 26 — are buried in St. Michael's Cemetery up the street from her home, where she often took walks to visit loved ones. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Sylvester Murphy; two daughters, Sharon Lessard of Framingham, Massachusetts, and Kelli Harrison and her husband Ken of Zachary, Louisiana; granddaughters Samantha (Harrison) Arriaga and her husband Rob, Kasey Harrison, Nia Lessard, and Kaitlin Pouliot (daughter of Kerry); and her two sisters, Veglia Derosia and Karen Larose and her husband, Henry. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of life will be held at the VFW in Brattleboro on Sunday, Nov. 12, from noon to 4 p.m. Graveside services will be conducted in the spring. Donations to the Women's Freedom Center in Brattleboro ([womensfreedomcenter.net](https://www.womensfreedomcenter.net)).

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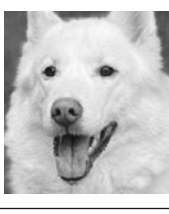
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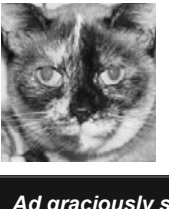
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Hi, my name is **Ghost!** I came in when my owner was no longer able to care for me. I have a lot of energy and loves to be outside. I have lived with cats and may be able to live with a dog savvy cat with a slow intro. I would do best in a home without any other dogs. I would do best in a home with kids 13+. Please come by and meet with me.



Baloo is a Chiweenie. He has lived with other dogs before and should be able to live with them with a slow intro. He may be able to live with cats, but it is unknown. He can be nervous, so if you have kids they should be older and respectful. He would need help with housebreaking and leash walking. He seems to be more of a couch potato and he loves laying on your lap.



Hello world, I'm the gorgeous **Fiona!** I'm a bit timid, but I'm sweet and snuggly once I'm comfortable. I have lived with other cats before so a slow introduction would be great! Dogs and kids will probably be intimidating to me as well so introductions should be done slowly. Come take me home and make me the happiest girl alive!

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Trowbridge

FROM SECTION FRONT

dug into the challenge, updating their equipment and training municipal personnel on how to operate online videoconferencing programs such as Zoom. “I think that gave a lot of sense of security to people who feel like their governmental transparency might have slipped away with the move to virtual,” she said.

With a goal to be the best

“We’re always trying to improve on what we’ve done from one production to the next, and that keeps things interesting,” Trowbridge said.

From 2009 to 2022, BCTV was recognized with 18 national and nine regional awards.

When asked about the awards BCTV has brought home, several current and former staff members smiled.

She won’t admit this, they whispered, but Trowbridge is more than a little competitive.

And determined, and hard-working, and holds herself to high standards, they continued. They said that Trowbridge would often be the first to arrive in the morning and last to leave at night.

Trowbridge thought about process a lot. She developed checklists and project management processes, and held a debrief after every production.

The consensus of the staff members: All of this was good — their boss wanted BCTV to be the undisputed best.

When Trowbridge told former Operations Manager Vlasta Popelka that she would also be retiring in December, the former colleagues joked that their boss timed it so Popelka could retain her record as BCTV’s longest employee.

For folks doing the math at home, Popelka worked at the station for 18 years and one month. Trowbridge will leave slightly short of 18 years.

“We had a good understanding and working relationship because we both knew the other would do anything for the well-being of BCTV,” Popelka said.

They worked together for 14 years together at the station before Popelka retired three years ago.

Popelka admired Trowbridge as a quick study. She described her former boss as coming to BCTV with a high level of administrative experience — but with zip for technical knowledge.

But she quickly learned how to operate a television station.

Along the way, Trowbridge maintained a very dry sense of humor and would unexpectedly drop a joke or funny line, leaving everyone in stitches, Popelka said.

She retains fond memories of the esprit de corps that Trowbridge cultivated at BCTV. One example: the station’s Halloween parties, with costumes absolutely required. Every employee also received a birthday party, Popelka said, and even if Trowbridge herself left the party early to return to her work, she would never tell employees that the party would need to end.

“Have you heard about the ball of Saran Wrap?” asked Production Manager Nolan Edgar.

Every Christmas party, Trowbridge would assemble a basketball-sized wad of plastic wrap with prizes and trinkets jammed between the layers, with a big prize at the center.

One person would wear oven mitts, with a goal of ripping off as many layers of the wrap before another player rolling dice would roll a double.

“There’s a little bit of a prankster in her,” Edgar said.

Looking forward, thanks to Cor

“She wanted BCTV to be the best station in Vermont,” said Helena Leschuk.

Leschuk, who succeeded Popelka, is calm for an operations manager in the throes of planning an annual event such as BCTV’s Producers Party, preparing to say goodbye to her boss, and soon welcoming a new executive director.

She attributed her calm to the planning skills of Trowbridge, who leaves the staff in a good space and who has empowered them to a level where they can operate the station on their own if necessary.

Leschuk knows that the staff can’t bottle Cor Trowbridge and that the next executive director will have big shoes to fill. Still, she said, she and her coworkers are ready. They’re looking forward to new energy and vision.

Trowbridge brought dedication to every production, regardless of size or topic, she said. Leschuk said that Trowbridge would treat a graduation with as much importance as an Annual Town Meeting.

Quality control was paramount, and no piece of feedback was too small, Leschuk continued.

“Cor had no fear and carried

no ego around appearing stupid, her willingness to learn was that deep,” she said.

Leschuk said Trowbridge has maintained long relationships with community members, BCTV staff, and volunteers, fostering strong community ties.

The downside: Trowbridge spent long hours at the station, she said.

“Without Cor, there would be no BCTV. Or at least not this one,” she said.

Public access media centers like BCTV are important to a community’s history and civic life, Content Manager Van Wile said.

On the civic side, the station provides “gavel meeting coverage,” he said, quoting a phrase often used by Trowbridge. This coverage provides communities with easy access to their government’s decisions.

On the history side, every time a BCTV producer turns on a camera, they are documenting the community’s history, said Wile, who has spent the past couple of weeks combing the station’s photo archive. The photos of Trowbridge outline the scope of her work.

“It’s awe-inspiring to see this succession of great successes and small little moments,” he said.

Prior to taking the position of AV multimedia manager at the Vermont Law School, Brian Bashaw worked four years at BCTV, which produces work as good as, if not better than, stations with more staff and bigger budgets, he said.

Trowbridge’s attention to detail elevated BCTV’s productions, which in many cases are being made by amateurs, Bashaw said.

Her dedication raised Bashaw’s own quality-control bar, and he said that as a result, he gives projects more attention than he did prior to his days at BCTV.

Public access television has the reputation of being low quality, Bashaw said, adding that for most people, the genre conjures up memories of the “Wayne’s World” skits on *Saturday Night Live*.

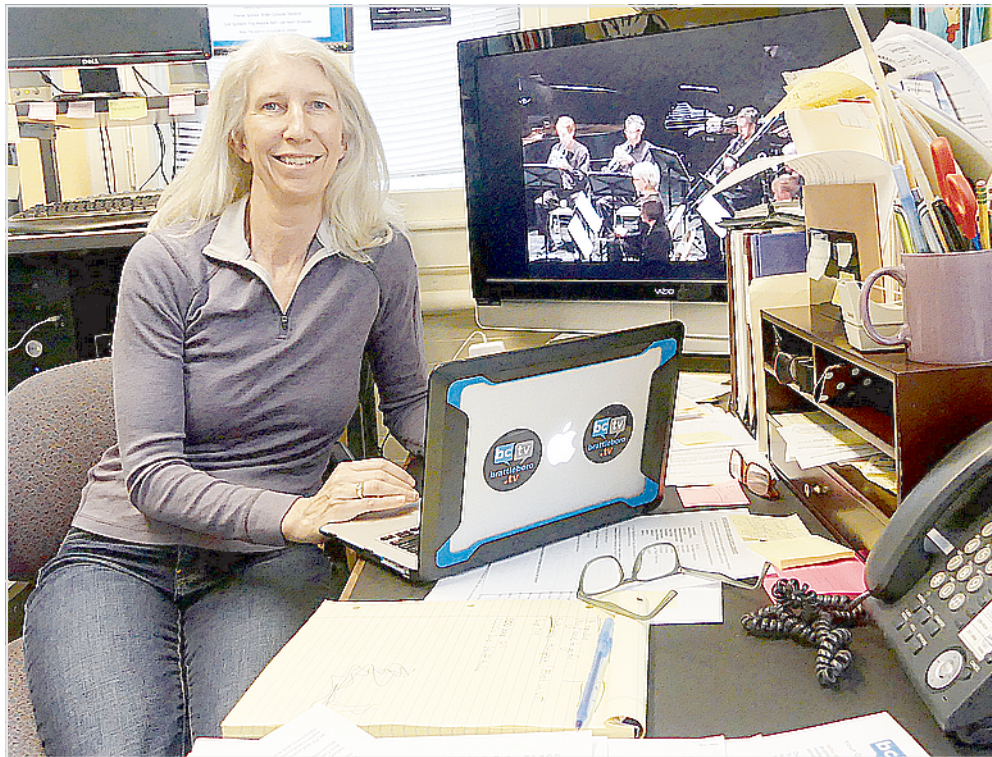
Trowbridge helped tip that stigma on its head, he said.

Other people’s potential

Trowbridge puts a lot of trust in her staff and provides a lot of support, Edgar said, citing her keen eye for seeing other people’s potential.

Amid the chaos of broadcasting, Trowbridge has “definitely been the figure in my life that’s been there and been strong and been supportive.”

Wile, who joined BCTV last



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT COMMONS FILE PHOTO

BCTV Executive Director Cor Trowbridge in her office in the Brattleboro Municipal Center.

year, said his first assignment in the field was Landmark College’s winter graduation. Trowbridge took the time to prepare him and build his confidence.

“Instantly, I knew I was in a place to develop and learn skills,” Wile said.

“Cor is one of the most unique bosses I’ve ever worked with,” Edgar said of Trowbridge, who has encouraged his professional development.

Edgar began his career at BCTV as a high school intern managing equipment inventory and helping with the first studio rebuild. Trowbridge then asked him to become a counselor for BCTV’s annual summer camp. Later, he was hired as a staff producer, overseeing the recording of Selectboard meetings.

Next came five years as the station’s content manager. After Brian Bashaw left, Trowbridge urged Edgar to apply for the position.

Two years ago, Trowbridge emailed Jeff Mastroianni a help wanted ad seeking an executive director for E-Media (Easthampton Media) in Massachusetts. She added a note telling him it was time for him to take over his own ship.

Professionally, she’s one of the best executive directors in community media, said Mastroianni, who started at BCTV as a paid producer filming school board meetings. In 2012, he took the full-time content manager position, which he held for five years.

“I could only hope to be half the E.D. that she is,” said Mastroianni, who still counts



COURTESY PHOTO

Cor Trowbridge, far right, with current and former BCTV staff, celebrate winning the 2023 Hometown Media Award from the Alliance for Community Media in June 2023 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

on Trowbridge for professional advice.

“BCTV will always be my home,” he said. “I hope they will continue to inspire people to create media.”

Not able to capture lighting in a bottle

Lauren-Glenn Davitian, public policy director of the public access CCTV Center for Media & Democracy in Burlington, spoke highly of Trowbridge’s accomplishments.

“Cor Trowbridge inherited a spirited public access TV channel and turned it into a nationally recognized community media center,” she wrote in an email. “Cor’s focus, diligence and love for her

community have opened media-making opportunities for people of all ages in Brattleboro. Cor has invested her heart and soul into this important work and built a legacy that will sustain BCTV for years to come.”

Alex Beck, who has served on the station’s board for six years and has been president since 2021, likes to tease Trowbridge. When the time comes to hang her photo among those of the station’s former executive directors, he threatens to use the one where she dressed as Doc from *Back to the Future*.

Beck describes Trowbridge as a fierce advocate for the station, especially when negotiating contracts with the state, cable

companies, and Comcast.

He believes BCTV is the first station in Vermont to broadcast in HD. It was an upgrade years in the making and required a channel number change with Comcast.

“She is dogged in her pursuit,” Beck said, making particular note of Trowbridge’s leadership of the station during the pandemic.

Beck explained that the station’s primary audience is people who can’t attend meetings, for example, because they are homebound. During Covid, however, everyone became homebound. Trowbridge positioned the station and staff to deliver on the station’s mission in a completely new way.

“Trowbridge made the job of board president easy,” he said. “All the staff punch above their weight.”

She wouldn’t leave now if she weren’t leaving the station better than she found it, Beck said.

Trowbridge was bold in her saying “yes” to the community.

“Because Cor said yes, the community has things like Harris Hill and graduations [broadcast on BCTV],” he said.

A sabbatical, and the next act

Trowbridge may be stepping away from BCTV mid-December, but don’t confuse this move for retirement.

After the sudden death of her husband two years ago, she said she needs a break to reassess. She anticipates using the winter and spring to connect with family and maybe travel or volunteer. If she’s ready to start looking for her next career, the hunt will begin in autumn.

To her potential replacement, she said, the station is stable, steady, and ready for new leadership. (Yes — the lead she wanted for this story.)

“And that wasn’t the case when I took over,” she continued. “That is 100% the case right now — we have great staff. We have a great board. The equipment is good. Finances are as stable as they can be for what we are.”

And, she says, “the community support is tremendous.”

“So you know, that part feels really good,” Trowbridge said. “And, you know, big picture, that’s an accomplishment.”

The public is invited to BCTV’s annual Producers Party, on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 6 p.m., at the Stone Church in Brattleboro. The event will celebrate Trowbridge’s contributions to BCTV and include an awards ceremony to recognize the work of local producers.

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Farming, family, and food for their neighbors

Pete's Stand, honored for stewardship of the land, farms on soil with a storied heritage — and, with this year's flooding, a worrisome future

By Robert F. Smith
The Commons

WALPOLE, N.H.—Pete's Stand, a third-generation vegetable farm and farmstand owned and operated by Teresa and John Janiszyn, has been awarded the 2023 Cooperator of the Year by the Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS).

The award is intended to honor the efforts of the farmer "to steward the natural resources on their land in cooperation with the Conservation District and the NCRS," according to the Conservation District. The CCCD says it "promotes the conservation and responsible use of natural and agricultural resources for the people of Cheshire County by providing technical, financial, and educational assistance."

The farm and stand date back more than 50 years. It was first operated by John's grandfather, Pete Janiszyn, who gave the stand

its name, and then his father, Mike Janiszyn.

Farming has been a long family tradition, dating back to Pete's parents and beyond. Pete was a first-generation American, with farming family roots in Ukraine, and Ukrainian flags adorn the farmstead. He moved to the Walpole area from Massachusetts and began farming in the 1940s.

The Janiszyns own 7.5 acres that they bought in 2020, and they lease another 50 on both the New Hampshire and Vermont sides of the river in Walpole and Westminster, respectively, for their farming operation. Crop rotation is part of their conservation strategy, and they also grow vegetables in two high tunnel greenhouses.

The farm and stand operate from mid-May to mid-December, employing approximately eight regular full- and part-time employees, including stand manager Hannah Dutille. During the growing season, that number swells to as many as 14 people,

both in the fields and at the farmstand.

About 20 acres of their fields, including the parcel of land they own, lie in flood plains on both sides of the Connecticut River, and they had 18 acres dramatically affected by July's flooding.

"Much of the flooded land we replanted in cover crops," Teresa said. "Some of the crops would have been safe to harvest, but most of that died off anyway."

Looking ahead, she said, farmers, especially those in flood plains like theirs, will have to plan and prepare for "more and more extreme weather events."

They lost fields full of pumpkins, winter squash, tomatoes, peppers, and more, as the contaminated crops were not harvestable for consumption. They were able to replant some of the fields, but they had to look for support from several other farms for some of the vegetables for their farmstand.

The Janiszyns produce a wide variety of vegetables themselves,



ROBERT F. SMITH/THE COMMONS

John and Teresa Janiszyn, owners and operators of Pete's Stand on Route 12 in Walpole, New Hampshire, have been awarded the 2023 Cooperator of the Year by the Cheshire County Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

and they work with dozens of other local farms to stock their stand, including at least eight different farms that provide them meat and approximately 20 farms that are cheese suppliers.

These relationships have become even more important with the addition in 2020 of a new farmstand building with electricity, refrigeration, and freezers. The new building has allowed Pete's Stand to lengthen its operating year, and it has made the family able to help support some 45 to 50 other growers and producers in the region.

Boosting local producers

Pete's Stand has become a major player in supporting local up-and-coming farmers, meat and cheese producers, and specialty product producers such as bakers.

John began working on the farm in 2001 after he graduated from Southern Maine Technical College. Teresa moved to the area from Indiana in 2006 as a teacher, with degrees in history and special education, and began working at the farm in 2007. The couple has been together pretty much since then, marrying in 2009.

Their three children, ages 5,

10 and 13, have all helped work in the fields and at the stand. Between their own household and Teresa's background in teaching, they have a deep, personal appreciation for connecting kids to farms.

The Janiszyns have been strong supporters of Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (WNEU) Nutrition Director Harley Sterling and his local food and nutrition initiatives. Sterling incorporates as much locally grown food as possible into the supervisory union's school lunch programs, and the Janiszyns have played a key role in that.

In addition to supplying food for the lunch programs, the Janiszyns have groups of adults and students visit their fields and farmstand to help educate them about where good, nutritious food comes from.

In addition, the farm sells and donates food to numerous food banks. In 2022, the family donated more than 40,000 pounds of food to organizations like the Fall Mountain Food Shelf, Community Kitchen in Keene, Willing Hands of the Upper Valley in both New Hampshire and Vermont, and to local schools.

Pete's Stand also works

with the Granite State Market Match program, which allows low-income shoppers who use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to double their dollars. For each dollar they spend, they get another dollar to use buying fruits and vegetables.

The stand does the most GSMM sales of any farm in Cheshire County, with more than 1,200 customer transactions totaling about \$9,000 in additional dollars spent on fresh fruits and vegetables in 2022.

In addition, the Janiszyns sell food in bulk at very reasonable prices for canning, pickling and winter storage.

A long tradition of farming

Farming on the Walpole Flats is a tradition dating back for millennia, and the Janiszyns understand and appreciate that fact, recognizing the heritage of the valley flood plains along the Connecticut River that they mainly farm. These naturally open, unforested fields, which stretch the entire length of the Connecticut River Valley with rich, deep topsoil, have been prized for agriculture for thousands of years.

The Janiszyns frequently find oxen shoes and horseshoes in the fields, artifacts of farmers cultivating crops there in Colonial times.

The farmstand also sits in the middle of a long-used Native Abenaki village and farming site as well.

Over the years the family has discovered numerous Native artifacts, including pottery, stone ax heads, and dozens of arrowheads, some that archeologists have dated back at least 5,000 years.

With a complex operation like what Pete's Stand has grown into, farm life can be all consuming.

"The farm becomes everything," said Teresa, "Your social life, your family life, your work."

"And your dreams and your nightmares," John added, laughing.

Teresa said she has recently taken a position as an administrative assistant at WNEU in order to get a needed break from the farm.

"You have to learn to keep part of yourself for yourself," she said.

The Cheshire County Conservation District will be celebrating Pete's Stand's award at its annual celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Stonewall Farm in Keene, New Hampshire. The event will feature live local music, dinner, and a silent auction. More details can be found at [celebrateCCCD.com](https://www.celebrateCCCD.com).

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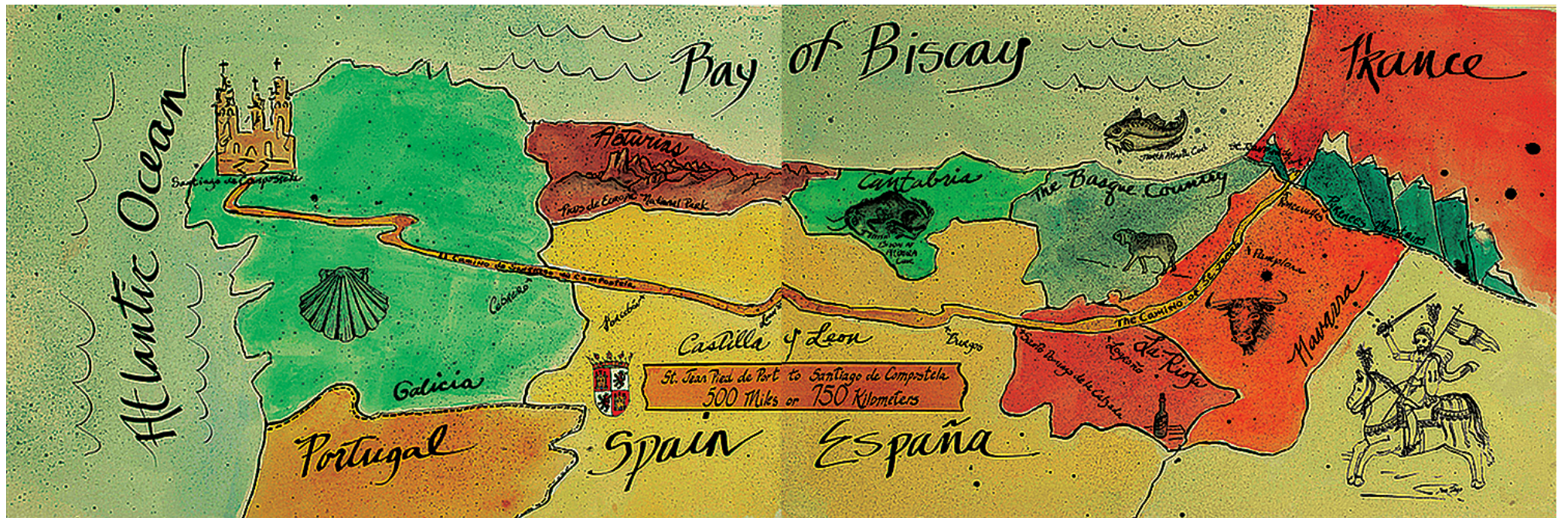
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COLUMN | Arts Notebook



An illustration by Kate Spencer of the route of the Camino de Santiago (Road of St. James), the popular pilgrimage trail which stretches from St. Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela near the coast of Galicia in Spain.

Kate Spencer, a former Brattleboro music store owner, turns her creative spark to a children's book about the Camino de Santiago in Spain — in a story based on her family's real-life encounter with a cat on the historic pilgrimage trail

a CAT'S tale

EVEN A DOG PERSON who'd shoo a cat goodbye would be hard put to resist Don Pedro Pepito, the orange tabby at the center of Kate Spencer's children's book, *The Cat Who Walked the Camino*, released in September.



ANNIE LANDENBERGER is an arts writer and columnist for The Commons. She remains involved with the Rock River Players, the community theater that she founded and directed for years. She also is one half of the musical duo Bard Owl, with partner T. Breeze Verdant.

The writer, illustrator, and independent publisher, who has lived over the border in Montague, Massachusetts for decades, might best be remembered locally for traveling north daily to run her Brattleboro store, Maple Leaf Music, for 33 years before selling the now-defunct business in 2012.

A native of Montana, Spencer's life in music began when she was studying anthropology at Boston University, where she hung out among up-and-coming musicians before starting a banjo-crafting business with Mark Surgies. In time, she left that enterprise to open Maple Leaf, the last holdout of several music stores Brattleboro had once boasted.

On the other hand, her life in fine art started young. Plying art for as long as she can remember, Spencer was never schooled in it.

"My father wouldn't let me go to art school: He said I couldn't make a living at it," she said.

Though she's perennially found in art workshops and classes, art for Spencer was more an avocation than anything else.

Once she sold Maple Leaf, though, she started to paint more regularly. A member of Oxbow Gallery in Easthampton, Massachusetts, she has a show there once every 18 months, the next coming up in June 2024.

AFTER SPENCER'S daughter, Susannah, graduated from college as a Spanish major, she taught English in Spain for four years. Spencer had engaged in studying Spanish, too, and had learned a great deal about the Camino de Santiago (Road of St. James), the popular pilgrimage trail that stretches from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in France to Santiago de Compostela near the coast of

Galicia in Spain.

On one of the trips to visit Susannah, Spencer and her husband, Geoffrey Branch, travelled the Camino, which, Spencer points out, "is not just one route. It's a whole web that always ends up at Santiago."

"The Camino is very personal," she adds. "It's different for everybody."

Some walk the full 500 miles at once; others do so over several years. Some mix motor transport in, too, as Spencer did. Some pilgrims are on the Camino for spiritual reasons; others, for adventure and fun. Some make the journey simply for good exercise; others, as history buffs.

"We were traveling to San Sebastian near the beginning of their route," said Spencer. "My

daughter was in the back seat whining that she'd seen a kitten. We stopped the car and opened the door; out of pitch darkness, the kitty jumped right into my daughter's arms. We learned that he'd arrived with pilgrims a few days earlier having accompanied various clusters of foot-travelers along the way."

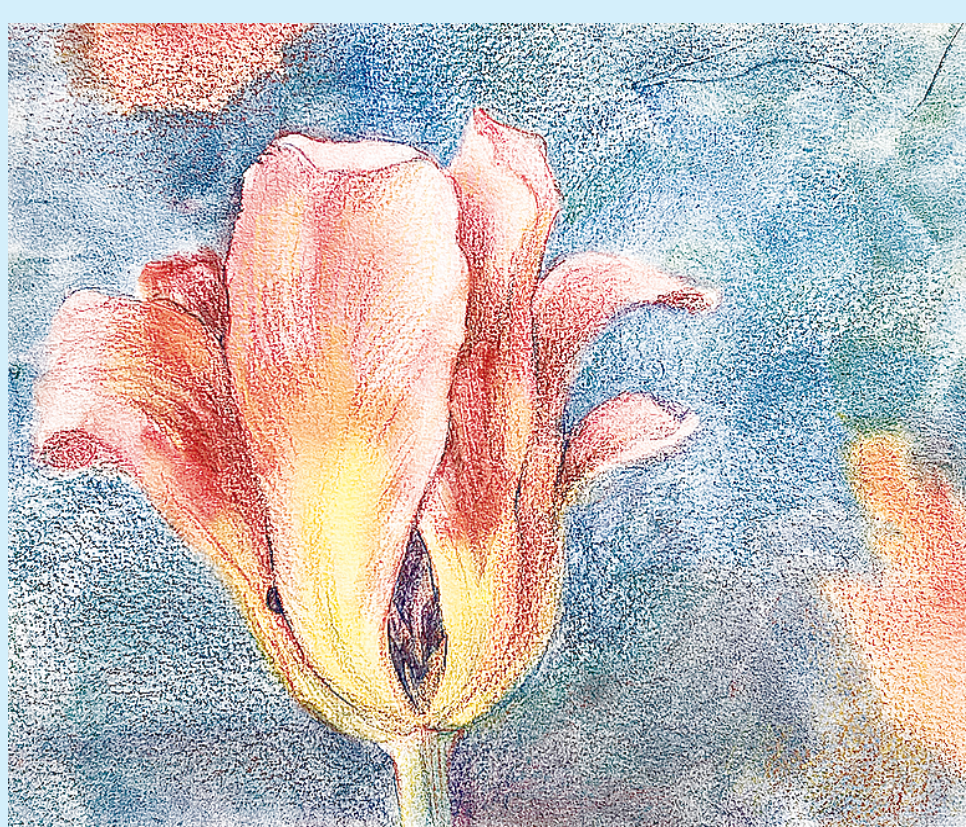
The host at their bed and breakfast said the cat would follow travelers for stretches at a time, waiting outside while they went into restaurants and rejoining them when they resumed.

"We fed him leftover steak and wrapped him in a wool scarf so he would be warm at night," Spencer writes on the book's back cover. "My husband named him Don Pedro

■ SEE CAMINO, B4



An illustration of Don Pedro Pepito, the lead feline character of "The Cat who Walked the Camino" by Kate Spencer.



A watercolor pencil drawing of tulips by Lynn Zimmerman.

Watercolor pencil workshop offered in Bellows Falls

SAXTONS RIVER—The Saxtons River Art Guild announces a one-day workshop on using watercolor pencils, given by Lynn Zimmerman, on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School St., from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Participants can bring their own set of watercolor pencils; however, all high-quality tools and materials will be supplied. A list of suggested supplies will be sent upon registration. Artists of any level are welcome.

By the end of the class, students will have completed a reference book of the ways these tools can be used.

Zimmerman studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine

Art and the Rhode Island School of Design. She has worked as a graphic designer and illustrator for more than 30 years. Zimmerman offers instruction in watercolor, oil, and gouache painting as well as drawing, book arts, and collage. Her emphasis is on gently supporting each student along their creative journey.

The workshop fee is \$70 for SRAG members and \$90 for nonmembers. There will be coffee and tea available. Participants should bring a lunch.

To register for the workshop, email Carolyn Burgland at poohbear@ne.rr.com. Masks and COVID-19 vaccinations are required to attend the SRAG workshops.

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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY

2

THURSDAY CONT.

- ▶ 4 p.m. Free.
- ▶ Zoom. Information: Sign up: tinyurl.com/3d9ar556.

Community building

BRATTLEBORO Got Books? Donate them to the Friends of the Library Holiday Book Sale! Books need to be in good condition! (no mold, stains, tears, highlights) and contain up-to-date information! (no textbooks). Book sale will be on November 9.

- ▶ Please bring your donations to the Adult Circulation desk on the 1st floor of the library.
- ▶ Through Thursday, November 9.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brookslibraryvt.org.

GUILFORD TOWN of Guilford's Planning Commission: "Preserving Guilford's Character: What are our tools?" (In Person/Zoom): Talk will be given by Matt Bachler, Senior Planner at the Windham Regional Commission.

- ▶ 6:30 - 8 p.m.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: Visit [guilfordvt.gov](https://www.guilfordvt.gov) for a Zoom link.

BRATTLEBORO GunSense VT: Candlelight Vigil: In support of the people of Lewiston, Maine, banning assault weapons and passing common sense legislation to save innocent lives. This is one of several vigils that are planned for 11/2 around the State. Local GunSense VT volunteers who are organizing the vigil encourage everyone to join in this show of support. Bring a candle or just yourself. Candles will be available.

- ▶ 5-6 p.m. GunSense Vermont is a grass roots, non-partisan organization working to ensure that all Vermonters are free from gun violence. It's part of a growing movement nationwide to stem the gun violence epidemic. As GunSense VT board member Laura Subin, whose daughter was in lockdown at Bates College in Lewiston last week, said, "The chilling proximity of the tragedy in Maine shatters any illusion of safety we might have previously felt here in VT. It's a harrowing reminder that no community is immune to this sort of heartache."
- ▶ Piny Park, Corner Main & High St. Information: More information: mel@gunsensevt.org.

Ceremonies and memorials

TOWNSHEND Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos): Traditional Mexican holiday where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for remembrance/celebration. Graves & Ofrendas (altars) are decorated to honor beloved family members that have passed with bright marigolds, photos of the departed and their favorite foods/drinks. Offerings are believed to encourage visits from the land of the dead as the departed souls hear their prayers, smell their foods and join in the celebrations.

- ▶ 6 p.m. Ofrendas are set up to display your photos of loved ones, luminarias around/throughout the cemetery, craft table for kids, snacks & warm drinks, music and more. If you have loved ones buried at Oakwood Cemetery, you are encouraged to decorate their graves, bringing offerings of food, drink and or objects that were meaningful to them.
- ▶ No charge.
- ▶ Townshend Town Hall, 2006 Rte. 30. More information: OAKWOOD Day of the Dead on Facebook. Contact Ellenka with questions: 802-365-7300x1 or ellenka@gmail.com.

Kids and families

BRATTLEBORO Little Explorers Nature Walks (for children ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers): Join us on a series of walks with Lisa Blake within the seen and unseen worlds of nature. We'll explore and be curious together, engaging in emergent discovery, wonder and play. We'll also enjoy a seasonal song, story, or craft. Dress for the weather!

- ▶ 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Nature Walk repeats 11/9.
- ▶ No one turned away for lack of funds. Family program suggested fee - Non-members: \$15, BEEC members \$10 per session.
- ▶ Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1221 Bonnyvale Rd. Information: [BEEC.org](https://www.beeec.org), 802-257-5785.

Well-being

Brattleboro Community Meeting on Health Care (Virtual/Zoom/Phone Option): During these community conversations, meeting attendees will have a chance to share their first-hand experiences with navigating the health care system - what is going well, what do you want to see more of, what changes could make it easier to get the care you need at an affordable price? Make your voice heard by signing up for these meetings.

To submit your event: calendar@commonsnews.org

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

FRIDAY

3

Music

PUTNEY Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present The Clements Brothers and Genevieve Racette (In Person/Livestream): Contemporary folk music.

- ▶ 7:30 p.m. Next Stage provides a beer, wine, cocktail cash bar.
- ▶ \$20 in advance, \$25 at door, \$10 livestream.
- ▶ Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: Advance tickets: nextstagearts.org, Information: 802-387-0102.

BRATTLEBORO Vermont Jazz Center - 6th Annual Emerging Artist Festival featuring Lakacia Benjamin as Headliner (In-Person/Livestream): "Equally melodic and assertive, Benjamin's sound feels rooted in tradition, yet broad enough to encompass R&B and Latin music; its pronounced funk suggests allegiances to hip-hop and dance."

- ▶ Marcus J. Moore, The New York Times. Lakacia Benjamin Quartet concert. "In our current social and political climate, we need music to heal the soul. Music is a reflection of our times." - Lakacia Benjamin. Video: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9pp5p6>
- ▶ 11/3, 5-8 p.m.: Student performances part of Gallery Walk at 118 Elliot St., Brattleboro (no reservations required).
- ▶ 11/4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.: Student performances. 4 p.m.: Clinic w/ Lakacia Benjamin at Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, #222, Brattleboro. 11/4, 7:30 p.m. Lakacia Benjamin in concert.
- ▶ Through Saturday, November 4.
- ▶ Concert tickets for adults on the VJC website (sliding scale: \$25-\$60). Benjamin's concert will also be livestreamed.
- ▶ Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, #222. Information: 802-254-9088; vtjazz.org.

Kids and families

BRATTLEBORO NECCA's Circus Workshop Weekend: International Roster of Artists & Educators for Events & Performances and 40+ Workshops for Students, Beginners to Advanced. 11/3, 7 p.m.: Opening is a story-telling and photo exhibit - Gather Round: Stories & Images of the Circus showcasing intersection between circus, theater, art. 11/4: Ten NECCA alumni teach/perform in 3rd annual cabaret-style Alumni Showcase, 7-9 p.m., from circus stages worldwide i.e., Cirque du Soleil, The 7 Fingers, Troupe Vertigo.

- ▶ Events take place at two NECCA locations: Cotton Mill and Trapezium. Weekend includes over 40 workshops for beginner through advanced practitioners and closes with open-mic performance Beta Night on 11/5 at 7 p.m.
- ▶ Through Sunday, November 5.
- ▶ Varies.
- ▶ New England Center for Circus Arts (Trapezium), 10 Town Crier Dr. Information: Tickets and information: circusschool.org, 802-254-9780.

Tag sales, auctions, bazaars

BRATTLEBORO Phil & Mary Dunham Ski, Skate, Snowboard & Hockey Equipment Sale: Snowboards, skis, poles, bindings (both downhill and cross country), ski boots, skates, miscellaneous winter items, winter clothing, and hockey equipment. Up to 20 items per person will be accepted. Please note that all sales are final, buy at your own risk. Event is co-sponsored by the Brattleboro Outing Club.

- ▶ Bring in items Friday, 11/3, 12 noon-7 p.m. (no other day or time). Actual Sale is on Saturday, 11/4, 8-11 a.m. Pick up Money/Items on Monday, 11/06, 12 noon-6 p.m.
- ▶ Through Monday, November 6.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Gibson-Aiken Center, 207 Main St. Information: 802-254-5808; brattleboro.org.

Visual arts and shows

BRATTLEBORO Painter Julia Volodina Featured Artist at Latchis Gallery: Beginning with gala opening during Gallery Walk, painter Julia Volodina will be the Featured Artist in the Latchis Gallery, from portraits steeped in tradition, to original landscapes and traditional realism, to abstract designs blazing with color, form and individuality, Volodina presents an abundance of styles and unique visions. Her watercolor portraits will be a principal offering during this residency.

- ▶ The Latchis Gallery will be transformed into a Pop-up Artist Studio with Volodina often present painting. She'll also invite local artists/musicians to collaborate in improvised artistic creation. (Volodina plans a new series of bold, intriguing abstracts as well as pieces inspired by Downtown Brattleboro and the historic Latchis Hotel & Theater. Exact date of exhibit closing is not known at this time.)
- ▶ Through Thursday, February 1, 2024.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Latchis 4 Gallery, 50 Main St.

SATURDAY

4

Music

NEWFANE 2x2 presents 2-Set Concert: Valerie Kosednar, Mark Rieko, Betsy Riebeck Lynd, and Lee Riebeck Lynd sing in rich harmonies from folk traditions of the world songs of life, love, and hope in many languages and vocal style

- ▶ 7 p.m. The Schoolhouse is an historic building in the center of South Newfane Village, having served as the one-room village elementary school from the mid-1800s until the early 1950s. Voluntary contributions at door will go toward The South Newfane Ramp Project to make this lovely community space accessible to all.
- ▶ Contributions welcome.
- ▶ Old South Newfane Schoolhouse, Auger Hole Rd. and Dover Rd. Information: slevine@svcable.net.

Farmers' markets

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market Opening for 18th Season: Visitors will find plenty of farm/local produce. This location provides convenient parking and a spacious market serving both vendors and customers. Most weeks, visitors will find over two dozen vendors offering fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs, cheese/other farm products, plus bread, yummy treats, great lunches, preserves, beautiful handmade gifts, plus live local music.

- ▶ 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Crocker Hall Gym on Saturdays. SNAP/EBT shoppers can process credit and debit cards. SNAP customers can turn \$10 into \$30 each week with Crop Cash Coupons thanks to NOFA-VT with funding from USDA, and our Boost Your Bread coupons thanks to Post Oil Solutions and VT Foodbank.
- ▶ Through Saturday, March 30, 2024.
- ▶ Winston Prouty Campus, 209 Austine Dr. Information: 802-257-7852.

The written word

Poetry Discussion Group led by Barbara Morrison (via Zoom): "This month we'll discuss the work of Simon J. Ortiz and James Welch. No experience necessary. Copies of the poems provided. First Saturday of each month (always a different poet). No experience necessary; copies of the poems provided."

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

Well-being

BRATTLEBORO The Brattleboro Zen Center In-Person Meditation: This group chants briefly and then sits in silence for a half hour. All are welcome to join this peaceful action, either in-person or from wherever they might be.

- ▶ 1 p.m.-1:35 p.m. on Saturdays.
- ▶ Wells Fountain, south side Windham County District Courthouse, Jct. Putney Rd. & Main St. (Rte 30).

Arts and crafts

BRATTLEBORO Relief Printmaking: Explore relief printmaking in workshop with artist Michael Smoot. This event is presented in connection with the exhibition "Michael Smoot: And to this World".

- ▶ 2 p.m.
- ▶ \$35, \$20 for BMAC members.
- ▶ Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 28 Vernon St. Information: Register: tinyurl.com/y8a8x4ty or call 802-257-0124 x.101.

BELOW FALLS Watercolor Pencils Workshop with Lynn Zimmerman: Sponsored by Saxtons River Art Guild.

- ▶ 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School St. Information: Register: poohbear@ne.r.com.

Multimedia

BRATTLEBORO Closing Reception for "Collaborations": This is a multimedia exhibit by Stu Copans and other local artists.

- ▶ 3 - 5 p.m.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church West Village Meeting House, 29 South St. Information: 802-254-9377; ascvt.org.

Next Stage presents The Clements Brothers, Genevieve Racette on Nov. 3

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present an evening of contemporary folk music with The Clements Brothers and Genevieve Racette at Next Stage on Friday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Québécois folk-pop singer/songwriter Racette has emerged as a rising star in both Québécois- and English-speaking Canadian music scenes. She is currently on her fifth U.S. tour, collaborating with artists such as The Bros. Landreth, Abbie Thomas, and Halley Neal.

Since the release of her first EP in 2014, Racette has steadily gained recognition across Canada and the U.S., winning a Canadian Folk Music Award and earning glowing reviews from major media outlets including *Rolling Stone*, *Exclaim!*, *CBC*, *Women of Americana*, *Americana Music Association*, and *Sirius XM*. Her latest CD, *Satellite*, say organizers, "is a collection of honest stories of self-discovery and reflection through the cycle of love which evoke moments of love, heartbreak, healing, forgiveness, and ultimately falling in love again."

The Clements Brothers are identical twins, guitarist George and acoustic bassist Charles, backed by drummer

Mike Harmon. George and Charles have been playing and writing music together for as long as they can remember, first entering the Americana music scene in 2012 as part of the internationally touring grass-roots band, "The Lonely Heartstring Band." More recently, George played the role of Paul Simon in the national act, *The Simon and Garfunkel Story*, while Charles could often be found on stage with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

"With roots, rock, bluegrass, jazz, and classical music influencing their first original project together, they aim to capture their singer-songwriter sensibilities in a unique blended voice, at once enthralling and intimate, groovy and serene," the artists write on their website. "Their trio is a fusion of each member's musical journey, and the result is a sound all its own, filled with vocal harmonies, instrumental virtuosity, and a genuine love of song."

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Access to the livestream of the concert is \$10. Advance tickets are available at nextstagearts.org. Next Stage, at 15 Kimball Hill, will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For more information, call 802-387-0102.

SUNDAY CONT.

of power and grace in her voice that can shimmer and float to the top."

- ▶ 3 p.m. doors open. 4 p.m. music performance.
- ▶ Tickets range from \$18 to \$45.
- ▶ Bellows Falls Opera House, Town Hall, 7 Square. Information: Tickets: bellowsfallsoperahouse.com.

The written word

BRATTLEBORO Workshop: Poetry and Art from The Poetry Studio: Ann and Tony Gengarely host a poetry-writing workshop that includes illustration and bookmaking.

- ▶ 2 p.m. Space is limited; registration required.
- ▶ \$10, free for BMAC members.
- ▶ Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 28 Vernon St. Information: Register at tinyurl.com/y7mtjpcn or call 802-257-0124 x.101.

Poetry Discussion Group led by Barbara Morrison (via Zoom): "This month we'll discuss the work of Simon J. Ortiz and James Welch. No experience necessary. Copies of the poems provided." First Saturday of each month (always a different poet). No experience necessary; copies of the poems provided."

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

Ideas and education

TOWNSHEND The JFK Assassination - What They Told Me. A Talk with William Holiday: In advance of the publication of his book on the JFK Assassination, William (Bill) Holiday shares what he's learned from eyewitnesses to various aspects of the assassination. "It's a complicated case and this book makes no effort to solve it or suggest the mountain of theories as to who was involved or what motivation he/she/they might have had." It's a collection of what eyewitnesses and researchers told Holiday and his students.

- ▶ 2 p.m. Bill Holiday taught at BUHS for 28 years. Some people in his book are researchers, others doctors who tried to save President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald. One is an ambulance driver, another a 17-year-old young lady in Dealey Plaza on 11/22. 11/22 is the 60th anniversary of JFK's assassination.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Dutton Gym at Leland and Grey Union High School, 2042 VT-30. Sponsored by Historical Society of Windham County and Townshend Historical Society. Calendar of events: historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org.

BRATTLEBORO LEGO Contest & Exhibit Awards Ceremony: Celebrate this year's LEGO Contest & Exhibit winners and marvel at the fantastic creations submitted by contestants of all ages. Prizes for Creativity and Craftsmanship awarded in seven age groups: preschool, grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, adult, and adult/child collaborations. Other prizes awarded at the judges' discretion. Each contestant receives personalized certificate of participation.

- ▶ Entries will be on display at the museum from Thursday, 11/9, through Sunday, 11/12, 10 s.m.-4 p.m. daily.
- ▶ Free admission.
- ▶ Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 28 Vernon St. Information: 802-257-0124; brattleboromuseum.org.

WEDNESDAY

8

Performing arts

W. BRATTLEBORO Theatre Adventure presents "Belonging" (In Person/Livestream): "Belonging" is an original production exploring the wondrous world of red nose clown. It's a show about believing in self and being brave on stage. You are invited to witness the courage, open hearts, joy and generosity that will create a dynamic circle - a heartbeat of connection - between the Clowns and Audience. All Theatre Adventure productions are family friendly, appropriate for children of all ages, and sensory friendly.

- ▶ 11/8 and 11/9: In person at 10:30 a.m. 11/10: In-person and livestream at 7 p.m. Created by Theatre Adventure Thursday troupe in collaboration with Metty Lane, Educator and Clown Artist. Theatre Adventure is a caring and creative community for artists with disabilities to claim the stage with distinction. School groups can purchase online group tickets at reduced rate. Arrange to bring a group to a performance: laura@theatreadventure.org. ASL Interpretation provided for performances (online and in person). Wheelchair accessible.
- ▶ Through Friday, November 10.
- ▶ Tickets sold on our website on a sliding scale starting at \$12.
- ▶ West Village Meeting House, 29 South St. Information: Tickets: theatreadventure.org/tickets.

Kids and families

BRATTLEBORO LEGO Contest & Exhibit Awards Ceremony: Celebrate this year's LEGO Contest & Exhibit winners and marvel at the fantastic creations submitted by contestants of all ages. Prizes for Creativity and Craftsmanship awarded in seven age groups: preschool, grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, adult, and adult/child collaborations. Other prizes awarded at the judges' discretion. Each contestant receives personalized certificate of participation.

- ▶ Entries will be on display at the museum from Thursday, 11/9, through Sunday, 11/12, 10 s.m.-4 p.m. daily.
- ▶ Free admission.
- ▶ Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 28 Vernon St. Information: 802-257-0124; brattleboromuseum.org.

Community building

The State of Vermont's Creative Economy#65279; (Zoom): "Learn more about the state of VT's creative economy and how you can use data to make the case about the crucial role that the creative sector plays in our local economic systems. We'll dig into impact of VT's historic investment in the creative sector through the Creative Futures grant program. We'll share new data from the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 survey, the most comprehensive economic impact study of the nation's nonprofit arts and culture industry."

- ▶ 11 a.m. Presenters: Susan Evans McClure, Exec. Dir., VT Arts Council; Jody Fried, Exec. Dir., Vermont Arts (TBD).
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Zoom. Information: Register: tinyurl.com/bd6fpxre.

Ideas and education

PUTNEY Sheila Garrett's Rail Pass Adventure at Putney Library: Jan. 2023, Amtrak advertised sale on USA Rail Passes. Sheila Garrett bought one: 10 train trips over 30 days to over 500 destinations country-wide requiring lots of planning, specific tickets, 4/26: Sheila left New England traveling 8,000 miles in one month for \$300, visiting friends/family in New Orleans, Albuquerque, LA/coastal CA, Seattle, Whidbey Island. Back through north country

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

bc tv LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Oct. 30-Nov. 5

CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

Here We Are - Willow O'Feral, Filmmaker: Mon 8p, Tues 3:15p, Wed 9a, Thurs 12:0p, Fri 9:30p, Sat 12:15p, Sun 5:15p	Brattleboro Charter Revision Commission Mtg. 10/26/23: Mon 8p, Tues 6:30a, Wed 12p
The World Fusion Show - Ep# 164 - Glen Velez: Mon 5:30p, Tues 11a, Thurs 12:30p, Fri 6:30a, Sat 10:15a, Sun 10p	Putney Selectboard Mtg. 11/1/23: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 12p
Brattleboro Literary Festival - The Beauty of Art - Jill Bialosky & Patrick Bringley: Mon 5p, Tues 12:30p, Wed 9p, Thurs 5:30a, Fri 4:30p, Sat 5p, Sun 6p	Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 11/1/23: Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 5p
Brattleboro Literary Festival - Coffee, Tea, or Cocktails? - Ann Hood & Michael Ruhlman: Mon 12:30p & 8:30p, Tues 9a, Wed 11a, Thurs 1:55p, Fri 7a, Sat 8p, Sun 4p	Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 10/17/23: Tues 6p, Wed 8:15a, Thurs 12p, Sun 7:30p
Brattleboro Literary Festival - Circumstances of Life - Andre Dubus & Mary Beth Keane: Mon 10a, Tues 8p, Wed 3:30p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 12:30p, Sat 10:45a, Sun 1:45p	River Valleys Unified School District Board Special Mtg. 10/23/23: Mon 12p & 6:15p, Tues 5:30a, Wed 2:30p, Sat 11a
Windham World Affairs Council - America & China - From 'Old Friends' to the 'New Cold War': Mon 1:15p, Tues 9:15p, Thurs 9a, Fri 2:55p, Sat 2p, Sun 5:25a	Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board Mtg. 10/23/23: Mon 11:25a, Thurs 8p, Fri 7:55a, Sat 1:55p
Couch Potato Productions - 1st Annual In-Sight Youth Photo Contest & Fair at the Latchis: Wed 12:30p, Thurs 2:45p, Fri 10a, Sat 9p, Sun 12:30p & 7:30p	Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 10/23/23: Tues 4p, Wed 6:15a, Thurs 4:45p
Stained Glass Windows of St. Michaels - Week 8: St. John the Baptist: Mon 6:45a, Tues 9:45a, Thurs 4p, Fri 1:45p, Sat 9a, Sun 8:45p	Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 10/24/23: Thurs 6p, Fri 9:30a, Sat 12p
Stories By Tego - Gilfeather Turnip Festival: Rooted in Wardsboro: Wed 9a, Thurs 10:30a, Fri 10p, Sat 3:30p, Sun 5a	Putney Selectboard Public Hearing on 2023 Draft Town Plan 10/24/23: Wed 4:15p, Thurs 11a & 5:40p, Sat 5p
Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p	Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 10/24/23: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:45a, Fri 11:45a, Sat 2:30p, Sun 6:15a
Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p	Windham Central Supervisory Union Board and Exec. Comm. Retreat 10/25/23: Mon 2:30p, Tues 12:45p, Sat 6p, Sun 8:30a
News Block: WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p Reformer News Break: Mon-Fri 12:05p & 6:05p BUHS-TV News: Mon-Fri 12:15p & 6:35p	Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 10/16/23: Thurs 7p, Fri 8:30a, Sun 1p
St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a	Guilford Selectboard Capital Asset Management Public Mtg. 10/16/23: Wed 8:15p, Thurs 7:30a, Fri 2p, Sun 2:30p
Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 5p	Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 10/17/23: Mon 7p, Tues 10a, Wed 3:30p, Sat 9:15p
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

Note: Schedule subject to change.

View full schedule and watch online at brattleborotv.org

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

Brattleboro Community Television - 257-0888

SUNDAY

5

Music

BELOW FALLS Vermont Symphony Orchestra: "Made in Vermont" with Kat Wright: Performance is part of VSO's 2023 "Made in Vermont Series" highlighting guest artists from Green Mountain State's vibrant indie, folk, and rock scene. Musical favorites played are by Henry Purcell, Manuel De Falla, Astor Piazzolla. And there will be a special guest on stage: VT's sensational soul singer Kat Wright, who has that "balance



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TUESDAY

7

Well-being

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

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

Ideas and education

PUTNEY Sheila Garrett's Rail Pass Adventure at Putney Library: Jan. 2023, Amtrak advertised sale on USA Rail Passes. Sheila Garrett bought one: 10 train trips over 30 days to over 500 destinations country-wide requiring lots of planning, specific tickets, 4/26: Sheila left New England traveling 8,000 miles in one month for \$300, visiting friends/family in New Orleans, Albuquerque, LA/coastal CA, Seattle, Whidbey Island. Back through north country

Circus Workshop Weekend draws international roster of artists, educators

BRATTLEBORO—New England Center for Circus Arts' (NECCA) Circus Workshop Weekend is returning for the first time since the pandemic, Nov. 3-5. The inaugural event was 10 years ago. The weekend will offer space for the circus community to gather for workshops, community events, and performances with participants from New Zealand, England, Canada, and the U.S.

"Brattleboro has become home for American Circus, and NECCA's Circus Workshop Weekend is a celebration of this vibrant community," say organizers.

"Brattleboro won Strongest Town for a reason, and our students not only make Brattleboro a place to call home while they are here to train, it is a place they come back to over and over again, to teach and to perform and to live," NECCA Executive Director Jenna Struble said in a news release.

The opening event on Friday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. is a first-ever storytelling and photo exhibit called "Gather Round: Stories and Images of the Circus," showcasing the intersection between circus, theater, and art. Circus notables, including NECCA co-founders Elsie Smith and Serenity Smith Forchion, will share tales from tours and performances inspired by the theme of Resilience in Circus. Alongside the stories, photographs of circus artists as muses by Jeff Lewis, Evie Lovett, and Michael Poster will be on display.

Ten of NECCA's notable alumni will return to Brattleboro to teach as well as perform in the third annual cabaret-style

"Alumni Showcase" on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 7 and 9 p.m. The roster of performers (see below) demonstrates the talents that NECCA has fostered on circus stages worldwide in companies such as Cirque du Soleil, The 7 Fingers, and Troupe Vertigo.

The weekend closes with NECCA's monthly open-mic performance "Beta Night" on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. This month's prompt is "Inferno: what fires you up? What fuels you? What rises from the ashes?"

Beta Night is a monthly, curated show featuring a variety of acts with the aim of encouraging artistic risk-taking, creativity, art, and play with a welcoming and supportive audience. Each month has a prompt, and performers are free to use as much or as little of it as inspires them. Audiences will see new pieces, old pieces brought back to life, and works in progress.

More than 40 workshops will take place over the course of the weekend, and they are geared toward people new to circus and those looking to deepen their knowledge of a particular discipline. This year there will be a workshop on mental health in circus for educators, led by guest coach and artist Janelle Dinosaurs of Cirque Psych.

NECCA's Alumni Showcase Performers include:
• Jay Clement, a NECCA ProTrack graduate based in Aotearoa (New Zealand), tells theatrical stories through aerial dance on the straps apparatus and co-founded an award-winning circus theatre company, Manubrium Circus Theatre.
• Siblings Ben and Sophie



MICHAEL POSTER

A story-telling and photo exhibit, "Gather Round: Stories & Images of the Circus," will be part of NECCA's Circus Workshop Weekend.

Kaufman, who return to Brattleboro where they grew up in NECCA's Youth Performance Troupe. Ben arrives from London where they are a full-time circus professional specializing in handbalancing and hula hoops. Sophie returns from Boston with an aerial rings act she devised at Esh Circus Arts where she teaches and performs.

• Brooke Locke, who has just jumped ship for a rest from touring with the world renowned 7 Fingers company and returns to NECCA with her solo pole act first created while a student in ProTrack.

• Bailey Scherer, who is a Los Angeles-based circus artist specializing in baton twirling and dance trapeze and has performed

her work across the country, from festivals in San Diego and Las Vegas to classic symphony halls with Troupe Vertigo.

• Chelsea Barrett, a long-time NECCA staff member and ProTrack graduate, who presents a dynamic aerial silks act and is the director of NECCA's next production, the Winter Circus.

• Locksley Maclean, who returns from Northern Ontario, bringing her tight wire act back to NECCA where she graduated in 2021.

• Abigail Felstehausen, a circus artist and stage manager based in Madison, Wisconsin, who is returning to NECCA where she graduated with her high flying aerial lyra act.

• Rachel Rees, who is originally

from New Orleans but currently calls Vermont home when not on tour. Recently, Rachel performed on Virgin Voyages with The 7 Fingers and Kaleidoscope Entertainment. She will be performing her rope number on tour with Cirque Dreams, Holidayze this holiday season.

• Violet Defiant, a multidisciplinary circus artist, specializing in acrobatics and lyric storytelling. She is also a college professor who juggles with her feet.

For workshop and event information, and to purchase show tickets, visit necenterforcircusarts.org.

118 Elliot opens exhibit with new work by four artists

BRATTLEBORO — "Becoming The Landscape," an exhibition of recent large-scale paintings by artists Mary Therese Wright, Tina Olsen, Ellen Maddrey, and John Loggia, will inaugurate a new curatorial partnership among the artists at 118 Elliot. The show opens with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3, and runs through Nov. 26. Gallery hours are by appointment at 118Elliot@gmail.com or calling 802-380-9072.

Mary Therese Wright's artwork and community based projects have been shown throughout the United States since 1989. A lifelong artist, Wright founded Gallery Wright, a brick-and-mortar retail exhibition and teaching space, co-founded Campicasso@, a traveling artist-run organization focused on connecting school-age children through media and creativity, and taught workshops for over 30 years in school systems, artist-run spaces and nonprofits.

Wright has a keen interest in materiality whether painting, printmaking, or metalsmithing. She says her current work is a response to the vibrant colors and dynamic shapes of nature.

After growing up in Springfield, Massachusetts, Tina Olsen traveled widely before moving to New York City, where she taught art at the Walden School and worked for many years therapeutically with the arts at the South Beach Psychiatric Center on Staten Island.

Throughout her life, she says, no matter what else was going on, she maintained a practice of painting for what she calls "therapeutic creative expression." For Olsen, "to experience art is to be

bathed in a cleansing and healing light," she says. She moved to Brattleboro in 2006 to live near her daughter and found a community of artists at the River Gallery School and 118 Elliot. She curated the "Creative Relations" shows at 118.

Ellen Cone Maddrey came to painting later in life after careers as a lawyer, an elementary school teacher, and a parent of three. She explores her feelings through color, texture, and shape. She has traveled widely, including living for three years in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Maddrey says her artistic inspiration is deeply embedded in the mountains and waters of Seattle, her childhood home, and the natural world of Vermont. She currently divides her time between Montclair, New Jersey; Wilmington, Vermont; and Paris, where her eldest daughter lives.

John Loggia has been painting and working in the arts since 1979, when he worked as an artist's assistant to Dan Flavin and other major minimalist artists. He maintained a practice of drawing and painting while working in film as a production designer and producer, most recently on the documentary *Fire Music*, released in 2021.

From 1984 to 2000, Loggia ran a multipurpose art and music space in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. In 2015, John opened 118 Elliot, an arts and education center in Brattleboro that he still runs with his partner. Loggia is also a musician who has played with jazz greats including Daniel Carter, Jeff Lederer, Blaise Siwula and Bonnie Kane, among others.

EOS Project takes audience on a 'journey'

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Music Center's EOS (Educate-Open-Strengthen) Project presents "Journey" on Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Brattleboro Music Center. The 4 p.m. concert will feature compositions, songs, and improvisations of classical, jazz, Aboriginal, and Native American music.

This program follows one musician along a diverse musical journey that has included playing with symphony orchestras, exploring jazz, and performing children's and family music with the RosenShontz duo.

The audience will hear works of composers encountered over the years — including Marjorie Adams, Scott Joplin, Amy Beach, Carlos Nakai, Miles Davis, Cab

Calloway, and Louis Armstrong — and be introduced to the influences of the Native American and Aboriginal musical traditions. The concert will feature an array of instruments, including clarinets, recorders, voice, bass, percussion, piano, and didgeridoo.

Performers include BMC faculty members Bill Shontz, winds and voice; Becky Graber, piano; and Steve Rice, percussion; as well as Vermont Jazz Center faculty member Eugene Uman, piano; and retired Keene State College faculty Don Baldini, bass.

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door; they are available at bmcvt.org, 802-257-4523, or info@bmcvt.org. A limited number of reduced-price tickets are also available.

Klein is featured artist at Harmony Collective

BRATTLEBORO — A new exhibit by Sandy Klein, "Expressions of Repose: the soft retirement of a character maker," opens on Friday, Nov. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m., at the Harmony Collective, 49 Elliot St.

Klein says she has been making dolls for as long as she can remember. As a child, she made yarn and corn dolls, wrapping and folding natural fibers into figures. In her teens she began to sew, making flat but "very groovy stuffed animals," she says. In her 20s and 30s, as an early childhood educator and young mother, she followed Waldorf patterns, but gave each a gentle expression with embroidery thread.

During that time, she also went to art school, where her focus wasn't sewing or doll-making, it was collage. That training influenced her work as New England Youth Theatre's costumer for more than 200 shows. She shifted

both her collage and sewing skills to help young actors create complex characters, using repurposed thrifted and vintage clothing.

In her retirement from costuming, she has begun making dolls inspired by the characters she helped create on stage, using only recycled materials, vintage fabrics, and antique notions.

"These materials bring history and depth to the doll, giving them the same collage-like feel that I tried to give my costumes," says Klein. "I think people feel that sense of depth and history; it makes them want to get to know the doll better, and as they do, a whole backstory and character springs to life."

The Harmony Collective is a group of local artists, working in a variety of media, who are dedicated to creating an artist's first space. Learn more at harmonyartsbrattleboro.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Windham Unit Docket No.: 23-PR-06009
In re ESTATE of: John Chard

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To the Creditors of: John Chard (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: November 1, 2023 c/o Amelia W. L Darrow, Esq.
Kathleen Iger, Executor 209 Austine Drive
Name of Publication: The Commons Brattleboro, VT 05031
Publication Date: October 18, 2023 802-251-6598
adarrow@secrestdarrow.com

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

STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Windham Unit Docket No.: 23-PR-02534
In re ESTATE of: Adam Stark

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To the Creditors of: Adam Stark (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 24, 2023 PO Box 8163
David G. Reid (Resident Agent) Brattleboro, VT 05304

Name of Publication: The Commons
Publication Date: November 1, 2023

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

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SATURDAY 2:15 / 6:45 / 9 PM
SUNDAY 2:15 & 6:45 PM
MON.-THUR. 4 & 6:45 PM

TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR
FRIDAY 7 PM
SATURDAY 3 & 7 PM
SUNDAY 2 & 6:30 PM
THURSDAY 6 PM

HAUNTING IN VENICE PG-13
MON. & TUE. 4 & 6:50 PM

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Oasis for slow time

At The Poetry Studio in Marlboro, young people slow down and learn the unique language of poetry and visual art — and how the two art forms can bring to life ideas, beauty, and hope in a hostile world

By Victoria Chertok
The Commons

MARLBORO—The lead on one recent Reuters story was stark, announcing that dozens of states are suing Meta Platforms and its subsidiary, Instagram, “accusing them of fueling a youth mental health crisis by making their social media platforms addictive.”

Yet despite the reported negative effects of social media on our youth, there is “hope in the midst of these troubling times,” says Ann Gengarely, director and founder of The Poetry Studio at 242 Piney Brook Way.

There are “no computers, no iPhones in The Poetry Studio,” which since 1995 has offered after-school programs and summer workshops where students in kindergarten through grade 8 can engage with poetry, visual art, and bookmaking with a focus on the natural world.

“We hear stories regarding how social media has become harmful to young people,” Gengarely says. “We keep hearing about young people who are anxious and depressed, who feel isolated.”

She calls loneliness “one of the most virulent diseases of our times.”

“In our culture where technology has the possibility of connecting people, it can also become a substitute for real communication, leaving many to feel isolated,” she continues.

“Students who come to The Poetry Studio feel heard — something we all hunger for,” Gengarely adds.

Teaching for decades

Ann Gengarely and her husband, Tony, have worked throughout the U.S., including several years in the Navajo nation. They have one daughter, Laura, and two grandchildren who live in Durham, New Hampshire.

They moved to the area in the 1970s, lived on a farm in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, for 25 years and then moved to Marlboro and have lived there since 1995.

For more than 20 years, Ann Gengarely has taught creative writing classes for adults. She taught poetry in the Marlboro and Dover public schools for decades, and she says she enjoys working with any age and that the adult groups (ages 30 to 75) are very special.

“To have so many different age groups coming together is inspirational,” she says.

Gengarely holds a master’s

degree from Goddard College in creativity and education with an emphasis on poetry in the schools. She received an honorary doctorate for teaching excellence from Marlboro College in 1988.

She has published in numerous poetry and professional journals, including *The Apple Tree Review*, *Literary Cavalcade* (Scholastic Magazines), *The Elementary School Journal* (University of Chicago Press), and others.

Tony Gengarely is a professor emeritus at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. He has taught American civilization, Western art history, literature, political science, modern and decorative art, and museum studies. Since 1999, he has taught art and bookmaking for The Poetry Studio’s summer workshops.

In 2021, the Gengarelys published a book, *Another World: Poetry and Art by Young People from The Poetry Studio* (Luminare Press) — a book that offers the rare privilege to witness voices that amaze, that embody wisdom, that remind us of the beauty in the world.

It begins with reverence

Ann Gengarely begins her workshops purposefully so that the students can slow down.

“In this fast-paced world, The Poetry Studio is an oasis for slow time,” she wrote in *Teachers & Writers Magazine*. “Students are encouraged to pause, to daydream — to sense the energy of the necessary empty space for words and images that might give birth to a poem.”

“Often during our first class I ask the students to consider the word *reverence* and what that word means to them; for some an easier translation is the word *respect*.”

She explains that a rich dialogue often takes place and a list is created about reverence and respect. The list includes: reverence for who we are, for our authentic voices, and for those of our peers; reverence for the natural environment; reverence for The Poetry Studio and the gardens that surround it.

“By establishing the critical nature of reverence, it helps to create a safe environment where students of all ages can write about whatever is begging for a voice,” she says.

“We also discover a depth of grief: grief from feeling isolated; grief about the absence of attention to the environment; grief about the loss of innocence, which ultimately becomes a lament — an urgent plea for adults

to listen,” she adds.

Gengarely said she’d love to “throw the doors of The Poetry Studio open and welcome people of all ages to connect through poetry and art.”

“The reason we do this work is that we want to make a contribution to the world, to give people some hope, ourselves included,” Tony Gengarely elaborates. “As Ann often says, we’re trying to reach people, help them go inward, and allow them to express what they need to write.”

One person who appreciates The Poetry Studio and its approaches is poet Chard deNiord, the Westminster West poet who served as the state’s poet laureate from 2015 to 2019.

“Chard visited The Poetry Studio, saw the students’ poetry and art displayed on the walls, and exclaimed: ‘I have never seen a place like this!’” Gengarely says.

Writing workshop at BMAC

This Sunday, Nov. 5, the Gengarelys invite young people between the ages of 9 and 14 to bring their creativity to a poetry-writing and art-making workshop at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center in Brattleboro.

“It’s always an honor to collaborate with Ann and Tony,” said the museum’s executive director, Danny Lichtenfeld.

“They are a perfect example of why this area is such a great place for kids with creative inclinations to grow up,” he said, calling them “consummate artists, selflessly devoted to nurturing the joys of writing and artmaking among young people.”

In 2016, the Museum offered an exhibition of the students’ work, “Windows to Creative Expression.”

That exhibit introduced the Gengarelys to deNiord, who was invited to write the introductory statement for the show. “He later wrote the forward to our book,” Gengarely says.

More recently, BMAC helped the Gengarelys celebrate publication of *Another World* with student readings and has become a primary supporter of The Poetry Studio.

Ann Gengarely will offer participants a theme to write about and will encourage them to explore the Museum’s exhibitions as a way to discover their own inspiration for writing.

Tony Gengarely will facilitate illustration and bookmaking activities to further enhance the poetry created by each participant. All materials will be provided. The Gengarelys hope to offer



COURTESY PHOTO/THE POETRY STUDIO

Leah Sutton-Smith works on her book at The Poetry Studio.

more workshops at the Museum so that those who can’t get to Marlboro might “discover these profound bonds that the arts invite.”

The ‘unique language of poetry’

“Ann often reads poems aloud written by young people from The Poetry Studio, which is empowering for [the current students] to know that this was written by an 8-year-old,” her husband says.

Ann Gengarely observes that “the unique language of poetry allows emotions and insights to find a voice often denied by ordinary speech. As one student proclaimed, ‘I can write what I cannot speak.’ That sentiment is echoed by many young and old.”

That unique language also allows contemplative focus in an era when the attention spans of children and adults alike have shortened considerably.

“Often people who write about pedagogy claim that children can only focus for one hour,” Gengarely observes. “This fall in my after-school program I have five 8-year-olds; they focus for over two hours, moving seamlessly between poetry and art.”

Working word with image

Tony Gengarely works with the children to come up with illustrations and artwork to accompany their poetry.

“Visual language can be an important starting point for young people,” he says. “They will often begin with a drawing that captures their emotions and then take it with them into the creation of a poem.”

When asked how he feels art informs the writing of poems, he says, “Many times their illustrations will reveal something that the poem has not expressed. Thus, word and image can complement each other to create a

more complete expression for the poet/artist.”

All students love to draw, Gengarely says. “They work word and image back and forth with the poem.”

When students make books in their summer workshops, they use collage applications to create borders and colorful backgrounds for their poetry, he notes.

“We undertake a decorative project that is shared by all,” Gengarely says. “The book thereby adds an important dimension to the students’ work and becomes itself a work of art.”

Are students at all self-conscious about drawing or writing?

“I have not found one student who will not draw, who is totally self-conscious and inhibited,” he says. “There is something about The Poetry Studio — perhaps the psychological safety that is created there — which releases this natural ability.”

For Ann Gengarely, those qualities in the studio and its sense of place offer profound hopefulness.

“As we struggle to understand the current world in which we find ourselves, to develop a moral compass and to deepen compassion, we might discover a ‘well-spring’ very close to home,” in the authentic spirit life of young people,” she says.

“Spending intimate time with poets of all ages, we can lean into hope,” she says — as well as “believing that a more just world is possible. That being ‘awake’ to the self and to the world can be a transformative, healing experience.”

The Poetry Studio’s youth workshop takes place at Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (brattleboromuseum.org), 10 Vernon St., Brattleboro, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5.

Admission is \$10 (free for BMAC members). Space is limited, so registration is required at the museum’s website or by calling 802-257-0124, ext. 101.

For more information on The Poetry Studio and the Gengarelys, visit thepoetrystudiovt.com.

Camino

FROM SECTION FRONT

Pepito and declared that his story needed to be told.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Kate Spencer

SPENCER HAD NOT written anything more than promotional materials for her business, but this project called her: She wanted to encourage children to learn about the centuries-old pilgrims’ trail and to inspire parents and even grandparents to take their kids along it.

She fulfills her intention with a charming episodic story.

“Everything in here is true to what happens on the Camino,” Spencer said.

A colorful picture of the culture, history, and language of Spain, the story of *The Cat* follows Don Pedro Pepito from abandonment to befriending a young woman, Lucia, who’s walking from France to the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela, where all Camino routes end.

Together — and sometimes apart — they experience the pleasures and challenges of the long trip across the north of Spain, encountering a host of characters, human and animal, as well as experiences from confronting a mean dog to sitting for Mass surrounded by a cathedral’s beauty.

“THERE ARE HUNDREDS of books written about the Camino,” says Spencer, “They’re either personal memoirs or guidebooks. There were

no children’s books, and I said, ‘Well, there’s a gap here.’”

So she dug in to create *The Cat*, crafting her story, creating a beautiful map for the first spread and rendering evocative illustrations.

One of Spencer’s Camino tour guides had been an art history major, so she’d had the benefit of learning about various styles of architecture sampled en route — Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque among them. We see some of them in her book.

“Using a photo, I’d first draw in pencil, then color each in, then go over each in ink,” she says.

Helen Merino of Brattleboro designed the 44-page book, which features a Spanish-English glossary.

Spencer’s book is available at Everyone’s Books on Elliot Street in Brattleboro. She’s marketing “step by step,” she says, “talking to people at papers, taking it to bookstores, and posting it on many of the Camino Facebook pages out there.”

The book is available on Amazon and soon, she hopes, it will be in school libraries.

Recommended for ages 4–18, *The Cat Who Walked the Camino* is an apt story for anyone who’s done or wants to do the Camino, for Spanish and English language learners, and — OK, for cat lovers.

On a roll, Spencer’s already working on her next children’s book: an illustrated history of women in medicine, starting with Hildegard von Bingen (1098–1179).

Ten years have passed since she left life as a Brattleboro merchant.

“I play bridge,” she says. “I walk the dog and still play a lot of music.”

But, Spencer is quick to add, she’s not retired.

“I’m in my Renaissance,” she says.

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COLUMN

The power of hope

The Parkland generation, shaped by gun violence six years ago, is moving from activism to leadership

EVER SINCE David Hogg, X González, and other high school student leaders began organizing against gun violence, when their Florida school experienced a massacre in 2018 that killed 17 people and injured 17 more, I've clung to the belief that if we could get to the Parkland generation as political leaders, we just might save our country.



ELAYNE CLIFT (elayne-clift.com) has written about women, politics, and social issues from the earliest days of this newspaper.

I believe that now more than ever. David Hogg is 23 now and a student at Harvard University. It should come as no surprise that he has reached a new level of political advocacy. Working with Kevin Lata, the 2022 campaign manager of Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-Fla.), the two activists have launched a new organization that seeks to put more young people in elected office at the state level and in Congress.

Leaders We Deserve (leaderswedeseerve.com) has a PAC to coordinate with selected campaigns and a super PAC to raise funds for those campaigns. The organization has a diverse advisory group that includes U.S. Reps. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.) and Lauren Underwood (D-Ill.) and Tennessee state Rep. Justin Jones (D-Nashville). It plans to hire staff.

"A big part of this," Lata told NBC's *Meet the Press*, "is electing young people that

have the values of our generation [who] understand the anxiety of not knowing if you're going to be able to survive math class."

Hogg, who co-founded March for Our Lives, put it this way to CBS: "There [are] so many charismatic, brilliant young people that have come from March for Our Lives, and have now started running for office, like Maxwell, and there's so many more that I think can come. That's why I'm doing this, it's to help build that pathway."

Both Hogg and Lata take a long view of the work they have begun. They know it's more than an ideology-driven effort. It requires organizational skills, political savvy, resources, an experienced staff, and viable candidates. That's why they are starting with a plan that includes raising money, connecting 15 to 30 candidates at the state level to media, and supporting them in the "mechanics of a campaign."

Their goal is to help young people gain and remain in elected office with a view to

■ SEE LEADERS, C2

RESPONSE



Spent fuel from the reactor of the former Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant sits inside these casks in Vernon in this 2019 photo.

The most toxic substance on the planet

Not one ounce of nearly 100,000 tons of high-level radioactive waste has been safely disposed of — and Vermont Yankee's fuel could be in our backyard in perpetuity

A FEW ADDITIONS to Emma Cotton's informative review of the ongoing decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vernon are in order.

Scott State, CEO of NorthStar, the company decommissioning the plant, suggests that the spent fuel at the plant will remain there "as it stands today [...] for some time."

"Some time" is of course a relative term, given Mr. State's concession that "in perpetuity is how long that fuel can stay

there."

This raises the question: What is this country going to do with its high-level radioactive waste?

Euphemistically referred to by the nuclear power industry as "spent fuel," it is arguably the most toxic substance on the planet. And not one ounce

of the now nearly 100,000 tons produced by the industry in its 60-plus-year life span, in this country alone, has been safely disposed of.

WHILE THE INDUSTRY and its allies like to blame politics for the demise of Yucca Mountain, still the only legally designated

permanent repository site in the country, they should blame the facts.

In fact, the Department of Energy's environmental impact statement for the facility was rejected by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in 2004, its 10,000-year "containment" time frame deemed inadequate for the 250,000-year time frame demanded by the science.

No effort has been made by the Department of Energy since then to meet that stricter standard at Yucca Mountain.

■ SEE RADIOACTIVE WASTE, C2

ESSAY

TAKING BACK TUESDAYS



Anti-abortion activists hold a prayer vigil in front of the Planned Parenthood clinic on High Street in Brattleboro in 2021.

'Volunteering for Planned Parenthood makes me feel like I'm part of change-making that matters'

AFTER GRADUATING college, I moved back home to Brattleboro for a short time. I started working at an office on the crest of High Street, and every day I'd rumble down the hill on my way home.

I'd see one of my favorite vignettes of my hometown this way — Mount Wantastiquet — along with red brick buildings, overflowing flowerpots, and passersby on foot.

However, a regular occurrence started to sour my view.

At first they were few, then they were many: Protestors with egregious signs lined High Street, congregating in front of Planned Parenthood, obscuring the flowerpots and passersby. Now, I was forced to stare at

EVE POMAZI is a volunteer with the Planned Parenthood Action Fund in Brattleboro.

them, as they forced me to read fabrications they printed on their signs.

Let's be clear — Planned Parenthood offers lifesaving care that includes birth control, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, cancer screenings, and free menstrual products.

Once, I called Planned Parenthood to warn them: "I see them coming around the corner with their signs! Board up the windows, lock the doors!" But the staff member I spoke to just sighed, thanked

me, and said they knew they would be there every Tuesday afternoon.

These protestors were not members of our community; rather, they were people bussed up from a private college in Massachusetts. A private college that took over the campus of the former Northfield School for Girls — a school founded with the mission to provide education and opportunity to girls from underserved communities.

When I found this out, the irony was not lost on me.

I QUICKLY BEGAN dreading driving home on Tuesdays. Not so carefree anymore, I raced down the hill with my fists clenched and eyes fixed straight ahead, willing the light to please be

■ SEE PROTESTORS, C2



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

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



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Protestors

FROM SECTION FRONT

green.

After several weeks of this, my harbored outrage spurred me to take action. I asked around until I found organizers from the Planned Parenthood Vermont Action Fund.

For the past two years I have volunteered with them via writing, phone banking, tabling, and organizing. As a community, we helped to pass the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, which enshrines every Vermonter's right to reproductive health care.

Volunteering makes me feel like I'm part of change-making that matters. It has allowed me to loosen the grip on my steering wheel and stare right back at those protesters, fully knowing our work was more impactful than any fiction they could hold up on a piece of paper.

It would have been very easy to allow these protesters to take my Tuesdays, but volunteering with Planned Parenthood has allowed me to take it back.



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VIEWPOINT

A good start

Rep. Balint has rightly called for a cessation of hostilities. Now she can force a vote on U.S. participation in the war by introducing a Gaza War Powers Resolution.

Brattleboro

REP. BECCA BALINT can help stop genocide in Israel and Palestine by forcing a vote on U.S. military participation in the war: She can introduce a Gaza War Powers Resolution.

Hamas's Oct. 7 attack on Israel represented the country's deadliest in decades and killed more Jewish people than in any day since the Holocaust.

In response, the Israeli defense minister ordered a "complete siege," cutting Gaza off from electricity, fuel, food, and water. Israel is pummeling Gaza, striking mosques, churches, homes, and hospitals.

I condemn the Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians and its taking of hostages — and I also condemn the Israeli military's massive assault on the Palestinian people. The Israeli military's response has been disproportionate to Hamas' attacks, but both Israel and Hamas are committing war crimes.

Genocide Watch has issued a genocide emergency alert for Israel and Gaza. The Center for Constitutional Rights reported last week that U.S. participation in the war rises "to the level of complicity in genocide."

Further escalation is broadening the destruction, risking many more people's lives. Members of Congress like Rep. Balint should introduce a War Powers Resolution before it is too late.

ARTICLE I of the U.S.

ISAAC EVANS-FRANTZ is the executive director of Action Corps, a nonpartisan organization with volunteers in 32 states, that campaigns for U.S. policies to save lives around the world.

Constitution says that Congress, not the president, has the power to decide to go to war. However, the U.S. appears to be preparing to participate, if not already participating, in the war, providing weapons, military support and advice, and diplomatic cover.

The U.S. has deployed thousands of military personnel to the region. Congress should have a say in this; and as our sole U.S. representative, it is up to Becca Balint to introduce a Gaza War Powers Resolution in the House.

From years of organizing to stop U.S. participation in the Saudi-led war on Yemen, I have seen both how easily the U.S. can enter a war and how difficult it is to exit.

My organization, Action Corps, helped lead the effort that resulted in the 2019 passage of the bipartisan Yemen War Powers Resolution, which reclaimed Congress's constitutional authority over war — but it took four years after the U.S. began participating in the war to achieve that, and the blockade of Yemen continues. The best time to stop a war is before it starts.

Rep. Balint understands the oppression of Palestinians. In

2022, before joining Congress, she critiqued the "mechanisms of occupation — home demolitions, unjust detentions, displacement of families through illegal settlement expansions, ongoing bombings of Gaza, the strangling blockade of Gaza and harassment at checkpoints." During her campaign, she spoke about the need to stand up to authoritarianism and genocidal behavior.

The State Department official in charge of ensuring the U.S. isn't participating in war crimes in Gaza just resigned to protest the fact he's not being allowed to do his job. More than 400 congressional staff members have written a letter to their bosses calling on them to support a cease-fire.

A War Powers Resolution is privileged, meaning that any member of the House can bring it to the floor for a vote. Rep. Balint can lead the charge.

Hundreds of organizations, including Jewish, Muslim, Quaker, Catholic, and humanitarian groups, and many countries, are calling for an immediate cease-fire. The Biden administration stood alone in the United Nations Security Council in vetoing a resolution for a cease-fire. The

United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator to the Occupied Palestinian Territory appealed to all parties to the conflict, and to member states with influence, to urgently agree to a humanitarian cease-fire.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) recently wrote, "The bombs and missiles from both sides must end." And Sen. Peter Welch has strongly opposed a ground invasion.

Rep. Balint has rightly called for a cessation of hostilities. Now she can force a vote on U.S. participation in the war by introducing a Gaza War Powers Resolution.

AS A MAJOR SUPPLIER of weapons and war support to Israel, the U.S. has a special responsibility to help protect lives and avoid complicity in war crimes in Gaza.

Our House representative from Vermont should prioritize the preservation of human life above all else. Hundreds, if not thousands, of Vermonters have rallied for Rep. Balint to join the call for an immediate cease-fire.

She has already taken important steps toward this end. With rapid escalations, the possibility of another endless war, and genocide warnings, her introduction of a Gaza War Powers Resolution can help advance her call for a cessation of hostilities, enforce the U.S. Constitution, and save countless lives.

FROM SECTION FRONT

Leaders

running for higher office when the time is right. They are starting in states like Texas, Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina.

As Hogg told NBC, the aim is to "make inroads and start building the bench now."

THEY HAVE notable role models to look to as their work progresses.

Maxwell Frost (D-Fla.) was the first Gen Z member of Congress, and he's made a name for himself as he serves on the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, asking astute questions while standing up to Republican extremists who work hard to politicize committee work in Congress. He also represents a progressive view unfamiliar to many in Congress who are out of touch with youth, Black, and Latino constituents.

It's worth noting that Frost, a former organizer, activist, and special needs teacher, was inspired to activism when he was 15 years old because of the

mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. He also witnessed and survived gun violence himself in Orlando, Florida in 2016.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) is another example of effective leadership from younger members in Congress. She worked in the 2016 presidential election as a volunteer organizer for Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). Inspired by demonstrations led by indigenous communities in South Dakota who opposed a new pipeline, she joined them, resolving after that experience to commit to public service. Shortly afterwards, she launched her first campaign for Congress and won against a longtime incumbent.

She became the youngest woman and youngest Latina to serve in Congress in 2019, and she quickly got to work.

During her first term, she introduced 23 pieces of legislation, one of which was the Green New Deal resolution,

which envisioned a 10-year plan inspired by Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal. It was designed to open work opportunities in construction and restoring infrastructure, reduce air and water pollution, and fight economic, social, racial, and climate crises.

She was also recognized for her skill as a questioner in committee hearings, effectively standing up to Big Pharma, defense contractors, and other power players.

LEADERS LIKE Frost and Ocasio-Cortez reveal the possibilities inherent in the purpose of Leaders We Deserve. Along with Hogg et al. they offer an important and timely new vision of effective leadership at a time when we are worried about the aging of some current longtime legislators and leaders, many of whom have no real connection to or understanding of their constituencies or other Americans.

According to a Tufts

University study, an estimated 8.3 million newly eligible voters emerged in the 2022 midterm elections, including white, Latino, Asian, Native American, and Black youth.

In the current Congress, 52 members of the House are millennials, aged 27 to 42, up from 31 in the last Congress. They represent 10% of all current voting House members and are divided equally between Democrats and Republicans. In next year's election, those numbers are likely to grow.

David Hogg sees this as "a second step for our generation and the people in power. We're not just voting, we're also running."

Activist Ariana Jasmine agrees. "Young people are the future. They are showing that they are fed up, and they are showing up even if they aren't old enough to vote. They understand that the direction we're going in is completely unsustainable."

FROM SECTION FRONT

Radioactive waste

Nor, in the absence of any further initiative from Congress, has there been any substantive effort to even study alternatives for a repository.

THE INDUSTRY is pushing hard for the licensing of centralized interim storage facilities where it can temporarily store its high-level radioactive waste piling up at sites old and sites very old. It is also very bad for the image of an industry that wants to make a whole lot more of it.

President Obama's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future laid out a plan to foster consent-based siting for any temporary or permanent federal high-level radioactive waste facility. While the Department of Energy continues, still, to plan for such an eventuality, private companies have jumped into the fray.

This is where Waste Control Specialists, also led by Scott State of NorthStar, comes in, again. It owns the facility in Texas where NorthStar is disposing of Vermont Yankee's low-level waste, but it has also partnered with the French government nuclear fuel cycle company Orano to create interim storage partners to build, right next door, a centralized interim storage facility to receive Vermont Yankee's and the rest of the industry's high-level radioactive waste.

THE IMPULSE to be rid of this waste, whatever the cost, is understandable.

Each of the nearly 60

canisters stored at the Vermont Yankee site contains approximately the same amount of cesium-137, among other highly toxic radionuclides.

These including plutonium that was released in the Chernobyl catastrophe in 1988 and contaminated approximately 150,000 square miles of territory and hastened the deaths of upward of one million people.

Of course, you can't just dump this stuff in someone else's backyard without raising some eyebrows.

Importantly, at this stage, according to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, no interim storage facility, public or private, can be licensed without a licensed final repository in place.

And though the industry's loyal promoter, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, rammed through a license approval of the proposed centralized interim storage facility, the 5th Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, as noted by Ms. Cotton, ruled the license to be invalid, because, well, it was illegal.

Not to mention the objections of powerful oil and mineral interests, which brought the case to court, and the Texas Legislature's outright rejection of the proposed facility.

WHAT NOW? We should applaud NorthStar's timely and on-budget decommissioning of Vermont Yankee. But we should not jump to the

industry's insistence that the waste be moved "now"! The suggestion that it even can be is far-fetched.

At a Vermont Yankee nuclear decommissioning citizens advisory panel federal nuclear waste policy committee meeting in 2021, a Department of Energy representative estimated that, once an interim storage facility or permanent repository is established, it will take approximately seven to 15 years to implement specific transportation plans. She acknowledged that this estimate did not include time anticipated to be consumed by legal challenges to those plans.

Further, there is currently a \$55 billion shortfall in the Nuclear Waste Fund set aside to handle all of the U.S.'s current store of high-level radioactive waste.

Moving the waste without having any idea of where it is going to finally end up, and then having to move it again, stretches the bounds of logic. Allowing a private company to receive this toxic legacy of a national economic policy — nuclear power — gone awry, without state and local consent, sets a dangerous precedent. "Interim" storage, after a logistically complex and hugely expensive operation, can easily turn into that "in perpetuity" that Mr. State refers to.

Further, Vermont and New Hampshire both are on the short list of geologically appropriate choices for a permanent repository. Imagine how you'll

feel about all of this when they come knocking at your door.

We should take Mr. State at his word. The high-level radioactive waste canisters at Vermont Yankee are stable for "hundreds of years" and "fully guarded, until that fuel is gone."

Given the prospect of an extended stay onsite, the facility should be beefed up to discourage any mischief in these troubled times, and the local community, Vernon in particular, should be compensated for serving as the interim storage facility that it never asked to be.

FINALLY, EVERYONE — and I mean everyone — needs to pay attention to the nuclear power industry as it makes the case that its expansion — not just nationally but worldwide — is the solution to global warming. This, the most technologically sophisticated country in the world, struggles to cope with the toxic legacy of nuclear power as well as the ongoing dangers and inevitable tragedies associated with the everyday operations of these plants.

Decisions made with regard to high-level radioactive waste and the industry in general will affect not just our children, and their children, and their children, too. They will affect, literally, thousands of generations. Once high-level radioactive waste gets into the environment, there is no putting it back into the bottle.

The effects on this planet's biosphere could be terminal.

AROUND THE TOWNS

Rec. Dept. seeks input on town pool upgrades

BRATTLEBORO — The Brattleboro Recreation and Parks Department invites the community to participate in an interactive session to share ideas about improvements to the pool and aquatic facilities at Living Memorial Park.

The session is on Thursday, Nov. 2, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Center, 230 Main St., in the Selectboard Meeting Room.

This upcoming session, led by the town's contracted design consultant team, builds upon the work of a summer 2023 session. The session is part of a feasibility study to determine the optimal conceptual design and cost estimate for a new facility at the park.

The town welcomes input from both those who attended the prior session and those who did not. A summary of the prior session has been shared with the design consultants that include Northeast Collaborative Architects, SVE Associates, and Councilman-Hunsaker. For more information, contact John Scheib of Northeast Collaborative Architects at 860-344-9332 or via email at jscheib@ncarchitects.com.

GunSenseVT to hold candlelight vigil on Nov. 2

BRATTLEBORO — A candlelight vigil will take place on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 5 p.m., at Pliny Park will support the people of Lewiston, Maine, and to draw attention to the issue of gun policy in the aftermath of the Oct. 22 attacks by a gunman who killed 18 people and injured 13 others.

The vigil will be one of several that are planned for the same day around the state.

As GunSense Vermont board member Laura Subin, whose daughter was in lockdown at Bates College in Lewiston last week, said in a news release, "The chilling proximity of the tragedy in Maine shatters any illusion of safety we might have previously felt here in Vermont. It is a harrowing reminder that no community is immune to this sort of heartache."

Leaders of the grassroots, nonpartisan organization say they are working to ensure that all Vermonters are free from gun

violence and that the organization remains committed to "advocating for common sense gun laws that can save lives and reduce the risk of such tragedies, including advocating a full ban on semi-automatic assault weapons as a priority for the 2024 legislative session."

Local GunSense Vermont volunteers who are organizing the vigil encourage everyone to join in this show of support. "Bring a candle or just yourself," the organization writes. Candles will be available. For more information, email mel@gunsensevt.org.

LGUHS Journey Away hosts community dinner fundraiser

TOWNSHEND — Join Leland & Gray's Journey Away students for a locally sourced community dinner fundraiser at the Townshend Town Hall on Route 30 on Friday, Nov. 3, at 6 p.m.

The menu will feature beef stew, portobello ratatouille for vegetarians, mashed Gilfeather turnips, Grafton mac and cheese, and kale and delicata squash salad, with apple crisp and ice cream for dessert.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. Purchase at bit.ly/738-dinner. For more information, contact Jessa Harger at jharger@windhamcentral.org.

Sip & Draw in Dummerston on Nov. 10

WEST DUMMERSTON — On Friday, Nov. 10, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., the Dummerston Community Center, 150 West St., is sponsoring a Sip & Draw Party. Participants will learn how to create a bold impressionist charcoal drawing.

Tickets are \$30 per person and include all supplies and light snacks. Attendees are to bring their own wine or other beverages. Call or text 802-780-0052 by Wednesday, Nov. 8, to reserve a spot.

Townshend Town Hall hosts craft fair

TOWNSHEND — On Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. to noon, all are invited to the Townshend Town Hall on Route 30 for a holiday craft fair. Patrons

can meet local crafters, grab a coffee, and get a head start on their holiday shopping.

Interested vendors should contact Carrie Potter Earle at cpotterearle@yahoo.com or 802-365-7190, ext 107. Vendor fees will go toward supporting activities programming at Valley Cares.

United Way of Windham County seeks volunteer drivers

BRATTLEBORO — The United Way of Windham County is seeking a few volunteers to help drive those without transportation to dental appointments made through their Charitable Dental Care program.

Mileage reimbursement will be provided. Interested drivers may contact Charitable Dental Care Coordinator Sarah Pugh at spugh@unitedwaywindham.org or 802-232-4603 for more information.

RFPL offers digital literacy workshops

BELLOWS FALLS—The Rockingham Free Public Library (RFPL) will host free basic digital literacy training workshops for the community this autumn to help close the digital divide.

RFPL is among 215 public libraries nationwide awarded funding by the Public Library Association (PLA) this year to conduct digital literacy workshops using new **DigitalLearn.org** resources. The PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive, supported by AT&T, provides support to libraries of all sizes to conduct workshops using DigitalLearn training materials to help patrons build skills and confidence using technology.

Topics include computer basics, internet basics, email basics, cyber security, and video conferencing. Patrons can progress their skills through the workshops.

Below is a listing of all the workshops. Each workshop will be offered twice within the same week, on Mondays and Wednesdays, at 10:30 a.m.

- Computer basics: Nov. 13 and 15. Attendees will learn how to navigate the Windows 10 operating system, manage applications using the task manager, find and manage files and folders, save and delete files, and more.

- Internet basics: Nov. 20 and 22. Newly connected users will be introduced to basic terminology, functionality, and navigation of internet browsers, search engines, and websites.

- Email basics: Nov. 27 and 29. Attendees will create a Gmail account, learn how to perform basic email functions, such as sending, receiving, and replying to an email; recognizing and dealing with spam; organizing and deleting emails;

and searching for messages.

- Cyber security: Dec. 4 and 6. Participants will learn how to be safer online with accounts and passwords, plus receive an overview of online frauds and scams.

- Video conferencing basics: Dec. 11 and 13. Attendees will learn how to create an account on a popular video conferencing platform (Zoom) and build confidence when using features of the platform in an online meeting.

Classes are free. Registration is not required but encouraged; for more information, contact Reference and Historical Collections Librarian Pamela Johnson-Spurlock at reference@rockinghamlibrary.org, visit rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St.

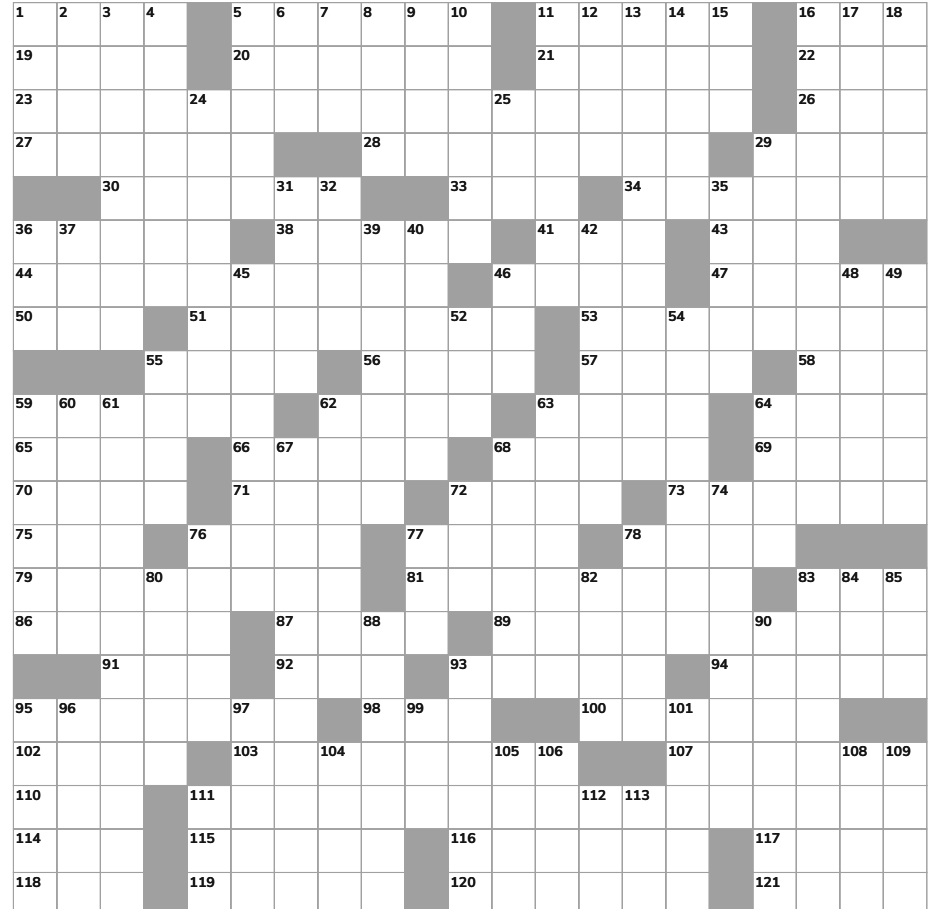
THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

JOON PAHK

"Gimme Five"

Across

- Google Play downloads
- Baylor U. locale
- Hall of Fame slugger Jim
- Slumber party attire, for short
- Tropical root vegetable
- Cover, in a way
- Briefs brand
- Big 1990s ISP
- "This is the smallest piece of turkey you can get from me?"
- Mike and ___ (candy)
- Large mobile device
- Six-footers?
- Cleveland's lake
- Woolen shawl
- Ambient musician Brian
- Spaceship door feature
- Do some script doctoring?
- Blogger's output
- "Gangnam Style" singer
- Assisted conception process: Abbr.
- "Like, I mean, my bad"?
- ___ ex machina
- Speaks like Sylvester
- Not sweet
- Bowler
- Competitive program
- Rattle off
- Common drag accessories
- Pleased
- Grand ___ Opry
- Brothers' keepers?
- Have the nerve
- MLS club in Foxborough
- Keen
- Turkish currency
- Nonreactive
- Pay a visit to
- ___ noire
- First Hebrew letter
- Rappelling need
- 50-Across, as champagne
- ___ Pieces
- Goal for a GMAT taker, often
- "Whip It" band
- Profit
- Formal agreement
- Acorns, eventually
- Support during a fund drive
- Hem without hawing?
- Likewise
- Tupperware tops
- Dress up to sell concessions?
- "Good" cholesterol: Abbr.
- Corp. exec in charge of computing
- Symbol of Lebanon
- Not lying flat
- Cross-reference phrase
- Mineral spring
- 1968 Olympics hero Smith
- Not straight
- Duplex
- Set too-easy goals
- "The Beat with ___ Melber"
- Top defense attorney?
- "Creep" R&B trio
- Unsettling
- Enter carefully
- Sole
- Dir. opposite NNW
- Bad thing for a vending machine to be out of?
- Intrigue
- Penn of "Milk"



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Down

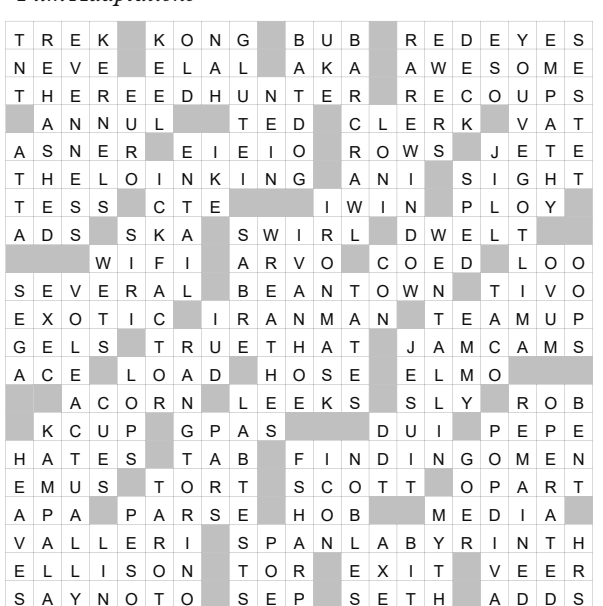
- "Have ___!" ("Be my guest!")
- South American rodent
- "Seems likely"
- Expressing deep emotion
- Distance across
- Gothic writer Radcliffe
- Winter hrs. in St. Louis
- "That's gotta hurt"
- Atlanta Hawks star Young
- Persian king at Thermopylae
- Francis, since 2013
- Ring up?
- Ointment that soothes for 24 hours?
- 2022 FIFA World Cup Golden Ball winner
- Switchback shape
- Opening exchange in a pushing contest?
- 2023 NBA Finals MVP Nikola
- Aerodynamic
- Went on foot
- Moving vehicle
- 2022 biopic starring Austin Butler
- To the left, nautically
- Gaming greenhorn
- Vexed
- Netflix mailing, once
- Common piercing spot
- Programs that secretly collect private data
- Bit of concert merch
- Say without quite saying
- "Darn tootin'!"
- Interior football linemen: Abbr.
- Well-mannered
- Stina Blackstenius and Greta Thunberg
- Candle count
- Italian sports car
- Bakery buy
- Los __, NM
- Basque city

Down

- Kick a bad habit?
- Mobile check ___
- Made less precise, in a way
- Help in a crime
- The lion from "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," e.g.?
- Mourn
- The Orioles, on scoreboards
- Money-related
- Wryly amusing
- Satnav tech
- Sox pitching great Martínez
- NBC morning show
- Tiny swarmer
- Work boot feature
- Article in Austria
- Get hitched
- File
- Fauna
- Mooches
- Goes after, as a fly
- Kent and Gloucester, in "King Lear"
- Ranch animal
- Corsage holder
- Dunneaster destination
- Funnies dog
- Emergency exit, in brief
- Exchange gossip
- Chaplin of "Game of Thrones"
- Little songbird
- Actress Melissa
- Born, in bios
- Poorly lit

Last issue's solution

"Film Adaptations"



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COLUMN | Sports Roundup

Terriers, Wildcats, Rebels advance in playoffs

Injuries are unavoidable in high school football and it's rare for most teams to reach the playoffs with the same lineup that started the season. Unfortunately, Bellows Falls has been hit harder than most.

Quarterback Eli Allbee was knocked out in Week 2 against Hartford with a broken collarbone. Running back Walker James suffered an ankle injury against Lyndon in Week 7, and running back Blake Bertrand suffered a concussion against North Country in Week 8.

"We've only played one game this season with what I'd call our starting 11 on offense," said BF head coach Bob Lockerby. "And that's not crying because a lot of teams are in the same boat. I understand that. Ours just happens to be very, very key people as everyone knows."

But the depth of this year's Terriers team was enough to carry them through in a 54-7 rout of the Spaulding Crimson Tide in a Division II quarterfinal game on Oct. 27 at Hadley Field.

Running back Jesse Darrell ran for three touchdowns and had a 68-yard TD catch to lead the Terriers. Quarterback Cole Moore had a pair of touchdown runs in the first half, and reserve running backs Wyatt Whidden and Stefan James each had a touchdown run late in the final quarter.

BF led 20-7 at the end of the first half, but could have put the game out of reach much sooner. In the second quarter, a holding penalty wiped out a touchdown run by Darrell, and an electrifying 70-yard punt return by Curtis Green for another apparent touchdown was negated by a penalty.

Spaulding's lone touchdown came on a 65-yard run by quarterback Gabe Hoar, who took full advantage of some confusion on coverage by the BF defense in the opening quarter.

On the sideline, Lockerby was livid at the mistakes his team was making and said he told his players at halftime that their toughest opponent wasn't Spaulding, it was themselves.

Lockerby said his team was "just not sharp at times" and "those are things that I can't fix for them. They got to figure that out. We prepare them in practice, but you've got to do it in the ballgame."

The Terriers pulled themselves together in the second half and utterly dominated play. On defense, Green and Josh Streeter each had an interception, and BF racked up 34 points on offense.

That, said Lockerby, is the way the Terriers will need to play if they want to continue in the playoffs. "You've got to play four quarters of football against North Country and you can beat them, but it's going to have to be an awfully well-played game."

The 5-4 Terriers will have a rematch with second-seeded North Country this Friday at 7 p.m. in Newport in the semifinals. North Country advanced to the semifinals with a 42-0 win over



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.

Rice on Oct. 27.

Bulldogs bite Bears

• Brattleboro's football season ended with a 41-0 loss to the second-seeded Burr & Burton Bulldogs in a Division I quarterfinal game on Oct. 28 in Manchester.

The Bulldogs led 28-0 by halftime as quarterback Jack McCoy threw for 144 yards and three touchdowns and had 16 carries for 108 yards. Kaleb Gabert had a 24-yard touchdown catch and, on defense, ran back an interception for another TD. Zakariah Chani had two touchdown catches and Peyton Gray and Carver Cave each had a rushing touchdown.

Now 8-1, Burr & Burton hosts No. 3 Champlain Valley for a semi-final game this Saturday. The Bears ended their season with a 3-5-1 record and will lose a strong senior class — Noah Perusse, Karson Elliott, Will Miskovich, Jackson Emery, Trevor Gray, Cam Cruz, Sam Madow, Jett Emery, Jolie Glidden, Quentin Forchion, and Amari Jordan — to graduation.

Boys' soccer

• Top-seeded Twin Valley had no problems handling No. 8 West Rutland in a 6-0 victory in a Division IV quarterfinal on Oct. 27 at Hayford Field.

Cody Magnant broke the school record for goals scored in a season when he got his 33rd and 34th goals. The previous mark was 33, set by Scott Hayford in 2009. Noah Dornburgh, Hunter Roth, Steven Oyer, and Chris Eckert also scored for the Wildcats as they put 27 shots on goal. Twin Valley goalkeeper Kman Lackey had three saves to earn the shutout victory.

Now 15-0, the Wildcats will host a semifinal match with fifth-seeded Rivendell on Nov. 1 at 3 p.m. at Hayford Field.

• West Rutland earned the date with Twin Valley by beating ninth-seeded Leland & Gray, 2-1, in overtime on Oct. 25.

The game was scoreless through the first 78 minutes before West Rutland's Tristan Rocke converted a penalty kick with 1:50 to play. The visiting Rebels then forced overtime when Finch Holmes blasted in a penalty kick with six seconds left in regulation time. Rocke then scored the game-winner just 1:21 into overtime to end it.

• Fifth-seeded Brattleboro opened the Division I playoffs with a 2-0 first-round win over the BFA-St. Albans



Brattleboro forward Emmett Hoyer, right, talks to teammate Ozzie VanHendrick after VanHendrick collided with BFA-St. Albans goalkeeper Hayden Crowe-McManus in the first half of a Division I boys' soccer playoff game on Oct. 25 at Tenney Field.

Bobwhites on Oct. 25 at Tenney Field. Emmett Hoyer scored both goals for the Bears, and goalkeeper Sam Bogart played an excellent game, including stopping a penalty kick in the second half.

However, the win came at a high cost as Brattleboro's leading scorer, forward Ozzie VanHendrick, collided at full speed with BFA goalkeeper Hayden Crowe-McManus midway through the first half. While both players finished out the half, coach Ben Brewer had VanHendrick sit out the second half as a precaution.

The Bears led 1-0 at the half, thanks to a goal from Hoyer in the 38th minute, but Brewer admitted that the Bears' offense struggled in the second half without VanHendrick. However, Hoyer stepped up and scored an insurance goal off an indirect free kick by Charlie Kinnersley five minutes into the second half.

Brattleboro advanced to the quarterfinals and lost to fourth-seeded Colchester, 3-1, on Oct. 27. Jacques Alfani scored twice in the first half to give the Lakers a 2-0 lead at half-time. Jack Atkins scored Colchester's other goal in the second half. Sean van Ranson got the visiting Bears' lone goal, assisted by Kinnersley. Bogart had nine saves in goal for the Bears, whose season ended with a 10-4-1 record.

• Bellows Falls ended its season with a 13-0 loss to top-seeded Stowe in a Division III first-round game on Oct. 25. The Terriers finished with a 0-15 record.

Girls' soccer

• Leland & Gray began its defense of its Division IV state title with a hard-fought 3-2 win over the Proctor Phantoms in a quarterfinal game on Oct. 26 in Townshend.

The Rebels jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first seven minutes on goals from Mary Sanderson (set up by a direct kick from Maggie Parker) and Samantha Morse (set up by a long throw-in by Parker). Proctor goalkeeper Cadence Goodwin kept the game close with several big saves as she faced constant pressure from the Rebels.

In the second half, Proctor got back into the game in the 51st minute when Isabel Krieb scored on a direct kick, but Sanderson scored again off a Parker throw-in in the 65th minute. That goal proved crucial after the Rebels gave up an own goal with 11:57 left in the game, but Proctor was held scoreless the rest of the way to snap a streak of 12 straight trips to the Division IV final.

At press time, the Rebels beat No. 3 Rivendell, 2-1, on Oct. 31 in the Division III semifinals. They will now face No. 2 Arlington in the championship game on Nov. 4.

• Brattleboro lost its Division I

first-round game to St. Johnsbury, 3-0, on Oct. 24 at Natowich Field. The Hilltoppers scored all of their goals in the second half.

Goalkeeper Abigail Henry kept her team in the game by making 21 saves. The loss in Brattleboro's first home playoff game since 2010 left the Bears with an 8-6-1 record.

• No. 17 Bellows Falls beat No. 16 Thetford, 3-2, in overtime in a Division III play-in game on Oct. 23 in Westminster. BF ended up with a home game because Thetford's field was too soggy to use.

The Terriers reward for winning that game was traveling to Fair Haven to play the top-seeded Slaters. The result was an 11-0 loss for BF, which finished the season with a 2-14 record.

Field hockey

• Fifth-seeded Bellows Falls lost to fourth-seeded Colchester, 1-0, in a Division I quarterfinal game on Oct. 27. Nicole Norton scored late in the third quarter, assisted by Hanna Coughlin, for the game's only goal and denied the visiting Terriers a third straight quarterfinal win over the Lakers.

• Ninth-seeded Brattleboro lost to the eighth-seeded Mt. Abraham Eagles, 1-0, in a Division II first-round game in Bristol on Oct. 24. Brattleboro finished with a 4-10 record.

Cross-country

• The Vermont Cross-Country Championships were held at Thetford Academy on Oct. 28, with near-perfect conditions for runners on the 5-kilometer course.

In the Division I boys' race, Brattleboro's Nico Conathan-Leach finished 18th in 18 minutes, 24.8 seconds. Rounding out the scoring were teammates Miles Ackerman-Hovis (62nd, 22:14.4), Jonas Ackerman-Hovis (64th, 22:25.2), Galen Hagarty (67th, 22:42.6), Jude Anders (70th, 22:58.8), and James Burke (73rd, 25:18.7). Brattleboro finished 10th in the team scoring as St. Johnsbury won its third straight Division I title.

Elliana Galdamez was the top Brattleboro runner in the Division I girls' race, finishing 62nd in 27:46.8, followed by teammates Meredith Lewis (72nd, 31:24.4), Evie Kiehle (74th, 31:33.6), Addison DeVault (80th, 35:40.5), Priya Kitzmiller (81st, 35:40.5), and Abby Barnes (83rd, 40:51.4). Brattleboro finished 13th overall as Champlain Valley won the Division I title for the 19th time in 21 years.

Ninth-grader Desi Broadley led Bellows Falls in the Division III girls' race, finishing sixth in 23:11.6, followed by teammates Lilly Ware (19th, 26:05.0), Gillian Robb (25th, 26:54.5), Chloe Benson (48th, 31:40.6), Aurelia Crinchfield (53rd, 33:35.5), Beatrice Robb (56th, 34:41.1), and Kendall

Roman (57th, 31:51.3). That was good enough to give Bellows Falls sixth place in team scoring, with Stowe winning its first Division III championship.

Rec. Dept. hosts winter sports gear sale

• The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Department and the Brattleboro Outing Club presents the annual Phil & Mary Dunham Ski, Skate, Snowboard & Hockey Equipment Sale on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 8 to 11 a.m., at the Gibson-Aiken Center on Main Street.

On sale will be snowboards, skis, poles, bindings (both downhill and cross country), ski boots, skates, miscellaneous winter items, winter clothing, and hockey equipment. Only 20 items per person will be accepted from sellers, and buyers should know that that all sales are final.

If you have gear to sell, bring it to the Gibson-Aiken Center on Friday, Nov. 3, between noon and 7 p.m. No items will be accepted before this time. You can pick up your money and unsold items on Monday, Nov. 6, from noon to 6 p.m.

The Recreation & Parks Department retains 40% of sale proceeds for special programming. For more information, call the Gibson Aiken Office at 802-254-5808.

Senior bowling roundup

• Week 8 of the fall/winter season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on Oct. 26 saw Stepping Stones (29-11) have a 1-4 week but still stay in first place. High Rollers (25-15) had a 5-0 week to move into second, followed by Skippers (both 24-16), Hairiers (23-17), Four Seasons (23-17), Four Pins and No Splits (both 22-18), Dumblebor (19-21), and PEWJ (6-34).

Diane Cooke had the women's high handicap game (251), while Pam Greenblatt had the high handicap series (670). Eric Brown had the men's high handicap game (258) and John Walker had the high handicap series (670). No Splits had the high team handicap game (874) and series (2,583).

Robert Rigby again had the men's high scratch series (641) with games of 238, 204, and 196. Walker had a 592 series with games of 203 and 198, Marty Adams had a 530 series with a 193 game, and Fred Ashworth had a 520 series with a 182 game. Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 517 series with a 194 game and Skip Shine had a 505 series with a 182 game. Eric Brown had a 189 game and Pete Cross rolled a 181.

Carol Gloski again had the women's high scratch series (490), while Cooke had the high scratch game (186). Greenblatt had a 176 game and Nancy Dalzell rolled a 173.

Bellows Falls running back Jesse Darrell scored four touchdowns as the Terriers defeated Spaulding, 54-7, in a Division II quarterfinal game on Oct. 27 at Hadley Field.



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