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



Lieutenant Joe Thompson of Rescue Inc., who died April 29, enjoyed a moment with grandson Grayson at a spaghetti dinner organized by his EMS colleagues in 2022.

BUHS team name sparks Civil War of opinion

Colonel supporters aren't surrendering without a fight, as seen through dozens of social media posts criticizing the proposed change

By Kevin O'Connor
VtDigger.org

BRATTLEBORO—When Brattleboro Union High School rang in the Happy Days of 1950 with a new team nickname, the local newspaper warned that fans might face a potential hiccup.

"The one fear of the student body in choosing 'Colonels' is that some sports-writing sharpshooter will make with the levity and call the B.H.S. athletes the Korny Kernels," the *Brattleboro*

Reformer wrote at the time.

Few would foresee the name sparking a Civil War of sharper words.

The Colonel moniker, unveiled to honor Union soldiers who mustered at the school's Fairground Road location in the 1860s, morphed into a "Pride of the South" Confederate mascot by the 1970s.

"No one bothered to connect the dots between embracing racist imagery and symbolism and

■ SEE COLONEL, A3

Paid family leave bill gets shelved in Senate

The House passed the measure, but the Senate does not support it in its current form, so it will wait until 2024 — barring surprises in the last days of the current session

By Joyce Marcel
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO — Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, brought to the Legislature this session a bill that was very dear to her heart: a comprehensive paid family leave bill.

It reintroduced a concept that is similar to bills that had been vetoed by the governor in past

legislative sessions. But this year, with the Democrats having a super-majority, there would be enough votes to override a veto. And in the House, passing the bill became a priority.

Yet the bill did not even have a chance to be vetoed by the governor. The paid family and medical leave bill was tabled last week by House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, because it could not gain traction in the Senate.

■ SEE FAMILY LEAVE BILL, A7

Paramedic's 40-year legacy

'BEYOND DESCRIPTION'

Joe Thompson, an EMS stalwart for more than four decades, gets posthumous honors for his service to emergency medicine at a Fenway Park ceremony

By Fran Lynggaard Hansen
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Zach Rounds, a paramedic with Rescue Inc. in Brattleboro, described his good friend Joe Thompson as "one of the hardest working people I've ever met."

Thompson, 63, died of pancreatic cancer on April 29 after an eight-month battle with the

disease. He leaves a long legacy of service to the community.

"I first met Joe because he did the driver's education for ambulance drivers. For over 40 years, almost every driver in our organization went through Joe's cone course. He was a very meticulous driver who knew all the tips and tricks to avoid crashes with the ambulance," said Rounds.

"His impact at Rescue is beyond description," he added.

"He's done almost every job available at Rescue Inc., having served as a lieutenant, a captain, a deputy chief, a shift officer, a drivers training officer, [in] building maintenance. Everything."

Over the last few months, Thompson began to write down all the jobs he's quietly taken on at Rescue's quarters. So far, six people are now covering what he once did.

Dale Merritt of Vernon worked with Thompson at Rescue Inc. for much of his career and bestowed on him a special nickname.

"We called Joe 'MacGyver' after the 1980s TV show where the lead character had a solution to any problem he faced," Merritt said. "Known for his engineering skills, MacGyver often used a Swiss army knife and

■ SEE THOMPSON, A2



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT COMMONS FILE PHOTO
Guilford author Chuck Collins has written his first — and, he anticipates, his only — novel.

How do people, relationships, experiences, and movements shape us?

Chuck Collins, author of a new novel that anticipates our 'collision course toward a climate catastrophe,' notes that 'fiction can play an important role in imagining how we move forward'

By Annie Landenberger
The Commons

GUILFORD—Within a mere few pages of his debut novel, *Altar to an Erupting Sun*, Chuck Collins of Guilford sets the stage for his heroine, Rae Kelliher, to carry out a well-planned murder/suicide.

Kelliher sacrifices herself to a cause, taking out an oil baron for his role in delaying responses to climate change. Complicating the aftermath, two of the CEO's children are killed in the process.

In *Altar*, a work of near-future eco fiction, Collins welcomes us into a world where visionaries and

activists wrestle with climate disruption in the recent past to our present and several years beyond. His Rae Kelliher is a lifelong activist focused most on the environment, though her reach spans other causes.

Throughout the novel we see what makes Kelliher tick. From wrestling with her Ohio past and a myopic brother to her meticulous research into, and near-obsessive behavior around, a cause, we see that she is a force to be remembered.

And she is. Seven years after her dramatic demise, Kelliher's Vermont farm community — which she and her husband, Reggie, nurtured

— gather to honor her, to try to understand her violent exit, to grapple with the work yet to be done.

In the end, it's clear that Rae Kelliher did not die in vain.

A fortunate son pays it forward

From his native Madison, Wisconsin, Collins, 63, first came East in 1977. At 18, he worked in Worcester, Massachusetts, with Mustard Seed Catholic Worker Community for a few years before matriculating at Hampshire College. He came to this region first through Greenfield, Massachusetts, and from there to the Brattleboro area.

"I started building a cabin in Guilford," he said. "The appeal was the rural area and the ways in which Vermont has proven itself to be a sort of lab for regenerative economy."

In a life committed to economic justice and equality, and, more recently, to climate health, Collins, founder of United for a Fair Economy, is director of the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., where he co-edits *Inequality.org*, which since 2011, according to the website, has tracked "inequality-related news and views" that address

■ SEE DEBUT NOVEL, A5

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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.

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



From left, Kate Boudreau, (daughter) Joan Martin, Gregg Thompson, and Devin Thompson (on Gregg's back) stand behind home plate last week at Fenway Park in Boston. COURTESY PHOTO VIA KATE BOUDREAU

Thompson

FROM SECTION FRONT

duct tape to fix many problems.” He described the TV character as “Joe himself.”

“No matter how difficult the call, Joe always had a way out of every predicament,” Merritt said. “He could come up with a solution to anything. [...] He gave us all a sense of security because he'd think of solutions that no one else would ever think about.”

A big heart

“There is no one I'd rather have on a call with me,” said Merritt, who also remembers Thompson's kindness and heart, as well as his “great sense of humor.”

“We had a squad member whose father loved the ocean and was on hospice care,” Merritt said. Thompson got permission for Merritt and their colleague to take the elderly man on his final trip to Hampton Beach in an ambulance on their days off.

“The man was thrilled to get a final look at the ocean and couldn't have gone without medical care in an ambulance,” Merritt said. “This is just the kind of guy Joe was — always helping others.”

Archer Mayor of Newfane, mystery novelist and death investigator for Vermont's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, worked with Thompson at Rescue in the late 1980s.

“He was stalwart, steady, dependable, funny, irreverent, and good at his job,” Mayor said. “He was not only surehanded with patient care but equally easy dealing with a fleet of sometimes cranky ambulances.”

“One of his oddities in those days was that he kept a small metal carpentry nail in his mouth, claiming that it helped him stop smoking,” he said, though he added that he would see Thompson, who later owned a mowing and plowing business, with a small cigar clamped between his teeth as he rode his lawn mower.

“I was forever unsure of the effectiveness of his cure,” Mayor said. “Nevertheless, he cut a figure and left a fine impression in his wake.”

The author said he thought of Thompson regularly “after we pursued our different paths, with fondness and respect.”

In May 2022, Joe was presented with the Star of Life Award in Washington, D.C., for his dedication and service within the field of emergency medicine. At that time, Verne Bristol, past president and one of the original founders of Rescue Inc., commented about working with Thompson.

“Joe Thompson is an old-timer on Rescue,” Bristol said. “He's seen tremendous change in emergency medicine during his 40-plus years on the job. He's handled the purchase of the vehicles, done the maintenance on our ambulances — he's done it all.”

Bristol called Thompson “a wonderful, down-to-earth member who has given years and years of his time and talent to Rescue Inc.”

“We value him,” said Bristol with pride. “There is nothing this guy hasn't done.”

One final honor

Derek Paul, his brother Ryan, and sister-in-law Melissa all agree with these sentiments. All three own the local Servpro cleaning and restoration franchise in Chesterfield, N.H.

They recently told Thompson that he had won the Paint the Plate Award, organized by the company's northern New England franchisees to honor emergency medical services personnel in New England. The presentation would be scheduled for EMS night on May 4 during a Boston Red Sox home game in Fenway Park in Boston.

The award honors an EMS professional from the New England community. “Joe Thompson was nominated more than any other candidate for this special award, and also received the

largest number of votes to win the prize,” Paul said.

Among the comments on his nomination papers included:

• “Joe is in stage 4 cancer and still works harder than anyone I know. He was shoveling snow off the roof of Rescue quarters, fell off, and knocked himself unconscious. After being checked by a paramedic we had at base he went back to shoveling the snow off the roof.”

• “He is a person that gives everything to everyone. He loves his community and has dedicated decades of his life to improving the lives of others. He is the epitome of altruism. He has always been the glue that holds us together. He is someone I always look to for guidance and support. He is truly a hero.”

Thompson was notified that he won the award and died two days later. His life partner, Joan Martin of Brattleboro; his daughter, Kate Boudreau; his son, Gregg Thompson; and his 7-year-old granddaughter Devin made the trip to Boston to paint the plate in his honor.

“Throughout New England, there were 20 or so individuals who were nominated, but Joe was nominated 54 times! He obviously has made a major impression on his community,” said Paul.

“We are local people and, as I think about Joe Thompson, I realize that he's served this community almost as long as I've been alive, quietly helping others,” Paul continued. “It was an honor to get to know his family, and we thank him deeply for his service to our community.”

“We were so glad he knew that before he died,” said Martin.

During EMS Night at Fenway Park, Martin and Thompson's family were greeted and brought to the home plate by Servpro and Red Sox personnel, where they all gathered for pictures and were given a can of white spray paint to use to paint the plate.

“It was wonderful,” Martin said. “About 20 members of Rescue Inc, the Servpro folks, and our family gathered in Joe's honor. We were also given four tickets right behind home plate.”

“The Red Sox beat the Blue Jays, 11-5. Joe would have loved that. He was a lifelong fan.”

Martin was also quick to thank Rescue Inc. Since Thompson's cancer diagnosis last fall, Rescue began a series of monthly spaghetti dinners to assist with medical costs and to gather the community together. Some of the money raised went toward a family trip to see the Grand Canyon — “a life goal for Joe,” she said.

“We were able to make that trip when Joe wasn't as ill, and his two children and three grandchildren were able to make the trip with us,” Martin continued. “It was a real boost to his spirit to check that off his bucket list. Each and every one of the people with whom Joe worked were outstanding supports to him and his family, and our family thanks them all.”

Thompson's death reverberated at the highest levels of state EMS agencies.

“Joseph Thompson took his first EMS course in 1981 and went on to hold nearly every level of EMS licensure Vermont offers during his career of over 40 years,” Vermont Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Chief Bambi Dame said.

“We thank Joe for his continued dedication and commitment to his community and EMS throughout the years,” she said. “We are grateful for Joe's selfless service and extend our sincerest condolences to his family and colleagues in the Vermont EMS community.”

A celebration of Joe's life will be held on June 5 from 4 to 6 p.m., at the B.P.O. Elks Lodge on Putney Road. Memorial contributions in Joe's name may be made to Rescue Inc, P.O. Box 593, Brattleboro, VT 05302; or the Joseph P. Thompson Memorial Scholarship Fund at Rescue Inc.

I didn't become an EMT to get a front-row seat to other people's tragedies. I did it because I knew the world was bleeding and so was I, and somewhere inside I knew the only way to stop my own bleeding was to learn how to stop someone else's.

—DANIEL JOSÉ OLDER

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Brattleboro Union High School rallied around the same Colonel mascot used by the University of Mississippi until both institutions retired the character in the early 2000s.

COMMENTARY

It's time for BUHS to retire the Colonel

003, www.reformer.com

RO the flag was commonplace at the lynchings (or the burning to death) of nearly 5,000 black men and women between 1882 and 1968. The flag was raised over the public buildings throughout the South in defiance of the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1963 Gov. George Wallace raised the Confederate flag over the Alabama statehouse to protest a visit by then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy over school desegregation.

More recently, of the 600 racists and neo-nazi groups tracked by Klanwatch, the battle flag of the Confederacy has become the adopted symbol of at least 220. In fact, the Confederate flag has become one of the modern symbols of hate groups against Catholics, Jews, Muslims, non-Aryan immigrants and gays and lesbians, among others.

it which states that the area was the mustering grounds for over 10,000 Union soldiers from Vermont getting ready to go off and fight in the Civil War. Because of this, one of the names submitted was the "Colonels" and was unanimously voted in as the official mascot ..."

The chosen BUHS mascot was a mirror image of the one that held sway over the University of Mississippi for nearly seven decades — the BUHS mascot that leans on its cane to the left is identical to Oje Miss's that leans to the right.

In the absence of few, if any, black Americans in Brattleboro and none at the high school 60 years ago, adults compounded the ignorance of its student body with benign neglect. No one bothered to connect the dots between embracing racist imagery and symbolism, and the effects such symbols have on the community, regardless of whether or not descendants of slaves

county in Vermont. Inappropriateness because the symbols continue as the offensive weapon of hate groups that seek to intimidate ethnic, racial and linguistic minorities, gays and lesbians, and those with differing religious and spiritual beliefs. Inappropriateness

percent of minority students felt threatened at school compared to 6.2 percent of white students. The unfortunate reality is that last year, 12 percent of minority students dropped out of the Brattleboro Union High School compared to only 3.7 percent of white students.

If parents, town and school officials, civic organizations and the business community are not persuaded by the moral arguments to abandon the Confederate mascot and enjoin students to leave all merchandise brandishing the battle flag of the Confederacy off school property, then they might be persuaded by the economic imperative.

Pulling our state and local economies out of their respective depressions requires a workforce capable of effectively competing in diverse regional, national and global marketplaces.

Students who leave our educational institutions must combine their academic skill sets with the appropriate attitudes, behaviors and knowledge of ethnic, racial and linguistic

Curtiss Reed Jr., director of what then was the ALANA Organization and what now is the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity, challenged the Colonel in a commentary in 2003 in the pages of the *Reformer*.

Colonel

the effects such symbols have on the community," resident Curtiss Reed Jr. wrote in a 2003 commentary.

The op-ed and the discussion that followed is widely credited with — or blamed for — spurring the school to retire its antebellum plantation-owner character.

New state law requires 'nondiscriminatory school branding'

Fast-forward to the state's 2022 law requiring "nondiscriminatory school branding" that avoids stereotyping race, religion, nationality or sexual identity or referencing those "associated with the repression of others."

"Where the mascot began and where it is now are two different places, but it is intrinsically linked forever with the racist history," Lana Dever, a Brattleboro representative to the Windham Southeast School District Board, recently told her colleagues.

"What we really need to do is step forward, acknowledge the painful past, and work to have a new name that represents all of our students," she said.

That could take place as soon as the board's May 9 meeting. But Colonel supporters aren't surrendering without a fight, as seen through dozens of social media posts criticizing the proposed change.

"I grew up as a minority wearing the name across my chest as an athlete with pride," Johnathan Wong, a 2008 alumnus, wrote on Facebook. "Choosing to drop the name throws away traditions/history that existed before all of us."

Many locals mistakenly assume "Colonel" refers to the town's 1700s namesake, Col. William Brattle. Instead, the school introduced the name 70 years ago in recognition of its new home on the community's old Civil War campgrounds, according to Joe Rivers, a social studies teacher and a leader of the Brattleboro Historical Society.

The Colonels were no more than a name until the 1970s, when the school adopted the same white-goateed plantation owner mascot then used by the University of Mississippi. That led some students to wave Confederate flags at games and, in 1998, someone burned a doll depicting a Black person in the annual homecoming bonfire.

Enter Reed, who moved to town to become executive director of the locally based ALANA Community Organization, now the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity. He couldn't believe the logo he saw on school uniforms was the same "Colonel Reb" that Mississippi was retiring after complaints it was racist.

"The colonel is a vestige of a time when Blacks, the descendants of slaves, were openly and defiantly denied their civil rights by white Americans," Reed wrote in his 2003 commentary. "Do we want to develop future generations of local employees incapable of 'sealing the deal' with ethnically, racially and linguistically diverse consumers and suppliers because of their 'innocent displays' of hate-perpetuating symbols on their desks, in their cubicles or in their speech?"

School leaders went on to retire the mascot in 2004 but retain the "Colonel" moniker, only to see the issue resurface again and again.

A "Change the Racist Colonel" petition that has lingered online for years has attracted more than 1,500 signatures.

"While changing the image was a step, it simply was not enough," the petition states in part. "By having a name with an overt connection to slavery, the Civil War South and the racist history of Brattleboro, BUHS is telling its students of color that it is not a space meant for them."

In response, a "Save the Name Colonels" counter-petition has drawn a similar number of supporters who argue the moniker is no longer connected to the Confederacy.

"The image has been removed from the school for over 15 years as of now and no longer has ties to the name," the petition states in part.

Even if those arguments persuaded school leadership, that would probably not happen for another reason: trademark infringement.

In another commentary in the *Reformer* in 2004, Reed observed that the school district had taken the image of the mascot from the University of Mississippi and the university asserted its intellectual property in correspondence to BUHS in 2002 and in 2004.

"The school board in its decision to retire the image had to

FROM SECTION FRONT

have been acutely aware of the trademark infringement issues," Reed wrote, and thus "our community and its elected officials were compelled to act on behalf of its removal."

Students look back and ahead

Of Brattleboro's nearly 800 ninth- through 12th-graders, 15% identify as something other than "white," according to school statistics.

None of the dozens of students practicing baseball, softball, lacrosse, track and tennis one recent day could be seen wearing anything bearing the word "Colonel" — although a few teams jokingly referred to themselves as the "Popcorn Kernels."

Habame Scholz-Karakakis, a member of the school board's Student Advisory Committee, has suggested both regular recognition of the past and a new name for the future.

"Even though it's history, and very shameful history, I think we should teach our own history," the senior said. "That would really shed a lot of light on where we are now and how far we've come."

Additional reporting by Jeff Potter (The Commons).

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Scott administration defends plan to end motel program

At least 6 Democratic legislators threaten to uphold a potential veto if the state budget does not include funding for a pandemic program to house 2,500 people for which no housing is otherwise available

By Sarah Mearhoff
VTDigger.org

MONTPELIER—As thousands of Vermonters experiencing homelessness stand to lose their state-funded emergency shelter come July, Secretary of Human Services Jenney Samuelson said she expects some of the estimated 2,500 people to “self-resolve” their lack of housing by the time the state winds down the pandemic-era program.

“There are some of the individuals who we talked to in the hotels who have alternative plans, and they’re waiting for the program to end before initiating those,” Samuelson told reporters at a May 3 press conference alongside Gov. Phil Scott.

In a legislative session punctuated by political tit-for-tats between Scott and an emboldened Democratic supermajority in the Legislature, there is at least one thing that the two branches agree on: ending Vermont’s emergency motel housing program. Democratic legislative negotiators have cut the program out of their 2024 budget, and on May 3, members of the Scott administration defended the move.

The program began during the Covid pandemic, prompted by a historic influx of federal money and a sharp rise in homelessness. Vermont is now estimated to have the second-highest rate of homelessness in the country, behind only California.

Three years later, the well of federal cash has run dry — yet Vermont’s housing crisis lingers.

“We need to move on,” Scott said of the motel program on May 3. “I don’t underestimate how difficult this is for some of those folks involved, but it’s time. We have to end it sometime. We can’t keep going with a \$20 million a month program.” (The program actually costs between \$7 and \$8 million a month, according to data provided by state officials to VTDigger.)

Asked what she meant by program participants being able to “self-resolve” their housing situation, Samuelson said there are many options.



RANDOLPH T. HOLLET/THE COMMONS
Secretary of Human Services Jenney Samuelson said she expects some of the estimated 2,500 people to “self-resolve” their lack of housing by the time the state winds down the pandemic-era housing voucher program.

“Those could be going back to living with friends and family,” she said. “It could mean being able to find a unit with a voucher that they currently have. There are a myriad of different mechanisms. Sometimes, it’s going back to where they’ve lived before, and that may or may not be in the state of Vermont.”

But even a Section 8 voucher in hand has proven insufficient for many Vermonters struggling to find affordable housing.

Getting beyond a ‘Band-Aid’ approach

With the state having one of the lowest vacancy rates in the nation, there simply are not enough units available — and landlords, facing demand that is higher than ever, can afford to be choosy about their tenants.

Roughly 75% of Vermonters who finally receive a Section 8 voucher — sometimes after years on a waiting list — ultimately

have to rescind it because they can’t find a home to rent before it expires, VTDigger has reported.

Samuelson said that’s another reason why the motel program should end: Valuable state resources are being devoted to a Band-Aid approach, while that money could go toward building more units.

While she did not vocalize the real possibility of Vermonters being forced to live in cars or tents, the human services secretary did point to summertime’s lack of “adverse weather,” in arguing that it is the “right time” to end the program.

But in a warming climate with more frequent and extreme heat waves, Vermont’s own Department of Health writes on its website, “Heat illnesses can be deadly.”

Asked on Wednesday if she sees a need for the state to expand cooling-site capacity come summertime, Samuelson answered, “I don’t think that that’s directly related to housing.”

All in all, Samuelson said, “now is the time” to end the program.

“We could keep extending this and extending it forward, but that’s only putting a pause on folks’ lives and the ability to look at what the next step is, rather than helping them make that next step,” she said.

Opposition grows in the House

A small coalition of Democratic and Progressive lawmakers in the Vermont House is threatening to vote to uphold Gov. Phil Scott’s predicted veto of the state budget if legislative leaders do not agree to continue funding the program.



NICHOLAS LUOMA COMMONS FILE PHOTO

A message on one door at the Quality Inn, the primary facility in the region where the state has arranged for people experiencing homelessness to be sheltered throughout the pandemic. With no funding likely in the state budget and a housing shortage throughout the state, housing advocates predict that many of the people in the program will soon find themselves out on the street.

Rep. Mari Cordes, D-Lincoln, an organizer of the effort, said six Democrats (herself included) have agreed to vote to sustain a gubernatorial veto on the budget if additional funding is not added to continue the program.

“The budget is critical, but also being a statement of our values — I cannot withstand upholding a budget that is so inhumane and so immoral,” she said on May 5.

Rep. Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, P/D-Burlington, who leads the House’s five-member Progressive caucus, said it’s possible the caucus, which has asked for the program to be fully funded, would do so as well. She implied it was likely but stopped just short of making such a pledge.

“We just haven’t officially had that conversation, so I don’t want to speak out of turn from my caucus yet,” she said.

But Mulvaney-Stanak added that she, personally, would vote

to uphold a veto if the program isn’t funded. Rep. Taylor Small, P/D-Winooski, confirmed to VTDigger that she was prepared to do the same, although she stressed that she would much prefer House and Senate budget negotiators hash out a deal instead.

The move is risky. Democrats and Progressives together control 109 votes in the 150-member chamber. It takes a simple majority to pass a bill, and a two-thirds majority of members present to override a veto. Scott has telegraphed a veto on the budget is highly likely, as Democrats are planning to raise taxes and fees to fund a slate of new initiatives, but he’s never outright said he would.

His administration had requested \$26 million for Vermont’s general assistance program, a figure lawmakers in both chambers had so far accepted. For the first time, on May 4, in the waning days of the session, state officials

outlined in detail to members of the House General and Housing Committee what that money would cover.

Outside the winter months — when the state plans to relax eligibility for its motel-based shelter program — a person receiving Social Security or disability benefits would be entitled to 28 days of shelter in a single calendar year. So, too, would someone 65 or older, or in their third trimester of pregnancy.

Rep. Emilie Krasnow, D-South Burlington, visibly bristling with frustration, asked administration officials what she should tell her friends and constituents.

“What can I tell them when they asked me: Why didn’t you help me? But why do I have no place to go? Why is this bench where I sleep now?” she said.

With additional reporting by Lola Dufford of VTDigger.org.

Legislature approves universal school meals bill

Program would extend pandemic program indefinitely, but whether it faces a veto from Gov. Scott is unclear

By Peter D’Auria
VTDigger.org

MONTPELIER—Vermont lawmakers in both chambers have now given approval to legislation that would create an indefinitely operating universal school meals program, though it’s unclear whether the governor will sign it.

On May 5, the Senate voted to give initial approval to H.165, which would require schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to Vermont students. The legislation passed the House in March.

“About a year ago, when I heard about universal school meals, I remember thinking to myself, ‘That sounds nice, it makes sense, and let’s make sure kids are fed,’” Sen. Nader Hashim, D-Windham, said on

the floor.

“And then I visited a local high school in my district and sat with a group of students and staff to hear about the program,” he said. “And when I heard the stories from the kids, and the world of difference that the teachers and staff noticed, I walked away recognizing that universal school meals was going to be one of my top priorities in the Legislature.”

The bill would require public schools to offer all students free breakfast and lunch. Independent schools could also opt in to the program to provide meals to students who attend on public tuition.

To receive the lunch benefits, schools would have to participate in federal food aid programs to maximize the public funding available to them. Schools would be reimbursed for the amount of money spent on the meals. The legislation also seeks to create incentives to use local food in school meals.

Under an amendment offered by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the bill would set aside \$29 million for the program — a price tag estimated by the Legislative Joint Fiscal Office.

The dollars for the program are set to come out of the state’s education fund, a pot of money mostly filled by property taxes which pays for Vermont’s schools. The fund is currently enjoying a roughly \$64 million surplus.

But despite its momentum, the school meals legislation has not been without opposition.

Some lawmakers have expressed concern that, because the program offers free meals to all students, it would force Vermont taxpayers to subsidize meals for wealthy families — and could, in the education fund’s leaner years, raise residents’ property taxes to do so.

“What this bill will do is assure universal meals, and that will mean children from the most affluent communities and the most affluent families will have the benefit,” Sen. Jane Kitchel, D-Caledonia, said on the floor.

Advocates have argued that the bill would reduce the stigma for low-income children who receive free meals at school. Kitchel, however, argued that the program would do little to obscure socioeconomic differences in schools.

“But don’t kid ourselves,” Kitchel said. “Students know

whose children are poor. They know because of [their] phone. They know it because of their clothing. They know it because of anything. And in some cases it’s because the bus picks them up at the motel.”

Gov. Phil Scott has also expressed hesitation about the program.

The governor “remains concerned that the bill would increase property tax pressure, and therefore potentially rents,” his spokesperson Jason Maulucci said in a May 5 email. “This approach could disproportionately impact lower-income Vermonters in order to essentially provide affluent families support that they do not need.”

Heather Bouchey, Vermont’s interim secretary of education, told lawmakers in the Senate appropriations committee on May 3 that now is not the time to implement a program, given that “economic forecasts show clouds on the horizon,” according to written testimony.

“I appreciate the opportunity to clarify that the Administration does not support creating a permanent universal meals program this year,” Bouchey said.

But the bill passed on May 5 by voice vote, after multiple senators rose in support of it.

“Kids cannot learn if they have not eaten breakfast and lunch,” Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Addison, said in remarks on the floor. “This is just as important to kids’ education as books are.”

The bill, which if passed will take effect July 1, must receive final sign-off by the Senate, and the House must approve the amended version before it heads to the governor’s desk.

Maulucci did not respond to an email seeking clarification about the governor’s plans for the legislation.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Windham Unit Docket No.: 23-PR-00962
In re ESTATE of: Richard Mirucki

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Richard Mirucki (Decedent)
late of West Halifax, 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: May 2, 2023 c/o Amelia W. L. Darrow, Esq.
Bertram Beisiegel, Executor Secret & Darrow, PLC
209 Austine Dr, Brattleboro, VT 05301 802-251-6598

Name of Publication: The Commons 802-251-6598
Publication Date: May 10, 2023 adarrow@secrestdarrow.com

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

STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Windham Unit Docket No.: 23-PR-00244
In re ESTATE of: Marjorie Dedell

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Marjorie Dedell (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: May 4, 2023 147 Western Ave.
Molly Ladner, Attorney Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-257-7244

Name of Publication: The Commons mladner@pdsclaw.com
Publication Date: May 10, 2023

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

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the question: “What can we do to narrow the staggering economic inequality that so afflicts us in almost every aspect of our lives?”

In addition, he co-founded the website DivestInvest (DivestInvest.org) and is a trustee of the Post Carbon Institute, which publishes the website Resilience (Resilience.org). A board member of the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust, he was instrumental in shaping that organization.

Author of numerous articles and several non-fiction texts — among them, *The Wealth Hoarders: How Billionaires Pay Millions to Hide Trillions and Born on Third Base: A One Percenters Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good* — Collins has been a presence on CNN and on NPR’s *Fresh Air*; in print he’s been featured in publications from *The Hill* to *The Sun* magazine, all a credit not only to his experience but also to his perspective on economic inequality in the U.S.

Collins has been there. Growing up in the wealthy suburbs of Detroit, he says, he became increasingly aware of inequality.

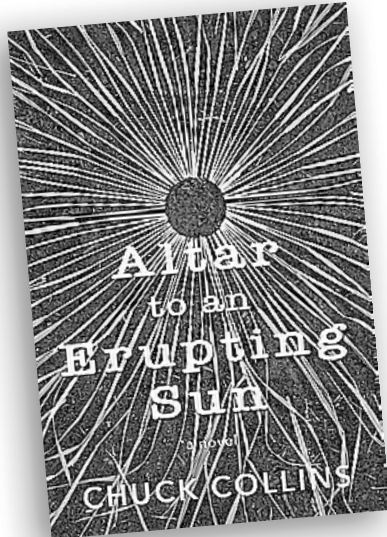
At 26, he came into a sizable inheritance from his great-grandfather, the German-born immigrant entrepreneur Oscar F. Mayer. In turn, he donated it all to social justice causes and foundations — choosing, instead, “to work for a living,” he said. “I needed to make my own way.”

Acknowledging his multigenerational advantage, he adds, “That’s the hand I was dealt: I chose not to go there.”

Storytelling as a tool for activism

About his departure from nonfiction, Collins notes that as in his current work, published by Brattleboro’s Green Writers Press, “fiction can play an important role in imagining how we move forward.”

Collins said that he “didn’t set out to write a novel.” But he added that he was inspired by his wife, Mary Wallace Collins, a real estate agent who is also accomplished at storytelling, an art he’s honing.



FROM SECTION FRONT

The cover of *Altar to an Erupting Sun*.

He’d had the characters, plot, setting, and theme in his back pocket for a while, he said, and so he set it to paper.

Collins said that “we’re on a collision course toward a climate catastrophe.”

“We know what’s required, but we’re at an impasse — a powerful industry has been blocking progress for 40 to 50 years,” he said. “How do we make sense of it and what do we do? There’s lots of bleak imagery in art, but in the work of Ursula McGinn, for example, we see visions of how we can live with hope.”

Altar “is a formation story,” Collins explained — one about how people, relationships, experiences, and movements shape us. Weaving in the history of protest and its key players in recent decades and recalling events (such as the partial meltdown of a Three Mile Island nuclear reactor, the Nicaraguan Revolution, and the Iran-Contra political scandal) and dissidents (from Henry David Thoreau to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, the Berrigans, and other progressive Catholics), the new book is, he said, “a bildungsroman for adults.”

Moreover, he added, “the story is an altar to people who have sacrificed to social movements.”

A leitmotif, the altar reminds the reader at several junctures that there are sacrifices to be made ubiquitously; there are forces of evil working against efforts to ameliorate climate change; there are saints among us to be revered.

“To bring their stories to the fore is to honor them,” Collins said.

“How we die says a lot about how we live,” he says. Rae Kelliher’s act is extreme in extreme times — and one that contradicts her life of nonviolent protest.

Collins also tells the story through Kelliher’s journal entries, like this one: “My memory is sharp. I can’t seem to erase some images and experiences. My mind travels to Montague Farm, the soup kitchen in Mexico, the blockade of the pipeline. I can see each scene vividly. [...] I rediscovered this Utah Phillips quote that has new meaning for me now: ‘The Earth is not dying—it is being killed. And the people who are killing it have names and addresses.’ What action is justified in defense of my body, our one and only Mother Earth?”

“We, the human project, have power still,” Collins says. “If we all knew then what Exxon knew 40 years ago, we’d have responded differently to avert disaster.” As it is, Rae Kelliher notes that “thousands of innocent people are dying or will die because of climate disruption.”

On Earth Day 2022, Wynn Bruce, 50, of Colorado set himself on fire on the steps of the Supreme Court. Some say he struggled with mental health; others say he was deeply disturbed by climate change and this was his protest.

Most can’t conceive of doing what Kelliher did in the pages of

Sister District Project garners \$100,000 in political donations

PUTNEY—Created and energized in response to the 2016 national election, Southern Vermont Sister District Project’s purpose is to empower local individuals in playing a role within our larger political systems. And to do so by supporting grassroots change on progressive issues in state legislatures across the United States.

With creative fundraising over a series of targeted election cycles, Southern Vermont Sister District (SVSD) has raised a total of \$100,000.

Recognizing that Vermont was a sustainable Democratic “Blue State,” SVSD says it used the guidance and resources of the national Sister District Project to partner and support Democratic state legislative candidates during election cycles for the key “Purple” swing states of Virginia and Pennsylvania.

“State legislatures are where many of our most vital current political issues such as reproductive health and abortion, gun control and crime, and minimum wage and unionizing are debated and decided,” organizers said in a news release. “Although under the radar at times, state legislatures across

the USA strongly contribute to the quality of life for local citizenry and often play a leadership role in pulling the nation into different directions.

The national Sister District Project identifies local leaders and activists in winnable state legislative races — the majority with women and gender minority representatives and candidates of color. Since 2016, SVSD says it has backed a total of eight such legislative candidates, seven of whom won elections, and thus contributed to flipping the Virginia House of Representatives to Blue in 2018, and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to Blue in 2022.

SVSD says it achieved its success by going beyond more traditional political activism of canvassing, phone banking, and mailings. Instead, it raises money in creative and engaging ways, such as its Soup Subscription, in which “subscribers receive a monthly quart or two of healthy and delicious homemade soup. Volunteer soup makers follow standardized recipes and donate ingredients while subscribers donate money to targeted state legislators.”

Also, SVSD has held several

fundraising auctions entitled “Save Our Nation Vacation,” where potential guests bid on donated vacation homes during a generous community meal that includes musical interludes featuring popular local bands. In addition, SVSD hosted several annual Fourth of July croquet events with innovative and politically-themed wickets.

With the most recent Soup Subscription cycle for winter 2023, SVSD reached the \$100,000 milestone after five years of fundraisers. Described as “small but mighty,” SVSD has the fewest members of any Sister District chapter in the nation, but is in the top 10 for fundraising.

As group co-founder Peg Alden notes, “This is a testament to how many small actions can have huge results.” And co-founder Diane Shamas adds, “Not only are we honoring our beliefs, but having fun and building community at the same time.”

From this fundraising milestone, SVSD says it is now looking energetically ahead to making a difference in the 2024 election.

Collins’s book or what Bruce did in real life.

Collins would then press a reader about what would effectively protest and compel change.

“What would you do?” he would ask. “What bold act will it take?”

Collins has launched a New England-wide book tour and will appear Thursday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m., at 118 Elliot to read from and discuss Altar to an Erupting Sun. The event is co-sponsored by Everyone’s Books, where the book is available. For more information, visit chuckcollinswrites.com and greenwriterspress.com.

MARLBORO

Town plans special meeting on recycling

MARLBORO—The Marlboro Selectboard will hold a special meeting on recycling on Saturday, May 13, at 2 p.m. at the Marlboro Community Center.

Residents can also attend the meeting via Zoom by going to marlborovt.us/boards-minutes/select-board, and following the link. The agenda is also linked there.

In a letter to Marlboro residents, the Selectboard said that it “strongly supports recycling and the decision the town has made over the years to support a local

recycling depot (drop-off area) currently located at the Highway Department area on Route 9.”

However, the board said that over the past few years “there have been issues with recycling being left on the ground when the containers were full, the dumping of ‘non-recycling’ trash, and placing of recyclable materials in the wrong container causing ‘contamination.’”

All of these issues, the board said, “contribute to a workload for the highway department that takes time away from their main

road maintenance duties, causes general disbursement of material due to winds, rain, and other weather conditions, and can increase costs for the town when the containers are cross-contaminated with recyclables.”

The board says it “continues to review possible solutions and would like to reach out to the

town’s residents to get your input into solving these and other issues.”

If there are any questions regarding how to attend the meeting, email the Selectboard at marlborovtselectboard@gmail.com or call Selectboard Assistant Nick Morgan at the Town Office at 802-254-2181.

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CHANNEL 1079

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<p>Here We Are - Gordon Hayward, Garden Designer, Writer: Mon 8p, Tues 3:15p, Wed 12p, Thurs 1:30p, Fri 9:30p, Sat 9a</p> <p>The World Fusion Show - Ep # 151 - Opium Moon: Mon 5:30p, Tues 1:30p & 8p, Wed 5:30p, Thurs 2p, Sat 5p, Sun 9:30a</p> <p>New England Center for Circus Arts - 2023 Circus Spectacular: Tues 8:30p, Thurs 4:30p, Fri 12p, Sat 8p, Sun 5:30p</p> <p>Brattleboro Gallery Walk 2023: Thurs 4p, Fri 6:15a, Sat 6:30p, Sun 6:30a & 7p</p> <p>Around Town with Maria - Celebrating the Life of Jonas Emmanuel Blanchet-Fricke: Mon 10a, Wed 3:30p, Thurs 9a, Fri 4p, Sat 2p, Sun 7:30p</p> <p>Climate Emergency Book Series - Jon Erickson: Mon 1:15p, Tues 12p, Wed 9p, Thurs 2:30p, Fri 1:30p, Sun 1:45p</p> <p>Community Forum - Snowstorm and Power Company Response 4/1/23: Tues 4p, Wed 9a, Fri 3p, Sun 4p</p> <p>At BMAC - Artist Talk: Daniel Callahan: Mon 12p, Wed 12:45p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 6:45a, Sat 9:30p, Sun 12:30p</p> <p>Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p</p> <p>Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p</p> <p>WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p</p> <p>St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a</p> <p>Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service: Tue 9a, Sat 5:30p, Sun 10a</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p</p> <p>Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service: Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a</p> <p>St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass: Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p</p>	<p>Landmark College Spring 2023 Commencement: Sat 10a (LIVE)</p> <p>Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 5/2/23: Mon 3p, Tues 8p, Wed 9:30a, Thurs 3:30p, Sat 6p, Sun 6p</p> <p>VT Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel 5/8/23: Sat 8:30p, Sun 9a</p> <p>Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 5/8/23: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 11:30a</p> <p>Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 5/8/23: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2p</p> <p>West River Education District Board Mtg. 5/8/23: Fri 6p, Sat 7:15a, Sun 12p</p> <p>Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 5/9/23: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 1p</p> <p>Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 5/9/23: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 3:30p</p> <p>Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Board Mtg. 5/10/23: Fri 8:30p, Sat 4:45a, Sun 2:30p</p> <p>Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 5/1/23: Mon 6:45p, Tues 7:45a, Wed 2:30p</p> <p>Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg. 5/1/23: Mon 8p, Tues 10a, Wed 12p, Thurs 11a, Sun 8:30p</p> <p>River Valleys Unified School District Board Mtg. 5/1/23: Mon 5:30p, Tues 6:30a, Wed 3:45p, Fri 4:30p</p> <p>Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 5/2/23: Mon 4:45p, Wed 11:15a, Thurs 5:15p, Sat 7:45p, Sun 7:45p</p> <p>Newfane Planning Commission Mtg. 4/27/23: Mon 10a, Tues 7:15p, Wed 8:45a, Sun 8:15a</p> <p>Brattleboro Charter Revision Commission Mtg. 4/27/23: Mon 10:30a, Tues 6p, Wed 7:30a, Sun 7a</p> <p>The David Pakman Show: Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p</p>
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Note: Schedule subject to change.

View full schedule and watch online at brattleborotv.org

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Brattleboro Community Television - 257-0888

MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

School news

• Several students at St. Michael's School in Brattleboro recently joined 100,000 students in 21 countries around the world taking the 2023 National Latin Exam and carried off an impressive list of prizes: **Lily Tainter** earned a cum laude (with honor) certificate. **Dezrah Bills** received a magna cum laude (with great honor) certificate. **Anthony Bills, Sean Froula, Sam Buchanan, Hudson Buckley, Carter Buckley, and John-Paul Delabruere** all earned maxima cum laude (with greatest honor) certificates and silver medals. **James Gardner** was awarded a summa cum laude (with highest honor) certificate and gold medal for his perfect score on the exam.

Obituaries



• **Rafael "Ray" Howe Carbonell, 78**, of Brattleboro. Died unexpectedly in his office in Brattleboro on May 1, 2023.

Ray was with his wife as well as co-workers who attempted to assist. His death was immediate and, thankfully, he did not suffer. Ray was born in Brattleboro on Jan. 16, 1945. He was the first of two children of Lillian Adelaide (Howe) Carbonell of Northfield, Massachusetts and Rafael Martinez Carbonell of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Ray was a hard-working Vermonter who played football at Brattleboro Union High School, where he graduated in 1963. He then graduated from Northeastern University in 1968, and while there joined the Nu Epsilon Zeta fraternity where he made lifelong friends and brothers he continued to see regularly throughout his life. He also obtained a Masters of Business Administration degree from Suffolk University in 1970 while working full-time. In 1969, Ray married Patricia M. Mayor from Miami, Florida. They had two sons: Rafael "Rafe" Mayor Carbonell, born in Boston in 1974, and Sloane Mayor Carbonell, born in Brattleboro in 1976. In October 2015, Ray married Laura Ellen Systo of Guilford, and they shared many laughs, sunsets, and nautical miles together. For years they were accompanied by their furry companion Lucky, whom they took in from the streets of Miami. Ray was an entrepreneur at heart and he excelled as a businessman. He purchased and worked a sawmill in Marlboro, started a wood furniture-making business in Guilford, founded and ran the Guilford Home Center,

and added an appliance division as well. After many years of building relationships, he sold the Home Center and in 1985 started Cocoplum Appliances in Brattleboro. That location's success branched into two more locations: Keene, New Hampshire in 1990 and Essex Junction in 2000. Ray was extremely proud of the business and the many employees who helped make it successful. Ray loved travel and adventure. After college, he and his good friend Steve Drowne hitchhiked completely around the world by planes, trains, cars, buses, and boats; they even peeled potatoes in exchange for passage. They also started a not-so-successful fishing charter business. Ray continued to travel the world throughout the years with his family and friends including places all over Europe, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and South Africa. Ray's mother Lillian introduced him to boating and he became an avid sailor and boater. Ray and Laura docked their boat in downtown Burlington, and enjoyed hosting friends and taking trips together from Lake Champlain to New York City, Montreal, Canada, and Miami, via the Intracoastal Waterway, often accompanied by their fearless deck paw Lucky. Aside from his passion to be on the water, Ray was also an avid skier and wanna-be golfer. He would meet up with a group of fraternity brothers each year to ski Vermont. Ray was preceded in death his parents and his brother, Roger Allen Carbonell. Ray is survived by his wife, Laura E. Systo; son and family, Rafael M. and Maria Sol Patanian Carbonell, Sofia Carbonell, and Sebastian Carbonell; son and wife, Sloane and Marcy Carbonell; and nieces, Jeanne Johnson, Angela Label, and Carmel Oliver. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Calling hours are Thursday, May 11, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Atamaniuk Funeral Home in Brattleboro. A burial service will be held on Friday, May 12, at 11 a.m., at Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery with a reception to celebrate Ray's life to follow from 12:30 to 4 p.m. at Bella Notte at the Brattleboro Country Club. All gatherings are open to anyone with a connection to Ray and his family. Donations to Brattleboro Union High School Athletics at givebutter.com/In-Memory-Of-Ray-Carbonell.

• **Susan Marie Francis "Sue" Limoges John, 80**, formerly of Brattleboro. Died April 16, 2023. Born in Claremont, New Hampshire on Aug. 12, 1942, she moved with her family to Bennington and, later, to Brattleboro, where Sue met her future husband, Michael John. Sue began her career as a third-grade teacher, both affecting and inspiring children in the classroom. She then refocused this attention

to her own children, staying at home full-time to raise her girls. She and her husband later relocated with the family to Pueblo, Colorado to pursue a career in broadcasting. Mike and Sue put their hearts into a new radio station achieving great success. Eight years later the family moved to Roseville, California, where Sue returned once again to the classroom working as a teacher aide. Anyone who spent time with Sue knew about her sense of humor and her ability to make all feel welcomed in her presence. Her open and generous spirit, along with her dedication and commitment to her family and friends were the foundations on which she built her life. Sue's true gift was her ability to find joy in the everyday. From tending the garden, to connecting with the next great read, or spending time with loved ones, Sue lived every minute. She knew the deep value of family and friendship. Sue is survived by her three daughters, Stephanie, Michelle, and Cindy as well as her grandchildren Addie, Mike, Matt, and Gabe. She was preceded in death by her mother, Adeline, her father, Emery, her sister, Elaine, and husband Michael John. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of life will be held on May 12 in California.

• **Adelaide Warner Minott** of Guilford died May 2, 2023 in the comfort of her home. Service arrangements are pending and a complete obituary will be published in an upcoming edition of *The Commons*. Atamaniuk Funeral Home of Brattleboro is in charge of arrangements.

• **Eleanor Tyler Petersen, 88**, of Brattleboro. Died of Alzheimer's disease on April 30, 2023 at Vernon

Green Nursing Home, where she resided for the last two years. She was born in Brattleboro on July 21, 1934, to A. Lawrence Tyler and Doris Ware Tyler. In 2017, Eleanor was predeceased by her beloved husband of 63 years, Stuart. She leaves two children, Steven Petersen of Guilford and Sheryl Petersen Sprague (Mark) of Putney. She leaves grandchildren Kristen Petersen Weaver (Ryan Arms), Heather Petersen Bacon, and Amy Sprague, all of Vermont, Evan Petersen (Reina) of Nevada, and Jennifer Sprague of Connecticut, as well as Andy Bacon of Vermont. She also leaves five adored great-grandchildren: Emily and Trevor Bacon, Elijah Stuart Larson, Teddy Looman, and Maddy Sprague. Eleanor loved her family dearly and took great joy in spending time with them. She enjoyed hosting holiday dinners at her house and spoiling the grandchildren and

great-grandchildren with home-baked treats. Eleanor graduated from Brattleboro High School in 1952. After graduation, she worked at the Holstein Association and American Optical. She and Stuart married on May 8, 1954. She was most proud to be a homemaker for many years. In 1983, she began working as a receptionist for Petersen Refrigeration, the business she ran with her husband and son, until a ruptured brain aneurysm forced her into retirement at 58. Stuart and Eleanor made many fond memories in their 63 years together — from snowmobiling and square dancing with friends, to the times they spent at their cherished log cabin in Putney, to traveling south in their RV to spend time with family in Alabama. Her great love of ice cream served her until the end. She especially enjoyed trips to Blueberry Haus. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: There will be no services at this time. To sign an online guestbook with messages of condolence, visit atamaniuk.com. Donations in Eleanor's memory may be sent to Vernon Green Activity Fund, 61 Greenway Drive, Vernon, VT 05354. In Eleanor's honor, have an ice cream cone (any flavor will do).

• **Alanna Marie Reilly, 69**, of Vernon. Died unexpectedly on April 30, 2023 at her home. Alanna was born in

New Hyde Park, New York, the daughter of Peter and Mary (McGowan) Reilly. She was raised in New Hyde Park, attending parochial school prior to moving to Hinsdale, New Hampshire with her family. She was a graduate of Hinsdale High School, Class of 1972. She went on to attend Keene State College where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Human Resources. Alanna had been employed as office manager for Avada Hearing Center in Brattleboro, which she retired from in 2016. Soon after retiring, she dedicated her time in caring for her elderly mother until her death. Previously, she worked in the business office at the Brattleboro Retreat and, prior to this position, had worked at the former Linden Lodge Nursing Home. Alanna was a communicant of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Brattleboro. She was an avid reader and especially enjoyed the mystery novels by local author Archer Mayor. Of her other interests, she enjoyed playing scrabble, trips to the coast of Maine, nature, and she loved her cats. She was a devoted fan of the New York Yankees and New England Patriots. On October 31, 2000, in Brattleboro, she was married to Sharon Momaney, who survives. Alanna leaves two brothers, Michael Reilly of Brattleboro and Douglas Reilly of Chesterfield, New Hampshire; stepchildren Carrie Boyd of Vernon and Timothy Boyd of Hinsdale; a special aunt, Margaret Ahrens of Maryland; and many nieces, nephews, and several cousins. She was predeceased by her parents; a sister, Susan Cunningham; and a brother, Kevin Reilly. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of Alanna's life will be held at her home on 257 Newton Rd. in Vernon, on Saturday, June 3, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Please bring a chair and your favorite dish to share with family. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To send condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Joseph Paul "Joe" Thompson, 63**, of Brattleboro. Died April 29, 2023, with his family present, following an

eight-month battle with pancreatic cancer. Joe was born in Whitinsville, Massachusetts on Aug. 31, 1959. He and his twin sister, Joann, were adopted by Russell and Mildred (Cate) Thompson of Gill, Massachusetts. Joe graduated from Turners Falls (Mass.) High School with the Class of 1977. His first job was at Western Auto in Greenfield, Massachusetts, but he also purchased his first lawn mower and started perfecting his mowing techniques at that time. He was a volunteer firefighter for the Gill Fire Department while in high school. He started his career in EMS in 1979 by taking an EMT course at Greenfield Community College, where he met his future wife, Joan Martin. Joe and Joan married April 18, 1980 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Turners Falls. Although the marriage ended in divorce, Joe and Joan maintained a dedicated friendship. He joined the Londonderry Rescue Squad as an active volunteer until moving to Brattleboro in 1982 and joining Rescue Inc. His involvement at Rescue brought him up through the ranks in several key capacities over 42 years, including captain, lieutenant/shift officer, as well as a driver training officer helping to orient new members. At the time of his death, he was in charge of building maintenance at Rescue's Canal Street headquarters, the Division 2 station in West Townshend, and Vermont EMS Academy (VEMSA) in Newfane. No matter the job, he always took great pride in doing his best, never a job half done. In May 2022, Joe was the recipient of the Star of Life Award presented to him in Washington, D.C., for his dedication and service within the field of EMS. On May 2, 2023, three days after his death, he was awarded the Servpro EMS Appreciation 2023 Award in recognition for his "enduring commitment to exceptional service and unparalleled dedication to the communities" in which he served. This award came with the opportunity to "Paint the Plate" at Fenway Park on May 4, 2023. Joe would have liked nothing better than to have been able to be there at Fenway. He has always been an avid Red Sox fan. He was sole proprietor of his business, Thompson Maintenance, working from sunrise until sunset mowing lawns to his exact specifications, and plowing snow in the winter. His skills at these endeavors were cause for him to be much sought after. Joe was, also, a volunteer with the Living Memorial Park Winter Sports Program where he served on the ski patrol. Joe loved the great outdoors as a hunter and a fisherman, and vacations at York Beach, Maine. He always would rather be outside than inside, no matter the weather. Joe especially cherished the time spent with his grandchildren, his best buddy being his grandson Grayson. They enjoyed many adventures together. He has been able for the past four months to really get to know his granddaughters who moved from Texas to be with him. Joe is survived by his life partner, Joan Martin; two children, Gregg Thompson (Jenn) of Brattleboro and Kate Boudreau (Ian) of Williamsville; grandchildren, Devin and Aliviana Thompson and Grayson Boudreau; his mother, Mildred Thompson of Gill; sister Joann Gochinski of Deerfield, Massachusetts, and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his father, Russell Thompson and sister, Bonnie Wall. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Friends are invited to call at the Atamaniuk Funeral Home on June 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. A celebration of Joe's life will be held on June 5, from 4 to 6 p.m., at

the B.P.O. Elks Lodge on Putney Road. Donations to Rescue Inc., P.O. Box 593, Brattleboro, VT 05302; or the Joseph P. Thompson Memorial Scholarship Fund at Rescue Inc. To send condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.



• **Frances Ziel, 59**, formerly of Brattleboro. Died April 11, 2023 at her home in Tenakee Springs, Alaska,

surrounded by her family, after a courageous 14-year battle with cancer. Frances grew up the youngest of three daughters of Francis "Buddy" and Marion (Anderson) Speno in Brattleboro, on the same street as most of her 10 first cousins with the rest of her Italian family a short distance away. Perhaps this, or Frances' equally-strong connection to her mother's Swedish-heritage, forged Frances' lifelong devotion to family near and far. After graduating from Brattleboro Union High School in 1981, Frances attended Keene Beauty Academy and became a hairdresser, first in Brattleboro, then San Francisco, and finally in Seattle. In 2000, Frances moved to Tenakee Springs, where she ran The Bakery, and soon began volunteering for the Tenakee school. Frances was elected to Chatham School District's Regional School Board in 2016, when she threw herself into solving Tenakee's enrollment challenges by creating the Tenakee Independent Learning Center (ILC), a public homeschool co-op that she helped grow into a statewide distance program. Frances' legacy to Tenakee and hundreds of rural students across the Chatham school district lives on. Frances loved and was deeply committed to her family, her faith, her community, and to her husband Rudy, the love of her life. The house they rebuilt together was the hub for Sunday dinners, family reunions and community celebrations big and small; Frances had a knack for making ordinary events into magical celebrations, and an incredible ability to bring community together. As Meryl Connelly-Chew said, "her belief that celebrations were special and important made us feel special and important." Frances is survived by her husband Rudy Ziel; her sisters Lisa Speno (Tuck Harry) and Linnea Lospenosochatel, her aunts Marie Corbeil and Fannie Speno; her stepmother Gail Speno, and numerous cousins in the U.S. and Sweden. She was predeceased by both of her parents. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral will be held in Brattleboro on May 13, at 11 a.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church at 11 a.m. with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery. There will also be a celebration of her life in Tenakee Springs in the fall. Donations her grandparents' scholarship fund, the William and Emily Speno Memorial Scholarship Fund, in care of the WSESU District office, 53 Green St., Brattleboro, VT 05301. To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

Services




• An alcohol-free celebration of life for **Stephen Roy "Harley Charley" Banis** will be held rain or shine

on May 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Guilford Fairgrounds. Come with your motorcycle, hot rod, or classic car or truck to join with friends and family in celebrating Charley's life. Bring a dish if you wish or enjoy burgers and hot dogs from Biker Bob's Food Truck. Mr. Banis, 75, of Guilford died at home on Jan. 24, 2023.

• The family of **Joan Lake** extends a warm invitation to her many friends and communities for a celebration of life service on


May 27, at 2 p.m., at Grafton Trails & Outdoor Center (formerly Grafton Ponds). A community gathering will follow the service at the same location. Everybody is invited to remain and to share their personal memories of Joan. Interment will be private, at a time of the family's choosing. Mrs. Lake, 92, of Grafton, died peacefully at home on Oct. 6, 2022.

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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Hi, my name is **Hope!** I am a sweet older gal looking for my retirement home. I would do best in a home as the only pet and without any small kids. I would benefit from losing some weight to make me feel much healthier. While I may get around a little slower I still have some slow burst of energy. Please make my day and meet with me.




Hey...psst...HEY! It's me, **Coco!** The sweetest, most bestest kitty in the universe! I came all the way from NJ to find a new home. I'm pretty nervous with all the changes around me but if you give me some time I'm very gentle and lovey. I would do best with out dogs in the home, although I may be able to live with other cats. I need a quiet home where I can feel safe and loved. Come in and make my dream come true...today!



Hi new friends, I'm **Igor!** Kind of a spooky name, I know! I was originally found as a stray in NJ before arriving to WCHS on transport. The staff in NJ describes me as curious and outgoing. Since I was a stray not too much of my history is known so introductions to other cats and dogs in my new home should be gradual to start. I can be friendly with people on my terms but I prefer to lead the interaction and will get sassy if bothered. I would do best with an experienced cat owner who can read my body language and know when you leave me to myself. I don't want to wait for my new home any longer, come meet me soon!

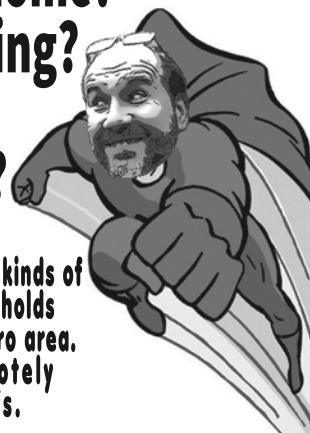
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Family leave bill

“With the Senate, we don’t agree on the funding source,” Krowinski told VT Digger. “We don’t agree on how it’s administered. We don’t agree on who’s covered with it. And so at this time, I think it’s best that we continue to work on this over the summer and fall and come back to it in January.”

The bill would guarantee 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for all Vermont workers, including part-time and seasonal ones.

Kornheiser told *The Commons* in January that the bill “is making sure that folks can take the time they need to care for a loved one, to care for a child, or to care for themselves if they’re sick. It’s for someone who needs to take safe leave because of domestic violence. It’s for someone who is caring for someone or loves someone who’s deployed.”

The bill, H.66, has the support of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR), Voices for Vermont’s Children, Let’s Grow Kids, and many other nonprofits, as well as most of the members of the House. Main Street Alliance and Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility are both really key partners in the coalition that supports this bill, as is AARP, Kornheiser said.

It did not have the support of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, which was concerned with the potential cost to Vermont businesses.

Gov. Phil Scott also weighed in. “It’s important to know I support universal access to paid family and medical leave,” the governor said in a statement. “That’s why my administration put forward a voluntary program that is now being implemented.

“That’s why my administration put forward a voluntary program that is now being implemented. Today, however, the House of Representatives is considering a bill that, instead of being voluntary, would impose a mandatory and regressive payroll tax on Vermonters, costing an estimated \$117 million every year.

“The House also envisions building and funding a new program from scratch, requiring the addition of over 60 new state employees. This will be no easy task, as we are currently facing a workforce shortage and presently have over 800 open positions in state government that we’re unable to fill,” the governor continued.

Scott charged that with “record state surpluses and high inflation, it is counterintuitive to force a new broad-base tax on already



RANDOLPH T. HOLMUT/THE COMMONS

State Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, says she is not giving up on her efforts to get a Paid Family Leave bill through the Legislature.

overburdened Vermonters — especially when there is an alternative path to achieve our goal.”

Question of priorities

If passed, the proposal would cost about \$120 million annually. It would be paid for by imposing a roughly 0.5% payroll tax to be split between employers and employees.

Kornheiser strongly disagrees with the governor about the cost.

“For every business that I’ve spoken to that’s run the numbers, this program actually saves money,” she told *The Commons* this week.

“You get 12 weeks of leave for your employees for a cost of \$125 a year per employee. It’s actually an amazing opportunity, especially for small businesses that don’t have the [human resources] capacity to be running something like this in-house.”

She said the bill was “not a priority” in the other chamber.

“They wanted to focus on child care,” Kornheiser said.

In contrast, the House believed that both measures could pass in the same year, “and that that would be a way of meeting the needs of a really broad constituency,” she said.

For Kornheiser, providing a child care bill along with a bill for paid family leave would focus help for people who provide caregiving across the age spectrum.

“The third piece, for me, was increased Medicaid reimbursement rates,” she said. “So that folks who are providing home care and things like that are getting paid more.”

Medicaid reimbursement is currently in the budget. The child care bill is still being discussed.

“In the final-final weeks of negotiations, we’re trying to figure out the best financing package

FROM SECTION FRONT

and some details of the policy,” Kornheiser said.

For her, those three bills together “felt like an opportunity to say that given the demographics of the state, we can invest in policies that prioritize care and the value of how much we all need that in our lives, and for the economy to work.”

“But it’s a lot to get done in one year,” Kornheiser conceded.

A busy summer ahead

So what happened to paid family leave?

“It’s become clear that while all of the House Democrats and Progressives heard a lot about the need for family medical leave on the campaign trail and in our communities, the senators didn’t seem to have heard from the same folks throughout the year,” Kornheiser said.

Senators don’t canvass their constituents as much as House members do, Kornheiser pointed out.

“On the campaign trail, people running for the House often knock on every door in their district,” Kornheiser said. “And that’s not possible for senators to do. So we have members that tend to be a little closer to the ground in their communities. They have much smaller constituencies to work with.”

So the votes “aren’t there yet in the Senate,” she said. “Senators don’t know enough about the program yet. The Senate committee just did its first walkthrough of the bill last week.”

Once the Legislature adjourns for the year, Kornheiser and her supporters are planning an intensive grassroots education effort.

She, Krowinski, many other House members, and a few senators “are going to spend the summer and the fall turning out in our communities, talking about family medical leave, hearing from folks about how their lives probably need this program and how their lives might be improved from it, and talking to businesses about that,” Kornheiser said.

“We’ll be building up the kind of campaign that we need to make sure everyone has all the stories of people’s lives that they need to get something done,” she added.

Patience will be Kornheiser’s secret weapon.

She said that when she started in the Legislature in 2019, she sat next to Rep. Matt Hill, D-Wolcott, in committee, who

DVFiber signs construction contract with Sertex Broadband Solutions

WILMINGTON — Deerfield Valley Communications Union District (DVFiber) has signed a construction contract with Sertex Broadband Solutions for the initial phase of constructing and installing a fiber optic network in southern Vermont. This marks a significant step toward making DVFiber’s community-owned fiber network a reality, targeting the most underserved areas at the outset.

“We are proud to partner with DVFiber in expanding digital infrastructure in Southern Vermont,” Michael Solitro, CEO and founder of Sertex, said in a news release. “Gigabit connectivity is life-changing in rural areas, as it opens new doors for remote work, education, medical care, and economic opportunity.”

DVFiber was established in 2020 to ensure that all on-grid households and businesses within the 24-member town district have access to reliable, high-speed Internet service. With this in mind, DVFiber has been working over the past

three years to secure funding and establish partnerships with companies like Sertex to help it achieve its goals.

Sertex, founded in 1999, has as its mission “to deploy broadband infrastructures that are reliable, affordable, and built to last, focusing first in unserved and underserved areas.” Broadband Communities Magazine ranked Sertex as a 2022 Top 100 Fiber-to-the-Home Leader.

Steven John, chair of DVFiber, expressed eagerness to see trucks and crews installing its fiber network.

“This milestone represents more than three years of work by the DVFiber Board and its dedicated volunteers,” said John. He says hundreds of families will be connected to high-speed internet service.

DVFiber and Sertex are expected to start construction later this month. For more information about DVFiber and its mission to provide universal, affordable, reliable high-speed Internet service, visit DVFiber.net.

had been working on legislation that would allow Vermonters a right to repair their own vehicles or equipment — a right that has become increasingly fragile with modern technology.

“I got really interested in this idea and ended up co-sponsoring with him,” Kornheiser said. When Hill left the legislature in 2020, “I kept on sponsoring the bill,” she said.

“And you know, this year — five years later — it passed the House Agriculture Committee and came to the House floor, and we passed it on the House floor. And that’s just a tiny little consumer rights bill.”

Kornheiser is disappointed but determined.

“We’ve gotten a lot of good work done this year, and, you know, at this time of year,

anything is still possible with a week left,” she said. “But yeah, I’m really disappointed.”

Of course, the biennium continues with the start of the next session in January 2024 with unfinished business remaining in place for further deliberation.

But in the meantime, she believes Vermont needs a program like this today.

“And the longer we wait to pass it, more folks will leave their jobs because they need to care for a loved one,” Kornheiser said. “Either they aren’t going to be able to pay their bills or they aren’t going to be taking care of the people they need to be taking care of.”

The absence of a program like this “puts people in a really impossible situation.”

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AROUND THE TOWNS

Parks Place diaper drive now underway

BELLOWS FALLS — Now through Wednesday, May 31, Parks Place, Edward Jones, and Chroma are conducting their annual diaper drive.

The Parks Place “Time for a Change” Diaper Bank was established in 2016 to support local families. Diapers cannot be obtained with food stamps, and no state or federal child safety-net program allocates dollars specifically for the purchase of diapers. Buying diapers at a local convenience store rather than at a large retailer can double or triple the monthly cost for diapers.

“Many parents are already struggling to pay for rent and food and simply cannot afford the high cost of an adequate supply of diapers for their children,” said organizers in a news release. “Parks Place offers diapers of all sizes, no questions asked.”

Drop-off locations include: Parks Place, Edward Jones, Sonnax, Cota & Cota, Rockingham Free Public Library,

Faith’s Toyota/Ford, and all local elementary schools. They are accepting diapers, wipes, and monetary donations. The Diaper Bank is specifically in need of sizes 5 and 6 diapers, as well as all pull-up sizes. For more information, visit parksplacevermont.com.

Brattleboro Area Hospice launches Treasured Goods online auction

BRATTLEBORO — Starting on Friday, May 12, Brattleboro Area Hospice will once again host the Treasured Goods Auction. Bidding opens online for ten days, culminating in a live event on Monday, May 22, at Flying Pig Auctions in Westmoreland, New Hampshire. This event is open to any and all. To register to bid, go to bit.ly/714-auction.

Auction offerings range from paintings and antiques to an Emerald Isle, North Carolina, getaway. There’s something for everyone, and purchases support

the critical services of Brattleboro Area Hospice, which provides a broad range of free services for living and dying well, focusing on end-of-life, bereavement, and advance care planning. To learn more or contact staff, call 802-257-0775 or visit brattleboro-hospice.org.

Manitou healing walks resume

WILLIAMSVILLE — The Manitou Project will hold its first Healing Walk of the season on Friday, May 12, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The walk will be led by Fred Taylor and will include poems or other readings and chances to share about the experience. Healing walks will be held, rain or shine, every second and fourth Friday of each month until October.

The Manitou Project seeks to foster community with Nature on its 235-acre land preserve in Williamsville, located at 300 Sunset Lake Road. Directions: go 1.4 miles up Sunset Lake Road from Williamsville Village, note

the sign on right. Or approximately 5.6 miles over the top of Sunset Lake Road from Route 9. Meet at the parking lot at 4 p.m. For more information, contact Taylor at 802-254-2675.

Broad Brook Grange offers Mother’s Day brunch

GUILFORD — Broad Brook Grange will present its 23rd annual Mother’s Day Brunch on Sunday, May 14, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Broad Brook Community Center.

This occasion marks the return of the Grange brunches after a four-year absence due to COVID-19 and building renovation. The Community Center is now fully ADA-compliant, with handicapped parking spaces and ramp access to the dining room, with accessible restrooms.

The all-you-can-eat brunch features eggs and omelettes — many of the eggs from Guilford — any style, made to order. Also on the menu are pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon, and home fries, with local maple syrup. Other treats include home-baked coffee cakes and other baked goods, fresh fruit salad, and bread for toasting. A selection of juices will be available, along with coffee, teas, and milk.

No reservations are necessary for the meal, which is priced at \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors, and \$5 for ages 2–12. Admission is free for kids under two. Cash or check welcome. Broad Brook Community Center is at 3940 Guilford Center Road, 4 miles west of the Guilford Country Store. For more information, call 802-257-1961.

Putney Library hosts Community Sing Alongs

PUTNEY — Join us for a series of outdoor Community Singalongs at the Putney Public Library, 55 Main Street, from 7 to 8 p.m., on Thursdays: May 18, June 15, July 20, and Aug. 17. These events are free and open to the public.

These community sings will feature printed songbooks including many traditions: folk, golden oldies, gospel, Beatles, old pop and rock and show tunes. Participants will take turns choosing what to sing; binders with lyrics will be provided. Putney resident Rich Grumbine will lead the singing and provide guitar accompaniment.

The sing alongs will occur outside behind the library. Singers should dress for outdoors and bring insect repellent as needed. For more information, contact Grumbine at richgrumbine1@gmail.com.

Spring reading series continues at Southern Vermont Natural History Museum

MARLBORO — Join the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum on Saturday, May 20, at 4 p.m. for a discussion of Jennifer Ackerman’s book *The Genius of Birds*. Led by Mary Wright, the group will discuss this 2017 bestselling nonfiction book that celebrates a ton of revolutionary new research into “these feisty and intelligent beings,” according to a news release.

Want to read the book first? Whitingham Free Library, Dover Free Library and, when renovations are finished, the Pettee Memorial Library are all carrying copies. Contact the museum for more information at

vermontmuseum.org or follow the event page on Facebook at facebook.com/vermontmuseum. This event is free to the public, but donations to the Museum’s educational programming are always appreciated. Refreshments will be served.

This is the second of a three-part Spring Reading Series. The third and final book for the Spring Series is *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*.

Hogback Mountain Conservation Association hosts birding walk

MARLBORO — The Hogback Mountain Conservation Association invites you to join naturalist Cherrie Corey for a morning walk to meet the season’s songbird wave and other harbingers of spring on Sunday, May 21, at 7:30 a.m. This walk is in the spirit of Marlboro College biologist Bob Engel, an inspirational teacher to so many, who shared his passion for native birds and his understanding of the environments that sustained them.

On this two-hour ramble, hikers will encounter a variety of returning and migrating warblers, ovenbird, hermit thrush, winter wren, rose-breasted grosbeak, raven, and more. Woodland wildflowers will be in their glory, too, and vernal pools will be teeming with life.

Hikers will stop at the bird banding station to see how the day’s tally is coming and watch Eric Slayton and his team in action.

Meet at the Tower Trail trailhead kiosk, behind the Vermont Distillers building. Plenty of parking can be found across Route 9 in the large parking lot. Registration is required and limited to 20; email hmca@hogbackvt.org.

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GOTAN OPINION?
(Of course you do! You're from Windham County!)

Got something on your mind? Send contributions to our Letters from Readers section (500 words or fewer strongly recommended) to voices@commonsnews.org; the deadline is Friday to be considered for next week's paper. When space is an issue, we give priority to words that have not yet appeared elsewhere.


Remember Mother's Day
Sunday, May 14

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COLUMN | *Deeper Dive*

A mysterious and otherworldly excursion into the past, present, and future of

dance'

AT THE Brattleboro School of Dance (BSD), we've been in full swing, working on the final touches of our upcoming production, "Moons, Mirrors and Mirages."

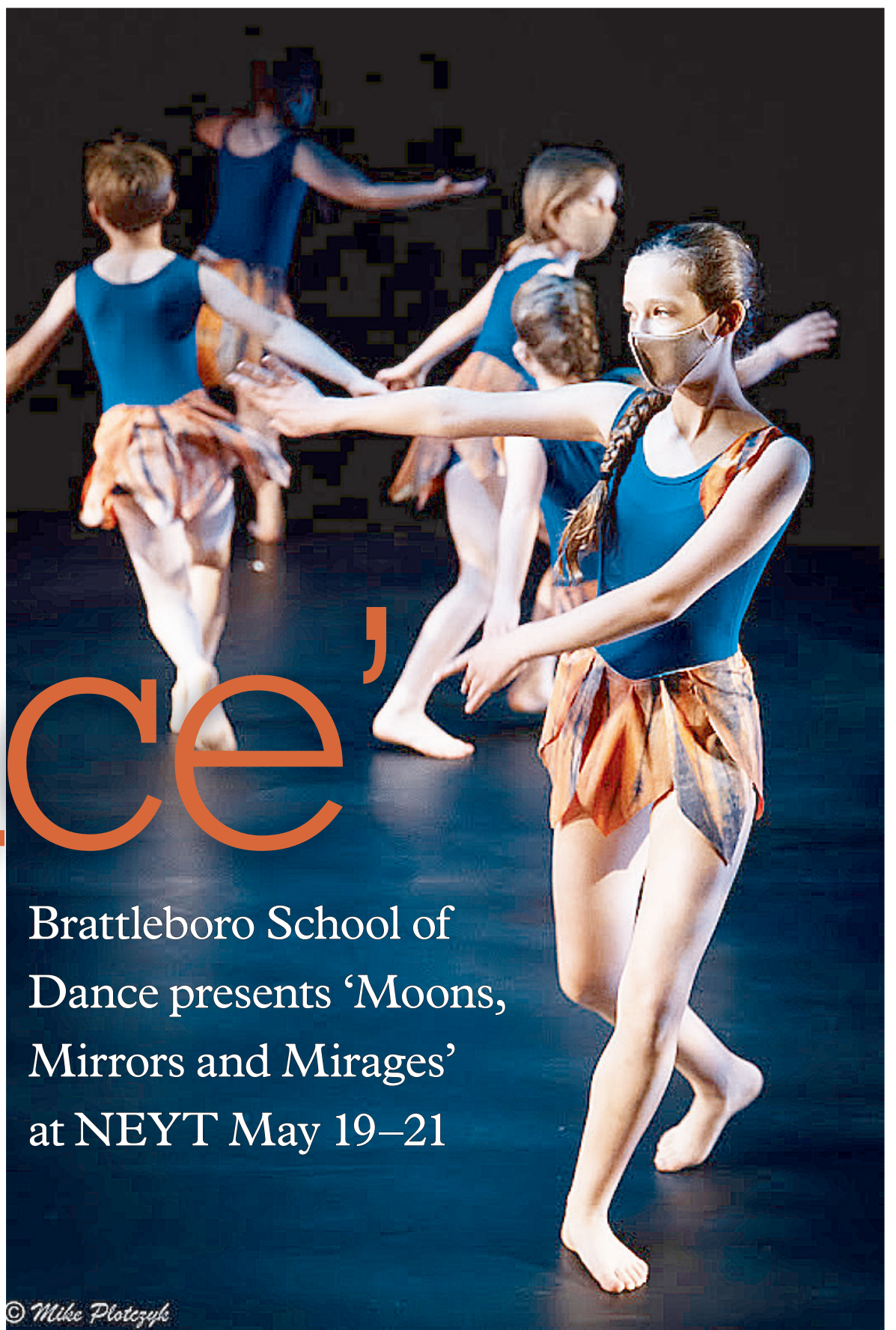
This show takes the audience on a mysterious and otherworldly excursion into the past, present, and future of dance at BSD.

We wander off the beaten path, guided by the light of the moon, and revel in what our reflections reveal. The moon shines light into darkness, always there to remind us of its cycles. The mirror shows us who we are, what is behind us, and what is reflected in our hopes and dreams. Mirages are there for us to understand our wants and desires in times of scarcity and hardship.

This show will feature dancers spanning many generations, from age 6 up through 70-something. It features the work of

BRIDGET STRUTHERS is the director of the Brattleboro School of Dance; she was assisted in the writing of this column by Holly Johnson. The Commons' Deeper Dive column gives artists, arts organizations, and other nonprofits elbow room to write in first person and/or be unabashedly opinionated, passionate, and analytical about their own creative work and events.

SEE DANCE PRODUCTION, B4



Brattleboro School of Dance presents 'Moons, Mirrors and Mirages' at NEYT May 19-21

© Mike Plotczyk

MIKE PLOTZYK

Brattleboro School of Dance's upcoming production of "Moons, Mirrors and Mirages" takes the audience through off the beaten path in an exploration of the past, present, and future of dance.

COLUMN | *Deeper Dive*

A collaborative JOURNEY

Vermont Jazz Center hosts jazz pianists Bill Charlap and Renee Rosnes for a live concert on May 13

THE VERMONT JAZZ CENTER welcomes Renee Rosnes and Bill Charlap, who will perform on two Steinway concert grand pianos at the VJC on Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m.

A married couple, Rosnes and Charlap are considered among the finest jazz pianists of their generation.

Charlap is an unparalleled expert on the Great American Songbook, and Rosnes is a five-time Juno Award-winning pianist/composer and artistic director of the Oscar Peterson Jazz Festival.

Rosnes' and Charlap's devotion to the music and to each other is symbolized by their



EUGENE UMAN is director of the Vermont Jazz Center. The Commons' Deeper Dive column gives artists, arts organizations, and other nonprofits elbow room to write in first person and/or be unabashedly opinionated, passionate, and analytical about their own creative work and events.

choice to marry at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, a New York City jazz club, displaying their commitment to jazz and each other in one big statement. While

SEE CHARLAP/ROSNES, B4



Bill Charlap and Renee Rosnes

COURTESY PHOTO

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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY

11

The written word

BRATTLEBORO Chuck Collins: "Altar to an Erupting Sun": Chuck Collins reads from and discuss his hot-off-the-press debut novel "Altar to an Erupting Sun" (Green Writers Press) and says: "The novel explores the moral question of individual responsibility for the climate crisis. But it also casts a critical eye at the role of the fossil fuel industry and its leaders in putting us in this current predicament."

► 6:30 p.m. (doors open 6 p.m.) Collins lives in Guilford, VT and is a campaigner and storyteller who's worked for decades on environmental and economic justice campaigns. He's Dir. of the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at the Institute for Policy Studies and co-edits *Inequality.org*. His books include: "The Wealth Hoarders: How Billionaires Pay Millions to Hide Trillions" and bestseller "Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good."

► Free. Donations appreciated.
► One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: 118elliott.com.

Kids and families

GUILFORD Collection Selection: Choose books to add to the Juvenile Collection: Children in grades 3-5 are invited to come to the Library to help Cathi choose books to add to the Juvenile Collection.

► 3 p.m.
► Free.
► Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd. Information: 802-257-4603; guilfordfreelibraryvt.org.

Well-being

Reverse Any Disease By Eliminating These Major Foods (Zoom): Thomas Gabarino: "Chronic inflammation is arguably seen as the source for most if not all the chronic diseases we are faced with today. There are several factors that contribute to the rise in inflammatory numbers, but for this workshop I will focus on the foods that feed our

inflammatory conditions and maybe a few good ones that lower them."

► 7 p.m.
► Free.
► Zoom. Information: [Zoom: tinyurl.com/5cy29f58](https://www.zoom.us/j/952958).

Community meals

NEWFANE Newfane Senior Lunch: Appetizer: Cucumber Cup followed by Gelatin Salad, Chicken & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Peas, Rolls, and Brownie Sundae for dessert. Meal is sponsored by Senior Solutions and prepared and served by hard working volunteers from the church and community.

► 12 noon.
► \$3.50 suggested donation.
► Newfane Congregational Church, 11 Church St. Information: Questions? Call Winnie Dolan at 802-365-7870.

Ideas and education

BRATTLEBORO Public speaking skills practiced at BrattleMasters: Speech titles this week are: "The Joy of Giving Gifts and the Importance of Reading the Fine Print" and "I Love Teaching." Two Toastmasters will evaluate the speeches, giving praise where warranted and mentioning opportunities for improvement. The meeting always includes extemporaneous speaking exercises, and reports from a grammarian and an "ah" counter.

► 6 p.m. in Room 249. Current members of BrattleMasters reside in VT, NH, MA, and a virtual member lives in Tennessee. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators, leaders.

► The public is welcome at no charge.
► Vermont Technical College, 41 Harmony Pl. Information: More details on the non-profit organization and the local club: brattleboro.toastmastersclubs.org.



FRIDAY

12

Performing arts

BRATTLEBORO Patty Cake: Varie-TEASE: A Burlesque Show: Patty Cake brings you on a journey through a day in her life complete with sensual escapades and choose-your-own-adventure. Acts were created with the thread of "what inspires you most right now." When related to Burlesque and art of the Strip Tease, she's created a diverse collection. Performances by new and seasoned soloists/groups include Serena Havok, Cordelia Curvy, Barry Bubbles, Skins, Lulu, Crimson Countess, Tony's Bologna, and students of Patty's.

► 8 p.m. both days (Sat. and Sun.). For ages 18 and over. All tips will be collected and donated to the cause the audience chooses: *Out In The Open, Women's Freedom Center, or Planned Parenthood New England*.

► Through Saturday, May 13.
► \$15 online or at door.
► SideStream Studio 74, Cotton Mill Hill. Information: ticketscandy.com/e/varie-tease-a-burlesque-show-1786.

Music

BRATTLEBORO Sarasa Ensemble: "Take Four!": With a tip of our hat to Dave Brubeck's famous groundbreaking hit, "Take Five," Sarasa brings the lush sound of the cello to the fore in music arranged and written for four cellos. A wide range of eras and styles from Josquin des Prez to J.S. Bach to Beethoven to Wagner to Faure and Brubeck (arranged by Eugene Friesen).

► 7 p.m. Program: *Josquin Des Prez Entre, je suis en grant pense; Faure Pavane & Apres un Reve; New Work by Berklee College student (TBA); Beethoven Scena al Ruscello from Pastoral Symphony, arr. 4 cellos by Peter Lichtenthal (1780-1853); Wagner Wedding March from "Lohengrin"; J.S. Bach Chorales; Dave Brubeck "Tritonis" (arr. Friesen). Jake Charkey, Myron Lutzke, Timothy Merton and Jennifer Morsches, cellos.*

► \$20 in advance, \$25 at door.
► Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. Information: 802-257-4523; bmcvt.org.

FRIDAY CONT.

Recreation

BRATTLEBORO Whetstone Woods Bird Walk: Warblers, sparrows, tanagers, buntings, woodpeckers, and titmice. Join us for a morning of birding through shrubby fields, a wooded stream, pine, hardwood, mixed species woodland habitats. We'll look for recent returning migrants and local year-round birds. Louisiana waterthrush, merlin, blue-winged warbler have been seen in this location in past years (no guarantees this year, though) and scarlet tanager, indigo bunting, eastern wood pewee are regulars.

► 7-9 a.m. Sponsored by Vermont Land Trust.
► Free (donations welcome).
► Whetstone Woods. Information: Location given after sign-in. Sign up: vt.org/events/whetstone-woods-bird-walk/.

The written word

BRATTLEBORO Author Jen Ellis talks about her memoir: "Bernie's Mitten Maker": Ellis' memoir is a raw/honest account of the joy/stress/shock of sudden internet fame. A captivating storyteller, she explores many roads leading to the Bernie Sanders mitten meme sensation following the 2021 presidential inauguration. A VT teacher, mother, crafter, Ellis weaves stories of her life with humor/thoughtful insight; shares her struggles with childhood trauma, infertility, homophobia; and shows us how crafting can build community and generosity can bring joy.

► 6:30 p.m. (doors open 6 p.m.). Books available for purchase and signing.
► Free. Donations appreciated.
► One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: 118elliott.com.

Community building

BELLOWS FALLS Fair Housing and Your Rights: The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development will be hosting an information table staffed by friendly well-informed persons ready to hear what you have to say and share related state resources. Learn more about fair housing and your rights to shape statewide housing policies with your feedback and to connect with a local nonprofit for housing resources and help.

► 1:30 - 4 p.m. Table will be set up on the main floor.
► Free.
► Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: 802-463-4270; rockinghamlibrary.org.

WILLIAMSVILLE Manitou Healing Walk: Walk will be led by Fred Taylor and include poems or other readings and chances to share about the experience.

► 4:50 p.m. Drive 1.4 miles up Sunset Lake Rd. from Williamsville Village, sign on right. Or approx. 5.6 miles over the top of Sunset Lake Rd. from Rt. 9. Meet at the parking lot at 4 p.m. rain or shine. Healing walks will be held every 2nd and 4th Friday each month until October.
► Free.
► Manitou Project, 300 Sunset Lake Rd. Information: Contact Fred for more information: 802-254-2675.

Film and video

WILLIAMSVILLE Friday Night Movies at the Williamsville Hall: George Miller's "Three Thousand Years of Longing": Description: While attending a conference in Istanbul, Dr. Althea Binne encounters a djinn who offers her three wishes in exchange for his freedom. This presents two problems: she doubts he's real, and second, because she's a scholar of story and mythology, she knows all the cautionary tales of wishes gone wrong. The djinn pleads his case telling her fantastical stories of his past. Eventually, she's beguiled and makes a wish that surprises them both.

► 7:30 p.m. Refreshments served.
► Admission by donation to raise funds for Williamsville Hall.
► Williamsville Hall, Dover Rd. Information: More information: williamsvillehall@gmail.com, williamsvillehall.org.

SATURDAY

13

Music

BRATTLEBORO Not Fade Away Band performs Dead Zeppelin and Grateful Dead mashups: Edgy improvisations and soulful vocals harmonies - bringing high energy and danceable versions of NFAB's favorite songs. Every song is played with a hard rock edge and psychedelic improvisational jams. Love is real, Not Fade Away!

► 8 p.m.
► \$15 in advance, \$20 at door.
► The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information: 802-579-9960; stonechurchvt.com.

MARLBORO Brattleboro Concert Choir Presents "POWER - Music

SATURDAY CONT.

of Defiance & Strength":

Led by Dir. Jonathan Harvey, the group's performances features Joseph Haydn's Lord Nelson's Mass and Marianne Martines's Dixit Dominus with orchestra. "Concert Choir is particularly excited since these will be our first performances with a full orchestra since January 2020 - over 3 years ago," says Harvey. "The two pieces in these concerts are full of emotional hairpin turns, from delight to dread/misery to euphoria. We hope to really take audiences on a journey

► 5/13: 7:30 p.m.; 5/14: 4 p.m. We recommend purchasing tickets in advance - we cannot guarantee seats will be available at the door.
► Through Sunday, May 14.
► General: \$20 In advance, \$25 at door; Youth: \$10; Under age 13: Free.
► Marlboro College Persons Hall/Auditorium, 2582 South Rd. Information: More information/tickets: tinyurl.com/mr2zd4uw.

BRATTLEBORO Renee Rosnes and Bill Charlup - "Two Nested Steinway Concert Grands: Duo Piano Magic": Pianists Rosnes and Charlup are married and devoted to their individual paths in music. Both are currently touring their most recent releases: The Bill Charlup Trio: Street of Dreams (Blue Note), and Renee Rosnes: Kinds of Love (Smoke Sessions). Rosnes also leads the supergroup ARTEMIS, featuring Ingrid Jensen, Nicole Glover, Alexa Tarantino, Nicole Ueda, Allison Miller.

► 7:30 p.m. The band's "In Real Time" (Blue Note) was just released. Rosnes also tours/records w/ bassist Ron Carter's Foursight Quartet. Charlup is also artistic director of 92NY's Jazz in July Festival. His trio schedule takes him worldwide. Their duo performances are rare and celebrated.

► \$20 to \$50 sliding scale.
► Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, #222. Information: Tickets: vtjazz.org, ginger@vtjazz.org.

Recreation

MARLBORO Vernal Pool Exploration: Join Kevin Tolan from VT Center For Ecostudies for a morning of exploring the wonderful, vibrant world of vernal pools in springtime. We'll hear about the importance of these transient habitats, how to identify creatures who depend on them, what to do/not do around them to ensure they continue to function. There will be some off-trail hiking but nothing too strenuous. Co-sponsored by VT Land Trust, VT Center for Ecostudies, and Hogback Mountain Conservation Assn.

► 10 a.m. Meet at the trailhead kiosk behind the VT Distillers building on Route 9. There is plenty of parking across the road in large parking lot.
► Free.
► Vermont Distillers, 7755 VT-9. Registration is required and limited to 15. Register at vt.org/events/hogback-vernal-pool-walk/ or go to vt.org/events/hogback-vernal-pool-walk/ and scroll through list of events.

The written word

BRATTLEBORO Celebrate National Poetry Month: Readings/Discussion with Arlene Distler, Alice B. Fogel, Rebecca Kaiser Gibson: Earlier this year, Arlene Distler's first full-length book of poems was published: "This Earth, This Body," comprising over 30 years of poetry. Alice B. Fogel's latest of 6 poetry collections is "Nothing But" - a series of poems responding to Abstract Expressionist art/its effect on our consciousness. Rebecca Kaiser Gibson's poetry collections are "Girl as Birch" (2022) and "OPINEL (2015)."

► 5-7 p.m. Arlene Distler co-founded the writers non-profit Write Action with her partner, Marty Jezer, in 2000.
► Free.
► Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts, 183 Main St. Information: 802-251-8290; mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com.

Kids and families

BRATTLEBORO Green Street School Tulip Trot: This is the 11th Tulip Trot 5K and 100-year anniversary of Green Street School. Join us for a 5K Run Walk and 1/2 Mile Sprout Sprint.

► 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
► Free.
► Green Street School, 164 Green St. Information: Register: tinyurl.com/3ncj2k9.

Well-being

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Zen Center - Meditation (In-Person or wherever you may be): One way to engage with the ecological crisis - we chant briefly and then sit in silence for a half hour. All are welcome to join this peaceful action, either in-person or from wherever they might be.

► 1-1:35 p.m. on Saturdays.
► Free.
► Wells Fountain, south side Windham County District Courthouse, Jct. Putney Rd. & Main St. (Rte 30). Information: alison.f.bundy@gmail.com.

BRATTLEBORO Exercise Class / Sacred Dance Workshop: Exercise

Class: Gentle, stretching exercise class is an all-levels group and can be done sitting in a chair or standing. Stretch and strengthen your body and well-being. Sacred Dance Class: For beginners of all ages.

► 11-11:30 a.m.: Exercise Class;
11:30-12 noon: Dance Workshop. Both offerings are led by Rev. Suzanne Andrews on Saturdays.
► Free.
► First United Methodist Church, 18 Town Crier Dr. Information: 802-254-1234, pastorsue412@gmail.com.

Community building

VERNON Coffee with Coffey (In-Person 5/13 / Zoom 5/14): "Coffee with Coffey" is a way for Sara to share updates and hear from her Guilford and Vernon constituents.

► In Person: 10-11 a.m. on Saturday. Zoom: 3-4 p.m. on Sunday.
► Free.
► Vernon Free Library, 567 Governor Hunt Rd. Information: Zoom: tinyurl.com/35nw7y92.

GUILFORD Neighborhood Roots Food Collective Annual Spring Plant Swap: Celebrate spring with us. We'll exchange our extra seeds, plant starts, houseplants, and perennial divisions as we get ready for the new gardening season. Join the fun - even if you don't have plants to share. Everyone leaves with plants. Please be aware of potential Jumping Worms in your soil and take precautions to avoid spreading them.

► 10 a.m.
► Free.
► Guilford Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd. off Weatherhead Hollow Rd. Information: neighborhoodroots.org/events.

BRATTLEBORO Open House at the Central Fire Station: Discover what it takes to become a firefighter and learn about opportunities available in our community. We're excited to meet anyone interested in joining our team and making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Members of the public are encouraged to drop by and tour the facility. This open house is part of Operation Mayday, Vermont's first coordinated statewide firefighter recruitment campaign aimed at bringing new firefighters into the Vermont Fire Service.

► 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
► Free.
► Brattleboro Fire Department, 103 Elliot St. Information: 802-254-4831; brattleborofire.org.

SUNDAY

14

Performing arts

BRATTLEBORO New England Center for Circus Arts Performance Troupe presents CircusNEXT: the Underforest: With displays of aerials, trampoline, group acrobatics and juggling, the troupe invites audiences to the "Underforest," a dark and magical wood where mythological creatures creep out from ancient tales into existence.

► 1 p.m.
► \$5 to \$20 sliding scale; \$50 Supporter Ticket.
► New England Center for Circus Arts (Trapezium), 10 Town Crier Dr. Information: Tickets: circusschool.org, necenterforcircusarts.org.

Farmers' markets

PUTNEY Putney Farmers Market - Opening Day Music provided by Nate Paine and his Fiddle

► 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sundays.
► Putney Farmers Market, 17 Carol Brown Way. Information: putneyfarmersmarket.org.

Dance

BRATTLEBORO Argentine Tango in Brattleboro: Dancers of all levels are welcome! No partner needed.

► Class: 3-4 p.m., Milonga: 4-7 p.m.
► Class \$10, Milonga \$15, both \$20.
► One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: [BrattleboroTango Facebook Page: facebook.com/groups/122170897820578](http://BrattleboroTangoFacebookPage:facebook.com/groups/122170897820578).

GUILFORD Brattleboro Bal Folk: Fun, easy French dancing. No experience necessary. Dances taught by Mary Wesley. If you've never done anything like this but you're curious, feel free to come sit along the sidelines and check it out! Live music by Eloise & Co.

► 6-9 p.m. Bring clean shoes to protect new dance floor. Covid Policy: N-95 Mask and proof of vax/bivalent boosters required. Medical exemptions for boosters only.
► \$15 to \$20.
► Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: More information: tinyurl.com/dv3m9rd and tinyurl.com/dv3m9rd.

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6/2 Kiran Ahluwalia
6/10 Gregorio Uribe
6/18 Sia Tolno & Afro Dead
6/24 LPT + The Human Rights
7/8 Subject: Matter
7/13 DakhaBrakha
7/22 Klezperanto
7/29 Emperor Norton's Stationary Marching Band
8/5 Glen David Andrews Band
8/13 Celtic Music Minifest
8/18 Armo
8/24 Bread & Puppet
9/3 The Slambovian Circus of Dreams
9/9 Balla Kouyate & Mike Block
9/16 Orchestre Tout Puissant Marcel Duchamp
10/7 Soggy Po' Boys
10/14 Rev. Vince Anderson & His Love Choir
10/21 Burlington Taiko

TICKETS & SERIES PASSES AVAILABLE NOW!

The Commons Keep the momentum going!



Here at **The Commons**, we've had an exciting start to 2023!

- We published our 700th issue on February 1.
- We brought you expanded coverage of the work our area legislators are doing in Montpelier.
- The Media Mentoring Project has hosted 3 live programs, 2 writing workshop groups, and brought journalists into local schools.
- We produced a paper despite a snowstorm and power outages. (Thank you, intrepid staff and volunteers!)
- Our talented writers won 5 awards from the New England News paper and Press Association.

And there's more to come! But we need your help to keep the momentum going.

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 by June 30 to help us expand our capacity to bring you even more of the award-winning local stories and commentary you look forward to each week.

Will you help by making a financial contribution today?

Any amount you can give will help our newsroom do what it does best - produce journalism that's worth your investment. Thanks to your generous support, The Commons is a community resource that people depend upon. Your continued support will help us achieve more great things in the future.

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CONGRATULATIONS to our New England Newspaper and Press Association award winners!

- 1st Place – Mindy Haskins Rogers, Virginia Ray**
Investigative/Enterprise Reporting, "Legacy of abuse in Brattleboro area schools"
- 1st Place – Randolph Holhut, Fran Lynggaard Hansen, Jeff Potter**
Spot News Story, Package: "Brattleboro breaks ties with Rescue"
- 2nd Place – Jeff Potter**
- Editorial/Commentary Page, "Roe v. Wade"
- 2nd Place – Fran Lynggaard Hansen**
General News Story, "The people are the place, and the place is the people"
- 3rd Place – Jeff Potter**
Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage, "A mural with meaning"

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Charlap/Rosnes

performing with Rosnes on Marian McPartland's radio program *Piano Jazz*, Charlap claimed that "it's perfectly apropos that we should be married in a place that centers around music, as our lives center around music and each other."

The living room of Rosnes and Charlap's New Jersey home is taken up mostly by two Steinway grand pianos. When asked by McPartland if they ever play together "for fun," Rosnes replied, "All the time — that's mostly what we do!"

She continued by saying that the two of them "spend a lot of time at the piano. It can be 2 in the morning or whenever we

feel like it — we can sit down and play."

For those of us in the jazz community, it is intriguing to imagine the ephemeral sounds emanating from their home as they play alone or together in the wee hours of the morning.

A review in *M Music & Musicians* magazine states that "Bill Charlap and Renee Rosnes are not like most couples. By the time they married in 2007, each was already a world-renowned jazz pianist with an impressive discography and a packed touring itinerary."

In discussing their approach to their duo presentations, Charlap mused: "We don't alter our playing styles for each other. We just listen and react. The result is a new entity comprised of both our voices."

"Certainly both of us have distinct styles, but there is also a lot of common ground that existed before we ever sat down to play together," Rosnes added. "Being married, there is also an intimate spirit that comes through in the music."

ROSNES AND CHARLAP are both currently touring their most recent releases: Charlap's *Street of Dreams* and Rosnes' *Kinds of Love*. Because they are so busy with their own personal careers, their duo performances are rare and celebrated. Because this concert will not be live streamed or recorded and because it's nearly impossible to find their work on streaming or social media sites, it is a must-see.

Their music is available on CD or via music streaming services via their 2010 collaborative Blue Note album *Double Portrait*. According to Rosnes' website, "[t]he album is a sparkling set of four-hand piano duets that traverses many of the couple's musical touchstones."

The album is "a work of significance and depth, but also flows with the casual and organic quality of musicians with an uncommon simpatico, in life as well as in art," the description continued.

Double Portrait is filled with choice bossa novas and lesser-known gems from the Great

American Songbook. Rosnes and Charlap will likely be performing a similar set at the Vermont Jazz Center. Their deeply rooted repertoire is filled with joyful surprises and generously informed by the two artists' rich and diverse experiences.

Charlap has performed with many of the leading artists of our time, including Phil Woods, Tony Bennett, Gerry Mulligan, Wynton Marsalis, Freddy Cole, and Houston Person.

BORN IN New York City, Charlap began playing the piano at age 3. His father was Broadway composer Moose Charlap, whose credits include Peter Pan. His mother is Grammy-nominated vocalist Sandy Stewart who appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson. She also toured with Benny Goodman and Perry Como.

Charlap is a distant cousin of piano legend Dick Hyman, with whom his family is still very close. In interviews, Charlap shares colorful stories of growing up in a musical family amid the company of some of the finest Broadway composers, lyricists, and actors of his parents'

FROM SECTION FRONT

generation. His music embodies the intersection of jazz and Broadway musicals.

He is strongly influenced by the best of Broadway and Tin Pan Alley, but when it's his turn to interpret this repertoire, he digs in, asserting his own interpretations and impeccable sense of rhythm. His love for and knowledge of the Great American Songbook is conveyed in the songs he chooses to perform and record.

He is celebrating his 19th year as artistic director of New York City's Jazz in July Festival at 92NY. He has also produced concerts for Jazz at Lincoln Center and New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

THE CANADIAN-BORN Rosnes relocated in 1986 from Vancouver to New York, where she was quickly recognized as a major talent. She has recorded and toured with the absolute top-tier of jazz soloists, including Joe Henderson, Wayne Shorter, J.J. Johnson, Buster Williams, James Moody, Jimmy Heath, and Bobby Hutcherson.

From 2004 to 2009, Rosnes was a member of the SFJAZZ Collective and from 2008 to 2010 she was the radio host of *Jazz Profiles*, an interview series

Their deeply rooted repertoire is filled with joyful surprises and generously informed by the two artists' rich and diverse experiences.

produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Rosnes has released more than 19 albums as a leader and performed on more than 300 recordings as a sideman. As a leader, she has performed with string quartets and called on the talents of other world-class musicians like Dianne Reeves, Wayne Shorter, Joe Henderson, Jack DeJohnette, Zakir Hussain, Christian McBride, Chris Potter, Nicholas Payton, Steve Nelson, and many others.

A formidable composer, she was named The Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada's Composer of the Year in 2023.

Rosnes currently tours as a bassist for Ron Carter's Quartet and is the music director for Artemis, an all-star international band.

This concert promises a rare opportunity for viewers/listeners to experience in real time

a collaborative journey of two artists at the top of their game as they explore a repertoire that includes choice selections from the Great American Songbook, Brazilian gems, and harmonically rich original compositions.

Rosnes and Charlap will delight and amaze us with their passionate delivery, exquisite technique, and telepathic interplay.

Renee Rosnes and Bill Charlap will perform at the Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill #222, Brattleboro, on Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m.; no live streams will be broadcast. Mask wearing is optional, and light refreshments will be available. Tickets (sliding fee, \$21 to \$51) are available at vtjazz.org. For information, ticket purchase support, and to arrange accessibility accommodations, email ginger@vtjazz.org.

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CONSIGNMENT SALE & SWAP

Saturday, May 13th
Swap: 11:30 am to Noon
Sale: Noon to 2:00 pm
Location: "On The Waterfront"
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New - Used - Recreational - Family - Kids - Fishing - Flatwater
Whitewater - Touring - Tripping - Ocean - Etc.

BOC will keep 10% of the sale price to fund the summer paddling program.

Boats may be dropped off as follows:
Friday, May 12th - Noon to 2 & 5 to 7 pm
Saturday, May 13th - 8:00 to 11:30 am
...or by special arrangement. No Motors or Motorboats.

Unsold boats must be picked up Saturday, after the sale, until 3:00 pm
... or by prior arrangement.

Unwanted boats and related gear may be donated to the BOC
to fund the summer paddling program (April through October)
which is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Schedule at BOC website above, click on SUMMER PADDLING.
For more information contact: (802) 254-3666 / Lmacyak@gmail.com
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****All boats and gear are sold "as is", except where manufacturer's warranties are still valid****

Murnau's silent film masterpiece 'Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans' comes to Epsilon Spires

BRATTLEBORO—F. W. Murnau's silent masterpiece *Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans* (1927, 95 minutes) will be shown at Epsilon Spires on Friday, May 19, at 8 p.m. This screening will feature live accompaniment on the historic Estey organ performed by Jeff Rapsis, a New England silent-film accompanist.

Sunrise tells the story of a farmer who becomes infatuated with a mysterious woman from the city and agrees to murder his wife and sell his farm to start a

new life with her.

In this stylish, ambitious film — Murnau's first in America — big-budget Hollywood and German Expressionism merge in a work of art featuring expansive sets and innovative cinematography. "The camera disorients audiences with shots filmed upside-down and in reverse and plays with perspective by using smaller furniture and diminutive actors to manipulate the depth of field," according to the news release.

A commercial failure at the

time, *Sunrise* went on to win three Academy Awards (for Best Actress, Cinematography, and Unique and Artistic Picture). It has since become widely considered one of the greatest films of all time, with a spot on both the American Film Institute's (#82) and British Film Institute's (#11) lists.

Rapsis is a writer, editor, educator, composer, and performer who specializes in creating live musical scores for silent film screenings. He has accompanied silent film programs in venues

throughout New England since 2007. His technique, organizers say, is to create a set of original music in advance for each film, and then improvise a score based on this material as the screening takes place.

Tickets for this event are on a sliding scale of \$5 to \$20. Purchase at epsilonspires.org. \$2 from every ticket goes directly toward the historic preservation of the venue. Refreshments will be provided.

Dance production

FROM SECTION FRONT

Holly Johnson, Patricia Wilson, Rachel Hebert, Sonya Marx, Nan Mann, Stuart Tsubota, Tony Nagy, and me. Kathi Keller will revive her beloved piece, "Hornpipe."

BSD HAS BROUGHT quality spring and winter productions to the region for well over 30 years. We're back again at the New England Youth Theatre from Friday, May 19 through Sunday, May 21, and we again have created a series of dance pieces, all with original choreography by our staff, spanning a broad spectrum of styles and moods, from hip-hop to classical ballet, from children's storytelling through movement to expressive modern, and more.

We have always reached for quality in all our endeavors, beginning with a high level of dance education and training. Training can begin at age 3 with Nan Mann, who is also the director of the Brattleboro

Centre for Children. She brings her knowledge of children's development into the Saturday morning children's classes.

From there, staff members Rachel Hebert, Sonya Marx, and I teach dance instruction in pre-ballet and progressive levels of ballet technique for every age group, including adults.

What are our credentials and teaching philosophies? I have an MFA in dance and new media from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. I have committed myself to teaching anatomically aware dancers who go beyond their usual limits. We build this into every BSD class.

Rachel has trained at Point Park University, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, and The Ailey School. She is dedicated to excellence in her adult classes. She will be attending a dance residency in Amsterdam in June.

Sonya holds a bachelor's degree in dance and English from Kenyon College and trained with the Manhattan Youth Ballet. This season, she heads up the young teens program of moving from ballet slippers to pointe shoes, an exciting time for young ballet dancers which requires careful oversight.

Another staff member, Patricia Wilson, teaches a

version of modern dance technique called "Dunham," after its creator, Katherine Dunham. Patricia is the co-director of the Institute for Dunham Technique Certification, working with dancers from around the world.

BSD'S DANCE performances far outshine the typical dance recitals that abound in communities this time of year. Such a program is often designed solely to give eager parents a glimpse of their child on stage, sequined in catalogue costumes, showing some of the steps learned and practiced in class.

Our model of dance production is a different animal entirely.

We hold auditions for all dancers who wish to be a part of productions. We carefully assign roles according to technique level and familiarity with dance styles. We set original choreography to music that best expresses the message and mood of the dance.

Rehearsals are then scheduled outside of class time so that training is not disrupted. The dancers must put in hours per week for each piece they are cast in, and choreographers spend many hours in the creative process.

Costumes enhance the piece's tone, flavor, or message, often through collaboration between the choreographer and head costume designer Kathleen Keller, who founded BSD in 1976.

For an entire week prior to opening night, dancers must participate in rehearsals on the stage, referred to as "tech week," where the spacing patterns of moving bodies are methodically set, lighting design is created, and cues learned. A final dress rehearsal, complete with makeup and full costumes, occurs the day before opening night of BSD's professional level shows.

We are proud to produce the art that eventually graces the stage.

"Moons, Mirrors and Mirages" opens at New England Youth Theatre, 100 Flat St., Brattleboro, on Friday, May 19, with a 6:30 p.m. showing and continues on Saturday, May 20, (1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.) and Sunday, May 21 (1:30 p.m.). For tickets (\$17; \$14 for children and seniors), visit brattleboroschoolofdance.com (brattleboroschoolofdance.com). Proceeds benefit our scholarship fund.

Epsilon Spires, BMAC present outdoor screening of 'Hilma'

BRATTLEBORO—Epsilon Spires and the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) will present a screening of *Hilma* by Swedish director Lasse Hallström, on Saturday, May 21, at 8 p.m. in Epsilon Spires' outdoor cinema.

The film provides a nuanced portrait of the revolutionary female artist Hilma af Klint, only recently recognized as the earliest pioneer of modern abstract art.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Ben & Jerry's Foundation, sliding-scale or pay-as-you-can tickets are available for those who self-identify as experiencing financial hardship. *Hilma* explores af Klint's innovative artistic practice, her deep commitment to theosophy — a form of occultism popular in Europe around the turn of the century — and her homosexual romantic life and close circle of female artists.

Af Klint was born in 1862 in Sweden, where she lived and

worked until her death in 1944. She lived through a period of drastic social, political, and artistic change across Europe. *Hilma* delves into the complexities and challenges of being an educated and talented woman artist and intellectual during this period in which women's independence, professionalism, and rights were highly contested.

Hallström first gained recognition for directing nearly all the music videos of world-renowned Swedish pop group ABBA. Hallström has also directed acclaimed independent films, including *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* (1993), *Chocolat* (2000), and *Hachi: A Dog's Tale* (2009).

He has been nominated for several Academy Awards, including best director and best adapted screenplay for *My Life as a Dog* (1988) as well as best director for *The Cider House Rules* (2000), which was filmed in the Brattleboro area.

"I've spent several years trying to understand the mystery of Hilma af Klint. This is a story about an unwavering search for the truth about humanity and the universe, at a time when men set all the rules," Hallström has said of the new film. "Despite so many obstacles, Hilma created art that influences our lives today. My ambition is for the audience to experience these struggles with all their senses."

According to a recent *New York Times* review of the film, Hallström has achieved an emotionally powerful image of af Klint.

The upcoming screening offers the opportunity for all art and film lovers to experience af Klint's remarkable story in a comfortable picnic-like setting. Restrooms and refreshments will be available. In the case of rain, this event will be moved indoors.

Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased online at epsilonspires.org or in person at Epsilon Spires.



Big Woods Voices are, from left, Becky Graber, Alan Blood, Will Danforth, and Amanda Witman.

Big Woods Voices to perform at Main Street Arts in Saxtons River

SAXTONS RIVER—Main Street Arts (MSA) will host a concert by Big Woods Voices on Sunday, May 21, at 4 p.m., on the historic MSA stage in Saxtons River. Tickets are \$20 and available either at the door or online at mainstreetarts.org.

This concert celebrates the release of the new CD, *Big Woods Voices: Poetry in Harmony*,

featuring Will Danforth's musical arrangements of poems.

Big Woods Voices (BWV) "revels in a cappella vocal harmony through arrangements grown from American roots genres, world folk styles, poets old and new, and Danforth's deep creative well. From heart-stopping to foot-stomping, prayerful to fun-filled, dissonant to

dulcet, Big Woods Voices brings the spirit of southern Vermont to life through rich harmonies and soulful interpretations," states a news release.

The voices (from high to low) are Amanda Witman, cofounder of the Brattleboro Pub Sing; Becky Graber, director of the Brattleboro Women's Chorus; Will Danforth, an award-winning,

multi-instrumental solo acoustic artist; and Alan Blood, longtime member of area groups such as the Blanche Moysse Chorale, I Cantori, Blue Moon, and House Blend.

More information is available at bigwoodsvoices.com, or contact bigwoodsvoices@gmail.com. To order digital and print CDs, visit bigwoodsvoices.bandcamp.com.

Brattleboro Concert Choir presents 'Music of Defiance & Strength' May 13-14

MARLBORO—The Brattleboro Concert Choir presents "Power: Music of Defiance and Strength" at Persons Auditorium in Marlboro, on Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14.

Led by Director Jonathan Harvey, the group's performances will feature Joseph Haydn's *Lord Nelson's Mass* and Marianne Martines's *Dixit Dominus* with orchestra.

"The Concert Choir is particularly excited for these concerts, since they will be our first performances with full orchestra since January 2020 — over three years ago," Harvey said in a news release. "The two pieces in these concerts are full of emotional hairpin turns, from delight to dread and misery to euphoria. We hope to really take audiences on a journey."

Harvey added that the two

composers on this program "are roughly contemporaries, but while Haydn has enjoyed continuous performances since he was alive, Martines's music has been long neglected. While she was alive, Martines moved in noble circles and would play piano duets with Mozart for Empress Maria Theresa in Vienna. She was recognized during her life as an exceptional musician, but as the musical canon is constructed

and reconstructed, women musicians are so often written right out of history."

Concerts at Persons Auditorium in Marlboro are set for Saturday, May 13, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 14, at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, with youth admission \$10 and under 13 free. For tickets or more information, contact the BMC at 802-257-4523, info@bmcvt.org or visit bmcvt.org.

NECCA's Youth Performance Troupe presents 'CircusNEXT: the Underforest'

BRATTLEBORO—The New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA) Youth Performance Troupe presents their annual end of year show with *CircusNext: the Underforest* on Sunday, May 14, at 1 p.m., at their Trapezium facility, 10 Town Crier Drive.

With displays of aerials, trampoline, group acrobatics and juggling, the troupe invites audiences to the Underforest, a dark and magical wood where mythological creatures creep out from ancient tales into existence.

NECCA is a premiere circus educational center in the United States and uses circus arts as a tool towards empowering students to learn life skills such as conflict

resolution, self-determination, and confidence.

Youth Troupe Founder Serenity Smith Forchion said in a news release that she modeled the troupe off a program created by the Pickle Family Circus, where she performed in the 1990s.

"The Pickle Family Circus brought Chinese Acrobatic Master Lu Yi to develop a troupe of youth acrobats who trained at a high level and made acts for performance out in the community," Forchion said. "When we opened NECCA in Brattleboro, I wanted to carry on that tradition and the Youth Troupe was one of our first programs. It was our goal to use the tool of circus arts to teach life

skills as well as fitness and fun."

The pandemic was challenging for the troupe, losing many students who came from all over New England but had to stop because of travel bans. This year, the troupe is rebuilding and their *CircusNext* performance on Mother's Day (Sunday, May 14) will be their first public end-of-year recital in three years.

Forchion passed the leadership baton to long-time assistant Victoria Quine earlier this year, and Quine now oversees the team of youth coaches for whom circus education is their profession.

"Our coaches have been working alongside the students to collaboratively create the show

theme, order, and act ideas," Quine said. "This year even our promotional artwork for the final showcase was created by a trouper."

Classes at NECCA begin at age 18 months through adult, with options to discover apparatus such as trapeze, wire, juggling, tumbling, trampoline, and aerial silks. Summer classes and camps are open for enrollment as well as other circus shows presented at the school's custom-built trapezium.

For tickets to *CircusNext: the Underforest*, visit necenterforcircusarts.org.

Sarasa Ensemble returns to BMC with 'Take Four!'

BRATTLEBORO—The Sarasa Ensemble returns to the Brattleboro Music Center on Friday, May 12.

The Season Guest concert, set for 7 p.m. at the BMC, is "Take Four! Music for Cello Quartet." With a tip of the hat to Dave Brubeck's famous groundbreaking hit, "Take Five," Sarasa brings the cello to the fore in music arranged and written for

four cellos.

It will feature a range of eras and styles, from Josquin des Prez and J. S. Bach, and Beethoven to Wagner, Fauré, and Brubeck (arranged by Eugene Friesen). Performers will include Jake Charkey, Myron Lutzke, Timothy Merton, and Jennifer Morsches.

The Sarasa Ensemble is a collective group of international instrumentalists and vocalists who

perform classical music of outstanding quality, spanning the 17th to the 21st centuries, on both period and modern instruments, and bring this music to diverse communities.

Through the ensemble's outreach program in adolescent detention facilities, it is dedicated to bridging cultural, aesthetic, and economic barriers and providing incarcerated teenagers

with opportunities for growth, self-expression, and enrichment through music.

Advance tickets for the concert are \$20 general admission and \$25 at the door. For tickets or more information, contact the BMC at 802-257-4523, info@bmcvt.org or bmcvt.org.

Walpole Players present 'Grumpy Old Men, The Musical'

WALPOLE, N.H.—This month, The Walpole Players will bring *Grumpy Old Men, The Musical* (set in chilly Wabasha, Minnesota) to the Walpole Town Hall.

Loaded with heartwarming humor and unexpected energy, *Grumpy Old Men—The Musical* is an unforgettable show that will remind us that "life is all about livin'!"

Based on the 1993 film, *Grumpy Old Men*, starring Walter

Matthau and Jack Lemmon, it's about two childhood friends who became aging neighbors who loved to fish. Then a mysterious woman moves in next door and an old grudge resurfaces and the feud is on.

Dan Remmes, Neil Berg, and Nick Meglin brought an adaptation of this film to the Canadian stage in 2011; it premiered in 2018 at the Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine with Sally Struthers playing the newly added character

of Punky. Now it's the Walpole Players turn, directed by Barbara Kasper with Walt Sayre as Music Director.

The large cast includes Walpole Players Jim Baucom, Becky Pearson, Judy Epstein, Chuck Lessard, Ben Robison, Travis Gay, Rebecca Robison, Tom Winnill, Sarah Manning, Jenny Plante, and Meg Kupiec.

They are joined by some talented members of Small Pond Productions in Marlborough,

New Hampshire: Rene Doyle, PJ Cooke, Dave Chase, Cassie Schmitt, Ray Mahoney, Rob Gray, Kevin Royce, and Traci Booth.

Join them at The Helen Miller Theater on May 12, 13, 19, or 20 at 8 p.m. for a fun night of music and laughter. Tickets are available at Galloway Real Estate and Mascoma Savings Bank (both Walpole and Keene Locations) and are only \$15 a seat. This show is rated PG-13 for language and content.

GOT AN OPINION?
(Of course you do! You're from Windham County!)

Got something on your mind? Send contributions to our Letters from Readers section (500 words or fewer strongly recommended) to voices@commonsnews.org; the deadline is Friday to be considered for next week's paper. When space is an issue, we give priority to words that have not yet appeared elsewhere.

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SUNDAY CONT. FROM B2 | **MONDAY** CONT. | **TUESDAY** CONT.

Community meals

GUILFORD Mother's Day Brunch: This all-you-can-eat brunch features eggs and made to order omelettes. Also on the menu are pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon and home fries - all with Guilford maple syrup. Other treats include home-made baked goods, fresh fruit salad, and bread for toasting. Selection of juices available along with coffee, teas, and milk.

- ▶ 7 a.m.-1 p.m. No reservations necessary.
- ▶ \$15 adults; \$12 seniors; \$5 ages 2-12, free for under age 2.
- ▶ Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: 802-451-0405; broadbrookcommunitycenter.org.

Celebrations and festivals

W. BRATTLEBORO In Honor of Mother's Day: "Responding to Her Call - All That Nurtures and Strengthens" with Rev. Telos Whitfield (In-Person/Zoom): "We'll explore what we have learned from our mothers, those who nurtured, supported and challenged us, and what the Earth teaches every day. Let us deepen into the practice of nurturing and strengthening each other and responding to Mother Earth's call."

- ▶ 10 a.m.
- ▶ All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 29 South St. Information: Zoom: Go to our website, ascvt.org Sunday shortly before 10 a.m.

MONDAY

15

Well-being

Zazen: Exploring Sitting Meditation for Insight into Your True Nature of Being (Zoom): Zen is a Mahayana Buddhist tradition emphasizing simplicity, present-moment awareness, nonduality, nonconceptual understanding, and zazen ("just sitting") meditation - the tradition's most important practice. It's a meditative practice meant to give insight into your true nature

of being. Zazen originates from the teachings of Buddha, who lived in India 2,500 years ago and founded the religion and philosophy of Buddhism.

- ▶ 7 - 8:15 p.m.
- ▶ \$10 plus 25-cent service fee.
- ▶ Zoom. Information: Tickets: tinyurl.com/4sdpj4ts.

Ideas and education

BRATTLEBORO Get Started with Native Plants: Native plants can bring beauty, butterflies, birds, bees to your yard. Learn about the benefits/how to avoid pitfalls of planting native perennials and grasses in your garden, where to start, how to build on your success. Practical suggestions for plants that will thrive in VT's climate included. No space is too small to make a difference. Workshop presented by Jocelyn Demuth, proprietor of native plant nursery Checkerspot Farm in Colrain MA.

- ▶ 7 p.m. in the Main Reading Room.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brookslibraryvt.org.

TUESDAY

16

Instruction

KEENE Ready, Set, SING! - Free Singing Lessons: Open to anyone and everyone who has always wanted to sing or wishes to improve their voice and singing skills.

- ▶ 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays courtesy of the Keene Cheshiremen Chorus and the Music Team. Free parking front or back.
- ▶ Through Tuesday, June 20.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Hannah Grimes Center, 25 Roxbury St. Information: Information/Sign-Up: cheshiremen.org/readysing, 877-312-7467, info@cheshiremen.org.

The written word

BRATTLEBORO May Sci-Fi Group Meetup Featuring: "Upright

Women Wanted!: Goodreads: "Esther is a stowaway. She's hidden herself away in the Librarian's book wagon in an attempt to escape the marriage her father has arranged for her - a marriage to the man who was previously engaged to her best friend. Her best friend who she was in love with. Her best friend who was just executed for possession of resistance propaganda. The future American Southwest is full of bandits, fascists, and queer librarian spies on horseback trying to do the right thing. They"

- ▶ 7-8:30 p.m. in the Quiet Reading Room. Author Sarah Gailey reinvents the pulp Western with an explicitly antifascist, near-future story of queer identity. The Sci-Fi Reading Group meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month and is open to curious minds of all ages, whether or not they've read this month's selection.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brookslibraryvt.org.

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.

Pets

BRATTLEBORO Windham County Humane Society Raffle: One lucky winner will take home a check for 50% of the Rescue Raffle Pot and the other 50% will go directly toward helping homeless pets in our community. Our hopes are that the pot will reach \$20,000 or more, but we need your help to get there. Please forward this email and share on social media to help spread the word and get friends, family, and rescue-loving strangers in on the fun. Bookmark our website event page to watch the Raffle Pot total grow.

- ▶ When you purchase tickets online, you will receive an email within 3 business days containing your lucky ticket numbers and serving as proof of purchase (not actual tickets). Participants must be 18 or older and available to pick up prize in person at WCHS in Brattleboro.

- ▶ Through Monday, June 19.
- ▶ Windham County Humane Society, 916 West River Rd. Information: windhamcountyhumane.org/events/raffle.

Dance

BRATTLEBORO Argentine Tango: Beginners and all levels welcome! Stop by to check it out or join in. No partner needed. Guest instructor, Laura Grandi, from Argentina!

- ▶ 7-8 p.m. Class, 8-10 p.m. Practica. Continues 5/23 and 5/30.
- ▶ First class is free of charge! \$12 Additional Classes, \$5 Practica, \$15 for Both Classes.
- ▶ One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: Facebook Page: facebook.com/groups/122170897820578.

WEDNESDAY

17

The written word

GUILFORD Talk About Books: "Half Broke Horses" by Jeannette Wall

- ▶ 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd. Call 802-257-4603 for information or to reserve a copy. To learn more about the book, visit guilfordfreelibraryvt.blogspot.com/.

Well-being

BELLOWS FALLS Brattleboro Area Hospice: May Death Cafe: Join us for an open and engaging discussion about death, dying, and related topics.

- ▶ 6 - 8 p.m. Open to the public.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. For more info about Death Cafes: https://deathcafe.com/what/ RSVP: nfo@brattleborohospice.org or 802-257-0775.

To submit your event:
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Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

Visit **commonsnews.org** for more listings with more details

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Wednesday May 17th, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Presented in 3 locations:

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- 23 West St. in Newfane - Moore Free Library
- 39 Elm St. in Brattleboro - Turning Point of Windham County

Addiction is an all-encompassing force not only in the lives of the afflicted, but also those around them. Captured at a pivotal "nothing to lose" moment over the course of a year, OUR AMERICAN FAMILY is a radically honest portrait of five family members grappling with the legacy of generational addiction as they fight to heal resentments and pull each other out of the deepest depths.

For more info, contact Justin Johnston at 802-257-5600, or email jjohnston@turningpointwc.org

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Funding by the VT Dept. of Health Division of Substance Use

VIEWPOINT



Protestors on both sides of the abortion divide swarmed the grounds of the Supreme Court as justices prepared to weigh in on the *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* Texas abortion case in 2016.

A rich ecosystem of arguments can keep democracy alive

When victors write their opponents out of the political process, then losers are left with nothing but the tragic option of burning down the house

FRAGILE AS A moth's wing and vibrant as a sunset, democracy is a wonder of nature. When a nation is alive to its mysterious forces, when it allows various approaches to human flourishing and happiness, democracy feels as elemental as gravity. But when we stop believing in our capacity to handle complex issues from myriad points of view, then democracy dies. When we fear our political opponents more than we cherish democracy, we engage in

MEG MOTT, a longtime Marlboro College professor of political science and a Constitutional scholar, serves as Putney's town moderator. behavior that undermines democratic rule. It's easy to see this process in red states. When state legislators expel elected officials or governors sign bills that limit people's rights, progressives call foul. And for good cause. When the Tennessee

legislature expelled two of its members, it signaled a lack of respect for the people in those districts and their capacity to choose their own representatives. When Texas restricted access to reproductive health care, it demonstrated a lack of respect for the people to make their own decisions. (My guess is that in the long run both of these tactics will backfire; voters do not like being treated as if they are stupid.) But blue states are also at risk of deep-sixing democracy. Instead of expelling the

opposition, a progressive anti-democratic tactic is to shut down debate. This was most clear after Vermont voters overwhelmingly passed a Constitutional amendment protecting reproductive rights. Instead of taking the win with grace, the victors doubled down. As one pro-choice leader announced, "our autonomy over our bodies is not up for discussion." If you supported Article 22, which recognizes "an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy," that

■ SEE DEMOCRACY, C2

COLUMN

Our roads, at what cost?

It's now 2023, and I'm becoming aware that the "good" mileage I get in my hybrid doesn't account for the carbon emitted in building, maintaining, and rebuilding the roads

THE TORN-UP MILES of Vermont Route 30 between Brattleboro and Newfane is no mere repaving project, but a full-depth reclamation (FDR) of the road surface. FDR requires making several passes over the 10 miles that run from the corner of Cedar Street in Brattleboro to about a mile south of Newfane Village, just past Brook Street. During this first phase, the road is being milled and the asphalt pulverized, mixed with gravel, and compacted. This is also when the roadway will be graded, raised where needed, and banked according to current design standards. These initial processes are expected to last through June.

Paving will follow in three separate layers. A sub-base of recycled asphalt will be laid down first (mid- to late July), then an intermediate layer of asphalt will be added (early August) and — finally — the wearing course will complete the resurfacing (mid-September).

The new signs, paint, and guardrails are expected to be installed and the project completed sometime in October.

THERE'S NO QUESTION: this section of Route 30 was in bad shape with what amounted to ruts in the asphalt — ruts that filled with water in the rain and made driving more dangerous than usual.

But the project is also one in



DEBORAH LEE LUSKIN, one of this newspaper's original columnists, blogs at deborahleeluskin.com.

a long line of such efforts since I first traveled this road in 1965. That road had few guardrails, no shoulders, and many curves. Many parts of this 114-mile state highway from Brattleboro to Middlebury have been improved since then.

The last time such a project took place on this section of Route 30 was in 1995, the year I moved to Newfane. That project involved relocating about a mile of the highway to eliminate a dip and a curve along a narrow section of roadway that was replaced with a wide straightaway up a hill.

While flaggers stopped traffic for workers and machines, I watched the mile-long section of forest cleared, graded, and paved. It made me curious: If a single mile caused this much disruption, what did clear cutting four lanes of 323 miles for Vermont's interstate highways entail? And, how did the Interstates change not only the landscape, but also the culture of the state?

I've been spending most of my adult life answering these questions in a trilogy of novels: in one set in 1958, during early construction of I-91; in another

■ SEE ROADS, C2

VIEWPOINT

Our hearts were broken. You stepped in when we needed help.

With deep gratitude we, the Groundworks Board of Directors, thank all who have supported Groundworks in any way

THIS SHOULD never happen. The violent death of Leah Rosin-Pritchard shook us to our core: Morningside House residents, Groundworks staff, board, and collaborators, the Brattleboro community. Our hearts have broken, for Leah and her family and friends, for all involved. And "all involved" expanded greatly on April 6, when the community partners of Groundworks came together to

RITA RAMIREZ serves as president of the Groundworks Collaborative board of directors.

work of meeting basic human needs for shelter and food with dignity. Financial backing by the Vermont Agency of Human Services was essential to that transition.

That "pause" is ending. Through this period, the shared leadership of Josh Davis, executive director, and Peter Elwell, interim deputy executive director, along with the entire Groundworks Leadership Team, has been extraordinary in managing this crisis, lining up support for staff, synthesizing



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT THE COMMONS

Bouquets of flowers left at the foot of the driveway at Morningside House in Brattleboro.

and defining actions for increased safety, and planning for a phased reopening of services.

Every member of the Groundworks staff has been vital to the organization's resilience and recovery.

Our community partners — led by Dr. Kathleen McGraw, chief medical officer of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital — have made the seemingly

impossible happen. So many have been generously involved that we do not know the complete list of names of all who helped.

With deep gratitude we, the Groundworks Board of Directors, thank all who have supported Groundworks in any way, including the groups named below and any persons that we may have missed.

WE KNOW THAT our re-grounding, our revising, of how we care for persons in need is not over. Though the acute phase of this crisis has passed, looming ahead is the end of state funding for emergency housing for most persons experiencing homelessness.

The Covid-era federal funding has already stopped.

■ SEE GROUNDWORKS, C2



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LETTERS

Against taxpayer money going to private schools

I do not want tax dollars going to private institutions to serve a select group of citizens/students.

Many private schools are quality learning environments with caring individuals leading classrooms and institutions. However, they are in essence, if not by design, gated communities — not all students are welcome or accepted, and some who are accepted are kicked out for grades or behavior, even in open-enrollment schools.

Tax dollars should not fund conditional acceptance to an educational community based on ability to pay or perceived intelligence. Educational funds are to equalize society, not stratify or sort.

The inequity propagated by private schools is built into their structure. Private institutions do not need to meet the requirements set by the state Agency of Education: standardized testing, special education laws, required days in session, teacher and administrator licensure, and busing students (a significant problem for many students without family cars and parental time to transport) .etc.

Whether you agree with the existence of these requirements, at best they are designed to support the fullest range of students and are fiscal burdens that private institutions can avoid.

Private schools do not need to meet the days-in-session requirement set by the state. Private schools are also allowed to accumulate endowments that public schools cannot. And there are no caps on tuition collected.

Imagine what our public schools would be like if they could have endowments and charge \$38,000 or more in tuition (compared to approximately \$17,500 for a high school student). Oh, the support we could provide to all students/children/young adults?

As for historical or traditional independent high schools in Vermont, I understand the challenge of undoing legacy and tradition; it is painful. And, I would say, an argument for keeping or treating those historical institutions differently is evidence of the privilege they have existed under for a long time.

If these institutions want to continue to serve and educate, they should become fully public institutions. As for open-enrollment schools, if they are truly open enrollment, then just become fully public. If you do not want to, then there must be a benefit or privilege you do not want to relinquish.

I have worked in classrooms in Vermont public education for almost 30 years as a curriculum coordinator, teacher mentor, mentor coordinator, and coach in schools and districts throughout Windham County.

The schools and educators I have worked with are doing wonderful work. The greatest challenges in our schools

stem from societal issues around equity and privilege that impact the educational process... the struggles outside of school, come into school. Isolating and dividing young people should not be an educational or societal answer. Public funds should be for public institutions or schools. Tax dollars should not be used to redline our educational system.

Finally, I am concerned that some folks will pose the elimination of school choice injurious to children, children who are attending private schools. I am sympathetic to that concern, yet I worry that narrative just perpetuates privilege.

Casey Deane
Marlboro

Time to retire Colonels name to make way for a new BUHS identity

As the son of a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, I have never had a problem with the title “colonel.” I have had many a former student play for the Colonels, and I have cheered on “purple” from the stands many a time.

In 2004, when the Brattleboro Union High School board ended any official use of the image of a Southern plantation-based slave-owning “colonel” as the school mascot image, it also ended the display of the Confederate flag and the slogan “Pride of the South.”

These were, I believe, good decisions. These decisions were made in the context of other racially charged incidents at the school and in the community.

It is unfortunate that the BUHS board did not commission in 2004 a process to create a new colonel logo, one that could reflect a history different from the Southern plantation, or a non-historical, abstract vision of a colonel as a symbol of leadership.

Without a replacement image, I am afraid the old colonel’s picture as a plantation character continues to weigh us down with its baggage acquired over the years.

Isaac Watts wrote in the 18th century, “Our age to 70 years is set.” Before the Colonels, the high school teams in Brattleboro had other names.

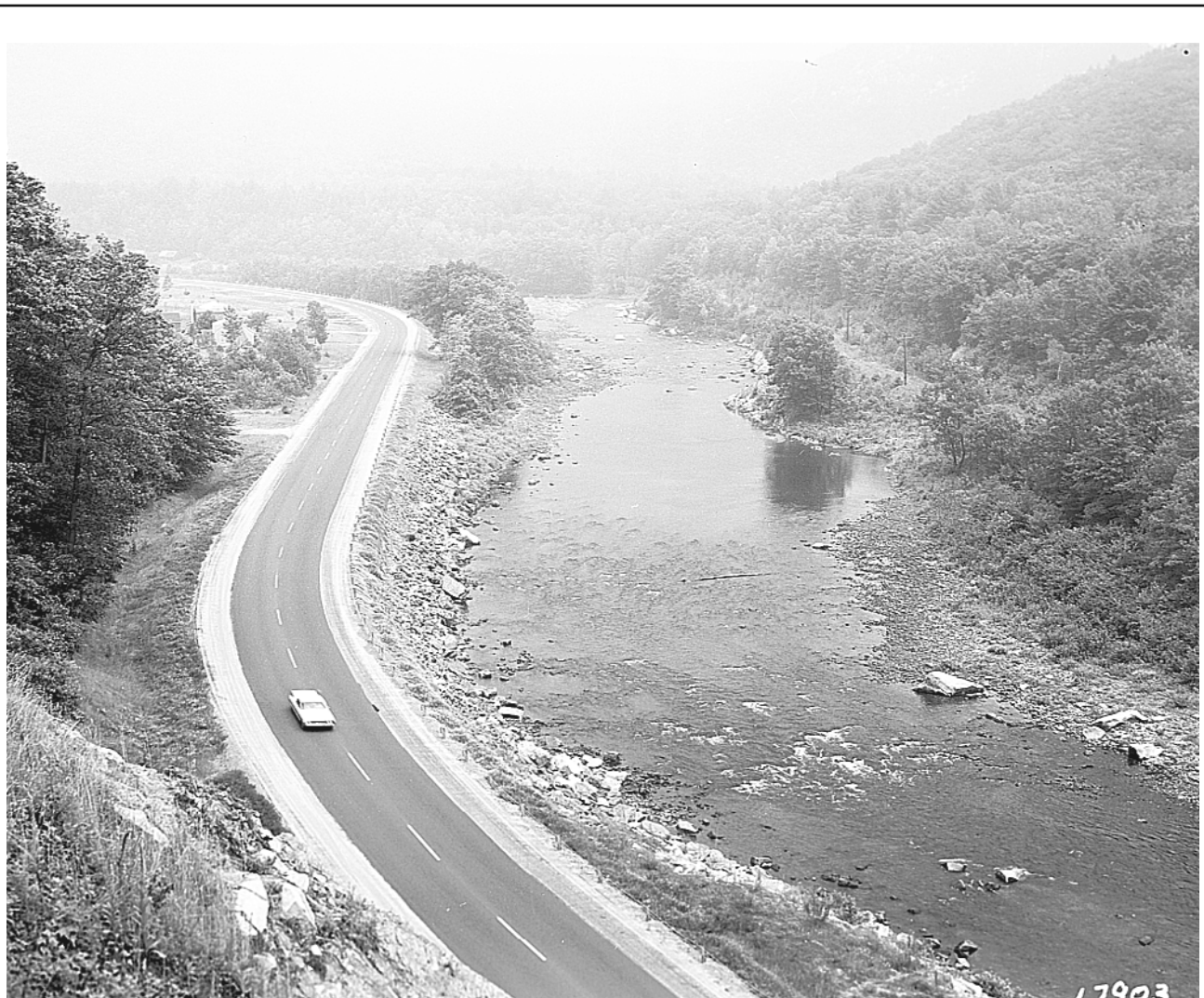
All things do pass. It seems that our BUHS mascot is ready to pass away and make way for something new to gain respect over time.

Recently, I stopped at the beautiful monument that stands in front of BUHS and received a powerful history lesson.

Perhaps the memory of the “ten thousand, two hundred” volunteers who camped on the old fairgrounds between 1861 and 1865 before they headed off to fight for the U.S. republic and its ideals could inspire a new era for our sports teams: the Brattleboro Volunteers.

And what better color than purple to recognize their bravery and sacrifice in the ongoing fight for liberty, equality, and justice for all?

Andy Davis
Brattleboro



This black and white photograph looks east over a newly-completed section of Vermont Route 30 between Brattleboro and Dummerston.

Roads

set in 1964, when people like me started to arrive on the new road; and in an unfinished novel that spans 30 years, from 1985 to 2015.

It took 20 years to complete I-91, required 50 acres of land for each mile, and up to 150 acres for each on/off ramp.

The cost? A million dollars a mile and the life of Romaine Tenney, who, rather than let his farm be taken by eminent domain for the highway, burned it down — with him inside.

THE CURRENT PROJECT of rehabilitating 10 miles of Route

30 is expected to cost \$23 million. But what I think about while I’m waiting for an automated flagger assistance device (AFAD) to let me pass is how much traffic this state highway carries, how much carbon we emit in both necessary and recreational travel up and down the valley, and how much carbon the machines doing the work release.

I was 9 years old on that first visit to Vermont, and all I knew then about pollution was from the Tom Lehrer song of the same name, recorded on vinyl. By 1995, when the state straightened Route 30 in

Newfane, I’d lived through the oil embargo of the 1970s and gained an inkling that energy conservation mattered.

It’s now 2023, and I’m becoming aware that the “good” mileage I get in my hybrid doesn’t account for the carbon emitted in building, maintaining, and rebuilding the roads.

I’ve recently learned that an 80-year-old red oak in the northern forest sequesters about the same amount of carbon as driving a car 12,000 miles — about what my husband, Tim, and I do in the course of a year.

Maybe, if I plant an oak

FROM SECTION FRONT

Democracy

statement seems reasonable. But if you were one of the 23% of Vermonters who did not support the amendment, those words send an anti-democratic signal: If you are pro-life, the winners do not want to hear from you.

THE PROBLEM WITH this approach to politics is that it forces minorities out of the political process and into the dark recesses, where political violence breeds. When victors write their opponents out of the political process, then losers are left with nothing but the tragic option of burning down the house.

At least that’s the conclusion of Rachel Kleinfeld, a senior fellow at the Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, which recently published “Five Strategies to Support U.S. Democracy.”

Democrats are fooling themselves, she argues, if they think they can support democracy by winning all the elections and taking over all the institutions.

Even if that could happen, she says, it would not help democracy. To take up all the oxygen in the room is to replace democracy with an authoritarian regime, in which the majority uses various degrees of violence to maintain control within each state.

THE FIRST TWO of Kleinfeld’s five strategies to combat political violence are relevant to the abortion debate in Vermont.

Instead of silencing the opposition, we should encourage “responsible conservatives to vote for democracy,” she says.

That means using rhetoric that appeals to conservative

values, such as the family, the Constitution, the military, religion, and private property. Pro-choice Vermonters do not lose any power by supporting a social safety net that offers families increased assistance (U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney’s Family Security Act 2.0 being one example).

The second strategy is to “reduce the social demand from the Right for illiberal policies and politicians.” When pro-choice Vermonters tell pro-life Vermonters that they have nothing to contribute, it plays into the hands of reactionary leaders. Why should conservatives take democracy seriously if their deepest values are denigrated?

To reduce the demand for anti-democratic tactics, we must create more opportunities for the losing side to weigh in on policy decisions.

Luckily, the language in Article 22 provides ample room for those discussions.

Along with recognizing the individual right to personal reproductive autonomy, Article 22 also recognizes the state’s “compelling interest” in regulating abortion using “the least restrictive means.”

Conservatives still have a role to play in deciding what that compelling interest might look like, and progressives would be wise to listen.

BUT REDUCING political violence is not the only reason to bring minority points of view into the discussion. Learning to coexist through deep disagreements is the greatest fruit of democracy. By taking turns losing and winning, we learn how to be better friends to one another.

The “hard truth of democracy,” writes political Danielle

Allen in *Talking to Strangers: Anxieties of Citizenship since Brown v. Board of Education*, “is that some citizens are always giving things up for others.” Sometimes our side wins, sometimes it doesn’t.

“It is the job of the winner in any given political moment,” she explained in *The Ezra Klein Show*, “to make the ongoing possibility of a political friendship real.” An important way to keep that friendship alive is to recognize the sacrifice.

WHEN ARTICLE 22 became law, those who voted against it did not just lose the vote, they made an important sacrifice.

For those who believe that reproduction is not an individual right but part of sacred and natural process, Article 22 feels like a slap in the face. It’s up to the winners to prove that it is not. Progressives need to acknowledge that the Amendment has not stifled debate. It is in the details of policy that we can keep the political friendships alive.

And through those ongoing disagreements we might learn something important about the

now, by the time it’s 80, we’ll have figured out transportation systems with lower carbon emissions.

In the meantime, I’m determined to drive as little as possible. Thanks to the internet, I can earn from home. When I do have to leave, I’ll try to combine errands and appointments, carpool if possible, bicycle when practical.

Meanwhile, I’ll be either in the word shop or the garden, living in place and — as much as I can — staying there.

FROM SECTION FRONT

abortion debate.

Instead of winners and losers, there is a rich ecosystem of arguments, from pro-life progressives, who critique the abortion industry for valuing unencumbered workers over vulnerable human beings, to pro-choice conservatives, who use transcendent values to argue for the dignity of discernment.

There is much to learn from each other.

SO RATHER THAN giving into our fears, which only brings on nasty authoritarian habits, Vermonters should take up the virtues of political friendship, of recognizing the sacrifices we ask of each other to keep this noble experiment alive.

But that can only happen if those who support Article 22 make space for those who lost the vote. Surely a supermajority affords enough confidence to hear the fears and resentments of those who wanted the amendment to fail.

As is always the case with democracy, the minority deserves our reassurance that their sacrifice to our precious democracy will be worth it.

Groundworks

FROM SECTION FRONT

Without additional state monies — which the Legislature and governor have not supported — most current emergency housing funding is imminently coming to an end.

In human terms, this means that at least 110 people in the Brattleboro area will lose their motel housing on May 31. Social service organizations will be unable to meet many of these housing needs.

As all sectors of our community have come together to get through the recent acute crisis, the whole community is needed to address this chronic crisis of inadequate and unaffordable housing.

Clearly this housing crisis is bound up with other chronic crises, including poverty, food insecurity, and the lack of needed health care services. These systemic and societal problems need systemic and societal strategies and solutions.

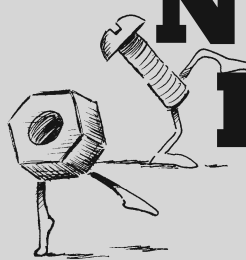
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We look forward to our ongoing work with you.

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VIEWPOINT

Family values are not expressed by what type of genitals you were born with

The radical right has attacked the trans community, in order to save the now-not-so-dominant paradigm of white male supremacy in the ordering and ruling of this nation

America's radical right has chosen to target drag shows and transgender people in their latest assault on family values posing as a defense of family values. Shocked cries about grooming and child abuse are spewing from their mouths like pea soup from Regan in *The Exorcist*.

The very folks who are trying to bring back child labor and want to take food out of the mouths of poor children, are now suddenly very concerned for those children's welfare.

Strange that they didn't show much concern when reports about the rampant rape and abuse of children by officials in the Catholic Church were released, nor when the Boy Scouts of America was forced to pay the largest-ever settlement for child abuse within its ranks, nor when the Southern Baptist Church was exposed for the same crimes.

Strange too, that there is no evidence that connects drag queens or transgender people to child abuse.

But not so strange when you realize that these great defenders of the fetus in the womb who until now had forgotten all about the needs of the child who gets born aren't thinking about the welfare of children; they're simply looking for a new scapegoat that they might use to engender fear and rage in the American psyche that might lead to an electoral advantage in the next election.

REMEMBER THE hue and cry when gay and lesbian rights started to get recognized? We heard the same false claims of immorality and poisoning of the minds of children.

The radical right counted on prejudice against gay Americans as they tried to taint the Democrats by association. They warned us that recognizing the legitimacy of the gay community was a slippery slope that would lead to terrible outcomes for our children and the nation.

Of course, it turns out that gay people are no different from

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

any other group in the population. Gay marriage hasn't led to anything other than a mix of happily married and unhappily divorced folks, just as it is for heterosexual people.

Gayness has become mainstream and boringly regular, and the chorus of cries about the corruption of our youth no longer dominates the public conversation.

OF COURSE, many still privately harbor prejudice against the gay community, just as there is still an epidemic of privately expressed racism and prejudice against people of color. Until very recently, declaring those views has been seen as taboo in mainstream society.

Now we are seeing a determined effort to bring those prejudices out into the open once again. Those who espouse these beliefs see anti-trans rhetoric and attacks as a wedge to reopen that door.

The radicals think that transgender people and drag show aficionados are still marginalized in our society to the extent that they can publicly defile and attack them. They are hoping that by making false claims and demonizing this group of people, they can gin up a groundswell of hatred and disgust that could be manipulated to increase the numbers of people who would decide to vote Republican to save us from this illusory "scourge."

In every segment of society, we can find individual cases of excesses, bad character, or harmful actions.

If we were to condemn entire population groups for these aberrations, then white men would have been banished from the planet by now.

The radical right has launched these attacks on another marginalized group, the trans community, in order to save the now-not-so-dominant paradigm of white male supremacy in the ordering and ruling of this nation. They hope the fear and loathing engendered will translate into votes for the new MAGA brand of Republican (white) authoritarianism.

As times change, we have become ever-so-slowly less willing to allow the historic narrative that brought us slavery, Jim Crow, unequal rights for

women, and the ostracizing of all groups who didn't fit into the white-is-right model to maintain dominance in our collective thinking.

DIVISION, animus, and fear-mongering are not family values. Family values involve love, acceptance, empathy, and supporting one another. We should be prepared to

counter specious claims about people who are different from "us." We should call out self-serving, meanspirited speech for what it is.

If we allow the radical revisionists to continue to lay claim to be the guardians of family values, then we will soon find out how exclusive that so-called family really is. Family values are not expressed by what type

of genitals you were born with. If we don't accept all people on the planet with love and dignity, then we will continue to allow violence, strife and injustice to reign.

We are starting to do better than that. Let's not allow the carefully scripted attacks on any marginalized people to derail us from this more positive trajectory.

THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

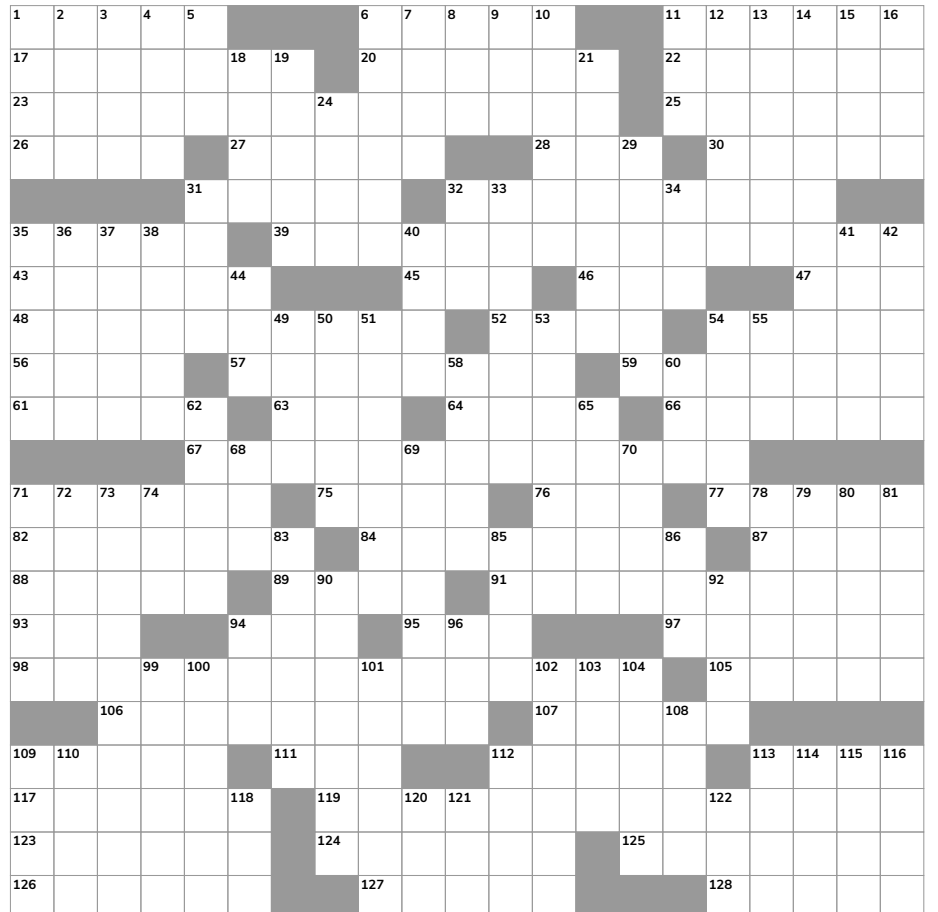
"Asking the Wrong Questions"

Across

1. Made cookies, e.g.
6. Puts on a scale
11. "Yes, captain"
17. At this point
20. "Now that's what I'm talking about!"
22. Oahu's ___ Palace
23. Question from a forgetful debater?
25. Fooling
26. It'll help you focus
27. Lead role in "1776"
28. Bike alternative
30. Stark crowned Queen in the North in "Game of Thrones"
31. Showy flowers
32. Peak called Chomolungma in Tibetan
35. Basil-based sauce
39. Question from someone who doesn't know how street numbering works?
43. Top stories
45. Chest in Exodus
46. "___ boy!"
47. Time to remember
48. Question from someone who doesn't see the point of peekaboo?
52. Keto alternative, in organic chemistry
54. Unoriginal
56. TV personality Leakes
57. New York's ___ Hall
59. "New Rules" singer
61. Enjoys a snowy hillside
63. Scot's denial
64. World Cup cheers
66. Was beating
67. Question from someone trying to schedule a nap?
71. Trapped
75. Work like a dog
76. ___ cone
77. Author Ellison
82. Queen Consort's name
84. Seniors, a bit unkindly
87. City on Hawaii
88. Currency of Qatar
89. Indicates assent
91. Question from people wearing face masks at dinner?
93. Sixth sense, for short
94. Off-road wheels: Abbr.
95. Thanksgiving dessert
97. Cavort
98. With 119-Across, question from someone unfamiliar with a master thief?
105. '50s Ford flop
106. List
107. Chain of fabric stores
109. Moral code
111. E's in the key of C
112. Japanese writing based on Chinese characters
113. Spill the beans
117. Without affection
119. See 98-Across
123. Breakfast order
124. Flowing back
125. 81-Down room opener
126. Moon of Neptune
127. Round house?
128. Theme

Down

1. Sob noisily
2. Tennis great Arthur
3. Zen meditation riddle
4. Young newts

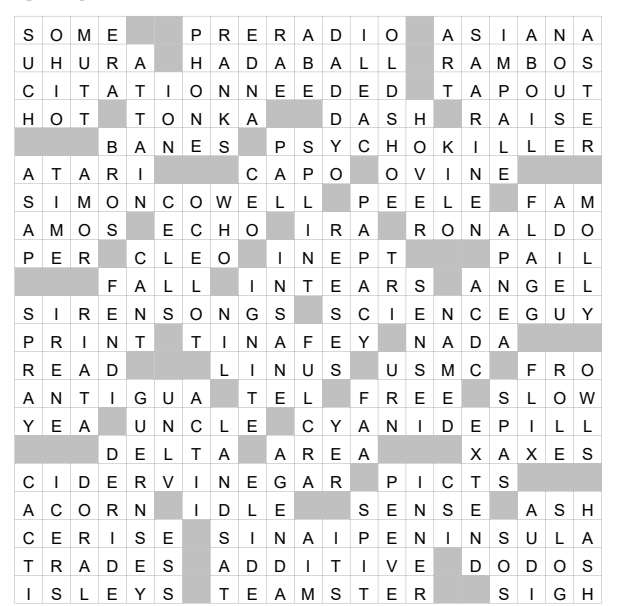


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5. Genetic molecule
6. Rent check splitter
7. Cries of insight
8. One-handed Norse war god
9. Brain wave reading: Abbr.
10. Cup bearer?
11. Give a hand
12. "The thing is..."
13. Sun Bowl site
14. 3rd-century Parisian martyr
15. Rustic lodgings
16. Baltic capital
18. Actor Sharif
19. Black ___ (Marvel superhero)
21. Unceremonious ouster
24. Dash gauge
29. Like familiar old stories
31. Pixar film set in Mexico
32. Mal de ___ (seasickness)
33. Come down with something
34. Letter after pi
35. Board game tokens
36. Broadway star Merman
37. Broadway composer Jule
38. ___ over (helped through a tough patch)
40. Make a pile?
41. Hang loosely
42. Leafy lunch
44. [Not my error]
49. Stay in your ___
50. Praying figure, in art
51. Golfer's driver
53. Must
54. "24" protagonist Jack
55. Fully
58. Pianist Glenn
60. News agcy.
62. Puff up
65. Tendon or ligament
68. "Good" cholesterol
69. Garage floor stain
70. Tennyson's title
71. Threaded fastener
72. Actor J. Carrol ___
73. "Baby Mama" star
74. Narrow inlet
78. Leading
79. Property claims
80. Spot
81. Four Seasons, e.g.
83. Medal ceremony song
85. Poet Silverstein
86. Absorb, with "up"
90. On the rocks
92. Small songbird
94. Cash source
96. Fury
99. Out of gear
100. Atomic centers
101. Pungent condiment
102. "___ Unchained"
- (Tarantino movie)
103. Charged particles
104. "Wheel" man?
108. Highest sudoku number
109. Major for a B-school applicant, often
110. Heavy reading
112. Casino numbers game
113. Some ballpoints
114. Pastures
115. Taj Mahal city
116. Soul mate?
118. Pay stub abbr.
120. "Notorious" justice's initials
121. www.army. ___
122. Turn red, say

Last issue's solution

"[Alas]"



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COLUMN | *Sports Roundup*

Colonels finish undefeated Unified season, earn top seed for playoffs

The Brattleboro Unified basketball team celebrated Senior Day and its regular season finale on May 1 in the BUHS gym with a 53-50 win over Hartford.

With the win, Brattleboro enters the playoffs as the top seed in the Southern Division with a 7-0 record. As a result, the Colonels will have home court advantage for all of their playoff games.



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.

It made for a happy Senior Day for Joanie Tuttle, Janessa Jones, Timothy Galdamez, Marcy Galdamez, Silvia Galdamez, and Alana Bell, who were honored at halftime. Colonels coach Tyler Boone said this group has participated in every Unified sport offered at BUHS since they were ninth-graders.

All of Brattleboro 11 starting athletes scored in the game as the Colonels led 31-20 at the half. Ben Stauffer led Brattleboro with 17 points, nine in the first half and eight in the second half. Austin Pinette added eight points, and Jeff White chipped in six.

"Any of our 11 athletes can make any of their shots," Boone said. "I think we have the fastest kid in the state in Ben Stauffer. Nobody's beating him down the court. Austin just moves around so well that he can make his own opportunities and that's huge."

But the biggest cheers from the fans were for Brattleboro's Jaymeson Crochetiere, who scored his first basket of his high school career. "That was pretty cool," said Boone. "He's a very popular kid in the school. Everybody knows him. For him to be successful in front of hundreds of kids is really cool."

Boone acknowledges that the playoffs will be difficult for the Colonels. "To make a deep run you do have to play all aspects of the game because no one is going to give you anything," he said. "Our goal, what we are preparing for in practice, is to go all the way. It's going to be hard and everyone is going to come for us because when you're the No. 1 seed, you have a target on your backs."

Softball

Leland & Gray ended Bellows Falls' bid for an undefeated season with a dramatic 4-1 win in Townshend on May 4.

The Rebels broke a scoreless tie in the fourth inning when Makaila Morse doubled and stole third, and scored on a two-out, two-strike squeeze bunt by her sister, Samantha Morse.

A two-run double by Savannah Cadrin keyed a three-run fifth inning for the Rebels, but the Terriers came close to pulling off a big rally in the seventh when they loaded the bases. Shortstop Ava LeCours made a pair of big defensive plays and pitcher Kristen Lowe hung on to give the Rebels the win.

Lowe held the Terriers to three hits with eight strikeouts. She walked six and hit two batters. BF got its only run in the seventh, on a RBI single by Jenna Dolloph.

Leland & Gray kept up the

winning momentum with a 12-11 victory over White River Valley on May 6 in Townshend. Lowe was the winning pitcher, striking out seven and allowing five hits. Abriella Hallock earned the save. On offense, the Rebels were led by Kat Shine with two hits, two runs and an RBI. Cadrin had two hits and two RBIs, while Hannah Greenwood had two hits and a run. The Rebels ended the week with a 4-1 record.

Mount Anthony rolled over Brattleboro, 17-0, in five innings on May 4 at Sawyer Field to drop their record to 0-6.

Twin Valley is also winless so far this season. The Wildcats were beaten by Burr & Burton, 25-6, on May 4, and forfeited their scheduled May 6 game to Mill River.

Baseball

A pair of passed balls in the eighth inning gave Fair Haven the deciding runs in a 6-5 victory over Bellows Falls on May 5 at Hadley Field. The Terriers' record is now 5-4.

Leland & Gray took care of winless Mill River, 13-2, on May 4 to improve the Rebels' record to 5-3.

Boys' lacrosse

On May 5 at Natowich Field, the Colonels lost to Rutland, 10-3, but the real winners of this game were the region's military veterans and first responders who are struggling with various mental health issues.

The Colonels hosted their first Salute to Service game and each player chose a veteran or first responder to honor prior to the game. The team has been involved in a fundraising campaign in support of the Front Line Foundations of North America, a Bellows Falls-based nonprofit that provides individual and group therapy to veterans and first responders.

The team set a goal of \$2,200, and they surpassed it by more than \$1,000 as of the start of this week. Anyone interested in supporting and donating to this cause can go the team's fundraising page at givebutter.com/Nv8cRk.

Girls' lacrosse

Burr & Burton jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the first eight minutes and rolled to a 20-2 win over Brattleboro at Natowich Field on May 4.

Ultimate disc

Leland & Gray's Jackson Fillion had nine assists, five blocks, and a goal to help lead the Rebels to a 15-10 win over Long Trail School on May 2 in Dorset. Finch Holmes scored seven goals and had an assist and five blocks, while Trevor



Brattleboro's Austin Pinette (1) puts up a shot over a pair of Hartford defenders in the regular season home finale for the Unified basketball team on May 1 at the BUHS gym.



Brattleboro's Faith Rowe (4) protects the ball as two Hartford defenders move in during the first half of their Unified basketball game on May 1 at the BUHS gym.

Stillwagon had four goals, two assists, and four blocks and Trevor Hazelton had three assists and seven blocks.

On May 5, the Rebels lost 15-2 to Burr & Burton in Townshend to finish the week at 3-2.

Brattleboro competed in a tournament at Mount Mansfield in Jericho on May 6, and split its two matches. A combined Long Trail/Mill River squad took on the Colonels and won a 9-6 match, but Brattleboro came back to beat Long Trail/Mill River, 8-7, in the second match.

BOC watercraft consignment sale is May 13

The annual Brattleboro Outing Club Consignment Sale & Swap of small human and wind-powered watercraft will be held on Saturday, May 13, from noon to 2 p.m., at the "On The Waterfront" building, 464 Putney Rd., Brattleboro (just above The Marina restaurant).

Boats will be accepted on Friday, May 12, from noon to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. On Saturday, May 13, boats will be accepted beginning at 8 a.m., until 11:30 a.m. The swap portion of the event takes place from 11:30 a.m. to noon, with the sale starting at noon.

This is a consignment sale to fund the BOC Summer Paddling Program. Boat owners set the price, and BOC Paddling receives 10% of the eventual selling price. When two or more prospective buyers want the

same boat, an "auction" will decide the eventual buyer. For more details on the sale, visit www.BrattleboroOutingClub.org or contact Larry McIntosh at 802-254-3666 or Lmacyak@gmail.com.

Learn more about rowing with RunBOC

RowBOC, the rowing program of the Brattleboro Outing Club, announces the opening of enrollment to its 2023 Learn-to-Row Clinic. If you have never rowed before, or want to learn sculling on the West and Connecticut rivers, RowBOC wants to introduce you to the joy of rowing.

Organizers say rowing "builds skills people need in daily life: teamwork, persistence, working toward a goal, and a sense of humor and humility. It's also an excellent opportunity for fitness, recreation, fun, and making new friends."

There will be a free try-out session on Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the RowBOC boathouse and docks at the docks near the beginning of the West River Trail in Brattleboro. You will get a taste of rowing: learn to get in and out of a boat, take a few strokes while tethered to the dock, and maybe launch on the West River. RowBOC master rowers will teach, assist, and cheer you on.

If your interest is piqued by the June 3 session, you are invited to join RowBOC's

Learn-to-Row Clinic, a 10-session course that will take you from knowing nothing about a rowing shell to being able to launch, row from the dock to beyond the bridge, turn around, and return to the dock safely, as well as essential skills such as backing up, getting back into the boat from a capsized, and proper boat handling.

Sessions run from June 10 to July 1. For more information on both events, send an email to rowboc@gmail.com; include your phone number if you would like to talk to a clinic instructor.

Vote for Grace Cottage

For the second year in a row, Grace Cottage has been chosen as an IMPACT Award Finalist for Vermont by the Ruderman Family Foundation and the Red Sox Foundation. The contest seeks to recognize organizations for their efforts to improve mental health in their communities.

In an email congratulating Grace Cottage for being chosen as a finalist, the sponsoring organizations wrote, "Your nomination demonstrated a deep impact in both raising awareness and improving the outcomes in your community. We would like to thank you for the incredible work that you are doing!"

The IMPACT Awards provide Red Sox fans in the six New England states with the chance to nominate and vote for their favorite local non-profit organization. Five finalists have

been chosen from each state for their opportunity to win a grant from the Red Sox Foundation.

Supporters can vote once daily until May 31 at redsox.com/impact. The top three non-profits each receive a grant: \$10,000 for first place, \$3,000 for second place and \$2,000 for third place. Grace Cottage won a second-place grant in 2022 and a third-place grant in 2015.

CRVBL opens its 22nd season

The 22nd season of the Connecticut River Valley Baseball League (CRVBL) got underway on May 7 with games at Maxfield Athletic Complex in Hartford and Gouin Field in Dummerston. Each game saw the home team emerge with a win.

In Hartford, the Connecticut River Iron Men downed the Charlestown Cavalry, who were making their CRVBL debut, by a score of 19-1. In Dummerston, the defending champion Putney Fossils topped the Walpole Granite, 11-0.

Jed St. Pierre (4-for-6, triple, two runs scored), Kris Bornholdt (3-for-4, three RBIs, two runs scored), and Tyler Kerr (2-for-4, two RBIs, two runs scored) led the Iron Men's offensive explosion. Side-arming rookie Garrett Gagnon pitched five scoreless innings to earn the win, allowing five hits, two walks, and striking out seven.

Four batters recorded multiple hits for the Fossils, with Ryan Smith (3-for-4, two doubles, two stolen bases, 2 RBIs, two runs scored) doing the most damage. Pitchers Danny Lichtenfeld (five innings, two hits, two walks, six strikeouts) and Peter Wagner (two innings, one hit, two strikeouts) combined to shut out the Granite, whose lineup included five newcomers to the league.

CRVBL action resumes on Sunday, May 14, when the Fossils travel to Fall Mountain Regional High School to take on the Cavalry, and the Iron Men head south to Dummerston to face the Granite. Both games are at 10 a.m. For more information, including box scores, stats, and standings, visit crvbl.com.

Senior bowling roundup

The spring/summer season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl began on May 2 with Turkeys (5-0) and Five Pins (5-0) starting Week 1 with a perfect score, followed by No Splits and The Bowlers (both 4-1), High Rollers (3-2), Wrecking Crew (2-4), Stayin' Alive and Skippers (both 1-4), and Slo Movers (0-5).

Sally Perry had the women's high handicap game (237), while Diane Cooke had the high handicap series (624). Pete Cross had the men's high handicap game (265), while Milt Sherman had the high handicap series (716). High Rollers had the high handicap game (899) and Turkeys had the high handicap series (2,547).

Chuck Adams led the men's scratch scoring with a 626 series with games of 224, 213, and 189. Sherman had a 620 series with games of 230 and 212, while John Walker had a 584 series with games of 221 and 184, and Robert Rigby had a 554 series with 225. Gary Montgomery had a 524 series with a 191 game, Pete Cross had a 523 series with a 291 game, Marty Adams had a 518 series with a 189 game, and Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 500 series with a 204 game.

Nancy Dalzell had the women's high scratch series (453) and game (168). Sally Perry had a 164 game.

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