

WSESU superintendent given two-year contract

Mark Speno, midway through his current one-year contract, gets an extension with the unanimous vote of the school board

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU) Superintendent Mark Speno has been given a two-year contract.

WSESU board members Chair Kerry Amidon, Michelle Luetjen Green, Liz Adams, Kelly Young, and Tim Maciel voted unanimously on Jan. 11 to authorize Amidon to negotiate and sign the agreement. “Congratulations,” Amidon

said as applause erupted in the room. “Thank you,” replied Speno. “I am grateful and appreciative of the extension,” Speno told *The Commons* after the meeting. “I look forward to continuing to work with administrators,

school boards, and school staff for a community that I am honored to serve.” Speno’s current one-year contract expires June 30. He explained that typically superintendents are given two-year, rolling contracts.

The new one will start when the initial contract expires, but he perceives it as a “positive” move by the board to have reviewed his work and voted on the two-year contract now. Prior to his tenure here, Speno



BRATTLEBORO COMMUNITY TELEVISION (BCTV)
WSESU Superintendent Mark Speno

■ SEE SPENO, A6

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

Brattleboro faces surge of need for shelter

A math problem: How do you help 250 people who need shelter when you have 234 beds?

By Kevin O'Connor
VtDigger.org

BRATTLEBORO—It sounds like a proverbial grade-school math problem: How do you accommodate 250 people with only 234 beds?

It’s a real-life predicament for human service workers here who report options at the local homeless shelter and state-subsidized motel-room program have reached historic highs — yet still aren’t enough.

“Even as the number of shelter beds and motel rooms has increased, the need for these opportunities has grown at a faster rate,” said Jon Hoover, operations director at the Groundworks Collaborative, which helps people who are hungry or need housing.

The nonprofit agency has opened a new downtown headquarters with a 34-bed shelter for people seeking emergency accommodations. It’s operating during a winter in which an additional 200 locals are living in motel rooms funded by government money.

But even with those 234 beds — far more capacity than before the Covid-19 pandemic — an estimated 10 to 15 people still don’t have a place to stay most nights.

That’s leaving residents in this politically progressive town searching for a fix, starting with a recent Selectboard conversation that concluded with more questions than answers.

“The issue just feels essentially overwhelming,” board Chair Ian Goodnow said after an hour and a half of brainstorming. “I find myself trying to focus on the very immediate, and I know that’s not really a solution.”

‘Systemic factors have only intensified’

Residents who see a new, larger Groundworks building and a variety of motels with vacancy signs may not understand the struggle. Human service workers say it’s

less about space and more about staffing and other support.

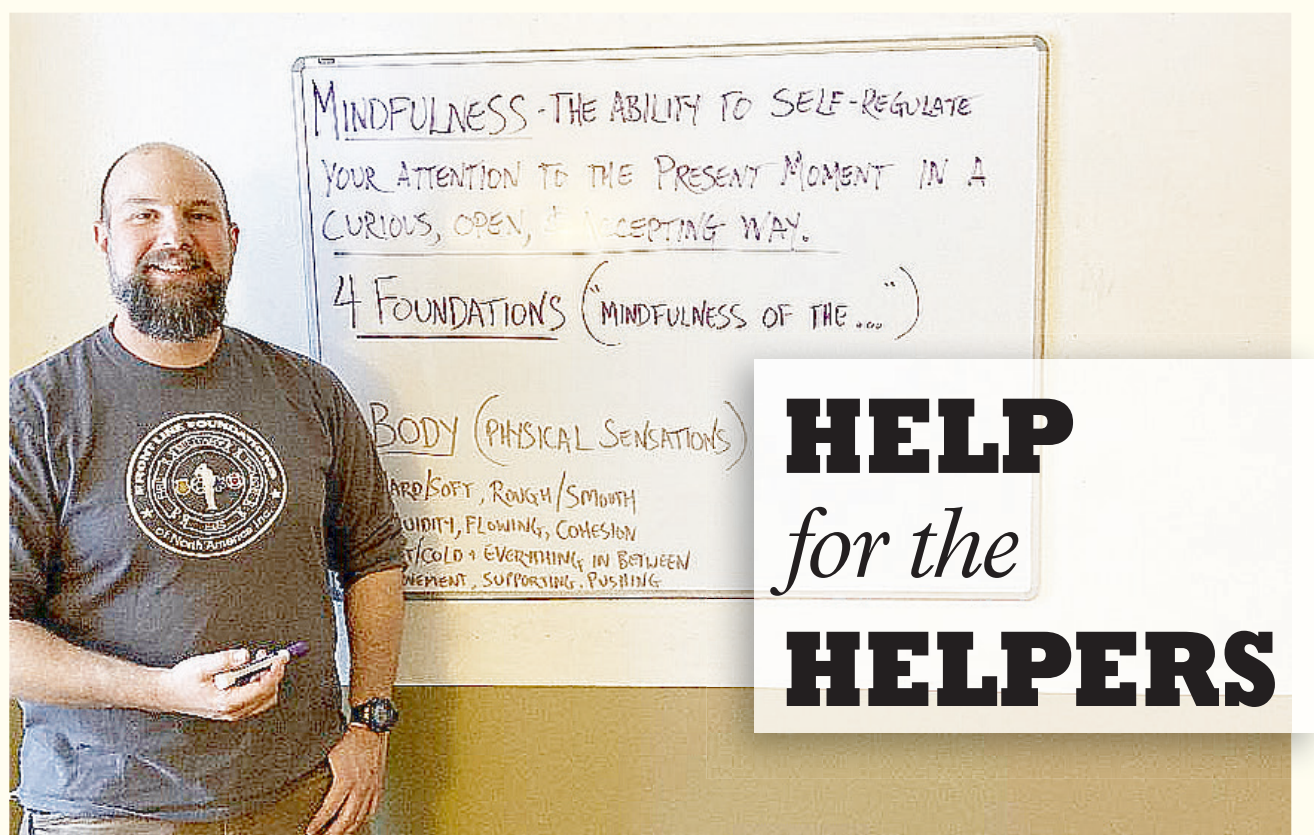
“Immense amounts of human resources are needed to safely run a shelter,” Hoover said. “Our staff is called to work with a complexity of issues in a nonclinical setting 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And the best starting wages we can afford, given the funding we have, is \$18 an hour.”

Amid such limits are an increasing number of challenges. “The systemic factors that contribute to these circumstances have only intensified,” Hoover said, “be it insufficient staffing for mental health services, rampant addiction and, most importantly, limited housing stock.”

Local and state leaders spoke of the need for more permanent housing that would free up temporary space for others. In the meantime, they’re trying to reserve more local motel rooms and seek volunteers to offer rides to lodging in other parts of Vermont.

State Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, cautioned that promising to transport people to far-flung places wouldn’t help those whose lives revolve around

■ SEE SHELTER, A3



Mike Cancellieri, founder of Front Line Foundations.

A local program to help first responders recover from trauma on the job did not survive the pandemic, but its focus and mission live on at a new nonprofit in Bellows Falls

By Robert F. Smith
The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—When Covid-19 struck in March 2020, one of the early casualties was the closing of the Uniformed Services Program (USP) at the Brattleboro Retreat, Vermont’s largest psychiatric hospital.

USP, launched in 2009, brought in first responders

from around the country, helping former and current military members, police, firefighters, emergency response personnel, etc. deal with the aftereffects of intense trauma — in particular, post-traumatic stress disorder.

What was originally intended to be a short-term shutdown of the program turned into a permanent closing as it became evident that Covid would go on not for weeks but for months — if

not years.

That summer, rather than return to the front lines in the units, Mike Cancellieri, one of the instructors in the USP, began creating a new program for frontline services workers: Front Line Foundations of North America, Inc., or FLF.

The new organization found space to open at the Rockingham Health Center, in the former Rockingham Memorial Hospital

facility, which now houses doctor and dentist offices, a psychiatric unit, community television, a gym, and an urgent care facility, in addition to FLF.

In addition to Cancellieri, the principals of FLF include his wife Lila as media officer; Jennifer Sell-Knapp, a social worker; Karen Banks, office manager; and a friend, Steve Banks.

■ SEE FIRST RESPONDERS, A2

COLUMN | Reporter’s Notebook

Ready to govern, but waiting for government

Balint reflects on her first days in the U.S. House of Representatives and the turbulent leadership change in the lower chamber

WAS IT JUST a couple of months ago, for the very first time, that Vermont decided to send a woman to the U.S. Congress?

She was one of our own, a Brattleboro resident, a former Vermont Senate president pro tem, an idealistic, gay, married, mother-of-two, progressive woman who thought she was elected to fight for mental health, reproductive rights and housing for her constituents — which now, because she is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, encompasses the entire United States. “I’m committed to making



JOYCE MARCEL,
a longtime contributor to The Commons, covers

Windham County’s connections to state and national politics and the political forces shaping the lives and livelihoods of the people here.

sure we pass progressive, bold, and meaningful legislation that addresses the priorities of Vermonters in the 118th Congress.” U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., said in a recent fundraising newsletter. “Join me

as I take on the status quo and fight for working people during my first term.”

Hold that optimism! Balint went to Washington, found a rare, no-frills inexpensive apartment within walking distance of the U.S. Capitol, and walked right into a goon show.

The words she used to describe it? “Surreal” and “a wild, wild ride.”

HISTORIANS WILL HAVE a field day with the 118th House of Representatives, which is being held hostage by a tiny majority

■ SEE BALINT, A7



U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., gives her first floor speech on Jan. 11.

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Recognizing that a vigorous exchange of ideas and information allows democracy to function and is the lifeblood of a community, Vermont Independent Media:

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• promotes local independent journalism,
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The paper is published weekly, with early production schedules scheduled for most fifth Wednesdays of the month.

SUBMITTING NEWS AND TIPS

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

VOICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First responders

FROM SECTION FRONT

Banks was a retired, high ranking, 30-year Coast Guard and combat veteran who was studying to be a social worker with the aim of helping veterans.

"Steve had been an intern at the Retreat," Cancellieri said. "He had excellent organizational skills, and he also helped fund the startup."

In addition to the classes Cancellieri teaches, Sell-Knapp runs psychotherapy groups.

Since opening, FLF has served around 100 clients. Cancellieri said they should be working with two to three times that number, but Covid in particular has been disruptive for clients entering the program.

FLF started as a two-week program, but because the majority of clients are working police and firefighters, who find it difficult to get two weeks in a row off, they've reduced the main program down to five days, while still offering longer programs when needed.

FLF accepts insurance and self-pay, but Cancellieri said that "any clients that are a good fit for our program are welcome here."

'A warrior's ethos'

"The skills that we teach here are what you would need to stay mentally healthy in a frontline job," Cancellieri said.

"It's about self-care skills, mindfulness, compassion," he continued. "I know what it's like to be doing a crossword puzzle when an alarm goes off, and a minute later you are fighting for your life."

The program teaches first responders how to deal with trauma before they find themselves in traumatic situations, so they will be better prepared.

One of Cancellieri's goals is to get the FLF program into the fire and police academies and into military basic training. The practice also provides in-service trainings for area fire and police departments and other first responders.

"What I teach is totally original," Cancellieri said, "except what I teach is thousands of years old. This is not religion, but mindfulness — the oldest, coherent system of practical philosophy."

He described mindfulness as "Buddhist psychology" and "not religion."

Buddhist and Taoist philosophies, along with its Western brother, Stoicism, are what Cancellieri calls "a warrior's ethos." The shared principles and skills in these practical philosophies provides powerful tools for dealing with life's traumas.

"Mindfulness is what has been helping warriors for thousands of years," he said. "It's not the pop concept of, 'Oh, I feel all zen!' " ("What's that?" he asks.)

Rather, mindfulness is the skill of controlling your attention. He noted also that the practice is the basis of any number of current mental health therapies.

"With PTSD, if you can catch that stuff early, [using mindfulness], you can do something about it and it can go away," Cancellieri said.

"The only time you can have any effect on your world is right here and right now," he continued. "When you develop this skill, the happier you'll be, the less anxious you'll be."

Cancellieri is an avid outdoorsman and nature photographer, so

hikes and reconnecting with the natural world are also part of the program.

On the FLF website, Cancellieri offers a series of 2-to-3-minute mindfulness videos, which are also on his YouTube channel, "Mike Checks in From the Truck." He records them in the front seat of his pickup while parked at a very busy gas station/deli/farmstand in Westminster.

The series, with 21 videos as of Jan. 15, provides a bit of an insider's nod at shared trauma, he says. Frontline workers with PTSD find busy stores like this difficult to navigate, and having someone standing behind you in line can be very disconcerting.

Whose trauma is worse?

What is worse: combat, running into a burning building, trying to save a horribly injured person at an accident site, facing a suicide-by-cop incident, or having to physically restrain a 250-pound psychotic patient having a violent episode?

"Everybody comes in thinking that their trauma is less than someone else's," Cancellieri said. "But when you get them all in a room together talking, they realize their trauma is all the same."

Joe Gorman, a retired New York City firefighter who has worked with Cancellieri both at the Retreat and at FLF for several years, agrees with that assertion.

"In the group dynamic, I came to realize I'm not the only one who feels this way," he said, his New York accent dripping with in-your-face attitude, big-city toughness, and no nonsense. "Everyone in the group is dealing with the same thing."

Gorman is from one of those legendary New York City families who have dedicated themselves to frontline public service for generations. His and his wife's families have together logged more than 600 years of service in the city as firefighters, teachers, nurses, and police officers.

Gorman started with the New York Police Department in 1984, when he was 20. At age 23, he buried his partner.

Shortly after, he transferred to the fire department. "I was in a real busy company," he said. "There were a lot of traumas."

Then the World Trade Center was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, and his company was among the first responders.

"We lost 13 guys in all on 9/11," Gorman said. "The guys that did come back had all sorts of health problems and began dying from various cancers. I was told that my lungs were not healthy enough to be able to return to work."

The effect on Gorman's life was devastating. "I got quite disconnected," he said. "I climbed into a bottle and stayed there for 15 years."

Gorman said that a few years after the attack, he was invited as a 9/11 first responder to attend and participate in a Governor's Conference in San Francisco. He said he went to all sorts of programs, spoke at some of them and at schools, but remembers none of it. His PTSD was in control.

Finally deciding to get his life in order, Gorman went into a 28-day alcohol recovery program, and from there went straight to the Retreat's Uniformed Services Program in January 2019.

"I was introduced to

AROUND THE TOWNS

350 Brattleboro hosts community climate conversation

BRATTLEBORO — What's next for climate action in Vermont? 350 Brattleboro, part of 350VT, a statewide grassroots network, will host a community climate conversation via Zoom, Wednesday, Jan. 18, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Organizers say they hope "to explore how Vermont is doing, and how we can build collective power to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and provide the grassroots support our elected officials need to take bold action." To register, go to tinyurl.com/BrattClimateConvo.

AARP Vermont offers help to foil fraudsters

BRATTLEBORO — AARP Vermont Fraud Watch presents a deep dive into the world of online fraud.

"Fraud, Scams, and Con-Artists: Coming to a Computer Near You" is a one-hour program live-streamed in a virtual presentation exploring the why and how of scams perpetrated over the internet and basic defense against them.

This presentation addresses the latest cyber threats, featuring how to recognize malicious emails and pop-ups, as well as Wi-Fi issues arising from the increased use of tablets and smart phones.

Two sessions are offered: Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m., and Friday, Jan. 20, at 2 p.m. This program is free and open to the public. Register by emailing AARP's Fraud Watch coordinator, Elliott Greenblatt, at egreenblatt@aarp.org.

Merry Mulch wraps up

BRATTLEBORO — The Brattleboro Union High School Music Department is wrapping up the annual Merry Mulch Christmas tree collection service to Brattleboro residents. For a \$10 donation, members of the band and chorus will transport undecorated trees from homes to a community garden in West Brattleboro where they will be chipped into mulch to be used by the gardeners.

Since the town does not offer curbside pick-up of trees, the service saves residents the hassle of transporting their own trees. One more Saturday pick-up

date is being offered on Jan. 21. The deadline for placing orders is Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.

All pick-ups must be pre-arranged by calling one of the following numbers at least two days prior to the desired date: 408-693-4588 or 802-380-4550. Proceeds will benefit a spring trip to New York City.

Lunar New Year celebrated on Jan. 22

BRATTLEBORO — The Asian Cultural Center of Vermont (ACCVT) celebrates the Lunar New Year of China, Korea, and Vietnam on Sunday, Jan. 22, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center.

All ages are welcome, and participants don't have to be Asian or know anything about Asia. The public is invited to usher in the year of the Black-Water-Rabbit. The sign of Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture and promises a period of rest and reflection after the dynamic Year of the Tiger.

The group activities will begin with a potluck, followed by traditional Chinese Dance led by Li Fei Osborne, Taiji and Qigong with Cai Xi, the Korean rope-tug, and traditional New Year songs and crafts.

The celebration wraps with a dragon parade up from the Museum toward Main Street to bring everyone luck for the coming year. Participants are invited to dance with the 30-foot dragon, created by an accomplished Vietnamese craftsman. According to Chinese folklore, this enormous marionette, requiring at least 9 people to hold, is forever chasing the "heavenly pearl" in its pursuit of wisdom. For more information, visit accvt.org.

Historical Society plans annual meeting

DUMMERSTON — Join the Historical Society for its annual meeting and program, "Dummerston Schools: Memories Past and Present," on Sunday, Jan. 22, at 2 p.m., at the Historical Society's Schoolhouse Museum in Dummerston Center.

A short business meeting and election of officers will be held first, to be followed by a brief history of the multiple schoolhouses in Dummerston,

and then sharing of memories by those who attended and/or taught in the schools. Current students are more than welcome! This will be the society's first in-person meeting in several years; those attending should wear a mask.

The Dummerston Historical Society building in its earlier life was the District #1 (Center) Schoolhouse, built in 1801 and located a short distance northwest of the original schoolhouse on the Common. It has been moved numerous times in its life and, at one time, was even used as the town garage.

In 1976, as Dummerston's Bicentennial Committee had its final meeting, the Historical Society was formed and work began on the restoration of the Center school, a gigantic undertaking. The building was again moved, this time to its current site adjacent to the Dummerston Town office.

Restoration was extensive, and the first meeting in the restored Schoolhouse was held Nov. 5, 1981. For information, call 802-254-9311 or 802-380-7525.

Brooks Memorial Library seeks trustee

BRATTLEBORO — The board of Library Trustees of Brooks Memorial Library seeks an enthusiastic and dedicated library user to fill a two-year position on the Board. Candidates should have an interest in maintaining a strong, dynamic, and visionary library in Town. Trustees must be residents of Brattleboro.

The Board, which numbers nine trustees, meets at the Library at 4:45 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Members are asked to chair or serve on two or more committees that convene as needed.

For more information on the library, visit brookslibraryvt.org, and click on "About Brooks," where library history, the most recent strategic plan, summary, Trustee agendas, minutes, and committees are available.

Applicants should send a letter or email and resume, describing their interest in serving on the Library Board no later than Friday, Jan. 27, at 5 p.m. Mail applications to Trustee Position, Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Brattleboro, VT 05301 or email trustees@brookslibraryvt.org.

mindfulness in another program," Gorman said. "I was willing to look into it. I tried not to let my perception get in the way that this was all foo-foo bullshit. I was too much of a badass."

'Survivor's guilt is a horror'

Realizing USP could really help him, Gorman said he examined his attitude.

"Fortunately, I changed my perspective," he said. "Breathing. It began with the breathing for me. The practice keeps me in the now."

"Survivor's guilt is a horror," he continued. "I'm not ashamed of my illness, my PTSD. The program gives me hope to continue my practice. It takes practice."

During his first visit to the

Retreat, Gorman met Cancellieri.

"Mike was huge in lighting the fire under me," he said, noting the huge impact from just one week together.

Sober since November 2018, Gorman has done two cycles of the FLF program, and he plans on doing more.

Getting sober and learning the skills to deal with his PTSD have made a huge difference in Gorman's life.

"I'm coming on 20 years retired," he said. "My life is good. I never thought I'd have any peace. I still have PTSD, but I'm learning how to deal with it. My night terrors are much less frequent."

Cancellieri describes Gorman as "the real deal, and he has a giant heart."

Because PTSD is such a common thread among front-line workers, Gorman said he wants to help others. He recently got his certification as a recovery peer advocate.

"Hopefully down the road I'll help others deal with this," Gorman said. "It works. The program works if you work it. Practice is the key."

When PTSD hits

Prior to his work in the Uniformed Services Program, Cancellieri had worked for 10 years at the Retreat as a front-line Behavioral Health Technician, working directly with patients to take care of their needs and teach coping and mental health skills. They are the main ones expected to respond when there are behavioral issues involving a patient.

Cancellieri had also been an instructor both in the Retreat's protocol for restraining out-of-control and violent patients and in the Retreat's Early Responder program, training qualified BHTs in advanced de-escalation

techniques. These methods help prevent potentially volatile situations from spiraling out of control and also teach restraint techniques in case they do.

"I have significant PTSD from the thousands of codes I was involved in," he said. "There was no way I was going back to working frontline on a unit."

The incident that precipitated his leaving the units in the first place, Cancellieri said, was when a nurse was badly injured by a patient with psychosis.

He found that event deeply troubling, and on his next code, he said, he found himself at a loss to perform a rather simple task he had done hundreds of times and taught many others to do.

He said he simply had no idea what to do, and had to hand responsibility to a coworker who noticed his dilemma. He found himself seriously upset afterward, Cancellieri said, and he was sent home by his charge nurse.

Losing the capacity to perform a task that one has performed many times before is a common symptom of post-traumatic stress disorder.

That's when Cancellieri moved off the front lines and into the USP.

An incident that occurred after he left the Retreat illustrated to him why he made the right decision.

When an announcement came through its public address system at a local Home Depot, it sounded very similar to the one at the Retreat, and Cancellieri said he found himself instantly moving into combat mode. He found the response very troubling, he said.

He says he still finds times when he feels his Early Responder pager buzzing on his belt, though he hasn't worn one of those devices for years.

"I know what it's like to be doing a crossword puzzle when an alarm goes off, and a minute later you are fighting for your life," Cancellieri said.

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Girl Scouts kick off the 2023 cookie season

BEDFORD, N.H.—Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains have kicked off the 2023 Girl Scout Cookie season in New Hampshire and Vermont, as Girl Scouts and their troops rally their communities to support this entrepreneurial program.

Every box of cookies sold “provides valuable experiences for Girl Scouts, such as service projects, troop travel, and summer camp for girls across the country,” according to the news release.

Most Girl Scouts are already taking orders in person and online, and can personally deliver cookies to their local

customers starting about Feb. 10. Cookies can be shipped directly to buyers starting Feb. 27.

New this year, the Raspberry Rally cookie is exclusively offered through digital channels for direct shipment only, enhancing girls’ e-commerce sales and entrepreneurial skills. This latest approach will help to guide the evolution of the cookie program for the digital future.

Girl Scouts’ newly updated Financial Literacy badges offer entrepreneurial playbooks for every age level. From the Cookie Goal Setter badge earned as a Daisy to the Entrepreneur Accelerator

for girls in high school, the Girl Scout Cookie Program teaches girls financial literacy, planning, budgeting, teamwork, innovative thinking, and confident decision making.

There are many ways to purchase Girl Scout Cookies that meet local and state safety protocols this year. Interested consumers should reach out to any registered Girl Scout to learn how.

One may also text COOKIES to 59618, or visit girlscoutcookies.org and look for the Cookie Finder.

There, one can find a local booth to purchase cookies and to donate cookies

through the council’s Gift of Caring program, which provides the sweet treats to the military and hometown heroes. Booths are added each week, so consumers are invited to check back often.

Girl Scouts in grades K–12 can start their journey to “fun, friendship, and new experiences” by joining “the world’s largest entrepreneurial organization for girls” at any point in the year, according to the Girl Scouts’ website. Girls can join and adults can become volunteers at girlscouts.org/join.

Shelter

FROM SECTION FRONT

their town.

“I just want to hope that we all jump to solutions that are meeting the needs of the people who have needs to meet, rather than what feels useful to us in this particular moment,” Kornheiser said.

Added Selectboard member Daniel Quipp: “I’m glad we’re having this conversation, but all of us will go home, presumably, to our relatively warm beds. I want to put it back on the community now and say ‘What do you want to do?’”

PUBLIC NOTICES

ads@commonsnews.org • 888-511-5150

Public Hearing Notice:

The Town of Putney received a \$20,000 Municipal Planning Grant through the State of Vermont Highway Planning & Construction to conduct a scoping study to investigate alternatives for pedestrian access between Putney Landing Apartments and the existing sidewalk on Route 5 (in the area of the Putney Co-op).

The Local Alternatives public hearing will be held with town officials and a representative of Dufresne Group (engineer). The meeting provides the public an opportunity to comment on alternative solutions on the Putney Landing Sidewalk project study.

A hybrid public hearing will be held at the Town Hall Conference Room, 127 Main Street, Putney, Vermont on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm. and Zoom platform. Space will be limited at town hall.

Information will be available at the meeting and through shared access from the Zoom portal. Should you require any special accommodations please contact Karen M. Astley, Town Manager at 802-387-5862 extension 11 to ensure appropriate accommodations are made.

Legislative Body for the Town of Putney

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT **PROBATE DIVISION**
Windham Unit **Docket No.: 22-PR-07678**
In re ESTATE of: Arthur Higley

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Arthur Higley (Decedent)
late of Guilford, 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: January 11, 2023 147 Western Avenue
Molly Ladner, Attorney Brattleboro, VT 05301
Name of Publication: The Commons 802-257-7244
Publication Date: January 18, 2023 mladner@pdsclaw.com
Name of Probate Court: Vermont County Superior Court, Windham Unit
Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, 2nd Floor, Brattleboro, VT 05301

Town of Hinsdale 2023

FILING PERIOD TO RUN FOR TOWN OFFICE
January 25 - February 3

If you wish to run for any of the following offices, you may do so by signing up at the Town Clerk’s office located at the Town Hall during regular and additional Town Clerk hours.

TOWN CLERK NORMAL OFFICE HOURS

Monday and Thursday 7:30am - 6pm
Tuesday 7:30am - 2:30pm
Wednesday 7:30am - 11:30am
Additional Hours - Friday, February 3, 2023 3pm - 5pm

SELECTMAN - 2 for 3 Years
TOWN TREASURER - 1 for 1 Year
FIRE CHIEF - 1 for 1 Year
TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS - 1 for 3 Years
LIBRARY TRUSTEE - 2 for 3 Years
CEMETERY TRUSTEE - 1 for 2 Years
CEMETERY TRUSTEE - 1 for 3 Years
BUDGET COMMITTEE - 3 for 3 Years
BUDGET COMMITTEE - 1 for 1 Year
PLANNING BOARD - 2 for 3 Years
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - 2 for 3 Years

Important Annual Notice Regarding Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Electric Utility Rights-of-Way

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under [PUC Rule 3.600](#) pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way (ROW). Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1st. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil, and foliar. **Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.**

If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000’ of an electric utility right-of-way:

- Sign up to receive written notification** from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000’ of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15th, 2023 to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
- You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware** of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
- Watch and listen for public service announcements** in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
- Check with your local electric utility** regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
- You have the right** to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
- You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **distribution lines**, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
- You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **transmission lines** or **sub-transmission lines**, bringing electricity to or between substations.

For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:

<p>Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) 366 Pinnacle Ridge Rd. Rutland, VT 05701 Attn: Scott Carlson (802) 353-3584</p>	<p>Agency of Agriculture Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt 116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-802-828-2431</p>	<p>Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620 1-800-622-4496</p>
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Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15th, 2023.

Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List			
Name	Town/City of Affected Property		
Street Address	Home Phone Number		
Town	Work Phone Number		
State	Zip Code	O.K. to use work number?	Yes No
Electric Utility Account Number		(circle one)	
Affected Property: Year-Round Residence Summer Residence Commercial Property Water Supply Organic Farm Land Other		Best time to contact you	
(Circle all that apply)			
Line/Pole Identification:	Utility Initials	Pole Numbers	
Please fill out this request completely to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification. MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESSES LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15 TH , 2023			

MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

College news

• **Zinnia Siegel** made the Dean's List at the Early College Program at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

• **Lacy Hudson** of Grafton was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester at Lasell University in Newton, Massachusetts.

• **Sydney Henry** of Brattleboro and **John Peloso** of Brattleboro were both named to the Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts.

• **Jonathan Griffin**, a sophomore business administration major from West Townshend, was named to the fall 2022 President's List at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina.

• **Marielle Meyer**, a health science/pre-PA major from Brattleboro, was named to the Dean's List for academic excellence for the fall 2022 semester at Springfield (Mass.) College.

• **Wyatt Keith**, a health science major from Vernon, and **Elizabeth Day**, a communications major from Brattleboro, were named to the Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester at American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

• **Owen Wesley Ameden**, a junior majoring in civil engineering from Jamaica, **Jesse Peter Dykes**, a freshman majoring in computer science from West Wardsboro, and **Liam Ian Allan McNeil**, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering from Brattleboro, were all named to the Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York.

Obituaries



• **Winfred J. "Winnie" Amarosa, 92**, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire, and a patient at Applewood Rehabilitation

Center in Winchester, New Hampshire since October 2019. Died Jan. 7, 2023 at Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, New Hampshire from complications of an infection. She was born in Brattleboro on Aug. 3, 1930, the daughter of the late Guy and Helen (Lombard) Bouchie. She was raised and educated in Hinsdale and graduated from Hinsdale High School with the Class of 1948. After high school, she proudly worked at the former Montgomery Ward store in Brattleboro. On Sept. 9, 1950, she was married to her first love, Frank J. Amarosa, Jr., who predeceased her in 2002. For many years beside her husband, she assisted with the day-to-day operation of the family business, F.J. Amarosa Jr. & Sons Plumbing, Heating, and Hardware Store in Winchester. After retirement as the storekeeper, she continued to share her talents at Hildes and Harlow's Sugar House. She also had been employed for several

years working the lunch program at Hinsdale Elementary School. A devout Catholic who was steadfast in her walk of faith, she was a lifelong communicant of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Hinsdale and was a charter member of the Catholic Daughters Court at St. Joseph's Church since 1958. She was also a member of the Hinsdale Parent Teachers' Association during her children's school years in the 1960s and 1970s. Winnie was a co-founder and served as treasurer of the *Winchester Star*, a newspaper published monthly in Winchester, maintaining friendships to this day. Winnie enjoyed collecting family heirlooms, Shirley Temple memorabilia, and postcards of local towns and covered bridges. Winnie joined the Hinsdale Historical Society and shared her knowledge about the town's history. In 1981, she joined the Northfield Quilters, proudly quilting all by hand and gained lifelong friendships. Family reunions were important to Winnie to keep up relationships with her cousins in Maine and New Hampshire. Survivors include a daughter, Sharon Amarosa of Hinsdale; sons Frank Amarosa III of Ashuelot, New Hampshire and Thomas Amarosa of Winchester; a brother, Albert Bouchie and wife Mary Ellen of Smyrna Mills, Maine; a sister, Barbara Benjamin of Zephyr Hills, Florida; and three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by a son, David Amarosa; a brother, Guy Bouchie, Jr.; and a sister, Martha Duggan.

MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass will be celebrated at a later date in the spring, to be announced by Atamaniuk Funeral Home of Brattleboro. Donation to the Guy X. Bouchie Scholarship Fund, in care of the Hinsdale Fire Department, 13 Depot St., Hinsdale, NH 03451; or to The Gathering Place Adult Day Care Services, 30 Terrace St., Brattleboro, VT 05301. To share a memory or send condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Francis Edward (Pete) Atkins, 82**, of Cabot, formerly of Brattleboro. Died on Jan. 6, 2023 at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington. He was born on July 6, 1940, in Brattleboro, the son of Alfred Winslow and Priscilla (Snelling) Atkins. He was a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School in 1958, and joined the Air Force in 1958, training in Texas and assigned to Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., where he spent his military career. While in North Dakota, he met and married Sandra Menge, and they were married for 62 years. He first worked for Burrows Sport Shop in Brattleboro after leaving the military, and was a ski mechanic on weekends at Mount Snow. Pete worked at the Vermont Guide Service for several years. He drove delivery trucks throughout New England for C.E. Bradley Laboratories in Brattleboro, and later worked for St. Johnsbury Trucking in Westminster, and drove for Stow Mills (later United Natural Foods) in Chesterfield, New Hampshire. He drove more

than a million miles throughout New England and the East Coast during his driving career. He owned and operated the Trading Post Sport Shop in Bellows Falls with his family. He was a member of the Bellows Falls Elks Lodge 1619 for many years. Pete was an accomplished bare-bow archer and, with his family, was a member of Abenaki Archers of Brattleboro and the Vermont Bowmen, regularly competing in state and New England archery tournaments. He placed second in the New England Field Archery Tournament in 1963. Trap shooting was another competitive sport he enjoyed and he earned many trophies in trap shooting competitions. Pete hunted extensively with family and friends in Newfoundland, Canada, for moose, Montana for mule deer and pronghorn antelope, Idaho for elk, and Anticosti Island, Quebec for whitetail deer; Cape Cod and the lakes and ponds of northern Vermont for ducks, Minnesota for whitetail deer, as well as every deer and bear season in Vermont for more than 70 years. His last hunting season was November with friends in Middlesex. Pete and his family took up bird hunting in the early '80s, and with their trained bird dogs enjoyed hunting woodcock, ducks, geese, partridge and pheasant. An avid fisherman, and he fished on Cape Cod, Maine, Florida, California, Quebec and the brooks and rivers of Vermont. An accomplished canoeist, he led canoe trips as a member of the Vermont Guide Service, as well as joining canoe trips on the St. Johns and Allagash rivers in Maine. With his son Michael, he participated in white water canoe races on the West River in Jamaica and on the White River in Vermont. Having lived with his family in Brattleboro for many years, the family bought land in Cabot, building a small off-the-grid hunting camp on a trail. The camp was expanded with more solar power and became a retirement home in 2003. Pete is survived by his children Michael Peter (Anne Corey) Atkins, Marie Atkins Blackwood, Erik Mitchell (Karen Freitas) Atkins, and Kristen Rae Atkins; a sister, Ann (Snelling) Magrone; six grandchildren, his best dog Lizzie, and nieces and nephews. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: No services are planned at this time, but a memorial gathering will take place this summer. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service, 2947 Main St., Cabot, VT 05647.

• **Marshall Ellis "Marty" Goodell, 73**, of Wilmington. Died peacefully on Jan. 10, 2023 at the Vermont Veterans' Home in Bennington, ending his 11-year battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Born March 28, 1949 in Gardner, Massachusetts, Marty was the son of Marshall Terrance Goodell and Helen Mildred Ellis. He grew up in Athol, Massachusetts, where he attended local schools, played ball with other neighborhood

children and enjoyed episodes of "Howdy Doody," "The Andy Griffith Show," and "Gunsmoke." He began his military career in 1969 and spent time overseas in Germany in the Army. Upon his return, he accepted employment at Mount Snow as a lift operator, eventually becoming a welder. Later, he ventured out as a private contractor welder and took jobs in California, Colorado, Michigan, and the Dominican Republic. In more recent years, he enjoyed making deliveries for FedEx as a custom critical driver. Marty volunteered for the Wilmington Fire Department for 33 years, where he formed many close friendships and shared stories of comedic proportion. Marty enjoyed hiking, skiing, the ocean, road trips, good books, and peanut butter cookies. Some of the happiest memories of his life were formed on the shores of Rye Beach, his time with the fire department, and in the company of his devoted family of which he was immensely proud and vigilant. An exemplary son, brother, husband and father, Marty is survived by his devoted wife, Catherine Esther Goodell (Boyd); his daughter, Jennifer Dawn Goodell; his son, Craig Michael Goodell; his sister Mary Jane Spencer (Goodell) and her husband, Maurice; grandchildren Brielyn Renee, Ethan Michael, Keiron Christopher, and Elyanna Lea; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his loving parents and his sister Marjorie Goodell. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services with military honors will be held at the Covey Allen & Shea Funeral Home on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 1 p.m. A memorial reception will follow the service at the Wilmington Fire House. Donations can be made to the Wilmington Fire Department or the Vermont Veterans' Home in care of the Covey Allen & Shea Funeral Home, P.O. Box 215, Wilmington, VT 05363. To send personal condolences, visit sheafuneralhomes.com.

• **Joyce Ann (Thompson) Hudson, 80**, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Died peacefully with her daughter by her side, on Jan. 8, 2023 at Thompson House in Brattleboro. She was born on April 15, 1942, in Keene, New Hampshire to the late Barbara (Whitcomb) and Lynn Thompson. Joyce was the wife of the late Rodney Hudson of Hinsdale. They were married on April 21, 1973 in Winchester, New Hampshire at the South Federated Church. She graduated from Thayer High School in Winchester, Class of 1960, and worked at the National Grange Mutual Insurance Company in Keene until 1976. After leaving the insurance company, Joyce worked as a homemaker and helped her husband on the family's dairy farm in Hinsdale. Joyce enjoyed volunteering with her sister Jane at the United Church of Christ in Keene, where she would help with cleaning and events held at the church. She enjoyed baking and crocheting and loved butterflies, listening to music, and being a grandmother. Survivors include her daughter Kimberly Hudson of Hinsdale, her son Lynn Hudson and his wife Angel (Farnum) of Westmoreland, New Hampshire, grandchildren Blake Hudson and Grace Hudson, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to her parents, Joyce was predeceased by her husband Rodney in 2014, her only sister Jane Harris in 2016, and nephew Mark Harris in 2009. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services will be held in the spring at the convenience of the family. Family and friends will be invited to attend. Donations to

the Thompson House Activities Fund, 80 Maple St., Brattleboro, VT 05301. To send condolences, visit phaneuf.net.

• **Jane Rice Lawrence, 86**, of Westminster. Died peacefully at her home on Jan. 8, 2023. She was born July 3, 1936 to John and Beulah Rice. She graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1955. On Nov. 4, 1955, she married the love of her life, Floyd W. Lawrence Sr. Together they raised their three children: Toni Collins (Charles Hancock) of Westminster, Tracy Smith (Gary) of Charlestown, New Hampshire, and Floyd Jr. (Sue) of Westminster. She also leaves behind her grandchildren Jacob Lawrence, Tiffany Smith Potashnick (Adi), Aaron LaPlante (Victoria), Brittany Smith Putnam (Derron), Joshua Lawrence (Kirsten), and Devin Collins (Lindsey); her great-grandchildren Phenix Putnam, Velvet Lawrence, Maddox Putnam, Lita Lawrence, Nila Lawrence, Taylor LaPlante, Axl Floyd Lawrence, Kieran Collins, and Ivy and Finn Potashnick, and her brother Jack (Madeline) Rice of Saxtons River. Jane loved to bake and kept family and friends well stocked with breads, muffins, cookies, and more. She enjoyed knitting and making hats and mittens for her great-granddaughters. She always looked forward to visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Floyd, her parents, and her sister, Joan R. Sumner. She leaves behind many in-laws, nieces and nephews, cousins, family and friends. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Per her wishes, there will be no services. A private burial will be held in the spring at the convenience of the family. Donations to the Bellows Falls Senior Center, 18 Tuttle Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, or the charity of your choice.

• **Richard "Dick" Lucier, 90**, of Townshend. Died unexpectedly from pneumonia on Jan. 8, 2023 at Grace Cottage Hospital, surrounded by his family. Dick was the oldest of six children and was born Dec. 12, 1932 in Williamsville to Harry and Alice (Burrington) Lucier. He attended local schools and graduated from Brattleboro High School in 1952. He was very proud to be on the 1950 state champion football team. After high school Dick enlisted in the Army and served his country for four years during the Korean War era. After an honorable discharge, Dick married Frances Alta Cole on January 19, 1957 in Wardsboro. Fran predeceased him in 1990. During his life, Dick served as a Selectman and later a Lister for the town of Townshend. He was also a member of the American Legion, Maple Leaf Square Dancers Club, and Townshend Snowmobile Club. Dick was a logger for many years and retired as a Master Plumber, running a business with his son and grandson. Dick enjoyed a BIG bowl of ice cream (especially maple walnut), skiing, ski jumping, sugaring, woodworking, hunting, and attending his children's, grandchildren's and even great-grandchildren's activities. He spent a lot of time at the Big Averill camp in Averill, fishing off his boat and swimming. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother Donald and sister Sandra Beichner. Surviving are his brothers Frank (Barbara) of Florida and Harry (Marilyn) of Hinsdale, New Hampshire and a sister, Janice Bills of Brattleboro. He is also survived by a son, Daniel (Janet) of Townshend, and daughters Debra (Greg) Record of Newfane, JoAnn (Theodore) Grussing of Surry, New Hampshire, and Susan Lucier of Brookline. He leaves grandchildren Caleb Record, Sadie

Hallock, Teresa Bernard, Devan Lucier, Riley Lucier, Tabitha Hadvab, Tucker Bumps, Thacher Winot, and Tanner Winot, and great-grandchildren Abriella and Sophia Hallock, and Ripken, Easton and Tate Bernard. He also leaves many nieces and nephews. Dick often spoke of what a lucky and fortunate man he was to have such a family. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Dick gifted his body to the University of Vermont College of Medicine Anatomical Gift Program. A celebration of life will be in the spring on a date to be determined. Donations to Grace Cottage Hospital, P.O. Box 216, Townshend, VT 05353.

• **Theodora "Chickie" W. Macie, 77**, died peacefully on January 7, 2023. Theodora was born on May 15, 1945, in St. Johnsbury to the late Dorothea (Coleman) and Thaddeus W. Holman. She completed her schooling locally, graduating from Brattleboro Union High School in 1964. It was during high school where she fell in love with Chester "Chet" A. Macie, and they were married on April 3, 1965. Their marriage lasted 51 years until Chet's death in 2016. In her free time, Chickie liked to crochet and sew for her family, and anyone who knew her, knew about her famous donuts. She also enjoyed decorating the yard and house for the holidays. In addition to being predeceased by her beloved high school sweetheart Chet, Chickie was also predeceased by her sisters Mildred in 1947 and Sadie Cooke in 1984. She will be greatly missed by her three loving sons, Chester Jr. of West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, Jerry, also of West Chesterfield, and Randy of Marlborough, New Hampshire; one granddaughter, Megan, and two great-grandchildren, two nephews, and many cousins. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services will take place in the spring at the convenience of the family. Donations to the American Cancer Society. To send condolences to the family, visit phaneuf.net.

• **John Charles Martel, 73**, of Greenfield, Massachusetts, formerly of Brattleboro. Died suddenly and unexpectedly on Jan. 3, 2023 at Hartford (Conn.) Hospital after being stricken ill. John was born in Brattleboro on Oct. 30, 1949, the son of Louie and Elizabeth (Lazelle) Martel. He attended Brattleboro public schools and graduated from Brattleboro Union High School with the Class of 1967. He went on to proudly serve his country in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Navy Achievement Medal, and a Combat Action Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at the rank of corporal on June 26, 1970. Upon his return home, he went to work at Boise Cascade where he earned his license as an electrician. The company eventually became Fibermark and he retired from the company as a manager following 42 dedicated and faithful years of service. He was a member of American Legion Post 5 in Brattleboro and the Greenfield (Mass.) Moose Club. With his wife, he was a communicant of Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenfield, and was a former parishioner of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Brattleboro. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, and spending time, including reunions, at his family's camp on Holland Pond in Vermont. He also liked to go dancing with his wife and took a keen interest in genealogy and tracing his family roots. On Dec. 21, 2002 at Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenfield, he was married to Christina Peralta, who survives. Besides his wife of 20 years, he leaves one son, John L. Martel of Dummerston; five step-daughters: Anavelcis and Yurix Peralta of Amherst, Massachusetts, Yelbix Hill of Northfield, Massachusetts, Eslovenia Schuyler of Gilbert, Arizona, and Lilly McEnaney of Bernardston, Massachusetts; sisters Betty Davison of Essex Junction, Diana Bedard of Hinsdale, and Dora Sprague of Brattleboro; and a brother, David Martel of East Alstead, New Hampshire. Additionally, he is survived by six grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. John was predeceased by one brother, Robert Martel. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass will be held St. Michael's Catholic Church on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 10:30 a.m. Burial with military honors will take place at a later date in the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam. Donations to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675-8517 or woundedwarriorproject.org. To send condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **John Charles Martel, 73**, of Greenfield, Massachusetts, formerly of Brattleboro. Died suddenly and unexpectedly on Jan. 3, 2023 at Hartford (Conn.) Hospital after being stricken ill. John was born in Brattleboro on Oct. 30, 1949, the son of Louie and Elizabeth (Lazelle) Martel. He attended Brattleboro public schools and graduated from Brattleboro Union High School with the Class of 1967. He went on to proudly serve his country in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Navy Achievement Medal, and a Combat Action Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at the rank of corporal on June 26, 1970. Upon his return home, he went to work at Boise Cascade where he earned his license as an electrician. The company eventually became Fibermark and he retired from the company as a manager following 42 dedicated and faithful years of service. He was a member of American Legion Post 5 in Brattleboro and the Greenfield (Mass.) Moose Club. With his wife, he was a communicant of Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenfield, and was a former parishioner of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Brattleboro. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, and spending time, including reunions, at his family's camp on Holland Pond in Vermont. He also liked to go dancing with his wife and took a keen interest in genealogy and tracing his family roots. On Dec. 21, 2002 at Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenfield, he was married to Christina Peralta, who survives. Besides his wife of 20 years, he leaves one son, John L. Martel of Dummerston; five step-daughters: Anavelcis and Yurix Peralta of Amherst, Massachusetts, Yelbix Hill of Northfield, Massachusetts, Eslovenia Schuyler of Gilbert, Arizona, and Lilly McEnaney of Bernardston, Massachusetts; sisters Betty Davison of Essex Junction, Diana Bedard of Hinsdale, and Dora Sprague of Brattleboro; and a brother, David Martel of East Alstead, New Hampshire. Additionally, he is survived by six grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. John was predeceased by one brother, Robert Martel. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass will be held St. Michael's Catholic Church on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 10:30 a.m. Burial with military honors will take place at a later date in the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam. Donations to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675-8517 or woundedwarriorproject.org. To send condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

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

WINDHAM COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

PETS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

916 West River Rd,
Brattleboro, VT
802-254-2232

View pets at: wchs4pets.org

Take care of your pet's rabies vaccination at Windham County Humane Society!

Our next clinic date is Friday, Feb. 3rd from 9 AM - 12 PM.

Reserve an appointment online. A \$20 deposit covers the full price of the vaccine.

**Please note: we will only be administering rabies vaccinations at this clinic. If you're in need of other veterinary services, please schedule a Wellness Clinic.*

Hi, my name is **Maggie!** I am a sweet active dog looking for a new home. I am currently in foster. My ideal home would be one without other animals and would do best in a home with kids 13+. An experience owner who knows my breed would be recommended. I am very loyal to my owners. If you want to know more about me please call.

Hi there, I'm **Lianie!** I'm a friendly gal who came from NJ to find a forever home in Vermont. Not too much is known about my time before arriving to WCHS but I seem to be very social and outgoing. I don't seem to mind other cats so I may be able to live with a feline friend with a proper introduction. My history with dogs and children is unknown so introductions should be gradual. I'd love to be your new best friend, will you be mine?

Hi, my name is **Tanes!** I am a sweet girl who once I get to know you, but I will need a lot of patience and understanding. I came from the south as a stray and not much is known about me. I love to play ball and rope toys. I may be able to live with another dog my size. I am not an adult only and should live in an adult only home. Cats are a little too exciting for me and I like to chase them.

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■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE



Mario J. Martocci, 70, husband of Barbara Martocci and father of Sairy Martocci, died on Jan. 5, 2023, after a long illness brought on by cancer and lung issues. Mario was born in Brattleboro to June (Harris) Martocci and Nicholas Martocci. He was the youngest of seven children and is survived by his wife, daughter, and brother Nick (Laurie), and several nieces and nephews. Mario served in the Army during the Vietnam War era, and his career was as a carpenter, building his Vermont home and then working as a handyman/contractor for a motel in later years in Tennessee. He loved riding his Harley-Davidson, camping, and traveling around the states seeing new sights. His hobbies were woodworking, barbecuing and smoking food, partying with friends, and spending time with family. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Donations to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Jane McCauley, 101, of Stowe, formerly of Brattleboro. Died peacefully, with family at her side, on Jan. 1, 2023. Born in Dansville, N.Y., on February 10, 1921, she lived most of her life in Brattleboro before relocating to Stowe in her later years. As part of her legacy, she leaves a son, Harold Nordstrom II and daughter, Cajsja Nordstrom Schumacher of Morrisville, as well as grandchildren Justin Nordstrom, Angela Nordstrom Jennings, Erika Schumacher, Heidi Schumacher, and Ryan Schumacher, and their spouses. She leaves seven great-grandchildren: Ava and Abigail Jennings, Levi Nordstrom, Elsa and Sigrid Hogate, and Oliver and Adelaide Picard, as well as many loved nieces and nephews. Jane was a proud non-commissioned officer in the Navy during World War II, after President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Navy Women's Reserve Act into law, creating what was commonly known as the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). As a Yeoman First Class, she was stationed in Washington, D.C., during the war years and oversaw a team of 13 women whose job was to type code which Jane then transmitted to the Pacific Fleet. On April 14, 1945, she was honored to be among military women and men who escorted FDR's horse-drawn funeral cortege from Union Station to the White House. It was during her service time that she met her future husband, Marine Corps Sgt. Major Harold Nordstrom, of the Third Marine Division. Jane and Harold raised their children in Port Allegany, Pennsylvania, and later Brattleboro. Until her retirement, she continued community employment, including many years as executive secretary to the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital director and board. After the end of her first marriage, Jane found love again with John "Jack" McCauley of Brattleboro, with whom she enjoyed 21 years of travel and good times. Jane remained active in her retired years, especially with advocacy for military women, including being co-founder and president of the Vermont WAVES chapter, and subsequently a board member for WAVES-National. She was instrumental in the naming of part of Vermont's Interstate 91 to honor women veterans. Before his recent retirement, U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy honored her with a letter commending her years of service. For over 50 years, Jane was active in many capacities at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Brattleboro, until she moved northward. Additionally, she was a Red Cross volunteer, a van driver to the Veterans Hospital in White River Junction for those without transportation, a vote-counter on election days, a volunteer at BMH, and a member of the hospital auxiliary. She was loved by many and will be missed. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A graveside memorial event will be held in the spring. Donations to Trinity Lutheran Church, 161 Western Ave, Brattleboro, VT 05301.



Patricia Neer, 98, of Brattleboro. Died peacefully in her sleep on January 4, 2023 from complications of influenza. Pat was born in Richmond, Virginia, the daughter of Charles and Alma (Mett) Stainton, and lived in Englewood, New Jersey until she moved to Brattleboro in 1998 to spend more time with her grandchildren and Vermont daughter. Both homes are places full of wonderful memories. Pat thought of others first and will be remembered for her thoughtful, kind, giving and caring nature. She was a friend to many throughout her life. She will be missed by her family and friends. Pat earned a master's degree in

nursing from Columbia University and practiced nursing until 1956 when her twin daughters were born. Pat loved being a mother and grandmother. She was active in numerous volunteer activities, and enjoyed riding horses, swimming, playing tennis, and ice skating with her family and friends. She became an avid golfer after moving to Brattleboro and enjoyed golfing with her friends and daughters. She loved music and animals; all her pets were rescues and she was often heard singing to herself. In addition, she was a talented artist, and enjoyed painting, sculpting and interior design, and her friends and fellow artists in the Brattleboro area. She was a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church in New Jersey and Centre Congregational Church of Brattleboro. Pat loved living in Brattleboro and was in awe of the incredible friendships she made there. Pat will also be remembered as a strong and resilient woman, who just kept moving forward and bouncing back. Pat had many blessings in her life, but also some difficult times. Her father died when she was in high school and she went to work at the soda fountain counter at Woolworth's in Englewood to help support her mother and younger sister. Her younger sister also had some health problems, and Pat cared for her, which she describes as leading her to a career as a nurse. She put herself through college and nursing school, and spoke about the hardships during World War II. After an unwanted divorce, she strived forward, and made a new life for herself. She made it through two bouts of COVID, but, even though she fought it, finally succumbed to the flu. Pat was predeceased by her only sister Barbara Albertson of Irvine, California, and her former husband Charles S. Neer II of Vinita, Oklahoma. Pat leaves behind her two daughters and their husbands Charlotte and Glenn Annis of Dummerston, and Sydney and Peter Rowland of Haddam, Connecticut. She also leaves behind her two precious granddaughters, Kathryn Annis and her husband Ben Crosby of Brattleboro, and Elizabeth Annis, of Dummerston. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: In consideration of the health of Pat's friends during this time of COVID and flu, Pat's celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 22, at 10 a.m., at Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St., Brattleboro. Her daughters encourage you to wear some of Pat's favorite colors (variations of pinks and blues) and, of course, a scarf, which Pat was rarely seen without. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society (Brattleboro) or Centre Congregational Church's "Samaritan Fund."



Percy Frederick Powling, 92, of Williamsville. Died Jan. 7, 2023 in the comfort of his home, with his devoted wife at his side, following a period of declining health. Percy was born in Feeding Hills, Massachusetts on July 2, 1930, the son of George and Mildred (Baxter) Powling. He was raised and educated in Marlboro, attending a one-room schoolhouse through the eighth grade. At age 16, he went to work in his family's logging business, Powling Brothers Logging. Percy retired in 2001 after 50 years as a logger. For many years, he held membership in the Modern Woodmen Association. An ardent outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting, competing in and attending area draft horse pulls, and time shared with his family. Some of his proudest moments was seeing his grandson pulling draft horses at area competitions, of which he won the Northeast Draft Horse Association Championship in Swanzy, New Hampshire in 2015. On August 16, 1980, in the Chapel of the Pines at the top of Living Memorial Park in Brattleboro, he was married to Nancy Rice, who survives. Besides his faithful wife of 42 years, he leaves one stepdaughter, Wametta Powling and husband, Mark, of Williamsville; a sister, Violet Howard of Marlboro; a special niece who he considered a younger sister, Hazel Brown of Jacksonville; 13 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. Additionally, he is survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. He was predeceased by three stepsons, Leon Knapp, Milo Knapp, and Alonzo "Peter" Gilbert; three brothers, Lester, Calvin, and George Powling; three sisters, Leone Beam, Irene Bourn, and Hazel Powling; and a grandson, Jason Gilbert. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside services and burial in the family lot in South Newfane Cemetery will take place in the springtime when the cemetery reopens. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302; or to the Newbrook Fire & Rescue, P.O. Box 77, Newfane, VT 05345. To send

condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

Brian Phillip Trotter, 73, died at home, surrounded by his family on Jan. 7, 2023. He was born March 23, 1948, in Hanover, New Hampshire to Philip and Vera (Flint) Trotter. Brian graduated from Brattleboro Union High School in 1967, where he was a three-sport athlete. He went to the Franklin Institute in Boston graduating in 1968 with an associate degree in drafting. Brian continued his education at Peru (Neb.) State College and graduated with a B.S. in education in 1971. Brian married Patricia Neumeister in Brattleboro on August 15, 1970. In 1972, when they returned to Vermont from Nebraska, they moved to Milton, where Brian taught industrial arts and coached soccer at Milton High School. In 1975, they moved to Wilder, and Brian taught industrial arts and coached track, basketball and softball at Hartford High School. In 1989, Brian became assistant athletic director at Hartford High School and, after nine years in that position, he was promoted to athletic director. In 1998, at their national convention in San Antonio, Texas, Brian was inducted into Epsilon Pi Tau International Honor Society for Professions in Technology. Brian was honored to be named Vermont Athletic Director of the Year in 2000. After 34 years in the teaching profession, he retired in 2006. All through Brian's life, sports were important to him. He always encouraged students to make sports a part of their lives because he felt sports taught worthwhile skills and valuable lessons for a successful life. Brian officiated school softball and baseball games in the Upper Valley. He was a certified basketball official at games across southern Vermont for over 40 years. He ran the clock at the Hartford football games for 13 years following his retirement. He was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots and, of course, the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Brian was a former member of the Hartford Volunteer Fire Department, White River Lions Club, and served on the Hartford Recreation Board for several years. He is a member of the West Lebanon Congregational Church. Brian deeply loved his family, especially being a proud and supportive father to his daughters, Sara and Abby. One of his greatest joys was becoming "Papa" for his four grandchildren. Brian was there to cheer on his grandsons in their school activities, sports, Boy Scouts, and any other interests they participated in. He was so proud of each of his grandsons for all their accomplishments no matter how big or small. Brian was a loving husband, father and "Papa" who will be so dearly missed. Brian enjoyed spending time in his woodworking workshop building beautiful furniture and other projects for his family and friends' homes. He also liked adding to their gardens, birdhouses, and other handmade wooden décor. His greatest pastime in the last few years was sitting on our porch and visiting with family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Patty; daughters Sara Rice of Sharon and Abby Spina (Charlie) of White River Junction; grandsons August Scholhouse through the eighth grade. At age 16, he went to work in his family's logging business, Powling Brothers Logging. Percy retired in 2001 after 50 years as a logger. For many years, he held membership in the Modern Woodmen Association. An ardent outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting, competing in and attending area draft horse pulls, and time shared with his family. Some of his proudest moments was seeing his grandson pulling draft horses at area competitions, of which he won the Northeast Draft Horse Association Championship in Swanzy, New Hampshire in 2015. On August 16, 1980, in the Chapel of the Pines at the top of Living Memorial Park in Brattleboro, he was married to Nancy Rice, who survives. Besides his faithful wife of 42 years, he leaves one stepdaughter, Wametta Powling and husband, Mark, of Williamsville; a sister, Violet Howard of Marlboro; a special niece who he considered a younger sister, Hazel Brown of Jacksonville; 13 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. Additionally, he is survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. He was predeceased by three stepsons, Leon Knapp, Milo Knapp, and Alonzo "Peter" Gilbert; three brothers, Lester, Calvin, and George Powling; three sisters, Leone Beam, Irene Bourn, and Hazel Powling; and a grandson, Jason Gilbert. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside services and burial in the family lot in South Newfane Cemetery will take place in the springtime when the cemetery reopens. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302; or to the Newbrook Fire & Rescue, P.O. Box 77, Newfane, VT 05345. To send

Stores honored for reducing promotion of tobacco

TOWNSHEND—According to the Centers for Disease Control and **counterbalancevt.com**, tobacco companies in America spent \$15 million in Vermont last year. Most of that marketing budget was spent placing ads in the stores where their products are sold. The tobacco companies often use tactics such as placing advertisements where children can see them to target youth.

To celebrate local stores that reduced advertising in 2022, three nonprofits in Windham County — Building A Positive Community (BAPC), West River Valley Thrives, and Greater Falls Connections — have completed the 2022 "Star Store Program."

This program recognizes retailers for protecting the youth in our community, either by not selling tobacco or by not putting up tobacco ads where children are likely to see them.

The two groups have completed 66 store assessments in the towns and villages of Brattleboro, Bellows Falls, Dummerston, Grafton, Guilford, Jamaica, Newfane, Putney, Rockingham, Townshend, Wardsboro, and Westminster. These assessments looked at both tobacco and alcohol marketing in stores.

Forty-eight retailers in these towns were provided Star Store window clings to promote their business as helping to reduce youth's exposure to tobacco or alcohol products and marketing, which has shown to have a strong influence on underage use of tobacco and alcohol.

"We are happy to see so many stores showing that they are aware of the impact of tobacco advertising on our youth," Rolf Parker-Houghton, BAPC program specialist, said in a news release. "This is good for both our youth and our businesses. When customers see a Star Store sticker on the door of a business, we hope that they will let the store manager know how much they appreciate what the store is doing for our youth."

According to CounterBalanceVT.com, "Retail stores are the primary place where tobacco companies recruit new tobacco users, and nearly 90% of those new users are underage youth. Youth exposure to tobacco marketing is directly correlated to youth tobacco use, with an estimated 1/3 of teenage smoking experimentation resulting from tobacco advertising."

The substance misuse

prevention organizations recognized the following 23 stores with a Gold Star for not selling and not advertising tobacco products: Aldi, Brattleboro Food Co-op, Dollar Tree, Grafton Village Cheese, Greater Falls Pharmacy, Green Mountain Wine, Halladay's Flowers & Gifts, Hannaford, Harlow Farmstand, Hotel Pharmacy, Kampfires Campground KOA, Little Lisa's Corner Deli, Lisai's Market, Price Chopper / Market 32, Putney General Store, Putney Food Co-op, Vermont Country Deli, Vermont Country Store, Walker Farm, and West Townshend Country Store.

There were 42 stores throughout the area receiving either Silver or Gold Stars. A Silver Star lets customers know that the store does not have any advertising for either tobacco or alcohol. A Bronze Star shows that the retailer does not have any outdoor advertising for either tobacco or alcohol.

Stores that are interested in learning more about how to qualify for a star store certificate can contact Parker-Houghton at 802-505-7653.

SEVCA offers weatherization workshop

B R A T T L E B O R O — Weatherization works to save home dwellers money by increasing the insulation and air sealing of residences.

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) will present a workshop virtually and in person on Monday, Feb. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Brooks Memorial Library in the meeting room, upstairs next to the children's room.

Affordable weatherization programs are available for renters, homeowners, and landlords. SEVCA's Financial and Energy Coach Kevin O'Brien will discuss these programs and options and guide participants through

the process. Community partners like Efficiency Vermont, Heat Squad, and the Vermont State Employees Credit Union (VSECU) all have programs that work toward weatherizing as many homes as possible.

SEVCA has its own nationally recognized weatherization team that can go beyond insulation and air sealing to look into heating systems. "The cost savings realized for an individual also has

a huge positive environmental impact at the state level because of the reduction of heating fuels needed to keep the weatherized spaces more comfortable for Vermonters," they say.

The workshop is presented through SEVCA's Green Saving Smart program, which works to guide Vermonters to a sustainable financial future. For more information, contact O'Brien at kobrien@sevca.org.

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LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 16-22
CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079

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Here We Are with guest Eduardo Melendez: Mon 8p, Wed 11a, Thurs 11:15a, Fri 10a, Sat 5:15p	Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 1/17/23: Tues 6:15 (LIVE), Fri 2p, Sat 3p, Sun 6p
BUHS-TV News - Ann Braden BUHS Author Talk: Tues 1a, Wed 9a, Fri 12a, Sun 6p	Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 1/17/23: Sat 8:30p, Sun 12p
The World Fusion Show - Ep 143 - Stephanie Syla: Wed 3p, Thurs 11:30p, Sun 5:45a	Rescue Inc. Consortium Mtg. 1/17/23: Fri 8:30p, Sun 12a
Brattleboro Literary Festival - Simi Berman and Vincent Panella: Mon 11p, Tues 1p, Sun 12a	Windham Elementary School Board Mtg. 1/17/23: Fri 2a, Sat 10:30a
Media Mentoring Project - The Power of Cartoons: Tues 3:30p, Thurs 2:45a, Fri 10:45a, Sun 12a	Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 1/17/23: Thurs 8:30a, Sat 4a
Mitchell Giddings Fine Arts - Brian D. Cohen & Chard DeNiord: Wed 12:30a, Thurs 4p	West River Education District Bd Mtg. 1/11/23: Tues 10a, Sat 1p
Keeping Up With Senior Solutions - Ep 25 - Annamariae Pluhar: Mon 4p, Wed 12p, Sat 9a, Sun 4:14p	River Valleys Unified School District Bd Mtg. 1/9/23: Mon 5a, Wed 9a
Brooks Memorial Library Events - Buddha as a Political Actor 1/16/22: Mon 5a, Wed 3:30p, Thurs 12p, Fri 4p, Sun 8p	Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 1/11/23: Wed 1p, Friday 11p
Around Town with Maria - A Ray McNeill's Celebration at the Stone Church 12/17/22: Mon 1:30p, Tues 2a, Fri 8p, Sat 7p, Sun 1a	Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 1/9/23: Wed 2a, Friday 9:15a
Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p	Marlboro Elementary School Board Mtg. 1/05/23: Tues 6:30a & 10:30p, Wed 2p, Thurs 1p, Sun 2:30p
WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p	Windham Southeast School District Bd Mtg. 1/10/23: Wed 3:45a, Sat 6:50a
St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sun 11a	Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 1/9/23: Mon 3:30a, Wed 7p, Thurs 3a, Fri 11:30a
Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service: Tue 9a, Fri 7a, Sun 10a	Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Bd Mtg. 1/11/23: Tues 11:45a, Fri 6p
Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Sun 3p	Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 1/10/23: Tues 10p, Wed 3a
Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service: Wed 6:30a, Sun 8a	Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tue 5p, Wed 12p, Thu 10:30a, Sun 11a
St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass: Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p	The David Pakman Show: Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p

Note: Schedule subject to change.

View full schedule and watch online at brattleboroTV.org

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■ Speno

was an elementary school teacher for nine years, the principal of Vernon Elementary School from 2009 to 2014, and the principal of Green Street School in Brattleboro from 2014 to 2021.

In 2020, he was recognized as a National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and as Vermont Principal of the Year by the Vermont Principals' Association.

As superintendent here, Speno has oversight for 10 schools in the Windham Southeast and Vernon school districts.

A one-year appointment after a months-long search

On June 10, 2021, former Superintendent Andy Skarzynski announced that he would step down on June 30. Speno, then Green Street School principal, was named interim superintendent in July.

A superintendent search started in earnest in August, but after a five-hour executive session on March 1, 2022, the WSESU board had not reached consensus, annual town elections were looming, and a new board was then seated.

In June 2022, after nine months as interim superintendent, Speno was given a one-year contract that included the requirement that he participate in training for new

superintendents. At the time, Amidon was the lone dissenting vote. After that meeting she said she had voted against the contract because it was for just one year.

"I believe the needs of our two districts are better served when our superintendent has the tenure to enact long-range plans," Amidon said at that time. "I continue to fully support Superintendent Speno in his work to serve the needs of all our students."

During his quest for the superintendency, Speno was supported by three Brattleboro Union High School students who penned a petition that garnered more than 860 signatures. Principals from every school in the supervisory union also signed a statement supporting Speno's being named superintendent.

'Keeping children at the forefront of all that we do'

Today, Speno participates in the Vermont Superintendents Association Superintendent Leadership Academy: regular monthly professional development with other superintendents and consultants, which the superintendent calls "wonderful."

He also has a personal mentor as part of his first contract stipulation. He and a retired superintendent now meet weekly. "It's great," said Speno. "I really appreciate the support." Asked what challenges he

FROM SECTION FRONT

has faced to date in his tenure, Speno noted the effects of the pandemic over the past several years as well as teacher and staff member turnover.

"We have had a great amount of retirements over the last two years," he said. "This brings the opportunity and challenge to train new staff while also balancing the need to move forward with new professional development."

A look ahead, said Speno, said the "regular, collaborative, and daily work of our admin team has been inspiring."

"We have developed regular systems and structures to collaborate and achieve goals, such as developing common district-wide ESTs (educational support teams) to regularly identify supports, interventions, and enrichment opportunities for our students [and] we've continued to develop school structures that support developing MLSS (multilayered systems of support) in our schools."

Speno said his belief system is and has been to "keep children at the forefront of all that we do."

"We got into education to work with children and to be mentors to them, teach them, make good decisions, [and] be good community members," the superintendent said.

"And, if we keep that at the forefront and ask ourselves, 'Is this good for children?,' that will serve us well, as it has me my entire life," he added.

School board ponders role of principal mentor — and if the district needs more than one

Vote to abolish the current job and reconsider tabled to next meeting

By Virginia Ray
The Commons



RANDOLPH T. HOLMUT, COMMONS FILE PHOTO
Andy Paciulli

BRATTLEBORO—Whether the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU) should keep the current one-person principal mentor position or eliminate it and study the situation saw support from administrators from most schools in the Union at the Jan. 11 board meeting.

In the current model, former Academy School Principal Andy Paciulli has been serving as sole mentor to district administrators.

"The question for me is: How do we invest in leadership and support growth in leadership?" said Superintendent Mark Speno, who had been asked by the board to talk with administrators about the current model and report back.

Speno said principals are given support through professional development money, developing collaborative team and administrative meetings, and the mentoring/coaching position.

He also noted a state requirement that mandates new principals be mentored for at least the first two years of their tenure in that role and said six new administrators are currently in the mentoring process in the district.

Speno said the position is "so important" because it affords administrators the chance to "be vulnerable without judgment" — opportunities to be open about their challenges with someone who has a great deal of experience in their jobs.

"I think investing in leadership is extremely wise," Speno said. "If we have really good principals and directors in place, we will develop really good schools and programs."

At the meeting, WSESU board member Tim Maciel moved that the post be abolished and that money for it be redirected to peer-to-peer mentoring activities and Vermont Principals' Association (VPA)-sponsored mentoring and coaching.

The proposal came with the caveat: that such a post be more thoroughly developed and presented to the board, perhaps for two or three part-time positions.

"There's no doubt that principals — particularly new ones — need and benefit from mentoring and professional development," Maciel said, noting that every site-specific principal has been dealing with myriad issues, chief among them "COVID learning gaps and sexual assault prevention."

"It is an incredibly difficult job," he said. "In my opinion, the mentoring needs of new principals are just far too demanding to be handled by one, locally hired, full-time mentor."

Could there be another way?

Maciel said he looked into, among other things, state

resources — including the VPA, which he said, "offers broad resources," including coaching.

"What VPA provides just cannot be underestimated," said Maciel, adding that the district here has a strong core of principals and a collaborative superintendent who is highly praised and always supports administration.

Maciel also questioned whether the current post of principal mentor, which he said is "really [a] principal administrator," were ever approved or vetted by the board, which it would require under district policy.

He also asked if so, whether the Windham Southeast School District (WSESD), which is under the WSESU umbrella and of which he is a member, had ever weighed in. If so, Maciel said, perhaps both boards would "not just agree the district needs a principal mentor but principal mentors."

Noting the current full-time, 40-hour-per-week position was created six years ago "for a district that was very different than it is now," Maciel said the needs of each school are different, the district has diversity needs, and "we're putting our eggs in one basket."

The position is paid for through Title 2 federal professional development money and comes through a grant approved at the state level.

Business Manager Frank Rucker told *The Commons* after the meeting that the current line item for the post is \$39,800, funded entirely through the grant.

What is "a little unusual," he said, is that this discussion came almost a month after the WSESU board voted to adopt a budget that includes this post. (All federal grants are, by law, required to be administered through the SU.)

Input from so many principals, both in-person and via Zoom, was the largest presence of administrators since the meeting in March 2022, when they showed up to support then-Interim Superintendent Speno's hiring as full superintendent.

"We've got some work to do at the high school; we have some habits to break," said Brattleboro Union High School Principal Cassie Damkoehler, adding that things are "moving in the right direction" but "it's daily work."

She supported the current model, saying while she is "very student-centered," at time she needs to "ask questions" about process and other matters.

Damkoehler said she appreciates that the current delineation may not work "perfectly," but that she believes the support in place is "important to stay on a positive trajectory."

Speno noted nuances between mentoring and coaching, saying while both offer coaching and support, there's "a little heat" that comes with mentoring due to "the expectation for follow-through and evaluation" whereas coaching is "just total support... and that is so lovely to have."

Both relationships, he said, are confidential between the principal and the mentor/coach.

Curriculum Coordinator Paul Smith offered caution, saying, "this is professional development and those decisions should be happening at the SU level. A motion like this takes us out of the realm of the board assuring the Supervisory Union is well run and into the realm of running the Supervisory Union, and that's a slippery slope."

Smith said he would be concerned with "straying into what is the Superintendent's purview," but former board member David Schoales spoke up, saying the principal mentor post is an employee post, and only the board can create and remove positions — not the Superintendent.

Toward the end of the discussion, WSESD board member Deborah Stanford asked, "Why not consider another model?" "Because it's working right now," answered Speno quickly. "It's working well. And it's one slice of the pie. And relationships are really important. It would be my recommendation not to eliminate this position at this time."

He went on to say that was not to say the post isn't worthy of annual review or that it may prove wise to eliminate it at some point.

Ultimately the board voted to table the motion to its next meeting, a move with which Maciel agreed, saying he'd bring it also to the Windham Southeast School District board.

Co-ops work on program to expand access to healthy food

BRATTLEBORO—Shoppers with low incomes in four Vermont communities will soon have increased access to healthy, nutritious food, thanks to a U.S. Department of Agriculture Nutrition Incentives Program grant awarded to Farm Fresh Rhode Island in partnership with the Neighboring Food Co-op Association (NFCA).

Part of a multi-state initiative, the grant will provide funds for Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op and Hunger Mountain Co-op to pilot a Double Up Food Bucks program in 2023, offering a 50% discount on fresh fruit and vegetables to individuals participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Brattleboro and Putney Food Co-ops plan to launch similar programs in 2024.

"As a community-owned store, providing access to healthy food and addressing food insecurity is a top priority at the Brattleboro Food Co-op," General Manager Lee Bradford said in a news

release. "We are excited that this grant will not only provide greater access to fresh food, but will also provide more support for growers in our area. We are very grateful to everyone who helped make this program a reality and look forward to bringing it to Brattleboro next year."

SNAP is widely considered one of the most effective food security efforts in the United States, supplementing the food budgets of families with limited incomes so they can purchase more healthy food.

Double Up Food Bucks, a project of the Fair Food Network, further increases the impact of the program by matching the dollars SNAP participants spend on fresh produce. This puts fruits and vegetables within reach for more people, making healthy food an easier choice and expanding the market for local farmers.

The NFCA "includes 42 food co-ops and start-ups across the Northeast, locally owned by more than 168,000 members

and employing over 2,450 people. Together, these community-owned grocery stores generate annual revenue of \$395 million, with local products representing 25% of total sales," states a news release.

For more than a decade, the NFCA has partnered with the New England Farmers Union and food security organizations to increase access to healthy food and economic empowerment, enabling people to work together to build more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive communities. In 2021, NFCA joined with the New England Nutrition Incentive Collaborative (NENIC) in a multi-state effort to secure funding for SNAP Nutrition Incentives programs in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

For more information on the NFCA and its efforts to increase healthy food access and a map of food co-ops across the Northeast, visit nfca.coop.

Healthy eating is a way of life, so it's important to establish routines that are simple, realistically, and ultimately livable.

—HORACE

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The Media Mentoring Project (MMP) is the educational mission of Vermont Independent Media, publisher of *The Commons* newspaper, headquartered in Brattleboro, VT. Through public programs, school-based initiatives, and collaborations with community groups, MMP seeks to support a regional culture of media literacy and civic engagement.

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■ **Balint**

FROM SECTION FRONT

of right-wing extremists who want to destroy the government and who show no sign of wanting to govern in any capacity.

In a week during which the nation watched, most of us horrified, Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., accepted an agonizing series of extremist compromises in order to gain the power of the speakership. He made concessions that embarrassed even many of his fellow Republicans.

For a week, one chamber of Congress was not able to function.

Then, finally, early on the morning of Jan. 7, just after McCarthy won election for House Speaker on the 15th ballot, Balint and the rest of the Congress were sworn in.

But it is still up in the air whether the House will form committees and do any useful work as it spitefully tries to eliminate Medicare, Social Security, and any remaining part of the New Deal — including the tattered, desperately needed social safety net that still remains for most Americans.

WHEN ASKED about her first week as a congresswoman, Balint pulled no punches. “What you saw on C-SPAN and on other outlets that were covering it was a lot of chaos and confusion,” she told *The Commons*. “It was days and days of roll call votes. And for those folks who watch the Legislature in Vermont, the roll call vote in the Vermont Senate does not take long at all, right? Maybe 10 minutes.”

“In Congress, every roll call vote in the House takes an hour,” Balint continued. “So you could just always hear the groans coming from around the room when we were going back to another roll call vote knowing that nothing had changed, that it was going to be the same intractable issues, hour after hour. “And it is very disheartening to watch the extent to which the Republicans are now beholden to this extreme faction within their party,” she said.

Like the rest of the Democratic caucus, Balint voted for Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York to be speaker and to replace former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Jeffries is the first African American congressional party leader in U.S. history. He lost the vote every time because the Republicans have a small majority.

After every vote, with new and repressive compromises being made every inch along the way, a half-hour break allowed for vote counting and authenticating.

She would spend time talking to her colleagues about what they thought might happen, Balint said.

“I would talk to a couple of moderate Republicans about their feelings about it,” she said. “I think this session is not going to be about what the Democrats do in opposition to the extremists.

“The moderate Republicans’ real task will be to find both backbone and a sense of solidarity among themselves,” Balint continued. “And be more vocal about it. Because they will openly tell us how disgusted they are with what has happened. They will come and talk to our leadership and say, ‘You know, we don’t want to be voting on these extreme anti-abortion bills.’”

“And yet they have got to, because right now, it just feels like the extreme wing of the party is running roughshod over Congress,” she said.

WHAT DO THE extremists want? Does Balint have a feel for that? “They don’t actually want to govern,” she said. “They think government is the problem.”

Balint asserts that Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.), Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), and other U.S. representatives far to the right are “not interested in actually having a functioning government.

“So for them, chaos is a winner,” she said. “And that is so deeply troubling for all the people who rely on government to function so they get their Social Security benefits so that they get the tax credit for their children, so they know they are able to make ends meet at the end of the day.”

One thing Balint has noticed: that “these are people who are so deeply cynical about government itself.

“And right now, McCarthy has made deals with so many of them so he could remain in power, that he’s essentially embroiled in a faction that does not want government to work,” she said. “So that that’s a problem. That’s a real problem.”

Strategic-minded Vermonters were emailing and texting Balint, saying she should cross

the aisle and vote for McCarthy before he gave away the store.

She declined. “In conversations with the Republicans, one of the things that they were really clear on was that this was their fight and they wanted to have it,” Balint said. “Some of them said it would even weaken his position more if we were to vote in support of him.”

“Besides, Hakeem Jeffries is a much better candidate to lead the House,” she added. “I know him. I trust him. And so I was not going to vote for someone who I didn’t believe in and against someone seeking leadership for the right reasons. I just couldn’t do it.”

McCarthy’s actions in 2021 stick in Balint’s mind.

“I can’t get out of my mind the fact that he condemned Trump’s actions on Jan. 6,” Balint said. “Remember, he said, ‘[I’ve had it] with this guy.’ He was heard on a GOP conference call, saying that.

“And within a few short days, he had done an 180 and was down at Mar-a-Lago,” she said of McCarthy’s complete abandonment of his original intent to hold Trump accountable for the attack on the Capitol.

“Fundamentally, you have no idea what he stands for,” she said. “And that is deeply disturbing for somebody who is taking control of the chamber and his own caucus members. It is not clear that McCarthy actually stands for anything except his own personal career goals.”

Balint said she has not yet had much interaction with McCarthy.

“I’ve never talked to him individually,” she said. “I’m hoping at some point in the next few weeks to be able to have a short conversation with him about the goals that I have for Vermont, in terms of mental health care and housing. Those are not partisan issues. Or at least they shouldn’t be.

“But my impression, based on what I saw on the floor, was that he was willing to make deals with anyone regardless of the outcome, in order for him to retain his leadership position, and that is unsavory at best,” Balint said.

SO HOW DO her first few weeks as a congresswoman feel to Balint?

“It’s surreal in moments, absolutely,” she said. “It’s troubling. But the optimistic part for me is knowing that I can talk to people across the aisle. I know that they’re not beholden to the extremists. They’re not delusional. They just don’t know what to do. They feel paralyzed because they’re afraid of those elements in their own base.

“So this will be my challenge, and the challenge of my caucus, to continue to try to cultivate relationships with the people who are not extremists,” Balint continued. “And to fight back hard against the others who are really extreme in their views.”

Her colleagues give her reason for optimism, Balint said.

“We truly are such a representation of the country as a whole,” she said. “There’s a lot of diversity in this incoming Congress, and Vermonters need me to be working on issues like mental health and housing. I’ve got to find those partners wherever I can.”

Being a progressive and a woman, many thought Balint would be a perfect junior member of “the Squad” — originally Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (aka “AOC”) of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts, and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. These four Democrats have since been joined by others.

At noon one day, Balint gave her first speech on the floor of the House of Representatives — an historic moment for her — and delivered her fervent support for the need to protect women’s reproductive rights.

“Reproductive rights is something that’s obviously incredibly important to



U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., stands in response to the nomination of Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., as house speaker during one of the 14 votes for the leader of the chamber. Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., ultimately won over the majority of his conference on the 15th vote.

Vermonters,” Balint said. “We had an overwhelming support of a constitutional amendment here in Vermont.

“And after I gave my speech, two people — one being Jamie Raskin, D-Md., the other being Ayanna Pressley — pulled me aside to say, ‘You just did a really great job.’ That’s just incredible to me.”

Balint is a member of the Progressive Caucus. She said this edition of Congress is essentially a very progressive one.

She also said “The Squad” was more a media construct than a reality.

“I’ve gotten a chance to get to know all of them,” Balint said. “They’re very different people. And they interact in the caucus in different ways. They’re different personalities. They are not the kind of tight unit that the press portrays them to be. They make decisions day-to-day based on the interests of their constituents. They’re often in alignment, but not always.”

BALINT HAS already attracted mentors. She mentioned Raskin first.

“Jamie Raskin has been a wonderful mentor to me,” she said. “We talk often.”

She described Raskin, a former professor of Constitutional law who will serve as the ranking member of the House Oversight Committee, as “someone that Vermonters will know from the January 6 Commission and the impeachment proceedings.”

“He is an incredibly smart person, and a very kind person,” she said, and his guidance “means the world to me.”

Balint also mentioned Pressley and, especially, David Cicilline, D-R.I.

“He’s been a strong mentor to me,” she said. “He and I got to know each other through the Equality Caucus. He’s a gay man. And he is my go-to person on the floor about what’s happening behind the scenes, things that I don’t necessarily see.”

“I’m taking my mentorship wherever I can,” Balint said. “There’s going to be many times I will be voting in alignment with folks within the Progressive Caucus. But I’m sure there are going to be issues down the road, ones that I can’t anticipate right now, when I may not vote with the Progressive Caucus.”

SETTING UP HOUSE in the House is a complicated matter.

Balint’s total staff right now numbers 14, and she intends to hire two more once committees have been assigned. Congressional staff salaries are paid from what is called the Members’ Representational Allowance. The MRA may be used for official expenses like staff, travel, mail, office equipment, district office rental, stationery, and other office supplies.

Balint said she talks frequently with Katherine Clark, D-Mass., who is the House Minority Whip — the third-most-powerful member of the Democratic Party leadership in

that chamber and the highest-ranking woman.

“I enjoy getting her perspective on mundane issues, like how to manage all the incoming texts, how to manage the incoming calls, talking about policy,” she said. “I have found the leadership team to be really open to talking with rank-and-file members, even freshmen.”

Balint said the newcomers also mentor one another.

“We have a variety of text threads that we’re on, communicating on how we’re setting up our offices,” Balint said.

“And we’re lifting each other up,” she added. “If one of us has an especially good interview with a newspaper or [a news] outlet, or if somebody is feeling like they need some support. I feel like we are, as a class, understanding that this is going to be a really hard two years and we need to be encouraging each other along.”

Balint has also spent some time with Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.

“She was so gracious,” Balint said. “She gave me about an hour of her time a few weeks ago to talk about policy. She said I should never forget that I am in a position to change millions of people’s lives. ‘Don’t ever take it for granted,’ she said. ‘Use it wisely.’”

“And she said, ‘You have got to use all of the tools at your disposal,’” Balint continued. “‘You’re in Congress, and you must make sure that you’re getting it right for your constituents.’”

IF AND WHEN committee seats are granted and the 118th session of the House of Representatives gets down to work, Balint wants to work on mental health and housing.

“One of the things that I heard on the campaign — in every corner of Vermont, whether it was families, whether it was first responders or teachers — everyone is talking about the increase in the number of cases of anxiety and depression,” she said.

“Our first responders are saying they don’t have the training to deal with the issues they see when they’re called out for an emergency,” Balint pointed out.

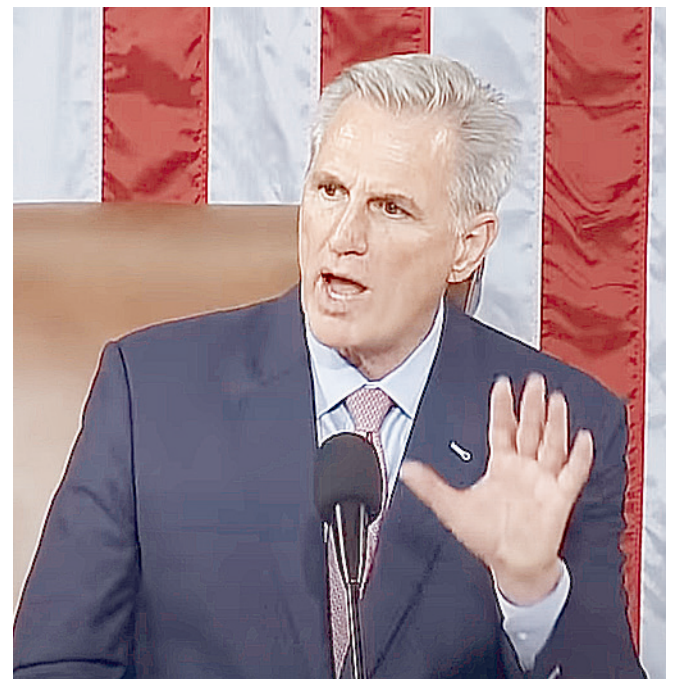
“So even in the minority, we’re looking to see where we can get some bipartisan support for mental health support,” she said. “In talking with my colleagues within the caucus, I have a lot of people that want to do some work on that issue.

“So I’ll start building those relationships across the aisle as well, because it’s not a partisan issue,” Balint said. “Or at least it shouldn’t be.

“With housing and mental health, I feel like we can get something done, even in such a divided Congress,” she said.

ORDINARILY, Congress works in committees to research and draft laws. With this Congress, it is not even certain that there will be committees.

“We just keep hearing, ‘In a couple of weeks, in a couple of weeks,’” she said. “My understanding is that Hakeem Jeffries, our leader, needs to sit down



Balint says that her impression of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy — shown here during his opening remarks on the House floor in that capacity — is that “he was willing to make deals with anyone regardless of the outcome, in order for him to retain his leadership position, and that is unsavory at best.”

and hammer out the ratios of Democrats to Republicans within each committee. So they agree on the ratios first, based on essentially where the Republicans would like to put their people. And then we’ll know what slots are available, that are left to us.

“I was hoping to be either on Financial Services, which deals with housing, or the [Agriculture] Committee,” she explained. “But Republicans get to choose the ratio, so there may not be a seat left for me.”

“We’re just in limbo. I’m hoping, before the beginning of February to know, but we don’t have a timeline right now,” Balint said.

Warren told Balint something that has become her talisman.

“She said to me, ‘Don’t ever forget that once you’re in partnership with other Congresspeople, you’re actually representing America as a whole,’” Balint said. “‘You have a responsibility to make life better for as many Americans as you possibly can.’”

“And I was grateful to her for sort of laying it out like that,” she said.

“It was right at the beginning of my starting in Congress, and I’m gonna hold that conversation with me as a touchstone,” Balint observed. “Because it’s an incredible responsibility. And I want to do a good job.”

 **the CLUB**
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
WINTER 2023

The club is offering a wide range of programs this winter. Programs are free for members. Spaces are limited and registration is preferred. Membership includes academic support, skatepark, tech lab, and more.


bgcbrattleboro.org/flrat-street-schedule/

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">HELLFIRE CLUB</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Mondays and Wednesdays</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 1.5em; transform: rotate(-15deg); position: absolute; top: 50%; left: 50%;">FULL on Wednesdays</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Engage in a game of the 80's. Play songs and dances. Learn to play one of your favorite instruments in Stranger I with our own dungeon master, Ben.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">TUESDAY TUNES WITH JOHN</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Tuesdays</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Ever wanted to learn an instrument? Our music room is full of guitars, drums, and keyboards and is just waiting for you to come play.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SOCIAL INFLUENCER FOR GOOD WITH NEYT</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Tuesdays</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Are you tired of the negative aspects of social media? Come and learn how to be a social media influencer for good.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">PLANET FITNESS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Tuesdays</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">The Club is teaming up with Planet Fitness to give 10 teens, a free gym membership. The Club will transport 10 members to Planet Fitness from BAMS/BUHS.</p>

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">MINECRAFT: ACTIVE CITIZEN</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Thursdays</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 1.5em; transform: rotate(-15deg); position: absolute; top: 50%; left: 50%;">FULL</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">A unique collaboration between the Club and Planet Minecraft. Active citizens presents a new way to engage young people in creating a more peaceful world.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">PRISM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Fridays</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">PRISM creates spaces for shared understanding of gender and sexuality; and highlights practices that increase social and emotional safety not only for our LGBTQ+ youth, but for all young people.</p>
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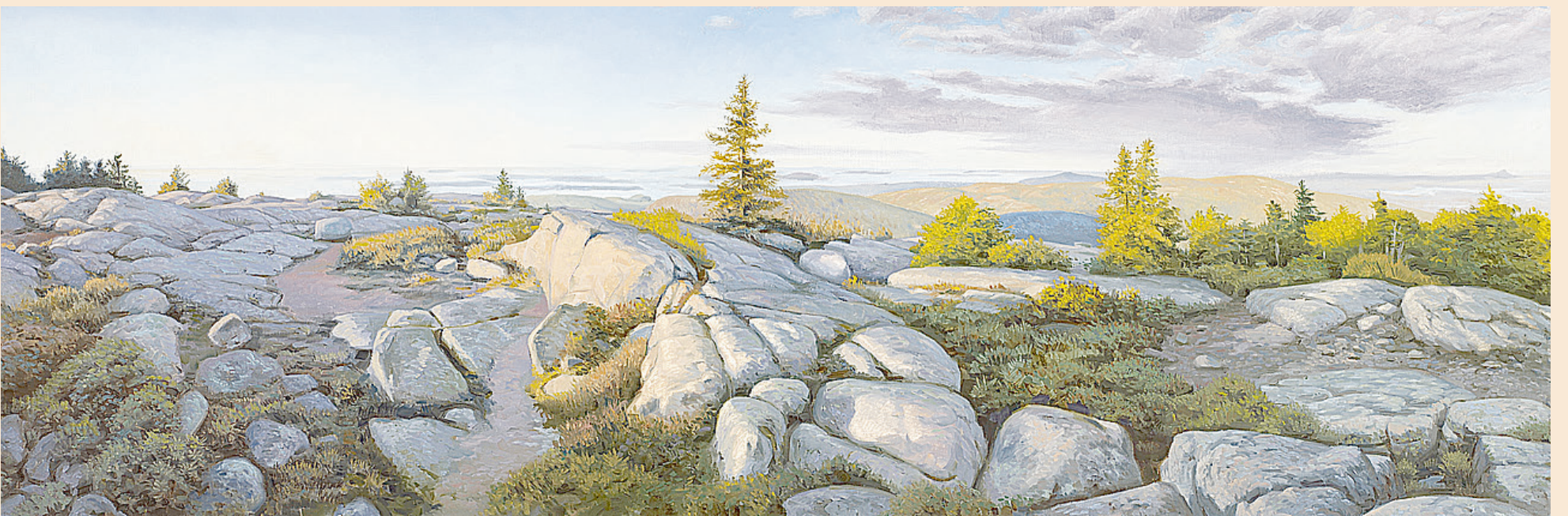
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"Cadillac Sunrise" by James Mullen.

COURTESY PHOTO

Putney School hosts Mullen art exhibition

PUTNEY—Artist James Mullen will showcase his work in a free art exhibition in the Michael S. Currier Center at The Putney School.

"Luminous Edge" will run from Jan. 19 to March 3, with an opening reception on Friday, Jan. 27, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

On display will be 72 vignette paintings from Mullen's Pilgrimage series. These paintings investigate iconic sites belonging to the lexicon of the 19th-century American landscape.

"Presented as a grid, the paintings start to interact with each other, both formally as well as conceptually, and begin to kindle questions about how we define landscape, such as what is natural

versus artificial?" Mullen said of his work. "These paintings also engage ideas about the public versus the private, seeking out the territory between where we live, and where we visit.

"I am particularly interested in how we form our understanding of place, through the combination of memory and experience, and between seeing and thinking. This collection documents that journey towards a more mindful engagement of our environment, and understanding our place in it."

Mullen was born and raised in rural western New Jersey. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in sculpture and printmaking from the University of New Hampshire, and a Master

of Fine Arts in Painting at Indiana University.

He has taught at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, the University of Evansville in Indiana, and since 1999, has taught at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, where he is a professor in the Department of Art.

Mullen has received numerous awards and scholarships. Recent solo exhibitions include Phoenix Gallery in New York City; University of Southern New Hampshire; The College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine; and the Barrington Center for the Arts at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts.

Museum exhibit reckons with radioactivity

Interdisciplinary performance project explores impacts of nuclear energy in Windham County and throughout the world

BRATTLEBORO — The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) presents "Regenerations: Reckoning with Radioactivity" on Friday, Jan. 27, and Saturday, Jan. 28, at 6 p.m.

An interdisciplinary performance project created by Megan Buchanan and a team of collaborators, "Regenerations" draws inspiration from the exhibition "Renate Aller: The Space Between Memory and Expectation" and includes poetry, dance, projection, installation, and live music.

"Regenerations" focuses on the spent radioactive fuel, radioactive water, and soil left behind by Vermont Yankee, the decommissioned nuclear power plant in Vernon. The performance

explores impacts of nuclear energy throughout the world as well as the questions "What have we done?" and "What can we do now?"

Buchanan created and directed the project. Performers include Grainne Buchanan, Liza Cassidy, Marcella Eversole, Jake Klar, Sarah LaPlante, Hannah Mohan, Nellie Prior, Dana Renault, and Rachel Yoder.

The second iteration of a project originally developed by Buchanan in 2016, the upcoming performance was created in connection with and will take place amid "The Space Between Memory and Expectation," a site-specific installation by Renate Aller on view in BMAC's Wolf Kahn & Emily Mason Gallery

through Sunday, February 12.

The current version of "Regenerations" was developed during a series of Sunday creation sessions that took place at BMAC from October 2022 through January 2023.

Buchanan is a poet, ■ SEE 'REGENERATIONS', B4

"REGENERATIONS: Reckoning with Radioactivity," which will be presented at BMAC on Jan. 27 and 28, focuses on the spent radioactive fuel, radioactive water, and soil left behind by the now-decommissioned Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon.



Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem

COURTESY PHOTO

Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem will perform on Jan. 22

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present New England's folk/roots quartet Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem at Next Stage on Sunday, Jan. 22, at 4 pm.

Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem feature 4-part vocal harmonies, indelible songs, fiddle, acoustic and electric guitars, bass, and a homemade percussion kit of cardboard boxes, tin cans, caulktubes, packing-tape tambourines, bottle-cap rattles, Mongolian jaw harps, and a vinyl suitcase.

Over the past 20 years, the quartet has toured to concert halls, festivals, and residency engagements across North America and has released seven CDs on Signature Sounds.

"From the Newport Folk Festival to California World Music Festival and beyond, this band's steadfast brew of wit, camaraderie, and musicality leaves

audiences everywhere humming and hopeful, spirits renewed," say the artists' promotional materials.

"In the lineage of string bands who blur the boundaries of American roots music," says a news release, "Rani, Andrew Kinsey, Anand Nayak, and Scott Kessel have always been standard-bearers, with a knack for pairing words and music. From bluegrass barnstormers to sultry swing, old-time gospel to bluesy folk-rock, they consistently turn in lush arrangements of original songs alongside artful re-workings of a melange of music."

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney. Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Advance tickets are available at nextstagearts.org. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For information, call 802-387-0102.

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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SATURDAY CONT.	SUNDAY
19	20	21	22	22
<p>Recreation BRATTLEBORO Thorn in My Side: Hooker-Dunham Theater's award-winning game show, written by Ben Stockman, James Gelter, Jesse Tidd, and Shannon Ward is back for Season 2. Aimed for adult audiences. ▶ 8 p.m. <i>Third Thursday of every month. Episodes are filmed for BCTV - past episodes can be seen at brattleborovt.org/thorn-my-side.</i> ▶ Pay what you can. \$10 suggested donation. ▶ Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main St. Information: 802-281-3232; hookerdunham.org.</p> <p>Community building BRATTLEBORO Commemorate VT's annual Homelessness Awareness Day - Groundworks Collaborative hosts a Candlelight Vigil: We honor, grieve, celebrate those experiencing, or who have experienced homelessness in our community. This event is one of many taking place on VT's Homelessness Awareness Day - a day dedicated to Vermonters experiencing homelessness who need our support/advocacy now more than ever. Brattleboro's first in-person vigil since 2020 will feature the voices of our neighbors with lived experience of homelessness, a community choir, reps from our local interfaith community. ▶ 5 p.m. ▶ Free. ▶ Pliny Park, Corner Main & High St. Information: More information about Homelessness Awareness Day: tinyurl.com/327kaat.</p> <p>Ideas and education AARP Vermont Fraud Watch: "Fraud, Scams, and Con-Artists: Coming to a Computer Near You" (Livestreamed): This "deep dive" into the world of on-line fraud explores the why, how, and basic defense regarding scams perpetrated over the internet. Presentation addresses the latest cyber threats, how to recognize malicious emails, pop-ups as well as wi-fi issues arising from the increased use of tablets and smart phones. ▶ 1/19: 7-8 p.m. and 1/20: 2-3 p.m. ▶ Through Friday, January 20. ▶ Free. ▶ Livestream. Information: Register by emailing egreenblott@aarp.org and specifying this program/date you are registering for.</p>	<p>Well-being BRATTLEBORO DIY Tamale Class: Didn't get enough tamales over the holidays? Never had a tamale? Love tamales so much, you could never possibly get enough? Co-op educator Lisa will guide students in making traditional Tamal Dough, prepared with fresh ground masa from a tortilleria - Mi Tierra in Greenfield, MA. There will be tamales to try and everyone will take home the ones they make. ▶ 3-4 p.m. Register by 1/19. ▶ Free. ▶ Brattleboro Food Co-op Community Room, 7 Canal St. Information: Register: Education@BFC.coop.</p> <p>Visual arts and shows BELLOWS FALLS 3rd Friday Gallery Night in Historic Downtown Bellows Falls / "Heroes & Villains" Exhibit: Artwork by Clare Adams, Thomasin Alyxander, Debi A Barton, Jean Cannon, Len Emery, Mindy Fisher, Corinne Greenhalgh, Gregory Damien Grinnell, Su Lin Mangan, Charles Norris-Brown, Gretchen Seifert, Linda Udd. The story of the hero and villain is told through art, music, performance, writing, everyday life - hero and villain come alive. The quest of the hero often includes the villain, and the villain's story may be told as well or even instead. ▶ 1/20: 5-7 p.m. Gallery Walk - celebrate the artists. Many of the hardest decisions a hero must make are revealed by villains. The internal struggle of the hero becomes clear only after encountering, then revealing the true nature of, and finally conquering the part of the villain which resides in the hero themself. ▶ Through Saturday, March 4. ▶ Free. ▶ Canal Street Art Gallery, 23 Canal St. Regular gallery hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat. 802-289-0104; canalstreetartgallery.com.</p> <p>Ideas and education AARP Vermont Fraud Watch: "Fraud, Scams, and Con-Artists: Coming to a Computer Near You": (See 1/19) ▶ Livestream.</p>	<p>Music MARLBORO Peregrine Road: Rachel Bell on accordion and Karen Axelrod on piano ▶ 7:30 p.m. M95 masks required except for quick mask breaks for snacks and drinks. Please stay home if you feel sick or tested positive for Covid. ▶ \$10 to \$20 suggested donation. ▶ Colonel Williams Inn, 111 Stover Rd. Information: 802-257-1093; thecoloneliwilliamsinn.com.</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Mingus Dynasty Quartet: Vermont Jazz Center: Because Mingus always said he was composer first and foremost, and because he left behind over 300 compositions that deserved to be played, the Mingus Dynasty band carries on his music, vision, mission. Today, four decades later, the rich legacy of Mingus music ignites the bandstand encouraging new generations of musicians to add their individual voices to this rich and varied musical legacy. ▶ 7:30 p.m. "Mingus's influence has been enormous since his first Atlantic LPs in 1956, but it has been apparent primarily through its example of how to absorb jazz tradition without being tied to it, how to ignore current conventions and create your own." - Bob Blumenthal, Rolling Stone. ▶ \$20 to \$50. ▶ Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, #222. Information: 802-254-9088; vtjazz.org.</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Concert Choir returns to the Latchis: "HELP! Music for Troubled Times": Jonathan Harvey, BCC Dir.: "Program focuses on the idea of asking for/receiving aid. In this turbulent age, seeking help is an act of necessity and bravery - we touch on this idea from various perspectives. In the music of 20th century musicians - Black Canadian-American composer/conductor Nathaniel Dett and British composer/organist Herbert Howells - cries for help are in turns quiet, insistent, humble, violent, polite, grandiose, sacred, secular." ▶ 1/21: 7:30 p.m. 1/22: 4 p.m. N95 masks or equivalent required. ▶ Through Sunday, January 22. ▶ \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. ▶ Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St. Information: Tickets: Brattleboro Music Center, online: bmcvt.org, phone: 802-257-4523, email: info@bmcvt.org.</p> <p>Farmers' markets BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market: Weekly diverse indoor farmers' market.</p> <p>Local farm produce, meats, syrup, fresh baked goods, fruits, cider, preserves, handmade jewelry, pottery, soaps, more. SNAP shoppers turn \$10 into \$40 each week! ▶ 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays through March 25 in the gymnasium. ▶ Through Saturday, March 25. ▶ Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market, 60 Austine Dr. Information: farmersmarket@postilsolutions.org, 802-275-2835.</p> <p>The written word "Writing Dramatic Scenes Part 1" (Online): "In this workshop, appropriate for beginning and experienced writers, we'll begin looking at how to write dramatic scenes that bring your story to life." Led by Barbara Morrison. ▶ 4-5 p.m. ▶ \$10 suggested donation. ▶ Zoom. Information: Register: info@timetowrite.us.</p> <p>Well-being BRATTLEBORO Food Choices with Robin Matathias: Sugar: How have we become so addicted to sugar? The average American consumes as much as 150 pounds of refined sugar yearly. Learn the refining process of sugar, land-use issues, environmental impact, the diseases associated with sugar. Learn to satisfy your sweet tooth with other natural sweeteners and how to make substitutions for your sugary favorites. ▶ 1-3:30. Register by 1/19. ▶ Free. ▶ Brattleboro Food Co-op Community Room, 7 Canal St. Information: Register: Education@BFC.coop.</p> <p>PUTNEY Death Cafe hosted by Brattleboro Area Hospice: Join curious and like-minded folks to talk about death while enjoying tea, coffee, and snacks! Our objective is to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their lives. A Death Cafe is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives, themes. The public is encouraged to attend. ▶ 1-3 p.m. Brattleboro Area Hospice provides a broad range of services for living and dying well, focusing on end-of-life, bereavement, advance care planning. All services are free of charge and available to anyone living in Southeastern VT or bordering NH towns. ▶ Putney Friends Meeting House, 17 Bellows Falls Rd. Find out more at https://deathcafe.com/what/ RSVP by Wednesday, 1/18, via info@brattleborohospice.org or call 802-257-0775.</p> <p>BELLOWS FALLS Mirrors for Climate Mitigation (In Person/Zoom): Learn about a new climate solution using mirrors to reduce earth's rising temperatures. This idea was developed by MIT and Harvard scientist Dr. Ye Tao. Dr. Tao's colleague Lisa Doner (Assoc.</p>	<p>Prof. in Environmental Science at Plymouth State University) discusses this innovative solution: the earth is overheating today threatening human, plant, animal life. ▶ 11 a.m. Prof. Program may switch to Zoom if there is inclement weather (check Library website). ▶ Free. ▶ Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89191411557 Presentation info: meer.org.rockinghamlibrary.org, programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, 802-463-4270.</p> <p>Old Ways Herbal: Clinical Skills & Cases (via Zoom once a month): This 3-month course helps Community Herbalists, Clinical Herbalists, Family Herbalists grow clinical skills through practical application. Topics: Interview techniques, therapeutic relationships, assessments for the herbalist, making recommendations, complementary recommendations and referrals, contraindications/drug interactions, etc. Students work through the clinical process and present anonymous cases for small group discussion and personalized feedback. ▶ 1 p.m. Classes: 1/21, 2/11 and 3/18. Registration slots are limited in order to allow enough time for each student. ▶ Through Saturday, March 18. ▶ \$216 for 3 classes. ▶ Zoom. Information: Register: tinyurl.com/yw75apwv. Website is tinyurl.com/yw75apwv.</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO The 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. ▶ Wells Fountain, south side Windham County District Courthouse, Jct. Putney Rd. & Main St. (Rte 30). Information: alison.f.bundy@gmail.com.</p> <p>Community building BELLOWS FALLS Chat with your Windham County Senators and House Representatives: Windham County Senators Nader Hashim and Wendy Harrison and your Windham-3 (Brookline, Rockingham, Westminster) House Representatives Michelle Bos-Lun and Leslie Goldman. Come for an informal conversation about current issues and bring your questions! "We look forward to seeing you and thank you to the Library for sponsoring. A table in a quiet corner of the fiction room will be reserved for these conversations." ▶ 10:30-11:30 a.m. Subsequent conversations at the library are planned for the 3rd Saturday of the month: Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, May 20 (tentative). ▶ Free. ▶ Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: 802-463-4270; rockinghamlibrary.org.</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Active Non-Violence and Exercise/Dance Workshops - The Beloved Community ▶ 11-11:45 a.m.: Exercise/Sacred Dance Workshop. 12:30-2:30 p.m.: Active Non-Violence Workshop. Free lunch of chili and cornbread will be served. ▶ Donations welcome. ▶ The Beloved Community, 18 Town Crier Dr. Information: howerwiii@gmail.com, 802-249-2947.</p>	<p>Music BELLOWS FALLS Phil Henry with Rust and Ruin: Singer-songwriter Phil Henry builds detailed worlds/characters w/ vivid lyrical imagery. He displays skills of a craftsman/authenticity of an artist, with strong melodies buoyed by rhythmic acoustic energy. He's earned contest wins at SolarFest and Susquehanna Music and Arts. Rock act Rust and Ruin opens show w/ original songs by bandleaders Beth and Josh Adams featuring signature sweet harmonies/fancy fretwork. ▶ 3 p.m. Performance recorded and filmed. COVID-19 protocol guidelines in effect. ▶ \$7 in advance, \$10 at door. ▶ Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge St. Information: Tickets: stage33live.com.</p> <p>PUTNEY Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem: In the lineage of string bands who blur the boundaries of American roots music, Rani, Andrew Kinsey, Anand Nayak, Scott Kessel are standard-bearers, with a particular knack for pairing words and music. From bluegrass barnstorms to sultry swing, old-time gospel to bluesy folk-rock, they consistently turn in lush arrangements of original songs alongside artful re-workings of a melange of music. ▶ 4 p.m. Check Covid protocols. ▶ \$22 in advance, \$25 at door. ▶ Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: 802-387-0102; nextstagearts.org.</p> <p>Well-being W. BRATTLEBORO All Souls Church UU: "In Search of Our Truth" (In-Person/Zoom): Rev. Telos Whitfield: "Finding Our Center" is the SoulMatters theme for this month. "At the center of who we are as individuals and a community is a place of truth. These truths can inspire and guide us as we again embark on an unknown journey, together." ▶ 10 a.m. ▶ Free. ▶ All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 29 South St. Information: Shortly before 10 a.m. visit ascvt.org to join via Zoom.</p> <p>Celebrations and festivals BRATTLEBORO Lunar New Year Festival & Potluck - Celebrate the Year of the Rabbit: Organized by the Asian Cultural Center of Vermont, this annual celebration features activities for all ages, including paper lantern-making, crafts, Chinese songs, Korean rope tug, Tai Chi with Cai Xi, traditional dance with Li Fei Osborne, a Dragon parade, and much more. ▶ 1-3 p.m. ▶ Free. ▶ Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 28 Vernon St. https://accvt.org 802-257-0124; brattleboromuseum.org.</p>

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MONDAY

23

Community building
BRATTLEBORO Instant Pot Fun! A Hands-on Workshop with Edible Brattleboro: Learn how quick and easy it is to prepare soup, greens, and a dessert in an Instant Pot. Together we will prepare a 3-course vegan meal and sit down at the communal table to enjoy it! If you don't have an Instant Pot, borrow one from the tool library!
 ▶ 5-7 p.m. in the Community Room on the 2nd fl.
 ▶ Free (donations accepted).
 ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: Limited enrollment. Register by emailing outreach@ediblebrattleboro.org.

TUESDAY

24

Recreation
"Hiking in Austria" presentation by Edwin de Bruijn (Zoom): Brattleboro resident Edwin de Bruijn grew up hiking the alps in Austria. Last September, he led a group to the Montafon Valley in Austria to hike. Today, he'll present a slide show about this trip and the two new trips to Austria he'll lead this Sept.
 ▶ 7 p.m.
 ▶ Free.
 ▶ Zoom. Tours can be found at www.travelfevertours.com or email service@travelfevertours.com Register for link: travelfevertours.com/austria.

Well-being
BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic: Primary medical treatment for patients ages 18 to

BMAC to exhibit 'subway drawings' by renowned pop artist Keith Haring



BERNARD GOTFRYD LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Keith Haring, painting a backdrop at the Palladium night club in New York City in 1985. The artist came to prominence with his chalk drawings in the city's subway system.

BRATTLEBORO—In the early 1980s, Keith Haring was a little-known artist from Kutztown, Pennsylvania, not yet the international art superstar and social activist.

During this time, Haring made thousands of unsanctioned chalk drawings in New York City subway stations.

Only a limited number survive to this day, having been thrown away or papered over by subway authorities.

Seventeen of these historic drawings will be exhibited publicly for the first time at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) in the exhibition "Keith Haring: Subway Drawings," on view Feb. 18–April 16. The exhibition's opening reception, free and open to the public, will take place at the museum on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 5 p.m.

The drawings in the BMAC exhibition were saved from destruction by a New York City building superintendent and handyman who had met Haring while he was creating one of his drawings. He took it upon himself to save some them.

Eventually, art dealer and collector Alex Trimper acquired the drawings and agreed to lend them to BMAC, said Director Danny Lichtenfeld. "We're deeply grateful to Alex for allowing us to share these iconic artworks with our community."

The subway drawings are one of many projects Haring executed in public spaces. In late 1980, Haring noticed blank advertising billboards covered with black matte paper in New York City subway stations. He purchased white chalk and began a daily routine of making spontaneous drawings in these blank spaces.

The resulting drawings, which Haring made quickly to avoid getting caught by the MTA police, were crucial to the development of Haring's recognizable, cartoon-like imagery and unique characters, such as the barking dog and the radiant baby.

Haring's images "had immediacy and impact," states the news release. They also carried multiple meanings. Although Haring self-censored his subway drawings, leaving out explicit sexual and political imagery, the compositions still subtly responded to a wave of conservative politics. Their imagery includes references to gay rights and nuclear energy, among other pressing issues of the time.

Because of their visibility, the subway drawings launched Haring into the public spotlight. The performative aspect of making the drawings also attracted attention and drew an audience. Haring leaned into the public interest that the project brought him.

He designed buttons illustrating the motifs in his images and gave away thousands to subway riders. A video of one of his arrests for graffitiing, taped by a friend, was featured on CBS News on a nationwide special. The

public attention that came with the subway drawings and related activities helped launch Haring's commercial art career.

The upcoming exhibition at BMAC offers a rare opportunity to see a selection of Haring's subway drawings alongside a number of his iconic posters, buttons, stickers, and other ephemera. "Even decades after their initial production and display," say organizers, "Haring's works remain visually compelling, and they speak to social and political issues still relevant today."

Two events organized in conjunction with the exhibition will offer audiences the opportunity to learn more about Haring and his work.

On Thursday, March 16, at 7 p.m., art historian Amy Raffel will discuss Haring's subway drawings and artistic development in the early 1980s. On Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m., Angelina Lippert, chief curator at the Poster House in New York, will give a talk at Next Stage Arts Project in Putney on how posters marry the worlds of art and commerce.

For more information on these and other BMAC events, visit brattleboromuseum.org.

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For more information on these and other BMAC events, visit brattleboromuseum.org.

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JANUARY 20-26

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NIGHTLY 6:50 PM

AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER PG-13
DAILY MATINEES 3:30 PM
NIGHTLY 7 PM

PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG
DAILY MATINEES 4:15 PM
NIGHTLY 6:45 PM

THE WHALE R
FRI. / MON. / WED. 3:45 PM
7:10 PM
SAT. & SUN. 2 PM

NEYT plans auditions for upcoming winter musical

BRATTLEBORO—New England Youth Theater (NEYT) says it is "thrilled to offer a captivating musical theater opportunity" for performers aged 15–19 (14 with guardian consent). According to a news release, NEYT staff say they are "still waiting to secure the rights," and therefore are not able to release the title of the show at this time.

What they can share is "that Rebecca Waxman will be directing, working alongside a vibrant artistic team dedicated to fostering an experience full of discovery, humor and challenge."

"This production contains mature themes that question ideas of freedom, morality, prejudice, self-delusion and survival. The trailblazing book and score create

a world that is intended to push against boundaries and comfort zones of performers and audiences alike."

Auditions for this show will take place on Jan. 23 and 24, from 3:45 to 6:45 p.m., at NEYT. Rehearsals are expected to begin Jan. 30, with no rehearsals during the week of Feb. 27 (school winter break).

Eight performances are planned Fridays through Sundays on March 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 (rain date: March 26), with a reflection day for all participants on Monday, March 27.

To sign up, or for more information, visit neyt.org/2023-schedule.

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TUESDAY CONT.

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

Why Does My Dog Do That? (via Zoom): "This session will cover my most-asked behavior questions, debunk a few myths, give you ideas for immediate help, and discuss when to consult a professional. When you register, you'll have a chance to submit a question you've been wondering about. (I'll do my best to get to as many as I can during the session)." Presented by Janice Zazinski, Janice Z Dog Training LLC, Townshend, VT.

- 1-1:40 p.m. Session recorded and available afterwards. Suitable for children. Zazinski is a Canine Behavior Consultant, Certified Dog Trainer & Counselor, Certified Separation Anxiety Trainer, Family Paws Parent Educator.
- \$10 registration fee (100% of this fee will go to support the work of the Windham County Humane Society).
- Zoom. Information: Register: janicezdogtraining.as.me/windhamcountyzoom.

WEDNESDAY

25

Kids and families

BRATTLEBORO The Village Closet: Your source for free baby, children, pregnancy clothing/items. Donations of gently used items welcome. We're collecting new and "like new" children's coats and winter gear for our Kids in Coats partnership with United Way of Windham County. If you have items to donate, stop by soon.

- Open Wednesdays 4-6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-12 noon, or by appointment. On Wednesdays, Everyone Eats will be distributing free dinners on campus from 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Free.
- The Village Closet, Croker Hall, Wintson Prouty Campus, 60 Austine Dr. Information: More info: brattleborovillage@gmail.com.

Well-being

PUTNEY "Walking the Teacher's Path With Mindfulness": A Reading and Mindfulness Introduction with Richard Brady: Richard's book, "Walking the Teacher's Path with Mindfulness: Stories for Reflection and Action," offers anecdotes from his life as

WEDNESDAY CONT.

teacher/mindfulness practitioner to help us encounter life with mindfulness/new vigor in our work. He shares his experience as a student/teacher in areas such as motivation, agency/freedom, creativity, nurturing presence, community. Each story has reflections/contemplations inviting us to connect with our own experience and ultimately action.

- 6:30 p.m. Richard's book is written for educators and anyone interested in exploring the process of transformation. Event includes readings and experiential components focusing on mindfulness.
- Free.
- Putney Public Library, 55 Main St. Information: 802-387-4407; putneylibrary.org/events.

Community meals

DUMMERSTON Wednesday Lunch - Evening Star Grange and Senior Solutions (Council on Aging): This week's menu is Kielbasa Skillet with baked beans, vegetarian quiche, broccoli/cauliflower au gratin and a fruit dessert ambrosia.

- 12 noon: Eat-in meal. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: Take-out.

► Donation of \$3 for ages 60 and above, \$4 suggested for the younger set.

► **Dummerston Center Grange and Church, 1008 East-West Rd. Reservations strongly suggested so that we have enough food prepared. Call to reserve meal: 802-254-1138. Leave name, phone #, # of meals, whether you want take-out or are eating in.**

To submit your event: calendar@commonsnews.org

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

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THE COLONIAL

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Epsilon Spires hosts Surrealist Games in the spirit of co-creation

BRATTLEBORO—The Social Engagement Salon at Epsilon Spires will be the setting for surprising juxtapositions and playful absurdity during two events in late January.

On the afternoon of Saturday, Jan 21, Roger Clark Miller of the post-punk band Mission of Burma will perform music on the prepared piano before hosting an evening of “Exquisite Corpse” word games and group drawing exercises.

The following Saturday at 7 p.m., local artist and radio host Wendy M. Levy will lead a workshop in surrealist cut-up collage, in which participants will create their own works of art using diverse source materials.

“It’s still a thrill for me to see

people, many who never met before they sat down together to play, collectively create something brand new,” Miller said in a news release.

Miller has previously hosted surrealist game nights at venues such as MassMoCA and the Institute for Contemporary Art in Boston. He has also performed at Epsilon Spires as part of the Anvil Orchestra, who provided a live soundtrack for the silent German expressionist film *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*.

Miller has been working with the prepared piano for decades, which is a technique of placing objects on and between the strings in the body of the instrument to create new scales and intonations. He will set the mood for

his event with a performance on the baby grand piano in the intimate Social Engagement Salon at Epsilon Spires, where participants will then play collaborative games developed by artists such as André Breton who were involved in the surrealist movement of the 1920s and 30s.

Both events are geared toward participants of all backgrounds and skill levels.

“Art is for everyone and can be made by anyone,” says Levy, who describes her artistic practice as “firmly placed in the ‘DIY’ tradition, which rejects oppression, capitalism, and social control by using absurdity and humor as instruments of celebration and defense.”

Her collage workshop is best



Roger Clark Miller, center, guides participants in an evening of surrealist games at Real Art Ways in Hartford, Connecticut.

suited for adults age 18 and older due to the mature themes that can emerge from a technique utilizing randomness and juxtaposition. Some materials will be provided, but participants are encouraged to explore their surroundings for unique source material to bring to the workshop.

Miller and Levy will play surrealist-inspired DJ sets during their events, and thematic refreshments inspired by the infamously conceptual cookbooks of Salvador Dali will be provided.

Advanced tickets are recommended in order to make sure there are enough materials for all attendees. Tickets are available on a sliding scale from \$5-\$15 at epsilonspires.org.



Wendy M. Levy

River Gallery School of Art receives support for inclusive artmaking

BRATTLEBORO—River Gallery School of Art (RGS) recently announced it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to receive a Challenge America award of \$10,000, and a Creative Futures Grant of \$45,000 from the Vermont Arts Council.

These grants will support community building and inclusive arts programming.

The NEA grant is one of 262 Challenge America awards, totaling \$2.62 million that were announced by the NEA as part of its first round of fiscal year

2023 grants.


The Creative Futures grant is one of 49 awards made to creative sector organizations and businesses made by the Vermont Arts Council in its first round of funding. This program is supported by \$9 million from Vermont’s share of the American Rescue Plan Act.

“Art engages us, opens our eyes to new ways of seeing, brings joy, and creates community,” RGS Chief Ingenuity Officer Mary Lou Forward said in a news release. “We are thrilled to be receiving financial support from the NEA and Vermont Arts Council

that will allow us to continue to offer our inclusive, high-quality programming to all who want to participate.”

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects in communities nationwide,” said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson. “Projects such as this one with River Gallery School of Art strengthen arts and cultural ecosystems, provide equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, and contribute to the health of our communities and our economy.”

River Gallery School of Art says its mission is “to foster an inclusive art-making community where people are able to realize their creative capabilities and express themselves fully.” They offer art making in their studios on Main Street, online, and in partnership with local organizations and schools. For more information, visit rivergalleryschool.org.



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find out a lot about myself by sleeping. Dreams, they are who I am when I'm too tired to be me.
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Brattleboro Concert Choir concerts focus on the concept of help in troubled times

BRATTLEBORO—“Help! Music for Troubled Times” is the theme of two Brattleboro Concert Choir (BCC) concerts, scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 22, at 4 p.m. at the Latchis Theatre.

According to BCC Director Jonathan Harvey, “Our program is focused on the idea of asking for, and receiving, aid. In this turbulent age, seeking help is an act both of necessity and of bravery, and the pieces on the program all

touch on this idea from different perspectives.

“In the music of two 20th-century musicians — Black Canadian-American composer and conductor Nathaniel Dett, and British composer and organist Herbert Howells — we find cries for help that are in turns quiet, insistent, humble, violent, polite, grandiose, sacred, and secular.”

Harvey explains that Dett and Howells both wrote in styles that have clear stylistic roots, but are profoundly individualized and idiosyncratic.

“For a listener, this means you will hear music that is somewhat familiar on its face, but just beneath the surface, is filled with surprises and twists,” he says. “Quite often, these surprises are all about strengthening the emotional impact of a musical moment — this is very deeply felt music.”

General admission is \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Tickets are available at the Brattleboro Music Center, online at bmcvt.org, by phone at 802-257-4523, or by email at info@bmcvt.org.

‘Regenerations’

FROM SECTION FRONT

contemporary dancemaker, educator, and activist. Her poetry collection *Clothesline Religion* was nominated for the 2018 Vermont Book Award. Her work has been published in journals and anthologies, was featured at Art at the Kent in 2021, and is currently part of the collaborative poetry and land trust project *Writing the Land*.

Last summer, the gallery at Next Stage Arts Project hosted an exhibition of Buchanan’s poems alongside paintings by Nathan Shepard. Her work has been supported by the Arts Council of Windham County, the Vermont Arts Council, Vermont Performance Lab, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Arizona

Commission on the Arts.

Born in Laguna Beach, California, a few miles north of the now-decommissioned San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Buchanan started a nuclear freeze club in middle school and was arrested at the Nevada Test Site (on unceded Southern Paiute and Western Shoshone land known as Newe Sogobia) along with hundreds of other activists.

These early experiences sparked a lifelong dedication to sacred sites and environmental justice activism. She moved to Vermont with her two children in 2010. In addition to her work as a poet and performer, she currently works as a teacher at three area schools.

Admission is \$10 (\$5 for BMAC members, free for students). Tickets may be booked at brattleboromuseum.org or by calling 802-257-0124, ext. 101. Audience members are required to wear masks during this event. Masks will be made available to those who need them.

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VIEWPOINT

Systems stretched beyond the limit for helping those needing shelter

‘If you think what’s happening now is bad, think about what will happen next spring and summer, when up to 150 additional homeless households find themselves without a room to stay in’

Brattleboro

IN ADDITION to several other programs that address food and housing insecurity, Groundworks Collaborative operates a 30-bed shelter and a 34-bed low-barrier shelter on South Main Street — both of which are at full occupancy.

The shelter is the current incarnation of what was once Brattleboro’s Seasonal Overflow Shelter, which Groundworks was able to make year-round with the opening of our new South Main Street facility in 2021.

To the immediate concern that brought Groundworks to the Jan. 10 Brattleboro Selectboard meeting, we estimate that — despite our two shelters and the state’s ongoing motel program — on any given night, roughly 10 to 15 unsheltered individuals are still living in our community.

We are currently in a housing crisis — as we were prior to the pandemic and as we were 10 years ago.

This crisis is not new, and even as the numbers of shelter beds and motel rooms have increased, the need for shelter has outpaced the increase in availability.

Furthermore, the systemic factors that contribute to these circumstances have only intensified, including:

- insufficient staffing for mental health services
- rampant addiction
- and, most importantly, limited housing stock.

ULTIMATELY, WE ARE seeing two overlapping crises, either of which is a challenge in its own right.

We find ourselves in a community that is simply deficient in rental units. This is a game of musical chairs, and the people in the most vulnerable situations simply do not have a place to sit

JON HOOVER is director of operations for Groundworks Collaborative, where he has worked in various capacities since 2014. This piece largely follows the remarks he made at the Jan. 10 meeting of the Brattleboro Selectboard. To learn more about Groundworks and its programs, and to contribute to its work, visit groundworksvt.org.

when the music stops.

Meanwhile, we also have a number of vulnerable community members whose pathway to housing sustainability — even if they could find housing — will be successful only with robust community support and services when, and if, they transition into housing.

We see resources available to work on the housing stock in our community and excellent progress, but ultimately, adding new housing units can take years to develop.

IT BREAKS OUR HEARTS — and in saying so, I speak for every single person who works at Groundworks — to not be able to help someone with a bed when the shelter is full. It is counter-intuitive to why we are here and the service we are trying to provide.

In those cases, we work to connect people to the resources provided by the state of Vermont for emergency motel stays — and if that’s not an option, we’ll provide them with what they need for camping.

Vermont’s emergency housing services are saturated through and through. And the community is correct in raising concerns that sometimes the result is emergency motel rooms being offered only in other parts of the state.



BRATTLEBORO MUSEUM & ART CENTER, VIA FLICKR

Steven Kinder, "the burden" (2017), Cardboard signs purchased from people living on the streets of New York, bamboo, metal, adhesive, and cement base, 150 x 60 x 27 inches. Displayed at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center in 2020.

Funding, staffing, and capacity for community supports are all stretched past the current limit. This last and only option — a motel room in another community without the transportation to access it — is a very unfortunate outcome.

WHEN IT COMES to shelter capacity, I want to define the scope of the problem as we see it at Groundworks.

While space is an issue, we do not see it as the issue. If all we needed was additional space to open a third shelter, we would have reached out to the town months — if not years — ago to support us in that.

At Groundworks, we see this as a services issue — and I say services, not just staffing.

As one of the last safety nets in our community, we take seriously our mandate to make our shelter at South Main Street as accessible as possible. It is a low-barrier shelter, meaning:

- Some of the people staying with us regularly struggle to take care of themselves in basic ways.
- Many have complex mental health issues that

present challenges in navigating the dynamics of a shared-living environment — like a congregate shelter — and need consistent staff assistance.

- Others have significant physical health issues that need monitoring and support.

- While violence directed towards staff is very rare, violence and threats of violence are an ongoing concern among guests. While violent actions result in someone being asked to leave, we have worked with a number of guests in a restorative process that does allow them to come back and stay with us down the line.

The front-line advocates in our programs are called to work with an inpatient complexity of issues and need, yet we operate in a non-clinical setting, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. Amidst these challenges, the best starting wages we can afford, given the funding we have, is \$18 per hour.

They are doing incredible work, and I am persistently thankful that they continue to show up — and at that wage, effectively donate some of

■ SEE HOMELESSNESS, C2

VIEWPOINT

A state senator reflects on 20 years of progress

‘Each of these issues required working with others — often those with whom I disagreed — to come to the best solutions’

Putney

ON JAN. 4, I saw our new Windham County senators sworn in. We will be well served by Sen. Wendy Harrison and Sen. Nader Hashim.

It was a bittersweet day for me. For the first time in 20 years, I will not be serving in seat 16.

Although it always sounds a bit trite, it has truly been an honor and a humbling experience to have had the faith of Windham County for two decades. Thank you.

When I first decided not to run, my friend, Sen. Tim Ashe, suggested I look over the past years to review the issues that I worked hard on — those that might not have happened without

JEANETTE WHITE represented Windham County in the Vermont Senate from 2003 to 2022.

me or that might have happened in a very different way.

As I was doing so, what struck me most was that each of these issues required working with others — often those with whom I disagreed — to come to the best solutions.

This realization reaffirmed my belief that there is a huge difference between being an advocate/activist and a policymaker. As an advocate/activist, you know you are right — your

position is the one that should be adopted. As a policymaker, you need to realize that there are advocates on all sides of any issue who know they are right and that your job is to listen to all those perspectives and do the best thing — the right thing — for Vermont and Vermonters.

This means compromise (not a dirty word), respecting others, and admitting you don’t know everything.

The other important thing for policy makers to remember is that everything is always changing.

Very few issues are ever resolved; mostly, they are addressed, re-addressed, and re-addressed. This sounds like kicking the can down the

■ SEE WHITE REFLECTS, C2



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/COMMONS FILE PHOTO

Jeanette White



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Homelessness

FROM SECTION FRONT

their time — to help who we can. To run a shelter that is as accessible as we want it to be, it is incumbent on the leadership of Groundworks to provide a variety of trainings and thoughtful supervisory supports, and to operate a 24-hour internal on-call service for all of our programs.

And with all that, given the complexity of need in our programs, things still feel tenuous on many days and nights.

So, YES — space is an issue. Could we have a few more people sleep on the floor at our shelter? Perhaps. Is there space to open up an additional shelter in town? Probably. But ultimately, an immense amount of human resources are needed to safely run a shelter that is serving the complexity of need in our community.

Someone walking the streets all night to stay warm is what the tip of the iceberg looks like. Stack up layer after layer of a housing crisis, a mental health crisis, poverty, workforce issues, and substance use, and you'll see the ugly, inhumane, and tragic summit.

That's what you'll see when you read the article in the paper some morning reporting that someone froze to death unsheltered. It's where all those things that most of us don't want to and don't have to look at result in a tragic and preventable death.

All this, and I haven't even mentioned the likely possibility that the Legislature will not provide new funding to extend the motel program past this coming spring.

If you think what's happening now is bad, think about what will happen next spring and summer, when up to 150 additional homeless households find themselves without a room to stay in.

It literally keeps me up at night.

GROUNDWORKS IS PULLED between two callings: operating in a way that is welcoming to our guests and sustainable for our

staff. We are called to meet our guests and our community with these present needs — helping as many people as we can to meet their basic needs, such as shelter. We also strive, in this mission, to render services in a manner that have integrity, quality, and safety infused to the core.

Reconciling these two objectives is challenging but not necessarily insurmountable.

I am honored to be part of a compassionate, caring, and supportive community. If a community-driven and collaborative effort to provide additional shelter is prepared to do whatever we can, with others, to support that.

This community has a superlative track record in doing just that.

Two recent initiatives come to mind:

- We rose to the challenge of bringing refugees out of war and strife to a place of not just safety but a new home. Collaboration across a number of sectors and robust volunteer engagement made that happen.
- This community, gave Groundworks a new home.

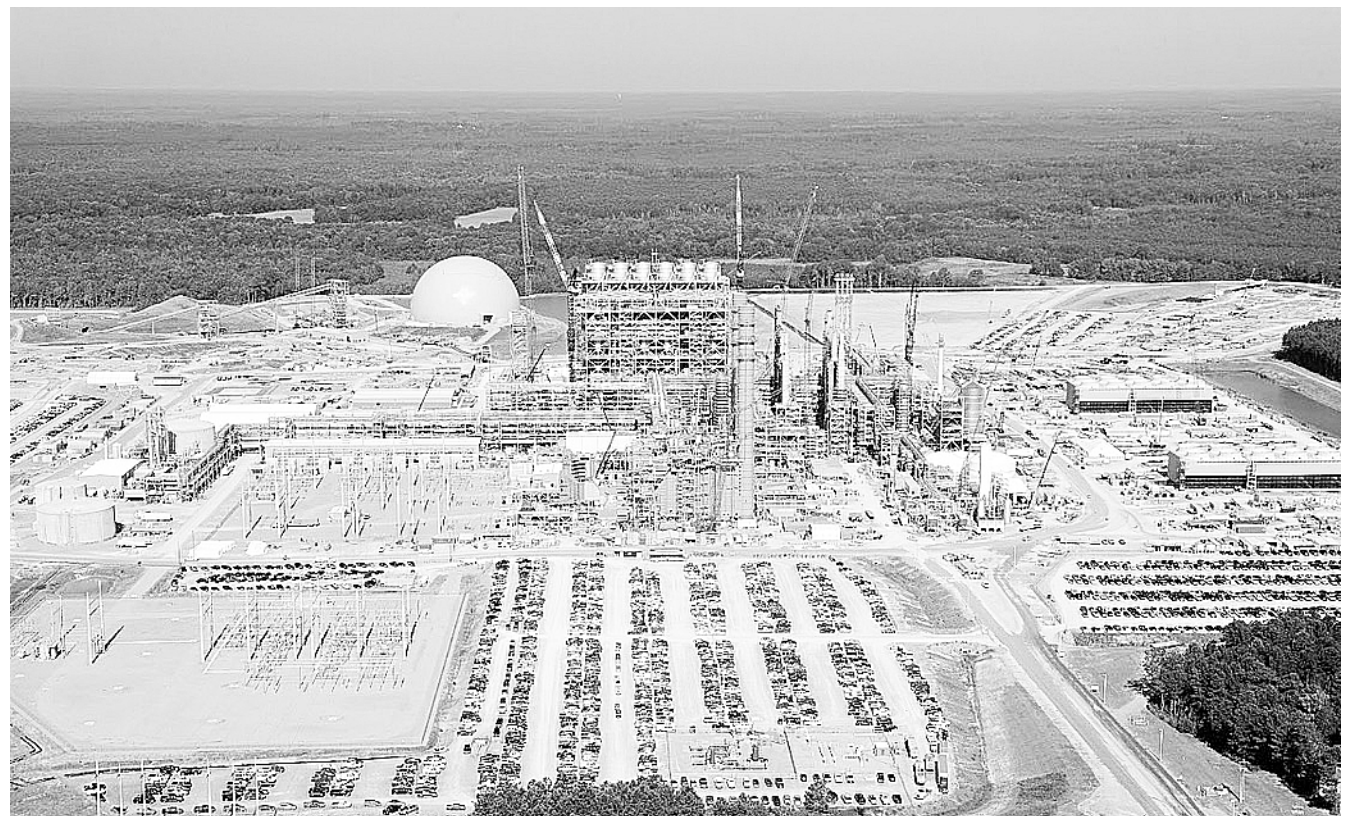
Through your support, you took a seasonal emergency shelter that was often trying to just find a place to open each winter and helped build a year-round shelter that now is providing 34 vital beds every night of the year in our community.

We're ready to take the next step, with you all, in creating a funded and collaborative solution — not just for the next cold night, but all the way to this coming year and the unwinding of the state's motel program.

Right now, the need is dire and, for some, urgent. It will become all the more urgent and serious for many more later this year.

While I have great concern, I am also hopeful, as I trust in you all. I trust this community to respond with compassion, creativity, and commitment to act — and to collectively see our way through this difficult time to a better future.

VIEWPOINT



XTUV010 WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Kemper Project in Mississippi was hailed as a model for carbon capture. It never even opened.

The push is on for nuclear

No longer are the oil, gas, and chemical industries trying to convince people that climate change isn't real. Now, they spout false solutions and distractions to discourage any meaningful structural changes in our transportation and energy policies.

Guilford

IN THE ONLY scenario that promises a possible livable planet for our grandchildren, the oil and gas companies will have to basically stop existing.

In many ways, these industries have seen this outcome long before the mainstream environmental community, much less the liberal establishment.

Yet proposed and existing legislation essentially calls for barely tweaking the current, totally unsustainable lifestyles of wealthy Americans, without any structural changes in such vital reforms as building out light rail, funding high-speed rail, highway design standards that require sidewalks and bike lanes, access to mass transit, sustainable housing codes, a brand new policy covering the generation of electricity, and so much more.

It is possible the Koch brothers were visionary in their pursuit of planetary destruction. They understood years ago that they needed to create a firewall of lies and cash to sustain their huge profits.

Millions, probably billions of dollars, have gone into the fabrication of stories, such as the disturbing noise from wind turbines.

We have seen towns reject solar farms for the most suspect reasons: in Catawba County, North Carolina the rejection was based on “water quality, noise, and health.” Huh?

A different North Carolina community, Woodland, rejected solar because (I am not making this up) the solar farms would suck up all the energy from the sun and prevent local plants from photosynthesizing!

There are now greenwashing organizations — no doubt

NANCY BRAUS, an independent bookseller, is a longtime activist.

funded by the fossil fuel industry — with names like “Citizens for Responsible Solar,” which link solar panels with such absurdities as undermining “eco and historical tourism,” and that the “bill for decommissioning will fall on local taxpayers.” That last argument has never been even voiced for any industrial project in my lifetime.

Since the heavily funded Tea Party pseudo-movement, there have been far-right campaigns that have drawn in many Fox News watchers.

As an observer of the right, I've found it interesting and depressing to see these well-funded and professional sudden attacks on libraries, school curricula, elections, and so many other institutions that create a stable country.

The far-right funders have often made their fortunes from the oil, gas, and chemical industries. For example, according to *The Guardian*, Moms for Liberty — the main group working on book bans of any book that might show the negative consequences of slavery or show images of gay people — is strongly connected with Parents Defending Education (PDE).

PDE is headed by Nicole Neily, who has worked at the Cato Institute, funded by Charles Koch. These organizations have also rallied against the teaching of real science in schools — and, of course, that includes any discussion of climate or of species extinctions.

THE INVENTION of supposed grassroots issues for the political right to rally around is not

a new tactic, but one we really need to call out.

These fossil-fuel billionaires are wily: They know that now that people are directly feeling the terrible impacts of climate destruction in their daily lives, denial will no longer do the job.

So when they witness what we all saw last summer, for example — unprecedented heat and wildfires in Europe, terrible suffering in South Asia, the fires in the U.S. West, floods around the world — the money goes toward false solutions and distraction.

The push is on for nuclear energy, which has never worked without creating amazingly toxic byproducts and causing cancer with their emissions, not to mention Fukushima-style accidents.

Nuclear is the only fuel source that allows huge energy corporations to continue to maintain control of the grid. Billions of dollars were allocated for the failed concept of “carbon capture.” During the Obama administration, the government poured \$7.5 billion into the Kemper Project in Mississippi, a model for carbon capture. It never even opened.

The next attempt was the Petra Nova coal plant in Texas. After year three, the plant was being touted as a huge success. It was shut down one year later.

In the huge spending bill just passed in Congress, nuclear

and carbon capture are recipients of billions of dollars.

AND SO FAR, the fossil fuel billionaires are successful: We are on track for another hottest year in history, another summer of suffering for millions, especially the poor of the world.

As climate activists, we always need to call out the lies of those fighting for a future where only the wealthy can live in comfort.

The super rich are already buying up property in a frenzy in areas they feel will be safest in the new world of climate. We see this here in Vermont, but nothing like the Northwest United States, New Zealand, and a few other select sites.

Climate refugees are just beginning to flee the deadly heat that kills more people, mainly those who are poor, every summer. Every year, we think, “Isn't this wildfire, this destroyed town, this 104-degree day in London, isn't this enough to get people moving? To change minds?”

I am not sure what can do the job, but I am looking at a week in Vermont in January where the temperature will be near 60 degrees one day.

We know we have the youth of the world on our team: Young people are terrified for their future. I am a grandmother, and I am constantly wondering how most of my generation can comfortably live with themselves doing nothing, knowing that those we brought into the world will not have the benefit of the climate we have appreciated.

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White reflects

FROM SECTION FRONT

road. Actually, incremental change is almost always better than dramatic change or no change. And each change makes us aware of unintended consequences and new challenges to address — after all, nothing is static.

SO, IN THE SPIRIT of nostalgia, here are a few of the things on my list.

- Elections reform, including Election Day registration, online registration, and mail-out ballots
- Municipal government reform, acknowledging our municipalities are the real seats of democracy
- Patient choice at end of life
- Establishing the Office of Racial Equity
- Putting light on the issue of burn pits in the military
- Establishing emergency measures to keep government working during Covid
- Setting up medical marijuana dispensaries
- Decriminalizing and, ultimately, legalizing cannabis
- Addressing campaign finance regulations
- Addressing gender issues in the National Guard
- Establishing the Ethics Commission
- Working with law enforcement for positive changes, including changes to the Criminal Justice Council
- Offering more support and

making changes to our emergency medical services system

- Making changes to save our teachers' and state employees' pension system

And then, of course, there are all the issues we addressed that I was not intimately involved in but supported. I will not even begin to go there.

AS I END this chapter, I again want to say what an honor it has been. Simply being in the State House and the Senate Chamber is exciting — it's almost as if you can feel the ghosts of those who have served before swirling around there.

Over those 20 years I was blessed to serve with great people from Windham County and across the state. I learned from each of them.

Upon leaving the Senate, I gave these four pieces of advice to all the new senators.

1. Don't take yourself too seriously — you are never as smart as you think you are.
 2. Everyone in this chamber is special — you are no more special than anyone else.
 3. Build relationships, especially with those with whom you disagree.
 4. Respect the institution itself — it is the embodiment of our democracy.
- Thank you, Windham County, and on to the next chapter.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Insurers' actions force pharmacy out of business

I was a Hotel Pharmacy prescription customer who experienced examples of how they were forced out of business. Hotel Pharmacy told me that my Medicare Part D insurer has contracted with the manufacturer to cover the brand-name version of a common medication and deny coverage of generic equivalents. ...

Howard Fairman Putney

Impossible to measure the loss of Hotel Pharmacy

Our town is about to lose a cherished family business: Hotel Pharmacy will close its doors after four decades. It is really impossible to measure the loss until it happens. While never taken for granted, they — like a good family member — have always been here when you needed them. ...

Remember KidsPLAYce, support for youth sports, valuable employment for high school students, college scholarships, and contributions to countless town artistic and charitable events, to name a few. Like so many in the community, our family was fortunate to have them as our pharmacy from their beginning. ...

Church launches discussion series with conversation about Christian nationalism Jesus Christ, we invoke your name! Thank you for allowing the United States of America to be reborn.... In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen! ...

Two years ago, as throngs of supporters of former President Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol to disrupt the peaceful transition of power from one administration to the next, several made their way into the Senate chamber, where the sentiments above were expressed. ...

Nearby, rioters in the Rotunda, overcome with emotion, erupted into chorus beneath the Apotheosis of Washington, belting out the refrain of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, followed by an impromptu prayer: "Thank you for letting us stand up for our country. Guide us so that we may do your will." ...

every facet of the events of Jan. 6, 2021, from start to aftermath. While it's been clear all along that most of the rioters were Christian and expressed their motivations accordingly, coverage and analysis of the incident has largely focused on the cultural and political commitments of the rioters. ...

Which is why on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m., Newfane Church will host a public conversation on Christian nationalism. We're thrilled to be joined by Dr. Erica M. Ramirez, director of the Center for the Study of Theological Expression at Auburn Theological Seminary. ...

Each month we'll tackle a different topic in the hope of creating opportunities to face hard, uncomfortable, high-stakes questions, together, in healthy, generative ways that stoke our curiosity, illumine our perspectives, and make space for real difference. You can RSVP for the event by emailing me directly at matt@newfane.church. ...

No-cause eviction charter change could have unintended consequences A petition seeks to do away with what are known as "no-cause evictions" in a March 7 vote to amend the Town Charter. The Reformer quotes Marta Gossage, who submitted the petition and makes sweeping unsubstantiated statements that tenants are getting evicted without cause at a greater rate than in the past. ...

The first is when one tenant is endangering the peace and safety of other tenants but the other tenants do not want to have to testify for fear of retribution while they all live under the same roof during the lengthy eviction process. By pursuing a no-cause eviction, the property owner is able to protect the other tenants. ...

The second, somewhat-related reason is when a tenant's behavior is in violation of the lease and/or the law but is difficult to prove. The most common example of this is suspected drug dealing. The police will not act on evidence that a tenant has frequent "guests" for short durations at all hours. ...

What is a property owner to do? Let the behavior continue? Hope that a Judge in civil court will agree there is adequate evidence of illegal activity? No, the property owner may give notice of termination for no cause, putting an end to the activity and, again, protecting the other tenants. The third instance of when notices of no-cause termination are given is when a property owner chooses not to renew a tenant's lease that has expired by its own agreed-upon terms. ...

The proposed charter amendment would do away with a property owner's ability to protect their good tenants without subjecting them to further harassment, if not outright danger, from the offending tenant. It would also require a property owner to allow a tenant to remain in possession of their apartment forever, essentially giving the tenant more rights over what happens with the property than the owner. ...

From the property owners and managers and tenants that I have spoken with, evictions of any kind are undesired and difficult for both landlord and tenant. I think it is important for voters in Brattleboro to see property owners, managers, and tenants as being on the same side, so to speak, in the housing market. ...

Landlords are not all bad, tenants are not all good. The majority of both groups are, in fact, very good. The housing crisis is much more complex, and we as a community need to work together to make this work for everyone in the community. Putting these kinds of restraints on property owners only seeks to widen the divide. ...

My nemesis, the computer The computerness of modern life savages too many of my days. By "computerness" I mean the combination of my own computer's erraticness and the perversity of systems and businesses I have to deal with. You can attribute some of my difficulty to being old. But most of the difficulties are not of my making. ...

It has not increased human happiness. It has speeded communication and life beyond what humans were designed for. It has enabled the proliferation of options beyond our need, cluttered our days, intruded everywhere, facilitated terrorism, and shallowed childhood. ...

Curmudgeonly, Byron Stookey Brattleboro

Curmudgeonly, Byron Stookey Brattleboro

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COLUMN | *Sports Roundup*

Terrier girls fall to Arlington

When you look at the successful high school sports programs in Vermont, they all have one thing in common — continuity in coaching and player development.

However, it takes time and patience to build a successful team, not to mention being fortunate enough to have some good athletes at your school.

The Bellows Falls girls' basketball team has some good athletes on the team this season, but it is a young team of sophomores and juniors with new coaches — head coach Dennis Fitzgerald and assistant coach Sandy Smidutz.

"We're rebuilding this year," said Fitzgerald after his team's 52-40 loss to the Arlington Eagles at Holland Gymnasium on Jan. 14. "Last year, we were 3-18. Our first goal is to learn the game. Our second goal is to have fun. And our third goal is to win more than three games."

The Terriers are close to achieving the third goal with wins against Twin Valley, Mill River, and Mid-Vermont Christian so far this season. Those teams, especially Twin Valley and Mill River, are also struggling to learn and improve as Bellows Falls is struggling to learn and improve.

Against Arlington, the Terriers showed flashes of potential. Defensively, they gave the Eagles fits as the two teams played to a 10-10 tie after one quarter.

But the combination of the Terriers not making their shots and picking up fouls to give the Eagles multiple trips to the free throw line added up to 21-14 lead for Arlington at halftime, and a 44-23 lead after three quarters.

The free throw disparity was a big one. Arlington attempted 30 free throws, and made 18 of them. BF had four attempts, and made only one free throw.

A late surge in the fourth quarter by the Terriers made the outcome a little more respectable, but it was clear that this is a team that is learning as it goes in the hope that the hard lessons learned this season will translate into success next season.

BF junior forward Laura Kamel led the Terriers with 14 points, while sophomore guard Izzy Stoodley added 10 points. Arlington had only three players in the scoring column as Sidney Herrington had a game-high 25 points and Lily Hosley and Taylor Wilkins added 14 and 13 points, respectively.

Girls' basketball

- After a 40-32 win over Long Trail on Jan. 10, Leland & Gray hit the mid-point of the season with a 9-1 record and firm control of the No. 2 spot in the Division IV standings, just one game behind undefeated West Rutland. Against Long Trail, Maggie Parker scored 15 points to lead the Rebels. Samantha Morse added 12 points.

- Freshman guard Reese Croutworst connected on a last-second three-pointer in overtime to give Brattleboro a 34-31 road win over the Springfield Cosmos on Jan. 9. Croutworst led the Colonels with a season-high 16 points, and Mallory Newton chipped in seven points. Springfield's top player, Macie Stagner, led the Cosmos with 14 points before fouling out early in the fourth quarter.

Two nights later, the Colonels



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT, deputy editor of this newspaper, has written this column for more than a decade and has covered sports in Windham County since the 1980s. Readers can send him sports information at news@commonsnews.org.

suffered a 57-22 loss to St. Johnsbury. Hayden Wilkins led the Hilltoppers with 17 points. The Colonels ended the week at 4-7 with a 52-31 loss to Fair Haven on Jan. 14.

- Mill River ended a 34-game losing streak with a 30-6 win over Twin Valley on Jan. 9 in Jacksonville. Mill River had an 18-6 lead at the half and held the Wildcats scoreless in the second half. A 17-7 loss at Rivendell on Jan. 14 left the Wildcats with a 0-5 record so far this season.

Boys' basketball

- Bellows Falls got a big win on Jan. 10 with a 58-55 victory over Springfield before a full house at Holland Gymnasium.

BF led 29-23 at the half, but Springfield kept it close in an intense game befitting the long rivalry between these two schools. Jake Moore scored 13 points and Jamison Nystrom added 12 points to lead the Terriers, while Carson Clark had a game-high 18 points for the Cosmos.

- Brattleboro defeated Woodstock, 63-44, on Jan. 10. The visiting Colonels got 18 points from Tate Chamberlin along with 12 points from Paul McGillion and 11 points from Cam Frost. The Colonels are now 6-3.

- Leland & Gray lost to



Bellows Falls forward Laura Kamel, center, attracted plenty of attention from Arlington's defense in the Terriers' 52-40 loss to the Eagles on Jan. 14 at Holland Gymnasium.

Rivendell, 69-48, on Jan. 10 but then took advantage of a short-handed Mill River squad to beat the Minutemen, 65-35, on Jan. 13 in Townshend. Parker Jennings scored 21 points, including four three-pointers, to lead the 4-3 Rebels to the win.

- Twin Valley lost to Arlington, 56-34, on Jan. 10 to fall to 1-7 on the season.

Boys' hockey

- Brattleboro came back from a three-goal deficit to beat Milton, 5-4, on Jan. 10. Evan Wright, who had two goals and two assists, got the game-winning goal in the third period to cap off the Colonels' rally. Alex Dick added a pair of goals and two assists, and

Henry Schwartz also scored for the Colonels. With an 8-4 win over Burlington on Jan. 14 at Withington Rink, the Colonels are now 3-6-1 on the season.

- A spaghetti dinner to benefit the Brattleboro Union High School varsity boys' ice hockey team will be held on Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Brattleboro Elks on Putney Road from 6 to 8 p.m. Take-out will also be available.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. Members of the hockey team will be the servers, while desserts will be provided by their parents and a prize raffle will be held during dinner. Dinner and raffle tickets can be purchased in advance from members of

the hockey team, or at the door.

Girls' hockey

- Brattleboro lost a heart-breaker on Jan 11 with a 5-4 overtime defeat against Stowe. With one second left in regulation, Brattleboro's Lilianna Carignan scored the tying goal that sent the game into overtime.

Stowe's Isabel Donza then scored the game-winner with one minute left in OT. It was her third goal of the game, and gave Stowe its first win of the season. Willow Romo had three goals and an assist to lead the visiting Colonels. Alexandra Gregory also had an assist and goaltender Angela Jobin made 30 saves.

With a 10-1 loss at Hartford on Jan. 14, the Colonels fell to 1-8 on the season.

Senior bowling roundup

- Week 2 of the winter/spring season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on Jan. 12 saw Teams 1 and 5 tied for first with 8-2 records, Team 3 is 7-3, Team 4 is 5-5, Teams 6, 7, and 8 are 4-6, and Team 2 is 0-10.

Diane Cooke had the women's high handicap game (248), while Sally Perry had the high handicap series (660). Chuck Adams had the men's high handicap game (259) and series (688). Team 8 had the high team handicap game (1,914) and Team 4 had the high handicap series (2,571).

In scratch scoring, Adams led the men with a 688 series with games of 259, 232, and 197. Robert Rigby had a 626 series with games of 219, 217, and 190, while Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 604 series with a 232 game. Jerry Dunham had a 567 series that featured games of 202 and 198. John Walker had a 551 series with a 214 game and Charlie Marchant had had a 516 series with a 190 game.

Carol Gloski had the women's high scratch series (509) and game (192). Cooke had a 177 game.

Marathon man

- In 1972, Michael Fairchild won the Equinox Marathon in Fairbanks, Alaska in a time of 3 hours, 5 minutes and 15 seconds. Fifty years later, the

71-year-old Brattleboro man was the 213th overall finisher in the Equinox in 5:35:49.

"It was a thrill to be back in Fairbanks," Fairchild wrote in an email to *The Commons*. In this year's race, Fairchild was second in the men's age 70-74 division and was 139th out of 200 male finishers.

Fairchild wrote that the Equinox is a mountain/trail marathon. "At the time, it was likely the only one of its type in the country," wrote Fairchild. "The race gains 3,200 feet of elevation. The high point was Ester Dome, where on a clear day one can see over to [Mount] Denali. Trail challenges were part of the race, but the year I was there 6 inches of snow covered the top area of Ester Dome."

Fairchild said when he first ran the race in the early 1970s, just as the boom in distance running was beginning in the U.S., the Equinox "drew many more participants than the Boston Marathon. When Boston was drawing 200 plus runners, the Equinox was drawing 800 to 1,000." He added that, unlike the Boston Marathon in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Equinox didn't have an age limit and allowed women to enter.

Good luck, Shane

- Shane Covey, the sports editor of the *Brattleboro Reformer*, last week announced he was stepping away from his position after nearly 15 years on the job. I was at the *Reformer* during my second tour when Shane, a Brattleboro native, joined the staff in 2008 after a decade at the *Athol (Mass.) Daily News*, and he has done a good job covering the local scene.

I was a sports reporter at the *Reformer* during my first tour there from 1989 to 1995. I started covering local sports again when I came to *The Commons* in 2010. It is one of the many hats I wear at this improbable newspaper. That's when Shane went from being a co-worker to a colleague, and it's been a pleasure sharing the sideline with him and sharing information and observations over the past decade.

Shane hasn't said what his next gig will be, but I wish him good luck wherever he lands. He deserves it.



Brattleboro center Alex Dick had a goal and two assists in the Colonels' 5-4 comeback win over Milton on Jan. 10.



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