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The closing

of Hotel Pharmacy



marks the end of family-run drugstores in Brattleboro thanks, its owner says, to insurance and pharmaceutical industry pricing practices that made it impossible not to lose money

Pharmacist Mary Giamartino reaches for medication to fill a customer's prescription at Hotel

Pharmacy on Jan. 14.

By Joyce Marcel

The Commons

ing of the 83-year-old Hotel Pharmacy on Elliot Street on paying jobs. Jan. 17 marked the end of so many eras like a Shakespearian tragedy ple who depended on the staff of the pharwithout the poetry.

shelves. Emptying space. A sense of needed help and advice.

emptying lives.

in Brattleboro. The end of owner Mary RATTLEBORO—The clos- Giamartino's long-held desire to help people. The end of 20 important, well-

The end of a small community of peomacy to fill its prescriptions, to listen to its Much sadness. Many tears. Emptying health needs, and to personally provide

And the end of Brattleboro's image as The end of family-run pharmacies a small Vermont town managing to escape the grip of national chains.

> All during the closing weeks, ever since it was announced that Giamartino, 67, had sold her business to Walgreens, people were coming in a steady stream to say how grateful they were to have had the downtown pharmacy there — and how sad they were that it would be closing.

■ SEE PHARMACY, A4

What is the government we need, and how do we pay for it?

Brattleboro representative savors new role as chair of Ways and Means, the committee that asks the big questions about state government and how to fund it

By Joyce Marcel The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—This year, State Rep. Emilie Kornheiser has hit the ground running.

The Windham-7 district representative, a Democrat and one of three House members from Brattleboro, opened the legislative session when she was chosen to nominate the current speaker of the House, Jill Krowinski

(D-Burlington).

It was a high honor, she said. "We in the building tend to talk about people working tirelessly, rather than skillfully or compassionately," said Kornheiser. "So when I was offered the honor, it was really important to me to talk about some different qualities that I think are important in leadership.

So in her nomination speech, ■ SEE KORNHEISER, A2

Legislature extends towns' flexibility for **Town Meetings**

If signed by governor, bill would continue with pandemicinspired measures like ballots and online information sessions

By Kevin O'Connor

The Vermont Legislature has approved a two-year extension of COVID-19-era options for how and when the state's 247 cities

and towns decide upon local lead-

ers, spending, and special articles. Bill H.42 mirrors legislation passed in 2021 and 2022 that allowed municipalities to make short-term, pandemicsafe changes to Town Meeting

— traditionally held on or around the first Tuesday in March — and gather governing boards solely online.

'With the rising cases of Covid variants, there's a real question in a lot of our communities about whether we can get participation in decisions about local government without some flexibility," said Rep. Michael McCarthy, a St. Albans Democrat and chair of the **House Government Operations**

■ SEE TOWN MEETING BILL, A8

A 'magical hub' emerges in Rockingham

In a sprawling former inn, a new nonprofit offers artistic education and community, with dance and performance at its heart

By Robert F. Smith

OCKINGHAM—In 2020, Nurnia Bowart and Jared Williams, friends and colleagues who are both in the midst of life transitions, decided to become business partners and buy

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Your membership supports our journalism and lets us make this newspaper available for all, in print and online. Become a member and receive The Commons in the mail. Join today at http://donate.commonsnews.org. a 48-acre former inn.

As they transform the property into an arts education nonprofit, The Field Center, they are creating what Bowart describes as "a center for contemporary art practices, with dance and performance at its heart.'

No strangers to alternative education, Bowart and Williams met while attending The Putney School in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and despite leading quite different lives, they remained friends and stayed in touch.

Bowart went to college at Bryn Mawr, then became a dancer, an artist, and teacher. She did therapeutic work, living in the San Francisco area for many years. She married and started a family.

Williams grew up in the Boston area. After graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design, where he studied visual arts,



Participants in a Contact Improv group workshop at the Field Center in Rockingham.

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 creates a forum for community participation, promotes local independent

• fosters civic engagement by building media skills through publication of *The Commons* and commonsnews.org, and through the Media Mentoring

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

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 ma terial that appears in the paper.

We do not publish unsigned or anon ymous 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@

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Without our volunteers, this

newspaper would exist only in our imaginations. Special thanks to: Simi and Mark Berman, Diana Bingham, Jim Maxwell, Rob Bertsche, Barbara Evans, Cameron Cobane, Shannon Ward, and Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery; Clay Turnbull and NEC; Brendan Emmett Quigley and Joon Pahk In memoriam: Alan O. Dann, Judy Gorman,

Mia Gannon

■ Kornheiser

Kornheiser quoted part of a be adopted to better equalize the Marge Piercy poem, "To be of use." The part she quoted -"who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward/ who do what has to be done, again and again"— highlighted her way of thinking as much as it does Krowinski's.

"She puts those she serves ahead of herself, ahead of glory," Kornheiser said in her remarks.

Tax policy for the public good

This is clearly the year when Kornheiser, who took office in 2019, steps up in leadership and visibility.

For one thing, she has served on the Ways and Means Committee — the committee that sets tax policy — for some time. And Kornheiser, the vice-chair in the 2021-22 biennium, has now been given the prestigious job of committee chair.

Being chair of Ways and Means is also the culmination of a longtime dream for Kornheiser.

'On some level, I ran for office because I was interested in being on Ways and Means," Kornheiser said. "It's really, really important to me that government works. That's why I ran for office. And in order for government to work, we need to make sure that we're collectively investing in it."

"I think for a really long time, we've limited government to the size of the box that was available," she said. "And I want to talk about that in a different way. That's why I'm interested in Ways and Means.

As described on the Legislature's website, the committee "considers matters relating to the revenue of the state, and shall inquire into the state of the Treasury; ascertain the amount of debt due to the state and the claims against it, [and] report the amount of taxes necessary to be raised for this for the government."

The committee is also charged with "inquir[ing] what measures, if any, ought to be adopted to better to equalize public burdens, security, accountability, public agents, and otherwise improve the financial concern of the state, including all matters related to taxation, local or otherwise, and all matters relating to the grand list," its brief continues.

"The part that really resonates for me is the part about reporting the amount of taxes necessary to be raised for the support of the government and inquire what measures, if any, ought to

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public burdens," Kornheiser said.

"I think we talk a lot about wealth inequality," she said. "And we talk about it in a national context. But I think there's an enormous amount we can do, as a state, to close the ever-widening gap between the rich and

the poor. "A lot of that is making sure that state government is functioning well enough to support folks, wherever they are, and to make sure the resources are there to do that," Kornheiser said.

In a way, you could say that this session, Brattleboro is sitting close to the money. With Kornheiser running Ways and Means and Michael Pieciak, who grew up in Brattleboro, sitting in the treasurer's seat, the town has a commanding presence in Montpelier.

Kornheiser and Pieciak have known each other for quite a

"We certainly talk regularly," Kornheiser said. "We've had a lot of good conversations leading up to his swearing in, conversations about policy and ways we can work together.'

In addition, "I worked right next door to his mother for a few vears and saw her every morning," she said. "I was happy for her as a glowing mother, and I took a picture of her on the balcony during his swearing in and sent it to him.'

A knack for numbers

Growing up, Kornheiser wasn't necessarily a math geek, but she has a background in numbers that makes her a natural for this kind of work — though, she observed that "it's fairly unusual, especially for girls."

She has a degree in sociology from Marlboro College and attended a graduate program in community development and applied economics at the University of Vermont.

"A lot of my professional work since then has been either macroeconomic work, or poverty alleviation work," Kornheiser said. "I'm comfortable around numbers, but I'm not someone who can multiply three numbers and know what the answer is off the bat. But that is not at all a prerequisite for this job. It's more being able to look at a graph and ask the right questions about it."

One of the most extraordinary things about Vermont, Kornheiser said, is that it has some of the most socioeconomically diverse communities — "and

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FROM SECTION FRONT

even streets!" — in the country. "But we can do better, and we can certainly prevent ourselves from doing worse," she said.

And so the purview of the Ways and Means Committee "is to raise money in support of government."

"We set tax rates," she said.
"We set tax policy. We set fees. Any bill that affects the revenue of the state would come through our committee for review and discussion and approval.

"And I'm interested in ensuring that we can raise the revenue necessary to fund some of the really important policy priorities that the Democratic caucus is working on —and the Legislature is working on —to make Vermont a place that works for everyone,' Kornheiser said. "To make sure that universal family medical leave is affordable, that there is accessible quality child care, and that everyone has a safe place to

Another try for family and medical leave

As part of her new role in leadership, Kornheiser spent time before the session drafting a piece of legislation to bring paid family leave to the Legislative discussion — jump-starting the debate on a legislative priority that was vetoed by Gov. Phil Scott in 2020.

This year, the Democrats have enough votes to override a veto if they choose to.

Kornheiser is now getting legislators to sign on in support of what is called the Universal Paid Family and Medical Leave bill.

As envisioned, it would guarantee 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for all Vermont workers, including part-time and seasonal ones. It provides paid time off in the event of the birth or adoption of a child, personal medical leave, and leave for people experiencing domestic violence or whose family member is called into active duty.

This is a social issue; it will fall under the purview of Ways and Means because "it is connected to raising revenue because we're going to need to raise revenue in order to pay for the program, Kornheiser said.

The bill, introduced Jan. 19 with 103 co-sponsors, first goes to the Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

It already has the support of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR), which described the "burgeoning support for paid family and medical

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State Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, heads into the new legislative session as chair of the House Ways and Means Committee.

leave" in its weekly newsletter.

"The program would be funded by a payroll tax estimated at .58 percent which will be split evenly between employers and employees," the VBSR told its members. "It's worth noting that employers would also have the option to pay a portion of (or all) of their employees' share.

Back to the math: With that rate, for every \$1,000 in an employee's paycheck, the tax burden for the employer and the employee would be \$2.90 apiece.

Kornheiser said the bill makes sure "that it's paid for by the people who are best positioned to pay for it. It's making sure that folks can take the time they need to care for a loved one, to care for a child, or to care for themselves if they're sick."

"It's for someone who needs to take safe leave because of domestic violence," she continued. "It's for someone who is caring for someone or loves someone who's deployed. It's not that everyone would take 12 weeks for all of those things if 12 weeks were available.

Kornheiser is hoping that this time, the governor will support the bill.

"We are living in very different circumstances," she said. "I don't think we could have imagined a more public and catastrophic call for family medical leave than the Covid pandemic."

She pointed out that during the pandemic, the state "sort of used the unemployment insurance system as a square peg in a round hole to meet some people's financial needs during that time."

"But it wasn't nearly enough," she said. "And it didn't work well enough."

Federal money in the state's coffers will give the state some flexibility in making investments of this nature, she noted.

'Now we have more available money than we did previously. The Legislature has more money to pay for startup costs right now because of unanticipated revenues. And, actually, in the last few forecasts that we've seen, incomes are indeed going up. That's good news."

Accountability for use of state funds

Kornheiser also came to the session with a completely different and hard-nosed kind of a bill, H.10, which requires businesses receiving state money to report more thoroughly and stringently on how they use it.

According to VTDigger, the state has awarded more than \$33 million in incentives to companies planning to open or expand in the state through the Vermont **Employment Growth Incentive** Program, which is administered by the Vermont Economic Progress Council.

State Auditor Doug Hoffer has been against the program for almost as long as it has been in existence. And he is not alone.

"I've talked to quite a few journalists who have covered this off and on over the years," Kornheiser said. "And they are constantly frustrated that they can't even get the information they need to report on the program."

Oversight is a huge problem. "The state gives businesses money to expand their work-force," Kornheiser said. "It's based on a promise that those businesses would not expand their workforce without this money. You can argue many ways about whether or not this is an effective use of state dollars, but the auditor has released numerous reports.

An analysis from the Legislature's Joint Fiscal Office, which provides lawmakers with nonpartisan data and analysis to

make informed decisions, showed that "businesses are not meeting the statutory requirements, or the spirit of the statutory goals," she said.

"If the program is to remain in existence, it must be accountable to taxpayers, to the Legislature, and be doing what it needs to be doing," Kornheiser continued. On Jan. 5, the bill

(legislature.vermont.gov/bill/ status/2024/H.10) was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

Other priorities

Kornheiser has other priorities this year, she said.

"I want to make sure that property taxes are working in a way that folks are paying appropriately based on their ability to pay," she said. "And that we're not doing anything to either incentivize or disincentivize the kind of housing markets that we want in Vermont."

Providing quality child care is another issue Kornheiser feels

passionate about. "We're going to have a conversation about how to really, seriously create a child care system that's affordable, accessible, and of high quality," she said. "We need to expand what we see as the education of child care providers, and to make sure that it is paid for.'

The problems are complex. "There's a huge shortage of people willing to do that kind of work right now," Kornheiser said. "And a lot of it is that the wages

are horrific, and don't in any way either cover the costs of the kinds of education that's needed for folks who are going into the field, or compensate folks for the really incredible high quality and difficult work that they're doing.' "I don't think we want folks

who are caring for our youngest children to be living in the kind of chronic stress that a poverty situation creates," she said. "I don't want anyone to be living under that kind of chronic stress, but it seems particularly important here."

A new biennium with new possibilities

In many ways, Kornheiser seems to be completely comfortable with her new position, despite regularly experiencing "that incredible sense of wonder that I somehow belong here," she said.

She is especially hopeful about the session because there are so many new legislators.

"I'm hoping we can have different conversations than we've had before," Kornheiser said. "And we can get more done and feel more sort of hopeful. And it can be more informed by a broader diversity of stakeholders.'

This is a brand new biennium," she said. "We're all finding our way. It's always really hard to balance the need for really careful, thoughtful work with what often feels like the frantic urgency of a biennium of a session that's only five months long."

Kornheiser wants her constituents to reach out to her, either by calling or attending one of the regular meetings that the Windham County delegation holds on weekends.

"I also want to encourage folks to talk to their neighbors about ethical issues, to reach out to me or any legislators in Windham County when they're thinking about something that might impact state governments or their lives," she said. "Be in touch."

Contact Rep. Emilie Kornheiser at 802-246-1213 or visit emiliekornheiser.org for other ways to connect, including a weekly Sunday afternoon Zoom meeting.

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doors for good.

■ Pharmacy

"All of the patients and people in the community have come in and been very grateful," Giamartino said. "Many of them were crying.'

Giamartino, who had a haunted, hollowed-out look, was trying to hold back her own tears when she said that.

As she describes it, she lost her business to predatory pricing in the pharmaceutical industry. Middlemen, in league with chain pharmacies and drug insurers, appear to have up engineered drug prices and insurance reimbursements to their sole benefits, leaving independent pharmacies unable to afford to stay in

"There was just nothing left in the well," Giamartino said. "I put everything I could into it to keep it going. But I had nothing left.'

Even with the sale of a thriving business to a major chain like Walgreen's, Giamartino is not sure how much, if any, money she will recoup. She fully intends to pay all her bills; what is left, she said, might be only as much as \$100,000. That is because she used up almost every bit of her own money to keep the pharmacy running.

"I got a couple of grants," Giamartino said. "I used my personal finances to keep things going. My retirement fund. But FROM SECTION FRONT

there's nothing left. I just couldn't

do it anymore.' Jodi Harrison has worked for Hotel Pharmacy for 29 years. She said the last weeks were incred-

ibly difficult for the staff. There's been many tears," Harrison said. "We've tried to make it as easy as possible for the transition, but we just found out about the sale on the Tuesday before Christmas. So we've really had to come together as a tech team."

"It's hardest on the patients," she observed.

"I would always dig a little bit deeper than I think the box store is going to for these people,' Harrison continued. "I know that there's not a lot happiness at Walgreens. And I'm not saying we're perfect here, but we really did try to go above and beyond and do what we could for the patient. I think that's important to say."

A legislative look

Last year, the Legislature passed a bill, signed into law as Act 131, to investigate and possibly regulate the pharmaceutical industry in Vermont — including those middlemen — although any regulation would come far too late for Giamartino.

The state's Department of Financial Regulation recently published a 68-page analysis of the law, written by Kevin Gaffney,

the state agency's commissioner.
His brief was "to study certain issues related to pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), which act as an intermediary between health plans and pharmacies, and to deliver a report with findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance.'

Gaffney opened his analysis with this admission: "Prescription drugs represent a significantly expensive and exceptionally complicated sector of the American health care system.

"Complicated" is the right

word.
"To obtain prescription drugs, salers either directly, as in the case of large chain pharmacies, or through third-party buying groups for smaller independent pharmacies," Gaffney wrote. "The contracts control prices, payment terms, logistics, and financial incentives for meeting certain distribution thresholds.

"Pharmacies have some discretion in setting retail prices (also known as the 'cash price') for patients without insurance. However, the amount that a pharmacy is reimbursed for dispensing prescription drugs to insured patients is entirely determined by the pharmacy's contract with pharmacy benefit managers."

Smaller pharmacies "have little choice but to accept the reimbursement rates set by pharmacy benefit managers," Gaffney said.

He concluded that the state has an interest in regulating pharmaceutical industry practices in Vermont and called for "requiring Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) to receive a license from the Commissioner to operate in Vermont."

But it is too little, too late for Giamartino. Sitting at her work table with stacks and stacks of pharmaceutical paperwork in front of her, she illustrated the

problem.
"OK," she said, pulling one paper from the stack. "This is one prescription. My cost is \$189.12. And this is what the insurance paid me: \$15.21. The patient's co-pay was \$10. So I was out \$163.91."

Giamartino did not want to

pass the \$163.91 on to the patient. "That's what Walgreens does," she said. "It's not the right thing to do. And I had to get her the drugs. She was dying.

To get drugs at all, Giamartino was forced to sign contracts that, among other things, require a certain number of prescriptions to be filled every month. If, as a small independent retailer, she could not make the quota, she would be penalized, with money drawn directly from her bank

There were other fines as well. "For example, say somebody has a prescription that they have to pick up every 90 days," Giamartino said. "If they don't get it on the 90th day, I get fined. They just take the money out of my checking account."

These fines have added up to thousands and thousands of lost dollars for the independent pharmacist.

"The pharmacy benefit managers run the insurance claims through and take a cut," Giamartino said. "It's been going on for a long time, but it's gotten a lot worse.

"Look at all these drugs!" she said, flipping through her stack of paperwork. "Loss, loss, loss, loss, loss, loss. You lose money because they don't even cover the cost of the drug. It's so incomprehensible. That's what people

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STATE OF VERMONT

PROBATE DIVISION SUPERIOR COURT Windham Unit Docket No.: 22-PR-06574 In re ESTATE of: Elizabeth Chromec

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Dated: January 12, 2023 Margaret C. Lacoste, Executor c/o Dakin & Benelli, P.C. PO Box 499 Chester, VT 05143 802-875-4000

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

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The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under <u>PUC Rule 3.600</u> 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

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

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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:

Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) 366 Pinnacle Ridge Rd. Rutland, VT 05701 Attn: Scott Carlson (802) 353-3584

Agency of Agriculture Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt 116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-802-828-2431

Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620 1-800-622-4496

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.

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 (circle one)
Electric Utility Accour	nt Number	Best time to contact you
Affected Property	: Year-Round Residence S	Jummer Residence Commercial Property Water Supply Organic Farm Land Other (Circle all that apply)
Line/Pole Identification	on:	
Utility Initials		Pole Numbers

MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15TH, 2023



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS A photo of the late Frank Giamartino, who ran Hotel Pharmacy with his wife, Mary, until his death in 2006.

don't understand. They'll pay you, but then they take all the

money away."

Jeff Hochberg, the president of the Vermont Retail Druggists Association, told VTDigger, "Pharmacies are not in control of their financials — we don't control the cost of the medications, nor do we control the reimbursement. Every state in the country is feeling this, rural ones in par-ticular. I think that pharmacy is a great bellwether for true reform

of the health care system."
Brattleboro now has no independent pharmacies, and the chains are consolidating.
In June of 2017, Walgreens

bought half the stores in the Rite Aid chain, which at the time operated pharmacies on Canal Street and Putney Road in Brattleboro.

In response to antitrust concerns, the two chains scuttled plans for a merger. The Putney Road pharmacy was sold, but not the Canal Street Rite Aid, located across the street from Walgreens' Canal Street store.

The only other independent pharmacy in town, Brattleboro Pharmacy on Canal Street, closed last year. The nearest independent pharmacies now are in Townshend and Bellows Falls.

Grace Cottage Hospital owns and runs the Messenger Valley Pharmacy in Townshend, across the street from the hospital's

"We have the same problems as Hotel Pharmacy," said Andrea Seaton, the hospital's senior director of development, marketing, and community relations. "We keep our pharmacy open as

a community service, because this is the only pharmacy in any di-

rection for 20 miles, even though

Mary Giamartino

heads down the stairs from her

office at Hotel

Pharmacy.

we're losing money every year."

Once there really was a hotel connected to the Hotel Pharmacy.

It opened in the Brooks House in 1940, where a restaurant, Tine, now sits. The pharmacy kept its name through further moves, first to the old Elliot Street fire station in 1978 (now the home of

home, across the street in the old

The place kept its church-like atmosphere, with a big rose-colored stained glass window facing the street and impossibly high ceilings inside. The floor was lined with shelves of useful and hard-to-find hospital-style supplies as well as the usual cosmetic items found in drug stores today.

Mary and Frank Giamartino met in pharmaceutical school and decided together to live and work Everyone's Books) and to its final in Brattleboro. Frank first worked

for the original owners of the pharmacy, and, for a time, Mary Methodist Church in 1992. Giamartino ran the pharmacy at

Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Then the two began working together; they bought Hotel Pharmacy in 1982. When they moved to the church building, in March of 1992, they first lived in an apartment in the building's basement.

The Giamartinos became intimately involved in community activities, especially in high school sports while their sons played. In 2001, one of their sons died at the age of 17. Five years later, in 2006, Frank died in a car crash at the age of 53.

While Giamartino was grieving, an employee, a pharmaceutical technician embezzled upward of \$1 million worth of hydrocodone from the business — tens of thousands of pills, according to press reports of his sentencing.

The employee served a oneyear-and-one-day sentence in federal prison and remained on probation until he paid the pharmacy \$8,500 in restitution — less than 1% of the financial impact to the small business. "It was horrible," she said.
"And I was advised to declare

I bought the goods from should get paid." Giamartino continued running the business, donating to local charities and organizations and remaining a mainstay of

downtown. Over the years, the pharmacy has offered 24-hour-seven-daya-week emergency service, local delivery, curbside service, and pharmacists so skilled they had the almost-lost ability to com-

pound medication. Meanwhile, the pharmaceutical business was becoming less and less viable.

At first, Giamartino tried to cut costs by dropping advertising, then donations to community causes, then staff raises and bonuses.

This past year she looked for someone to buy the business. She

found no takers. "I tried to sell it to an independent," Giamartino said. "I wrote to all 50 states, to independent trade newspapers. Nothing. I went to the National Community Pharmacists Association conven-

tion and put it up there. Nobody." "The people who buy and sell pharmacies? They're only selling," she said.
"My friend in Bennington just

health care. And I wanted to sell it to somebody who would keep it independent, so that people who wanted to use our pharmacy

could still do it." We enjoy our patients. We

years. And even with people who are dying, we want to make sure that they die the way they want to, in peace.'

Eventually, Giamartino reached a deal with Walgreens, transferred up to 2,000 of her patients' prescriptions there, and quietly closed down the store. The last day of business was Jan. 17.

The building is on the market, and Giamartino is already fielding job offers. She plans to take a few months to clear her head and then decide what she will do next.

In the meantime, an 83-year history is done and many, many people are sad about it. To quote Shakespeare (Romeo

and Juliet, Act 5, Scene 3): "O true apothecary! Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die." With additional reporting by Kevin O'Connor of VTD igger. org.





RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS Brattleboro's Hotel Pharmacy has operated out of the town's former Methodist

church on Elliot Street since 1993.



A sign reports the coming closure of Brattleboro's Hotel Pharmacy after 83 years.

sold his three stores a couple of weeks ago for the same reason he was losing money," Giamartino said. "He sold to a couple that owns eight other pharmacies. So technically, they're a chain. But they're not Walgreens. They kept the store names.' "I reached out, but they didn't

approach me," she said.

Still, Giamartino persevered. "I love what I do," she said. "I love the family of co-workers here. They are fantastic. I know we were giving people the best

like taking care of them and seeing them get better," Giamartino continued. "We've seen grandparents, parents, children, even great grandchildren through the

MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

College news

· Jaden Conkling of Brattleboro and Bradie Harris of Bellows Falls were named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York.

Haley Frechette of Dummerston, who is pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, was named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the Albany (N.Y.) College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Emily Harris of Bellows Falls and Luke Missale of Brattleboro were named to the fall 2022 President's List at Plymouth (N.H.) State University, while Haley McAllister of Putney, Kathleen Hodsden of Bellows Falls, and Jack Armbruster of West Dover were all named to the Plymouth State's fall 2022 Dean's List.

• The following local students were named to the fall 2022 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University: Nolen Donovan of Rockingham, Kobe Bazin of Bellows Falls, Samantha Mustain of Brattleboro, Forrest Brooke-deBock of Brattleboro, Miranda Blake of Vernon, and Jessica Cronin of Wilmington.

 Remus Harris of Brattleboro is a President's List honoree for the fall 2022 semester at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas.

The following local students were honored for academic achievement during the fall 2022 semester at Castleton University: Noah Distefano of West Townshend, Jenna Robinson of East Dover, and Jairen Sanderson of West Townshend were named to the President's List, while Cameron Allembert of Whitingham, Keegan Allembert of Whitingham, Sally Densmore of Wilmington, Morgen Janovsky of Wilmington, Maria Page of West Halifax, and Jordan Wright of Brattleboro were named to the Dean's List.

Obituaries

• J. Eric Anderson, 84, of Westminster. Died Jan. 2, 2023 of complications from Parkinson's disease. A beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather, and friend, Eric was born on March 25, 1938 and raised in Glen Ridge, New Jersey by Robert and Elizabeth Anderson. Eric was a popular child and an exceptional student who went on to attend Dartmouth College, where he rowed crew and forged lifelong friendships with many of his classmates. While at Dartmouth, Eric joined ROTC and, upon his graduation in 1960, was commissioned as a officer and served in the Marines. He was stationed in Okinawa and the San Diego Recruit Depot, and later served in the Marine Corps Reserve from 1963 to 1966. He later joined the Vermont Air National Guard as

Judge Advocate, serving from 1981 to 1998, retiring at the rank of colonel. After graduating from University of Calfornia's Hastings Law School in 1966, Eric moved to Brattleboro and began his nearly 50-year career as a lawyer, occasionally accepting firewood or maple syrup as payment for his services. He loved the outdoors, running, hiking, biking, skiing, birdwatching, gardening, watching the Red Sox, singing with the River Singers, being a member of the Bellows Falls Rotary Club, serving on the board of directors for Parks Place and Compass School, the Westminster Development Review Board, and spending time with his wife, who was at his side when he passed. Eric is survived by his sister Adrienne Anderson Fly, his children Molly and Rob Anderson, his grandchildren Charlie and Ally Anderson, and the love of his life, his wife, Beth James. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A memorial will be held on his birthday, March 25, at a time and location to be announced.

Andrew

William "Andy" Bird, **63**, formerly of Brattleboro. Died unexpectedly at the VA Medical Center

in Johnson City, Tennessee on Jan. 5, 2023. He was born in Brockton, Massachusetts on July 20, 1959. He was such a light in life, and shared a lot of sarcasm and laughs with all who knew him. As some would say, he was "the man, the myth, the legend!" He spent his time enjoying cruises with his wife and many loved ones raising his glass and cheering to a great time. He also really enjoyed cooking. He spent a lot of time feeding his close family and friends with delicious recipes full of flavor and love. In previous years, he worked as a chef in different facilities. One of his favorites was a retirement home in Colorado. He ended his career days managing distribution centers for Land Air Express, FedEx Freight, and XPO in Vermont. He recently retired and moved to Virginia where he planned to enjoy the South and continue cruising with his wife of 42 years, Margaret Bird, who survives him. He is also survived by his daughters, Sabrina Douglass and her husband Dave, Mariyah Bird, Courtni Bird, and Amanda Pangelinan; his grandchildren Allyssa, Caleb, and Brayden; great-grandson Lawton; his mother, Judith Laundry; his sisters, Monica Larson and her husband Ron, and Melinda Bousquet and her husband Todd; as well as many in-laws, cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Elmer Bird; his grandparents, Edwin and Julia Smith and Perley and Annabell Bird; his father-in-law Jerome Clement, Sr.; mother-in-law Elaine Judd; and many aunts and uncles, and infant twin grandchildren. Memorial information: ternal grandmother Sandra Gray; Graveside committal services

conducted in the family lot in West Brattleboro Cemetery on Mather Road at a date and time to be announced by Atamaniuk Funeral Home. Donations to Rescue, Inc., P.O. Box 593, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To share a memory or send condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.



Louis **Capy, 23,** of Brattleboro. Died on Jan. 7, 2023. Born on May 31, 1999 in Brattleboro, Louis had an

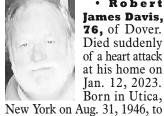
As an unconventional thinker, he both broadened others' perceptions and struggled to find his own place in this world. He had a very soft heart underneath his stoic exterior, which showed in his love for children and animals, especially his dog, Xavier. He was sometimes referred to as "Sweet Lou" by his friends. He played lacrosse and football in high school. In addition to being naturally athletic, he was a good haggler by the age of 11, able to catch a barn cat by 13, and an experienced traveler throughout his whole life. He had a deep connection to the universe, of which he is now fully a part. Memorial information: Arrangements were entrusted to Fenton & Hennessy Funeral Home in Bellows Falls. Comments and thoughts can be added to a guest book at fentonandhennessey. com.



· Adison Gregory "Ad" Clark, 26, of Nashua, New Hampshire, formerly of West Dummerston. Died unex-

pectedly on Jan. 18, 2022 at his home. The son of Gregory and Jennifer (Gray) Clark, he was born in Troitsk, Russia on Oct. 31, 1996. He was raised in West Dummerston, attending Dummerston Elementary School, and was a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School with the Class of 2016. Adison went on to proudly serve his country in the Marine Corps enlisting in 2017. He was deployed twice to Japan prior to his honorable discharge from active service in 2021. At the time of his death, Adison had been employed as an apprentice lineman working for Waveguide Solutions of Nashua, a fiber optics company. Previously, he earned his Commercial Driver's Licence and worked for Perkins Home Center in West Chesterfield, New Hampshire. He also worked for his father for a period before joining Perkins. Adison will be remembered for his spirit of friendship. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. He loved his family, the outdoors, and keeping physically fit by working out at the gym. He is survived by his parents; a sister, Natasha Clark and her husband Isaac Pena of North Carolina; mapaternal grandparents Holland and Marcia Clark; several aunts,

uncles, and cousins; and a large host of friends. Additionally, he leaves his beloved Golden Retriever, Briar. He was predeceased by his maternal grandfather, Donald Gray. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass will be held Saturday, Jan. 28, at 12:30 p.m., at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. Burial will be in St. Michael's Parish Cemetery. A reception will follow the services to be held at VFW Post 1034 on Black Mountain Road. Friends may call at the Atamaniuk Funeral Home on Friday, Jan. 27, from 4 to 6 p.m. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302; or the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center, in Center for Health and Learning, P.O. Box 1276, Brattleboro, VT 05302 (vtspc. org). To share a memory or send condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.



Robert James Davis, 76, of Dover. Died suddenly of a heart attack at his home on Jan. 12, 2023. Born in Utica,

Helen (Hlavenka) Davis and James

Lewis Davis, Bob grew up in West Winfield, New York and graduated from West Winfield Central High School in 1965. He attended Utica College in 1966. In 1967, Bob was drafted into the Army where he spent two years of active duty, including a year with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. After his service, Bob moved to Wilmington and began working at a friend's ski lodge at Mount Snow. The following season Bob and a Deerfield Valley friend, Geoff Gloeckner, briefly ran The Drifts, a bar/restaurant. In 1970, Bob started his own construction company, Town Farm Homes, in Wilmington and built numerous houses in the Deerfield Valley. Bob married Linda "Rye" Davis in 1978 and, in 1980, he and his family moved to West Winfield, where he worked as a salesman for the Harvestore Silo Company. Together, Bob and Rye ran a small take-out restaurant called the Davis Dairy Station. In 1984, Bob and his family returned to Wilmington. Upon earning his real estate license, Bob worked for Kenyon Realty until his retirement. Bob loved people and had a way of instantly making a connection with everyone he met. That, and his knack for being a natural tour guide, made him a gifted salesperson. Bob made many friends over the years and never let a good friendship slip away, always making a point of staying in touch, either by phone or in person. Lunch or dinner with Bob was an invitation he often generously extended. He loved good food and he loved his cars —from his 1960 baby blue Impala convertible and dazzling white 1964 GTO, to his most recent BMW. Driving good cars was his passion. Bob was predeceased by his parents, his sister Karen Stanhope, and his son Zachery Davis. He is survived by his son, Michael Davis (Andrea) of Vernon; his niece, Elizabeth Stanhope Turro (Steve) of Jacksonville; his brother-in-law Noel Stanhope and special cousins Joanne Martin (Terry) and Steve Davis, all of West Winfield; and his former wife and friend, Rye Davis of Brattleboro. Memorial INFORMATION: A casual gathering of remembrance will be held at Covey Allen & Shea Funeral Home, 44 East Main St., in Wilmington, on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 1 p.m. Memorials may be sent in care of the funeral home at P.O. Box 215, Wilmington, VT

discretion.

Scott French, 46, of Rutland. Died Dec. 16, 2022 at Rutland Regional Medical Center. He was born in Troy, New York

05363 to be used at the family's

on March 10, 1976, the son of Reginald and Diane (Moffitt) French. Scott was a tattoo artist and he had several videos of his artwork on TikTok and Instagram. He also enjoyed making furniture from car parts and doing models and dioramas. He loved to ride motorcycles, and also wrote and sang a song on YouTube called I found a light in you. He is survived by his partner Nina Bartlett and Cooter, his lovable pit bull, his children, several half-brothers and sisters, and his nephews. Memorial informa-TION: There will be a scattering of his ashes in Brattleboro when

> eath will be a great relief. No more interviews.

> > HEPBURN

the weather is warmer.

Raymond E. "Skip"

Hutchinson Jr., 75, of Putney. Died at his home on Jan. 12, 2023. He was born November 6, 1947 in Springfield, Vermont, the son of Raymond E. Sr. and Virginia L. (Goodrich) Hutchinson. He graduated from Chester High School, Class of 1965. After high school, he enlisted in the Army and served two tours in Vietnam. He was proud to have served. Raymond worked in construction in the area for many years. He was a member of the Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club and loved riding motorcycles. He enjoyed an adventure, especially while traveling by motorcycle. He also loved spending time with his daughters and grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Marcella Pearl of Putney; daughters Melissa Benson (Mike) of Ludlow, Vanessa Beach (Buddy) of Windsor, and Lisa Ewing of Mendon; sister Bonnie Maynard (Danny) of Proctorsville; grandchildren Dillon Beach, Levi Destromp, Zoey Destromp, Maddox Merrill, and Alicia Ewing; great-grandson Asher Destromp and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister Brenda Willard, and his first wife, Kathleen Hutchinson. Memorial infor-MATION: A graveside service will be held at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Proctorsville at a later date. Donations in Skip's memory may be made to the Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice at vnh@ vnhcare.org.

Lois Marjorie Johnson, **94,** formerly of Brattleboro. Died January 17, 2023. Lois was born in Chicago on June 10, 1928, but it was in Brattleboro where she would meet the love of her life, Ernie Johnson Sr., who had returned from serving his country with the Marine Corps in World War II and met the Brattleboro High School cheerleader for the first time. They wed in 1947 and would be married for 63 years, raising two daughters, Dawn and Chris, and one son, Ernie Jr. While her husband pursued a professional baseball career, as a player and later as a longtime broadcaster for the Atlanta Braves, spending countless nights on the road, Lois was simply the rock-solid foundation of the Johnson household. For decades, a magnet on the kitchen refrigerator summed it up best: "We interrupt this marriage to bring you the baseball season." She navigated the challenge with remarkable skill, a deep-rooted love of family, and a combination of determination, wisdom, faith and charm rarely seen. Amid those responsibilities in the home, she branched out into the business world in the 1970s as one of the "Tour Gals." She and her colleagues provided out-of-town visitors with sightseeing opportunities of Atlanta. It was a job tailor-made for a woman whose welcoming spirit and magnetic personality were instantly obvious to everyone who was lucky enough to meet her. For all of her elegance and grace, there was also a fighter's mentality. Twice she stared down cancer, emerging from those battles even stronger, even more grateful to enjoy the blessings of seven grandchildren, and four greatgrandchildren. Even up until her final days, she was entertaining them with her talents at the piano. Lois is survived by her daughter Chris and son Ernie Jr.; son-inlaw Jacky Cheek; daughter-in-law Cheryl Deluca-Johnson; grandchildren Rebecca, Eric, Maggie, Carmen, Allison, and Ashley; and great-grandchildren Katie, Amy, Everett, and Bennett. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass was held Jan. 23 at St. Brendan the Navigator Catholic Church in Cumming, Georgia. Lois was laid to rest next to her beloved Ernie at Green Lawn Cemetery,



Roswell, Georgia.

"Libby" Stone Mills, 94, of Westminster West, and parttime resident of Swans Island,

Elizabeth

Maine. Died peacefully on Jan. 12, 2023, in Southwest Harbor, Maine, at the home of her niece, Sonia Field. Libby had a deep connection to the natural world. Her lifelong interests included hiking, sailing, camping, swimming, crosscountry skiing, gardening and walking faster than people half her age. She was a master teacher and mentor as well as an accomplished fiber artist. But perhaps her greatest gift was her ability to relate meaningfully with people from all backgrounds and to lead them forward. Born in Belfast, Maine, on Dec. 30, 1928, Libby grew up with her parents, grandparents and two siblings in the house where her great-grandparents settled after living at sea for two years. The Depression and World War II shaped her early years, but she also held many

happy memories of life in Belfast and summers at the family cottage on the shore at The Battery. After graduating from Oberlin College, Libby worked as a recreational therapist and an occupational therapist. She married Robert (Bob) Mills in 1951. They lived in New York and Colorado and had two children, Matthew and Anne. In 1958, Libby and Bob moved to Vermont to work at The Putney School, where they stayed for three decades. During summers, they took groups to work on remote Maine islands, working for the Student Conservation Program. Over the years, Libby taught weaving and human behavior and held various leadership and administrative positions. She remained committed to the school philosophy related to service, manual labor, creative arts, community, justice, land stewardship and a life of adventure. During summers, while raising their family, Libby and Bob lived and built on a piece of land on Swans Island, Maine. In 1965 they bought an abandoned farm in Westminster West. A lifetime of projects at both locations provided permanent access to nature for their family and many visitors. Libby remained connected to the Maine coast throughout her life; she cherished her relationships with the full-time island residents. In 1980, while still working at The Putney School, Libby joined three others in founding The Green Mountain Spinnery. The worker-owned cooperative, making yarn for knitters and weavers from locally sourced wool, still operates successfully today. In 1986, Libby lost her beloved daughter, Anne, to cancer. Her husband Bob died eight years later. Even in those dark days, Libby continued to reach toward life. Retiring from The Putney School, she continued to work for the Spinnery. Gib Taylor, her partner of the decade following her husband's passing, shared her interests in outdoor activities, the Maine coast and the arts until his death in 2006. Political activism was very important to Libby; she went to jail after participating in a nonviolent protest. Issues related to human rights, environmental conservation and working toward justice were priorities for her. She possessed the ability to facilitate communication with people from all points of view. Libby served on the boards of both the Putney Mountain Association and the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association (WHPA) for approximately 30 years. She cultivated and sustained many partnerships and negotiated with respect. She co-authored a book about the history of the WHPA, and helped both organizations expand local land protection. At 80, Libby began a new phase of life by marrying her long-time friend, John Barnett. They both adapted and thrived, and particularly enjoyed traveling together during the decade they had before his death. In her later years, Libby completed the compilation and publication of *Nellie's Diary*, written by her great-grandmother about life at sea from 1863-1865. Libby faced her brief illness with the same courage and grace which allowed her to appreciate life while suffering so many losses. The family extends thanks to her support teams who made this possible as she remained in both of her homes and saw the ocean one last time. Libby is survived by her son, Matthew G. Mills, of Putney; her sister, Dorothy Stone McMahan, of Penobscot, Maine; and many loving nieces, nephews, stepchildren, cherished friends, and extended family. MEMORIAL IN-FORMATION: A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, March 18, at 1 p.m., at the Currier Center at The Putney School. Donations in honor of Libby are welcomed by Eldercare Outreach of Swans Island (P.O. Box 92; Swans Island, ME 04685); Libby Mills Fund for the Fiber Arts at The Putney School (putneyschool. org/libbymills); Putney Mountain Association (putneymountain. org) or Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association (windmillhillpinnacle. Gloria Tommila of

Hinsdale New Hampshire, died peacefully on Dec. 21, 2022. A sweet, kind, and gentle angel, this saint gave the world so much, suffers no more, and in spirit will reside in the hearts and memories of her family and friends. Gloria was carried by her undying faith and love for her family, including her pets Annie, Bayley and especially Buddy. She is survived by her sons James and Michael, husband George, sisters Sharon and Jean, her brothers Bob, Ron, and George, grandchildren Michael, Jess, Laura, and Eric, and greatgrandchildren Kairi, Roman, and Rylie. Memorial information: Gloria requested no funeral, but encouraged us to celebrate her life when weather permits, perhaps this August. To learn when, email gtommila@gmail.com.

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.

with full military honors will be



WINDHAM COUNTY **HUMANE SOCIETY**

PETS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

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

Hi. mv name is River! I

am a very happy energetic

young boy looking for

an active family. I love

people and seems to like

other dogs. Cats would

be too exciting for me and

shouldn't live with any. If

you have kids they should

be older because I need

to work on my jumpiness.

View pets at: wchs4pets.org



Hi, my name is Lennox. I am a sweet and hyper boy. I am also deaf and will need to learn hand commands. I am Lyme positive, but I am not symptomatic and it doesn't slow me down. I may do well with another doggy companion. I think cats would be too exciting for me. If you have kids they should be older because I may try to herd them. I am a dog that would benefit from having a job and keeping busy. Please come by and meet with me. I bet I wont be here for long.

> Hi! My name is Pelusa and I am about 6 years old. I am a gorgeous longhaired tabby. My new owner will need to keep up with brushing my so my gorgeous locks don't get knotted. I am such a doll baby, and won't stop purring once you start petting me, but I also have a

sassy side to me and will let you know when I've had enough petting. I could likely do well with cats, dogs or even kids in my home, so long as we were introduced properly and the children are mellow...like me!



Hi there, I'm Apple! I'm a friendly and energetic gal who came to WCHS all the way from Florida. My foster mom says I am an active gal who loves to play and run! Once I get all my energy out we can snuggle and I'll even let

vou rub mv tummv! I have spent time with other cats so I could probably have a feline friend in my new home. Dogs and children would be new so introductions should be gradual and well monitored. All I want is a home of my own,

sponsored by: **GUILFORD SOUND** guilfordsound.com 802-254-4511 info@guilfordsound.com

This space is graciously

can it be with you?

arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY

Instruction

LONDONDERRY Bernie Mittens **Workshop:** Heidi Root leads this workshop and will provide the material to sew a pair of Bernie Mittens! She'll also have pre-made pairs on

- ► 10 a.m. 12 noon.
- ▶ \$25 donation requested which is designated for Neighborhood Connections fuel assistance fund.
- Neighborhood Connections, The Meeting Place, Rte. 100, 5700 Marketplace (across from the post office). Information: 802-824-4343: neighborhoodconnectionsvt.org.

Well-being BRATTLEBORO 2023 Life's Intentions Workshop (for ages 14 to 18):

"Through creating intentions that align with one's life values we create a path that actively helps us show up in the world in a way that one can be proud of. Please bring a journal, coloring of your fancy, and an open heart. Let's allow ourselves to be aligned with clarity, community, and joy as we play in the new year!' Facilitated by Malia'Kekia Nicolini. ▶ 4 - 6:30 p.m. Underwritten by the Clowes Fund.

- New England Youth Theatre. 100 Flat St. Information: 802-246-6398; neyt.org.
- **Community** building BRATTLEBORO The Beloved **Community: Bible Study and Free** Supper: With Rev. Ralph W. Howe,
- Pastor. ► 5-7 p.m. on Thursdays.
- Free. ► First United Methodist Church, 18 Town Crier Dr. Information: 802-254-

Community meals

PUTNEY Putney Monthly Free **Produce Distribution: Monthly** food drop of free produce and some non-perishables. All are welcome. Drive-up service because of COVID.

Bags provided.
► 9-9:45 a.m. 4th Thursday of every month. Co-sponsored by The Vermont Foodbank and Putney Foodshelf on Alice Holloway Dr. (in front of Putney Meadows - white building across from Putney Co-op and Putney Fire Station). Putnev Great Meadows.

GUILFORD Guilford Cares Food Pantry: "We're well stocked w/ wide selection of staples (pasta, soups, canned/packaged items), fresh produce, butter, eggs, frozen meat. All are welcome. With the high cost of food and fuel, come to the Pantry so you/your family stay healthy and well nourished."

- 3-4 p.m. on Thursdays in the red "First Aid" building. If you can't come due to illness/high risk, arrange food delivery by a volunteer - 802-579-1350 or guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com. ► Free.
- Guilford Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd. off Weatherhead Hollow Rd. Information: 802 579 1350 or guilfordcaresvt@ gmail.com.

Visual arts and shows

вкаттьевоко Marco Yunga Tacuri's Display/Artist Talk: "Los Longos del Barrio - A Portrait Project About Ecuadorian Immigration"

- 6 p.m. Artist Talk. Tacuri's art is on display in the Picker Print Gallery through 1/31. Free.
- Vermont Center for Photography, 10 Green St., (right side of the 22 High St. building). Information: 802-251-6051; vcphoto.org.

FRIDAY

Performing arts BRATTLEBORO "REGENERATIONS: Reckoning with Radioactivity":

This 2nd iteration of an interdisciplinary performance project of poetry, dance, projection, live music focuses on spent radioactive fuel, radioactive water, and soil left behind by Vermont Yankee. It explores impacts of nuclear energy worldwide as well as: "What have we done?" and "What can we do now?" Performers: Grainne Buchanan, Liza Cassidy, Marcella Eversole, Jake Klar, Sarah LaPlante, Hannah Mohan, Nellie Prior, Dana Renault, Rachel Yoder.

- ► 6 p.m. Fri. and Sat. Masking requested (available onsite). For this iteration, artists drew inspiration from "Renate Aller: The Space Between Memory and Expectation" - exhibit of large-format photos and one site-specific installation on view through 2/12. Aller served as a project consultant.
- Through Saturday, January 28. ► \$10, \$5 for BMAC members, free for students.
- ► Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moyse Way. Information: Tickets: tinyurl. com/ywr7br98 or 802-257-0124 x101.

The written word

BRATTLEBORO GennaRose Nethercott presents: "Thistlefoot" - An Immersive Experience: Local author GennaRose Nethercott presents

FRIDAY CONT.

her highly acclaimed epic novel, "Thistlefoot," with an immersive reading and evocative puppet show. Rife with rivalry, romance, regret and redemption, this ripping yarn features scenes set in Brattleboro. Join us for a memorable evening not for the fainthearted! Books will be available for sale and signing. ▶ 7 p.m.

- Free. ► Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290:
- brookslibraryvt.org.

SATURDAY

Performing arts NEWFANE Evening of Story and Song plus a Spaghetti Supper:

Enjoy a concert of story and song by mezzo-soprano Miriam Allbee and pianist Mike Kelly. You'll be transported to wild, storybook worlds as they weave tales of intrigue, desperate love and humor! Stay for a delicious Spaghetti Supper follow ing the concert.

- ► 4:30 p.m. ► \$10 tickets for dinner per person. A free will offering will be available during
- ► Newfane Congregational Church, 11 Church St. Information: 802-365-4079; newfanechurch@gmail.com.

Farmers' markets

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market: Weekly diverse indoor farmers' market. 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@postoilsolutions.org,

The written word

"Writing Dramatic Scenes Part 2." **(Online):** Led by Barbara Morrison: "In this workshop, appropriate for beginning and experienced writers, we'll explore how to use scenes to create a story."

- 4 5 p.m. \$10 suggested donation.
- Zoom. Information: Register: info@ timetowrite.us.

w. marlboro Discussion of Rachel Carson's landmark book "Silent Spring": Led by Mary Wright: "We'll discuss the book, its historic implications, how its message remains relevant today An environmental science book by Rachel Carson, published in 1962, it documents the environmental harm caused by the indiscriminate use of pesticides. Carson accused the chemical industry of spreading disinformation, and public officials of accepting the industry's market-

- ing claims unquestioningly.
 ▶ 4 p.m. Pettee Memorial Library, Whitingham Free Library, and Dover Free Library have copies of "Silent Spring." In "Silent Spring" was named one of the 25 greatest science books of all time by the editors of "Discover" magazine. (This is the first of a 3-part "Winter Reading Series." Join us in February for Barry Lopez's "Of Wolves and Men" and in March for Robin Wall Kimmerer's
- "Braidina Sweetarass."). ► Free. Donations to the Museum's educational programming are appreciated.
- ► Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 VT Route 9. Information: More info: vermontmuseum.org, follow the event page on facebook. vermontmuseum.org.

Well-being BRATTLEBORO Food Choices with

Robin Matathias - Sea Vegetables: We read and hear how we should eat more fish for health reasons, but with our growing population and modern technology, we are fishing some species close to extinction. Learn how to make sustainable choices when it comes to fish and discover the pros and cons of aquaculture. We'll also learn the many health benefits of consuming sea

SATURDAY CONT.

vegetables and incorporating them into your diet.

▶ 2-4:30 p.m. Register by 1/27.

► Brattleboro Food Co-op Community Room, 7 Canal St. Information: Register; Education@BFC.coop.

BRATTLEBORO The Beloved **Community VT: Gentle Exercise** and Sacred Dance Class, Lunch, **Workshop on Active Non-Violence:**

Led by Rev. Ralph W. Howe, Pastor. ► 11 a.m.-12 noon on Saturdays: Gentle Exercise and Sacred Dance Class, 12 noon: Lunch; 12:45-2:30 p.m. Workshop on Active Non-Violence.

► Free.► First United Methodist Church, 18 Town Crier Dr. Information: 802-249-2947. howerwiii@gmail.com, belovedcommunityvt.org.

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.

Multimedia BRATTLEBORO Workshop: "What is Hidden? What is Revealed?":

Local radio personality Wendy M. Levy presents a participatory workshop on how to use existing printed media to create new works of art. She'll show you how to make collages/found poetry out of old books/magazines using techniques easy to replicate and after to make your own. She'll discuss how this artistic process not only identifies and exposes efforts of social conditioning in media but empowers one to weaponize absurdity and form emergent liberating/fun counternarratives.

> 2 p.m. For adults 18 and over. Materi-

- als supplied but we encourage you to mine your own collections at local thrift stores and garbage dumps.
- ► By donation (sliding scale). ► Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St. Reserve space in advance so we can prepare enough art materials and thematic refreshments. 802-451-0844; epsilonspires.org/upcoming-events.

Ideas and education

BRATTLEBORO First Time Home **Buying Workshop:** Learn the basics of home-buying from realtor John Hatton. Find out about resources you might qualify for from Kayla Bernier-Wright of Windham and Windsor Housing Trust. Hear how the mortgage application process works from Ethan Grimes of 802 Credit Union. Discover resources like a \$15,000 down payment grant for qualified first-generation home buyers. BFC educator Lisa also shares an easy way to stay within your food budget while honoring what's important to you.

- Lunch provided. Limited to 20 attendees.
- Brattleboro Food Co-op Community Room. 7 Canal St. Information: Register:
- Education@BFC.coop.

SUNDAY

The written w. BRATTLEBORO All Souls Church

Unitarian Universalist: "Center-

SUNDAY CONT.

ing Through Poetry" (In-Person/ **Zoom):** "Poetry services are a beloved twice yearly tradition here. Today, we will honor the monthly UU theme of Finding Our Center by sharing poems which focus on and distill our sense of who we are."

10 a.m. ► If you would like to read a poem, one of your favorites or one you wrote for the occasion, contact Christina Gibbons. All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 29 South St. Information: To join on Zoom, visit ascvt.org shortly before 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Community building Indigo Radio (Brattleboro

Community Radio (107.7FM): Deepening understanding/making connections! Indigo Radio is a group of area educators seeking to learn through engaging with others in our community and throughout the world. We'll talk about educational and social issues globally and locally and connecting them to our lives

and the Brattleboro community.

▶ 1 p.m. Also on Facebook: www. facebook.com/indigoradiowvew. Archive recordings past shows: https://sound-cloud.com/user-654648353. Indigo Radio. Information: To stream

live, visit: wvew.org.

Dance PUTNEY Contradance: Ruth Hollerin will be calling and Amy and Laurie will be playing. This will be our new time and day for at least the next 3 dances. We hope that families with children will take this opportunity to dance with us.

- ▶ 3 p.m. Note to dancers who also call: If you call a single dance at this event you get: in free, brownies, and applause. Covid: "Show vaccination and bi-valent booster status and wear a K95 mask. We highly recommend that you take a rapid test the day of the dance. If you attended the prior dance, your vaccination status is on file.".
- By donation. ► Pierces Hall, 121 E. Putney Falls Rd. Information: Tom Prunier: 802-387-5875 , 703-994-8936.

Ideas and education

PUTNEY Gordon Hayward gives a talk based on his 2008 book "Art and the Gardener": Juxtaposing an image on the large screen of a fine painting next to a garden image, Hayward explores composition elements: straight lines vs. curved lines in paintings as well as paths/ planted beds; the itinerary of the eye; positive/negative space (as in the positive space of planted beds and the negative space of adjacent lawn); color, light/shadow, role of background, placing easels to paint as akin to placing garden chairs to sit.

- 4 p.m. Hayward's goal is to help you see your garden and paintings in a new way, no matter how big or small your garden might be. If you're not a gardener, this is also a talk about how to look at a garden (and a painting) more consciously, with more understanding - conscious seeing, paying attention with your eyes. Hayward has given this lecture in art museums/for garden clubs
- countrywide. ► By donation - \$10 suggested. All proceeds directly benefit Next Stage Arts and Sandglass Theater.
- Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: Purchase tickets in advance: tinyurl.com/2p8ad8h6 or at box office on 1/29.



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Jommona

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thy latino neighbor

thy addicted neighbor

thy progressive neighbor

thy _____ neighbor

thy incarcerated neighbor

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MONDAY

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. (This event has been rescheduled from 1/23).
- Free (donations accepted).
 Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main
 St. Information: Limited enrollment.
- Register by emailing outreach@ ediblebrattleboro.org.

TUESDAY

Well-being

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic: Primary medical treatment for patients ages 18 to 64 in our community who do not have health insurance or who cannot afford their high deductibles or co-insurance.
► 5 - 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic, 191 Clark Ave. Information: 802-251-8484: brattleborowalkinclinic.com.

Ideas and education

Patti Smith: "Raising Pumpkin" (**Zoom**): Born to a single mother in a stone culvert, this beaver's life was strange from the start. It got stranger still. Much stranger. Learn about Pumpkin's childhood in the Beaver Lodge and many adventures that ensued on his path to adulthood. His surrogate parent - wildlife rehabilitator and BEEC naturalist Patti Smith - shares the many things Pumpkin taught her about beaver childhood, adolescence, maturity. Richly illustrated with videos and photos. 5:30 p.m.

Free. Donations to Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center are

TUESDAY CONT.

Zoom. Information: Learn more/ register: tinyurl.com/jauzpc5f.

WEDNESDAY

Music

GREENFIELD Black History Month Celebration with Musica Franklin (staff and students performance): Family-friendly concert features music by Black composers - Robert Glasper, Florence Price, Cynthia Erivo, Gloria Matlock in addition to traditional spirituals. Audience

members can participate in interac-

- tive portions of the performance.
- 5 6 p.m.
 Free and open to the public. Temple Israel Greenfield, 27 Pierce St. Information: 413-773-5884.

Well-being **Taking Steps Brattleboro:** Advance Care Planning Weekly Information Sessions (via Zoom):

Advance Care Planning ensures that your loved ones and health professionals know what you want in a medical emergency if you are unable to speak for yourself. It's a process of creating a written health care plan that tells others what you would want if you couldn't tell them yourself. Includes discussing choices about end-of-life care with your medical provider, family, others, choosing/educating your Health Care Agent, making informed decisions to complete an Advance Directive.

- ▶ 10-11 a.m. on Wednesdays. Find out if adding a COVID-19 or Dementia provision would be beneficial to include or add to a previously completed Advance Directive. This is a program of Brattleboro Area Hospice.
- Zoom. Information: Ruth Nangeroni, Advance Care Planning Program Coord.: 802-257-0775 x 101, ruth.nangeroni@ brattleborohospice.org.

To submit your event: calendar@ commonsnews.org

> Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

Visit commonsnews.org for more listings

with more details

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



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 16-22 CHANNEL 1078

CHANNEL 1079

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

Here We Are with guest Eduardo Melendez: Mon 8p, Tues 9p, Wed 3:15p, Friday 8p, Sat 9p, Sun 5:45p

Lil Balzac 2: Fri 9p, Sat 9:30p, Sun

WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p

St. Michael's Episcopal Church -Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sun 11a

Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service: Tue 9a, Fri 7a, Sun 10a Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Sun 3p

Guilford Community Church -Weekly Service: Wed 6:30a, Sun 8a

St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass: Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p

BCTV's Program Highlights are sponsored by The Commons. BCTV's $municipal\ meeting\ coverage\ helps\ Commons\ reporters\ stay\ in\ touch.$

Brattleboro Community Television – 257-0888

Brattleboro Selectboard Special Mtg. 1/24/23: Tues 6:15 (LIVE), Thurs 12:30p, Fri 4a, Sun 6:30a The World Fusion Show - Ep 144 -John Sheldon: Mon 8:30p, Tues 8p. Wed 3:45p, Thurs 9a Fri 12:15p River Valleys Unified School District Mtg. 1/23/23: Wed 6p, Thurs 9:30p, Fri 11:30p, Sat 8a, Sun 8:30p **Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 1/23/23:** Wed 8p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 2p, Sat 3:30p <u>Special Live Event</u> - Windham County's Got Talent: Thurs 6:30p <u>Special Live Event</u> - Norther Roots Festival: Sat 7:30p Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 1/23/23: Wed 9:30a, Thurs 7p, Fri 8a, Sat 1p, Sun 11a Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 1/24/23: Fri 11:30a, Sat 2:30a & 6p, Windham Southeast School District Bd Mtg. 1/24/23: Fri 6:30p, Sat 5:30a, Sun 1:30p **Red Newt Productions - Memorial** Service for Jay Herbert Karpin 11/13/22: Mon 2:30p, Tues 9:45a, Wed 12:15p, Thurs 8:45p, Fri 6:15a Keeping Up With Senior Solutions - Ep 26 - Aging and Medicine with Dr. Tortolani: Mon 12:15p, Tues 8:30p, Wed 6:30p, Thurs 7:20a, Fri Putney Selectboard Mtg. 1/25/23: Fri 4:30p, Sat 11p, Sun 6p Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 1/25/23: Fri 9p, Sat 10:30a, Sun 4a Red Newt Productions - Graveside Service for Jay Herbert Karpin 11/13/22: Mon 5:45p, Tues 12:15p, Wed 6p, Thurs 1:30p, Fri 8:45p Around Town with Maria - A Ray McNeill's Celebration at the Stone Church 12/17/22: Mon 9a, Tues 3:30p, Wed 9:15p, Thurs 2:30p, Sat 3:30a, Sun 12p Montpelier Connection - Rep. Sara Coffey 1/16/23: Tues 10a, Wed 8:30a & 10:45p, Thurs 12p, Sat 5a Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p Windham Elementary School Board Special Mtg. 1/24/23: Thurs 4p, Fri 1:30a, Sat 8:30p, Sun 1:30a

Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 1/17/23: Mon 12:30a & 10p, Tues 5a, Wed

Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 1/17/23: Mon 11a, Wed 1a

Rescue Inc. Consortium Mtg. 1/17/23: Mon 12:15p, Wed 7p, Thurs 6:30a

West River Education District Mtg. 1/11/23: Tues 12:15a, Wed 6:30a, Thurs 4:45a Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tue 5p, Wec 12p, Thu 10:30a, Sun 11a

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

Read about it in the Town & Village section at www.commonsnews.org.

Field Center FROM SECTION FRONT

he worked as an illustrator for many years. In 2000, he moved to Brattleboro and got married.

He then moved back to Boston for 20 years. He was practicing the Brazilian martial art of capoeira, which combines elements of dance and acrobatics, and, with Bowart's encouragement, he began to find a love of improvisational dance.

"The way I do things is to give it my all," Williams said. "I really wanted to get good at dance. I wanted more access to things. I started to bring in really good dance teachers and producing dance events. I fell in love with teaching improv dancing.

Williams is the cofounder of the Lion's Jaw Performance and Dance Festival, a contemporary dance festival in Boston that has been in a state of suspended animation since the pandemic.

Being new to the world of dance, Williams said he naively invited "some high-level dancers to come," and, to his surprise, they accepted. This created "a bit of a hum" around the festival, he said. That's when he decided that creating a workshop/ performance space might be the next logical step.

Williams and Bowart had talked about becoming partners in the project. Williams wanted to be in the East, and Bowart had just sold a home and, with her children nearly grown, she was ready for a fresh start.

That's when they discovered the Williams Road property that was purchased in 2010 for \$1.9 million by a consortium of biotech colleagues from India, with the intention of creating a spiritual retreat. That plan faltered, and after an incarnation as another inn, by 2019, the buildings were seeing very limited use as Airbnb rentals.

In 2020, the property was back on the market for \$750,000, what the real estate ad described as "well below the replacement and assessed values.

While attending Putney School, both Williams and Bowart had become familiar with the area, and they liked the artistic and creative vibe they found in Bellows Falls' lively music and

After the sale of the property in February of 2021, they moved to the property in the spring,



With the help of many volunteers, some coming for up to three weeks, they began to transform the property into a functioning school, where Bowart is director of systems development and Williams is director of dance and performance programming.

Rounding out the team is Anya Smolnikova, residential life coordinator, who also manages the center's Working Resident Program, a long-term work exchange for artists.

A campus for 28

According to the town's most recent grand list, the property, valued at \$745,800, is 47.8 acres. It includes the expansive, ruggedly beautiful post-and-beam main structure, a three-apartment building, and a pond that's a short walk away.

Williams said linens were still on the beds and dishes in the sink when they moved in. Tools, furnishings, and other equipment also came with the buildings.

The Field Center has almost 12,000 square feet at its disposal.

The large main building offers bedrooms with bathrooms for 28 attendees and staff, large practice areas, fireplaces, a sauna, a library, a recording studio, comfortable areas for socializing and watching movies, a woodworking shop, a laundry, a filmmaking studio, smaller classrooms, a large restaurant-level kitchen, and a big dining area. Organic gardens on the property provide food for the kitchen.

planning stages of building a performance center next to the main teaching center. One goal: more live performances.

"We have some goals," Williams acknowledged, "and then there's what actually happens in life."

For now, The Field Center is offering three-to-four-day workshops and events based around weekends a couple of times a month, or longer, more immersive workshops up to 10 days once a month.

Local people are welcome to attend, and dancers and artists from New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore regularly drive or



ROBERT F. SMITH/THE COMMONS

take Amtrak up to Bellows Falls to attend the programs.

"We usually have at least two teachers for every 15 to 20 students we have attending," Williams said.

A 'transformative experience'

Sol Cort, who has attended Center workshops four times, grew up in Harlem and now lives in Philadelphia.

"After graduating college, I Williams said they are in the came to Vermont for the first time to attend an improv workshop,' Cort said. "It was really transformative. I felt I needed to be here."

Cort had studied dance in college, ballet and modern dance in particular. She is also a bass player and music producer, and she noted that the integrated program at The Field Center, combining dance, art, music, recording and film, is "ideal" for her work.

Workshop attendee Marielle Abell, who has worked in the medical field for 30 years, grew up in Brattleboro, but moved out of the area. She recently moved back.

She described The Field Center as "a magical hub."

"It really brings in people from the region and from other states,' Abell said. "There are all sorts of programs, from costume design to dance.

She describes the atmosphere at the Center as "like a welcoming, instant family."

Abell started coming to the monthly improv dance jams and since then has attended several workshops.

She describes the current contact improv workshop as "Aikido meets a very friendly mosh pit.'

"This dance form has trust building as part of it," Abell said. 'We need that."

Contact improv was first developed some 50 years ago. It involves using dance fundamentals to explore weight, touch, and movement awareness with a partner. Dancers support, assist, protect, and may even lift and move their partners. Women lifting male dance partners was a unique hallmark of contact improv.

Nancy Stark Smith of Northampton, Massachusetts, who died in 2020, was one of the founders of contact improv, and a strong influence on The Field Center's teachings and



ROBERT F. SMITH/THE COMMONS

Field Center

Williams

and Nuria

Bowart in

center in

the recording

Rockingham.

studio of the

founders Jared

The Field Center in Rockingham.

philosophy.

Bowart observes that in contact improv, dance partners who are also life partners might dance differently from dance partners who do not have that connection.

Creativity without competition

Bowart said their goal for The Field Center is pretty straightforward.

We want to provide education and the opportunity to be with other artists, but not in an academic space," she said. "We teachers could teach without being an academic. This includes collaboration, inspiration, networking, and skill cultivation.'

In addition to dance, filmmaking, and art, the center's offerings include stage design and costume making.

The Field Center also hosts a monthly contact improv dance jam every second Wednesday of the month following a class.

"I watched artist friends struggle in a society that doesn't value artists," Williams said. "And dance is the worst. You spend most of your time asking for grants and competing with other dancers for them.'

Bowart noted that at The Field Center, "we're doing it in a way that takes away the competitive part of it."

Black Mountain College inspiration

The Field Center mixes theater, dance, art, music, filmmaking, and painting, with students taking on responsibility for cleaning, cooking, gardening, and maintenance at the school.

It carries on the educational tradition of Black Mountain College, created in 1933 as a new type of college based on the progressive educational principles of John Dewey.

Formed at a time when the U.S, was still reeling from the Great wanted to build a space where Depression, Adolf Hitler was on the rise in Germany, and artists and intellectuals were being persecuted across Europe, Black Mountain became a legend in its short, 24-year existence.

The college, which closed due to financial issues in 1957, attracted a highly influential array of artists, musicians, writers, poets, creators, filmmakers, and inventors. Many of them came to the United States to escape the rising fascism and anti-intellectual populism in Europe.

Among its more famous alumni and teachers are artists Josef

and Anni Albers, Bauhaus instructors who escaped Nazi Germany to teach art at the school, Robert Rauschenberg, Susan Weil, Willem and Elaine De Kooning, Cy Twombly and Jacob Lawrence; dancer Merce Cunningham; composer John Cage; film director Arthur Penn; writer Francine du Plessix Gray; poet Charles Olson; and inventor and futurist R. Buckminster

The Internal Revenue Service has recently recognized The Field Center as a nonprofit, tax-deductible, tax-exempt educational charity, and the organization has begun seeking grant funding. Bowart and Williams said they hope the center becomes a cauldron of creativity, similar to what Black Mountain College became.

"It's not that we're building something that will last forever,' Williams said. "It's more about how much of an impact can we make."

A full list of upcoming workshops, programs, recurring events, and contact information can be found at the field center.com.

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ONE CALL DOES IT ALL



and Military Affairs Committee. Some 80% of municipalities in 2021 and almost 75% in 2022 used the temporary laws

to replace shoulder-to-shoulder decision-making with mailable ballots, while most of the rest tapped the legislation to reschedule proceedings until residents could open windows or gather outdoors in warmer weather.

In 2021, only five communities held an in-person March Town Meeting, with each having little on the agenda or gaveling in for the sole purpose of adjourning to a later date. In 2022, that figure rose to about 40 — or 15% of the state's cities and towns.

The latest bill, now awaiting the governor's signature, will continue the options of switching from floor voting to ballots, rescheduling Town Meetings, and holding public information sessions online until July 1, 2024.

The move isn't expected to affect Vermont's 28 cities and towns with 5,000 or more people, as they annually vote on local matters using ballots. But most

l Town Meeting bill FROM SECTION FRONT of the 219 communities with

smaller populations traditionally hold some sort of Town Meeting, which must be warned at least 30 days in advance — or by Feb. 5 this year for those seeking to take municipal action on the traditional first Tuesday in March. The extension has received

support from the Vermont Secretary of State's Office and from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, a municipal support organization, both of which hope the Legislature will consider granting communities more permanent flexibility.

"Many of the temporary and emergency provisions required during the pandemic have caused us to rethink how and why we do things," replied Sen. Ruth Hardy, an East Middlebury Democrat and chair of the Senate Government Operations Committee.

We want to create a new normal where we ultimately both return to what works and reinvent what does not," she said.

That's worth celebrating!

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Wednesday, January 25, 2023 page B1

COLUMN Creative Conversations

MC Noyes, Judy Hawkins and Carol Keiser celebrate their current show, "Life," at Canal Street Art Gallery.

Art comes to

Artists Judy Hawkins, Carol Keiser, and MC Noyes, whose work is exhibited in 'Life,' discuss their creative process and inspirations

Bellows Falls

AVING COVERED the



opening of Canal Street Art Gallery in 2017 when the gallery went by a different name (Ad Hoc Art Gallery), I found myself once again on the lovely canal at the enchanting gallery that boasts the likes of 27 local artists and crafters.

On this day, I was viewing "Life," a show and collection of artworks by three of those artists — Judy Hawkins, Carol Keiser, and MC Noyes — who explore that theme in their creative work.

The Commons sat down on a snowy morning to talk with Hawkins, Keiser, and Noyes as they reflected on their show. We talked about everything

tions. A harpist by training and the mother of two sons, she enjoys volunteering, exploring Vermont's natural landscape, and attending concerts. from materials to how art can

'transport people to somewhere peaceful and calm," and why the arts matter.

Here's an excerpt from the conversations:

By way of introduction, why don't each of you say a few words about your paintings in the show, your materials and your painting process.

MC NOYES: I live in Bellows Falls and am the owner of Canal Street Art Gallery. My painting in the show is called "Waterway 1."

A lot of things inspire me to paint. I have the paintings in my head when I see certain things which I study, like water, trees, patterns, colors, shapes, and the light.

This painting was a departure from direct observation. I've been studying the canal

which our gallery is located on for years now. Having formed the composition in my head and also incorporating the visualization of using running water with bubbles to take away unwanted thoughts, it's like a meditation, in a way. It works for me as a visualization technique; I like painting

CAROL KEISER: I live and work mostly in Putney. My choice of medium is acrylic paint, because it is water-based and its quick-drying nature makes it ideal for travel.

I was very fortunate to be invited to join a safari to Zambia this past year. It was an incredible experience, being

Auditions planned for Ten Minute Play Festival at Actors Theatre Playhouse

BRATTLEBORO—The Actors Theatre Playhouse (ATP) in West Chesterfield, N.H., will hold open auditions for its 2023 Ten Minute Play Festival at the Brooks Memorial Library Community Room on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m, and Monday Feb. 13, from 6:30

According to ATP, this year's festival winners were selected from national submissions of more than 250 10-minute plays, which will be presented for nine performances on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, June 8 through 24.

"The plays that have made the final cut have gone through a vigorous screening by all our directors, and we look forward to bringing these plays into our production," ATP organizers said in a news release.

Copies of the plays as PDF files for perusal by email are available from producer Jim Bombicino at

jbombicino@comcast.net.

If you are interested in auditioning, email or call/text 802-274-0503 to schedule an appointment for a given time on either date. If you are unable to attend either audition session, you may contact Bombicino to make other arrangements.

Since its inception 12 years ago, ATP said it is "proud to have created many acting and directing opportunities for seasoned actors and newcomers alike. Actor participation and enthusiasm are key to the success of the program and we take care to cast actors of various experiences, ages, and types."

At the audition, performers will be asked to read from the 10-minute plays that interest them. Directors may ask them to read for other plays as well. People may audition for as many plays as they like, and they may be cast in more than one play.

Rehearsals for the 10-minute plays will most likely begin with a read through in March and rehearsals in May, with the most intensely scheduled rehearsal time being the three weeks prior to

The directors this year are Wendy Almeida, Jim Bombicino, Lionel Chute, Bob Kramsky, Brenda Seitz, Lin Snider, and Ben Stockman. They will schedule rehearsals for their respective plays. Performers should plan to be available on call to rehearse during the final three weeks before opening.

The plays in consideration for production, and their plot and character synopses are:

— Ode to Clouds, written by Carol Mark. "A fifty-something 'hippie' helps a distraught young newcomer re-frame her recent breakup by pointing out images in the clouds [...] from the ledge of a New York apartment building." Roles: Joni, 50s+; Stacey, 20s.

And Twice on Sunday, written by Brad Sytsma. "A comedic spin on one of the most basic elements of spycraft [...] the exchange." Roles: two agents, young man; man or woman; two "trench coats," man or woman.

— It's About Forgiveness, written by Albi Gorn. "A reconciliation beyond the pearly gates [...] can Myrna forgive Herman for the ultimate sacrifice?" Roles: Man and woman, 50s+.

—Out From Under With Mary, written by Chris Shaw Swanson. While waiting for a drug test at an inner city methadone clinic, a suburban housewife realizes there is more to homeless Mary than meets the eye [...] and ear. Roles: Diane, 30s; Mary, 50s+.

-Torrid Taxes, written by Laurie Spector. "As the tax filing deadline rapidly approaches, a beautiful woman with a dark secret changes the world of a dedicated CPA in ways he never calculated." Roles: Chance, man, 30s-40s; Desiree, woman,

- Speed Date, written by Carol Mark. "Can you find love in two minutes? Crazy. How about eight? Maybe not so crazy. Roles: Pam, 30s-50s; Tony, 30s-50s; and Sam the bartender.

Homeland Security, written by Mathew Widman. "A black comedy about who we watch, ■ SEE AUDITIONS, B4

Northern Roots Festival is back live and in-person for first time since 2020

Concert, pub sing, and full slate of workshops planned for Jan. 28, 29

years of disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's 16th annual Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival returns on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 28 and 29, with various in-person workshops, an evening concert, and three Sunday music sessions.

Part of the traditional music calendar in New England, the Festival showcases the variety of northern musical traditions including Irish, Scottish, English, French Canadian, Shetland, New England, and, this year, French Bal Folk.

Workshops at the Brattleboro Music Center are scheduled from noon to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28. Offerings include

BRATTLEBORO—After two celebrations of Bob McQuillen's tunes and Tony Barrand's singing, fiddle tunings and stylings, Irish flute technique, English and early New England tunes, Mandolin and guitar techniques, Irish and French-Canadian tunes, and explorations of French Bal Folk.

The Saturday evening concert, at 7:30 p.m., will include performances by Nathan Gourley and Laura Feddersen (Irish fiddle duo), Julia Friend (traditional song), Alex Cummings and Max Newman (English accordion and guitar), and Mary Fraser and Sally Newton (French Canadian

Also performing will be Traddleboro 2023. Traddleboro ■ SEE NORTHERN ROOTS, B4



For the first time since 2019, the Northern Roots Festival in Brattleboro will be a live event.

Publication of this week's Calendar is underwritten by BERKLEY & VELLER GREENWOOD COUNTRY REALTORS • www.berkleyveller.com



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AROUND THE TOWNS

Town polls RTM members on childcare options

 ${\tt BRATTLEBORO-The}$ Brattleboro Town Manager's Office is emailing out a poll to Representative Town Meeting members regarding their interest in town-provided childcare for the March 25 meeting at Brattleboro Union High School. This email will come from executive assistant Jessica Sticklor (email address: jsticklor@ brattleboro.org).

Respondents are asked to return the poll as soon as possible, especially if they are interested in childcare being provided.



Workers' Center offers information about **Medicaid cutoffs**

 ${\tt BRATTLEBORO-In}$ December 2022, Congress voted to eliminate the extra federal funding and requirement that states keep people on Medicaid. States will be able to start Medicaid re-determinations on April 1. According to the Urban Institute's projections, as many as 29,000 Vermont Medicaid recipients could be affected.

The Vermont Workers' Center is hosting two drop-in informational sessions in the Community Room at Brooks Memorial Library on Main Street. The sessions will be on Wednesdays, Jan. 25 and Feb. 8, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Members of the public are welcome to stop in to find out

what their rights are in this process, and how to be sure that they aren't cut off for bureaucratic reasons. People who are not on Medicaid and have questions about health care access are also welcome, as there will be other health care resources available. For more information, email windham@workerscenter.org.

Conflict resolution facilitation training offered online

SOUTH NEWFANE -Restorative Community Practice of Vermont is offering an eightweek course on learning to facilitate conflict resolution restorative circle conferences. The course meets once each week, on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30, Jan. 26 through March 16. The

classes will be held on Zoom. RCPVermont uses nonviolent

whether they will be affected, communication as a basis for preparing folks for a circle conference and teach the protocols and skills need to facilitate the ensuing conference. Instructors are Laurie Rabut and Dan DeWalt. There is a charge for the course, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. To register, contact clairesummers@rcpvermont.org. For more information, contact Dewalt at 802-348-7701 or visit rcpvermont.org.

Vermont FoodBank seeks volunteers

BRATTLEBORO — Want to engage with your neighbors and support food security in your community? Come volunteer at one of the Vermont Foodbank's fresh produce distributions.

Right now, the FoodBank said it is in urgent need of support at their Whitingham and Brattleboro events. To learn

more about volunteer opportunities with the Foodbank, visitvtfoodbank.org/give-time/ volunteer or email them at volunteer@vtfoodbank.org.

Newfane Church hosts an evening of story, song, and spaghetti

NEWFANE — Newfane Congregational Church presents an evening of story and song, and a spaghetti supper on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 4:30 p.m.

Participants are invited to enjoy a concert of story and song by mezzo-soprano Miriam Allbee and pianist Mike Kelly, then stay for spaghetti supper following the concert. A free will offering will be available during the concert. Dinner tickets available at the door at \$10 per **org** or 802-257-0775, ext. 104.

Hospice offers volunteer training

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Area Hospice announces its latest training program for Bereavement Program Volunteers. Applications are now being accepted for the upcoming spring training for the bereavement program. It will be held for eight weeks on Wednesdays, March 15 to May 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Space is limited. Those interested may apply at brattleborohospice.org, or email info@ brattleborohospice.org to have an application emailed or mailed to them. Contact Bereavement Program Coordinator Lars Hunter with any questions at lars.hunter@brattleborohospice.

Latchis Arts announces return of Movies for Kids series

Arts announces the return of its Movie for Kids series after its suspension in March 2020 due to COVIDFamily-friendly films will be presented on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. beginning the weekend of Jan. 28-29 and continuing through March at the Latchis Theatre. Admission is by donation.

The Movies for Kids series has been one of the most popular programs since Latchis Arts launched it in 2018. The intent is to present films for families to enjoy together, without cost as a barrier to access. More than 3,000 people attended series offerings in its first three years, including many young people for whom it was their first experience in a theater.

The series opens with screenings of The Lego Movie on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 28 and 29, at 11 am. *The Lego Movie* "is an action-packed animated family-friendly adventure following original and existing Lego characters," say event organizers.

"Featuring an all-star voice cast and some of the brand's most popular figures (including

BRATTLEBORO—Latchis movie should appeal to all ages, Film Institute's 100 Greatest from young Duplo players to teens who consider themselves Master Builders." Common Sense Media rates the movie as being appropriate for ages six and up and gives it high marks for positive messages. It is rated PG.

On Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 4 and 5, the series features Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, the first of the movies in the popular franchise based on J.K. Rowling's best-selling books. Harry, Hermione, and Ron Weasley make their way at Hogwarts school for wizards. The film is rated PG. Common Sense Media says the film is appropriate for ages seven and up, giving it high scores for positive role models and positive messages about courage, teamwork, and loyalty and saying some scenes might be a bit scary for little ones.

On Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 11 and 12, the series features The Wizard of Oz. Judy Garland stars as Dorothy. She and her pals Tin Man, Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion go on a quest to the Emerald City to see if they can get Dorothy and her dog Toto safely home to Kansas. Released Batman, Superman, Gandalf, in 1939, The Wizard of Oz is Wonder Woman), the inventive ranked No. 10 on the American in 1939, The Wizard of Oz is

American Movies of All Time. Common Sense Media says it's appropriate for ages six and up.

The series continues on Saturday and SundayFeb. 18 and 19, with Space Jam: A New Legacy, the 2021 film that features NBA star LeBron James, who teams with Bugs Bunny to win a basketball game so he can bring his kidnapped son home. The film is rated PG. Common Sense Media says it's appropriate for ages seven and up, noting that there is a fair amount of "toon" violence, balanced by positive messages and positive

Additional Kids Movies series screenings will be announced soon. Watch latchis.com for details.

Families should also know that the Latchis Theatre will be bringing back its \$1 Kids Movies during Winter Carnival, featuring daytime screenings starting at 11 a.m. during school vacation week, Feb. 20–24. The films this year are DC League of Super-Pets, Tom & Jerry, and The Hobbit. Check **latchis.com** for exact screening



Justin Murphy-Mancini

Epsilon Spires presents free organ concert in its Lunchtime Pipe Organ Series

temporary pieces by the Franco-Lebanese organist Naji Hakim and the 95-year-old American composer Emma Lou Diemer. The program also includes a sonata by Felix Mendelssohn and J.S. Bach's Passacaglia in C.

"Every piece on the program is a set of variations of one kind or another, allowing for the instrument's great variety to be communicated by composers throughout history," Murphy-Mancini said in a news release. "The concert will show off the many different colors and sound combinations possible only on the organ.

Murphy-Mancini is a graduate of Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music, where he earned degrees in historical performance, organ, composition, ers on the organ, which he then

BRATTLEBORO—At noon and philosophy before going on makes available to listeners online on Wednesday, Feb. 1, Dr. Justin to receive a doctorate in com-Murphy-Mancini will perform a position at the University of Dieterich Buxtehude to con- North Shore of Massachusetts, of Church music at a Unitarian Universalist congregation that is home to the last surviving organ by Newburyport organ builder Joseph Alley, built in 1834.

As a composer, Murphy-Mancini's work explores medieval poetic forms, with "an emphasis on timbre as the meaning-generating dimension of the music." His performance repertoire consists primarily of music from the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Baroque periods, but he also maintains a strong interest in contemporary composers.

In addition to his other musical activities, Murphy-Mancini frequently records works by women, people of color, and unknown Renaissance composthrough various platforms.

Now in its third year, the recital that ranges in time from California, San Diego. He is Lunchtime Pipe Organ Series the 17th-century composer coming to Brattleboro from the has brought dozens of performers from throughout the northeast to play programs of their favorite pieces on the 1906 Estey pipe organ installed in the sanctuary of Epsilon Spires. Previously used only during church services, this instrument is now regularly featured in a variety of musical events that have attracted thousands of listeners of all ages, backgrounds, and interests.

The free Lunchtime Pipe Organ Series is supported in part by a grant from the Windham Foundation. Note that Epsilon Spires heats its historic space with an environmentally friendly system that keeps the Sanctuary at a cooler temperature than the rest of the building during the winter months, so audience members are encouraged to dress warmly. For more information on this program, visit epsilonspires.org.

Brooks Memorial Library celebrates GennaRose Nethercott's debut novel

BRATTLEBORO—A special after-hours celebration of local author GennaRose Nethercott and her debut novel, Thistlefoot, will take place on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m., at Brooks Memorial

Library, 224 Main Street. Steeped in the folklore of Eastern Europe, this tale journeys through generations of heartbreak, horrors, and heroism, from Russia to Brattleboro, on the chicken feet of Baba Yaga's house. A ripping yarn filled with rivalry, romance, regret, and

redemption, Thistlefoot has re- internationally, performing ceived accolades from readers and reviewers alike.

who we are.

She tours nationally and

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puppets in tow) and composing Nethercott is a writer and poems-to-order for strangers on an antique typewriter with folklorist. Her first book, The her team, the Traveling Poetry Lumberjack's Dove, was selected by Louise Glück as a winner Emporium. The presentation will of the National Poetry Series. feature puppets, crankies, and Whether authoring novels, poimmersive reading. "It promises ems, ballads, or even fold-up pato be an unforgettable evening, per cootie catchers, Nethercott's and not for the faint-hearted, projects are all rooted in myth – organizers say. Books from Everyone's Books and what our stories reveal about

will be available for sale and signing. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Brooks Memorial

strange tales (sometimes with

The program is free and open to the public and is accessible to people in wheelchairs. For more information, visit brookslibraryvt.

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Calendar appears on page A7 this week





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Life, death, and cake: Preparing for a good death

BELLOWS FALLS—Death denial in the United States is commonplace, according to a news release from Kasey March, a trained International End of Life Doula (INELDA) and Susan MacNeil, author of 18 Minutes: A Daughter's Primer on Life & Death.

March and MacNeil will offer a chance to talk about preparing for a good death through the lens of their unique experiences in two events planned for February: Wednesday, Feb. 1, from 3 to 5 p.m., at the Rockingham Free Public Library (802-463-4270), 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, and Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library (802-885-3108), 43 Main

"Fears about dying in pain from a lingering illness and a lack of certainty about what happens to our physical presence or how loved ones left behind will cope when we die make it easier to simply avoid the conversation," they say.

Vermont Center for Photography

(VCP) will host photographer

Marco Yunga Tacuri for an Artist

Talk on Thursday, Jan. 26, at

"Los Longos del Barrio,"

Yunga Tacuri's portrait project

about Ecuadorian immigration,

is on display in the Picker Print

Gallery at VCP until the end of

"This project attempts to tell

the month.

The two-hour session will provide a framework for participants to join in the conversation about all aspects of death. Unlike a Death Café, which is intended solely as a discussion group, March and MacNeil's program provides a deeper dive into specifics around end-

of-life challenges and issues. The event is not intended to be a support group, although the conversation will be conducted in a compassionate environment.

March will provide resources as requested by attendees and MacNeil will hold a book-signing. Village Square Booksellers will be on site to manage book purchase. Coffee, tea, and cake will be available.

Adults 18 and older are welcome, and there is no charge to attend. Building accessibility is available. For more information, find March and MacNeil on Facebook or through their respective websites: DoulaCareforDying.com and authentic-voice-narration.

he wrote in his artist statement. "The majority of the people

portrayed in the first part of this

project are friends and relatives of

mine who, like me, left our home-

towns and families in Ecuador a

few decades ago to seek better

were often pejoratively called 'los longos del barrio' — roughly

translated as 'the crud of the

"In our youth in Ecuador, we

opportunities in the U.S.

Marco Yunga Tacuri to speak at VCP

■ 'Life'

there in Africa with the amazing wildlife and large animal population. I was in awe and felt so privileged to be able to witness these great creatures up close in their natural habitats, to watch the large herds of buffalo, elephants, zebras, giraffes, lions, wild dogs, moving slowly around each other and co-existing and in harmony.

I was especially interested in watching the mother elephants protecting their young. You can really almost feel the empathy and care they have for each other. I came away with a great respect for the animal kingdom, and I know that we humans have a lot to learn from just sitting and observing the natural world.

JUDY HAWKINS: I live in Westminster West and have been a painter all my life. I paint with oils. When I was 6 years old, I was encouraged by my uncle, an accomplished artist, to make art in his studio using paper and paints while the families visited. It was an incredible and a pivotal moment. From that point on, that's all I wanted

My parents also encouraged my creative interests, setting up a studio for me in the basement. When I was 16, I had a oneperson art show at our house,

because of their class and race. I

would like to reclaim this phrase

as a way of asserting our existence

and identity through this project

was once undocumented, I be-

lieve that through this project, I

will be able to open up a dialogue

about the complexities of being

an immigrant in this country, es-

pecially while undocumented.

With this project, I believe I can

create a bridge between those

who, decades ago, left our home

country and never got the oppor-

Yunga Tacuri describes him-

self as "an Indigenous Ecuadorian

immigrant, musician, anthro-

pologist, soccer player, teacher,

father of two beautiful kids, and

tunity to see each other again."

As an immigrant myself, who

of portraits.

which my mother set up as an art gallery.

My paintings are inspired by country drives looking at favorite marshes, fields and ever changing Vermont skies. These recollections are freely interpreted in the studio with color and texture.

I begin a painting at the top and work my way down, working quickly to establish mood through color and composition. I allow the paint, drips, and accidental color combinations to guide my vision, to create the mood and feeling of weather, skies, and water.

v.c.: What do you hope people will take away from this

M.N.: I hope "Water Way 1" transports them somewhere peaceful and calm. It is really about the motion of the water. I feel with the size of my painting -6 feet \times 4 feet -I hope that people feel the motion of water, [feel as if they are] standing in front of it.

C.K.: I hope they can just enjoy the simple beauty of these great creatures. This series is very different from my usual more-colorful style. I am so in awe of what I saw and experienced in Zambia that I felt I had to be true to the colors and the landscape, and I hope viewers

partner of a wonderful and tal-

ented woman." He moved to Brattleboro with his family in

"I love being a part of this community," he wrote, "walk-

ing, making connections with

other people, helping and sharing

when I can, as well as, of course,

the magic of photography and

the stories I can tell through the images I capture."

More of Marco Yunga

VCP is located at 10 Green

Street and lists its business hours

as Wednesday through Sunday, 11

a.m.-5 p.m. Call 802-251-6051 or

email info@vcphoto.org for more

—JIMMY CARTER

GOTAN OPINION?

Tacuri's work can be viewed at

marcoyungatacuri.com.

information

June 2014.

FROM SECTION FRONT

can also imagine being there. J.K.: I chose both older work and some of my latest paintings. I chose these paintings, created 25 years apart, because they have a common thread visually and in concept. This body of work is the most abstract of my paintings; they are atmospheric yet grounded, simplified yet complex expressions of the landscape.

This group of landscape paintings is not about particular places but [it conveys] my emotional connection to the beauty around us. By using bold colors and simplified forms my hope is that viewers will be able to immerse themselves in the beauty that surrounds us.

v.c.: Why do the arts

M.N.: The arts are essential to quality of life and to culture which is such a big part of society. It makes it worth being an artist in society to have beautiful things - not just infrastructure, things that inspire.

I love this quote from my late friend, artist Charles Norris-Brown: "Art lasts, and life is

C.K.: I believe that the arts can return us to our soul and restore our faith, our faith in humanity, and our respect for our planet. Above all, I believe that art can transform us and return us to love and compassion for all of life, great and small.

My trip to Africa made me aware of how fragile life is and how important it is for all of us to protect this planet. I hope my paintings bear witness to this beautiful place we call home.

J.K.: I can see the way my early art experiences have opened a more complete view of the world. Having been a special education teacher working with small groups of children, I have experienced the way art and creativity can open connections to learning and experiencing the world.

My grandchildren, ages 8, 10, 4, and 8 months old, love creating, and I learn so much seeing the world through their creations. They are sensitive to nuances and details, and it creates and opportunity to open their minds to something that is not strictly words. Their view of the world expands.

Visit Canal Street Art Gallery at 23 Canal Street in Bellows Falls. "Life: Judy Hawkins, Carol Keiser, MC Noyes," a collection of artworks from three artists with life as a commonality in each of their practices, is on display until Feb. 11. For more information, visit canalstreetartgallery.com, or call 802-289-0104.

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e have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs,

different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.

torytelling is as old as speech. It existed before humans first began to carve shapes in stones and press their hands upon the rocky walls of caves. —KATE FORSYTH

Storytelling returns to Main Street Arts

SAXTONS RIVER—A com- from God." munity favorite event that began in 2013, A Night of True Stories, is back at Main Street Arts on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Creators of A Night of True Stories were motivated to offer encouragement and support to locals who aspire to tell their stories and to get them on stage. "Like The Moth format," event organizers wrote in a news release, "the stories are true experiences, no more than 10 minutes long, and told without notes. For audiences, past stories have evoked empathy, laughter, reflection, and connection."

For the upcoming event, organizers said storytellers will share "their experiences with 1950s air raid drills, woolly bears, a fear of heights, following the heart, and walking through open doors, mistaken identity, and a calling

BRATTLEBORO—The immigrants living in New York,"

a story through images about neighborhood' — by people the life of many Ecuadorian who believed they were superior

"Revealing one's story on stage is an act of courage. A Night of True Stories is an unveiling of life experiences that not just impacts the storyteller but even more so those that come to listen" said Annesa Hartman, event coordinator.

Tickets are \$16 in advance, \$18 at the door. For more information, visit mainstreetarts.org or email info@mainstreetarts.org.

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

words that have not yet appeared elsewhere.

Vermont Independent

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Must be reliable, personable, organized, self-starting. You should have an understanding of the music business, and preferably contacts in the jazz world. You should know jazz and be able to explain these two unusual but intriguing bands to potential venues.

Hours: 6 to 10 per week. Pay: retainer fee or hourly (we will discuss), plus percentage of gigs booked.

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Northern Roots

gathers a group of different local musicians each year to perform for the evening concert. Traddleboro 2023 features Keith Murphy, Andy Davis, Fred Breunig, and Amanda

If you are unable to attend in person, this concert will be livestreamed.

The festival continues on Sunday, Jan. 29, with its threesession afternoon format, with a Pub Sing, French Canadian Session, and Irish Session, all hosted downtown at the River

FROM SECTION FRONT

Garden Marketplace from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 adult day, \$25 adult evening, and \$50 adult combo. Youth tickets are \$10 day, \$10 evening, and \$15 combo. Sunday sessions are by donation. Concert seats are limited, and advance purchase is strongly advised.

To reserve your tickets now and learn more about the livestreamed concert, go online at bmcvt.org, call the BMC at 802-257-4523, or email **info@** bmcvt.org.

Auditions

and who watches us. Big government and big business conspire to save America in the digital age." Roles: man and woman 20s-30s;

— Independence Day, written by Rhea MacCallum. "A mom gate the difficult road to terminal illness." Roles: Alice, frail, 60s+; FROM SECTION FRONT

and Elizabeth, 30s-40s.

— Leaving Nic, written by Connie Schindewolf. "Sue struggles to break up with her former love [...] Nic(-otine). A comedy.'

Artists appearing at this year's festival

• Alex Cumming is a traditional singer, accordionist, pianist, and dance caller hailing from Somerset, England, now living in Brattleboro. He performs songs and tunes from around the United Kingdom and America, sharing his knowledge of the tradition.

Cumming describes himself on his website as having made his mark on the folk scene with his "rhythmic, dance-able accordion style, strong voice, and his fun and engaging stage presence." He performs with bands Bellwether and The Teacups around the U.S. and UK and serves as music director for Revels North in the Upper Connecticut Valley.

Julia Friend is a singer of pub songs, sea shanties, and ballads. The Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS) says she "loves the power and vulnerability of the human voice. An occasional performer at folk festivals, she is happiest swapping songs and blending harmonies in dark corners in the wee hours of the night.

CDSS's Starter Kit for Folk from the Helen Hartness Flanders

Youth Traditional Song Weekend, and generally cheers for singing in all genres. She lives in Brattleboro, where, she says, she hums incessantly.

 Trained in classical violin for the first decade and a half of her life, Mary Lauren Fraser studied violin as an instrument intensively. Since moving from the classical music world into traditional music, she has traveled to many places with rich fiddle traditions, immersing in the tunes and styles of Ireland, Scotland, Appalachia, Quebec, and New England.

With the Suzuki Violin Teacher certificate, and many years of experience teaching at Maine Fiddle Camp, Pinewoods Camps, and festivals, she teaches all ages and abilities. Mostly performing solo, she has collaborated with other musicians and artists in New England in a wide range of creative and performance projects.

Some recent projects include researching and learning old tra-She co-authored the ditional ballads of New England

SongOrganizers, helped launch collection and starting a new music, song, and dance camp in southern Vermont called The Riverjam Romp. Mary plays for dances, weddings, house concerts, funerals, parties, re-enactment events and more.

• Max Newman performs with dance musicians and dancers across North America. Organizers say his accompaniment "is sought after for its musicality, its danceability, and grounding in traditional styles." With a keen interest in New England music and dance, he has played in many dance halls with luminaries of the style, most prominently in his group the Stringrays with Rodney Miller and Stuart Kenney."

As a community member, he has been involved with a number of next-generational and multi-generational events and is currently co-directing CDSS's American Week at Pinewoods. His playing has been featured in Flatpicking Guitar magazine. Max is described as having a warm, generous teaching style.

• Nathan Gourley and Laura Feddersen are an Irish fiddle duo

hailing from Boston. Their playing is steeped in lifelong study of the Irish musical tradition, and is at same time colored by their American roots. The pair have developed what organizers call "a unique style of twin fiddling, sometimes playing in taut unison, sometimes exploring chordal harmonies and rhythmic and melodic variations.

This year they released *Brightly* or Darkly, a follow-up to their 2014 recording with Brian Miller, Life is All Checkered. They each perform and teach regularly both at home in Boston and at festivals throughout the U.S. and Ireland.

 Sally Newton grew up singing and dancing with her family in the town of Jamaica. In high school, she began to play guitar with the family band, the Turkey Mountain Window Smashers, for square and contra dances. She learned to call from her father and, over the years, developed her guitar style, backing up fiddlers from New England and Southern Old Time and Quebecois traditional musicians.

man and woman 30s-50s.

and her adult daughter share laughter and tears as they navi-

-Fighting Mr. Right, written by Barbara Lindsay. "Does Marla really have the best strategy for finding Mr. Right? Roles: Marla and Joel, 20s-30s.

Roles: Sue and Nic, 30s-50s.

Hayward to discuss art, gardening

will give an illustrated talk at Next Stage Arts on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 4 p.m. on the design elements shared by the painter and garden designer. This talk comes out of Hayward's 2008 book Art and the Gardener (Gibbs Smith).

According to a news release, juxtaposing an image on the large screen of a classic fine painting next to a garden image, Hayward "will explore a variety of elements of composition: straight lines versus curved lines in paintings as well as paths and planted beds; the itinerary of the eye; positive and negative space (as in the positive space of planted beds and the negative space of adjacent lawn); color, light and shadow, the role of background, placing easels to paint as being akin to placing garden chairs to sit."

Hayward says his goal is to "help you see your garden and paintings in a new way, no matter how big or small your garden might be. And if you're not a gardener, this is also a talk about how to look at a garden (and a

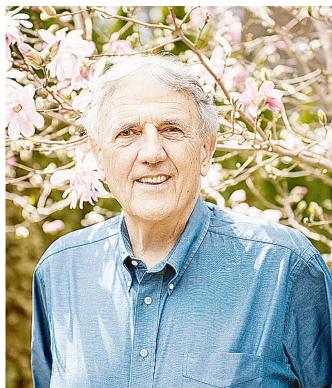
PUTNEY—Gordon Hayward painting) more consciously, with more understanding. In the end, it is about conscious seeing, about paying attention with your eyes.'

Hayward has given this lecture in several art museums and for garden clubs across the country over the years and, and in late February, he will give this revision for the Village Garden Club of La Jolla, California.

As garden curator Marco Polo Stufano, founding director of horticulture of the extraordinary Wave Hill Gardens north of Manhattan, wrote, "The study of art is the most important study a garden designer can pursue."

Admission is by donation (\$10 suggested), and all proceeds will directly benefit Next Stage Arts and Sandglass Theater. Tickets may be purchased at the link provided or at the box office on the day of the event.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney. For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit nextstagearts.org.



JOSEPH VALENTINE

Gordon Hayward

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Canal Street Art Gallery presents 'Heroes & Villains' art show

Art Gallery presents "Heroes & Villains," an exhibit with artwork by Clare Adams, Thomasin Alyxander, Debi A. Barton, Jean Cannon, Mindy Fisher, Corinne Greenhalgh, Gregory Damien Grinnell, Yevette Hendler, Su Lin Mangan, Charles Norris-Brown, Gretchen Seifert, and Linda Udd.

"The story of the hero and

BELLOWS FALLS—Now villain is told in many ways, through March 4, Canal Street gallery organizers said in a news release. "Through art, music, performance, writing, and everyday life, the hero and villain come alive. The quest of the hero often includes the villain, and the villain's story may even be told as well as or even instead.

"Many of the hardest decisions a hero must make are revealed by villains. The internal struggle

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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 themselves. How do these artists tell these

stories?

"As a bead weaver I try to stitch sculptures that tell stories about society, weaving together elements from folklore, history, literature and mythology," Alyxander said.
"I have collected vintage tex-

tiles, buttons, and ephemera which tell stories of people, especially women, who came before me. What stands out most to me during these strange times is not, however, the Villains who wish to control, but the strength and perseverance of the Heroes who will not be controlled," said Barton.

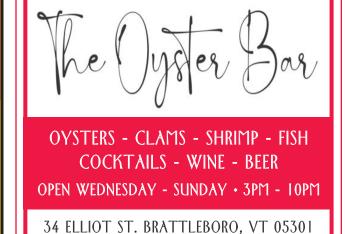
"Are they heroes or are they villains?" Grinnell asks. "What parameters are ascribed to each?

underground railroad routes that escaping slaves traveled, from the southern territories to the northern territories," said Mangan. The heroes are not only the escaping slaves but the people, the large network, who risked their lives to help them on their way to freedom.

"One of the most heroic acts one can undergo is taking on one's daimon/demon. To battle the inner chaos and untangle the knots, to have the courage to look at the shadow that personifies everything one refuses to acknowledge about oneself; within this dark seeming abyss lie the possible jewels of the authentic self, the discarded self tangled in darkness," said Udd.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street, and is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about the "Heroes & Villains" show or the gallery, go to canalstreetartgallery.com, call 802-289-0104, or send emails to artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.





802-257-3333

VIEWPOINT



A young person seeks asylum at the U.S./Mexico border.

GLENN FAWCETT/U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Biden administration puts asylum seekers in harm's way

We work with 20 people seeking safety here in Brattleboro — people facing torture, government persecution, gang violence, or rape in their countries of origin. Under new rules, three quarters of them would not have been permitted to do so.

TOE BIDEN came to office in 2021 vowing to undo the disastrous and cruel immigration policies of the Trump administration.

Instead, he has embraced and expanded them.

"We're going to restore our moral standing in the world and our historic role as a safe haven for refugees and asylum seekers," the president said on the campaign trail in 2020.

But on Jan. 5, the Biden administration announced that it will double down on its support for Stephen Miller's baby, Title 42—an obscure element of the public health code used by the Trump Administration to prevent people from accessing their right to asylum at the southern border.

Long lambasted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and by immigration experts as unnecessary and illegal, Title 42 has subjected a reported 13,000 migrants to murder, torture, kidnapping, or rape in the last two years alone.

After years of public pressure, the measure is something the Biden administration has made moves to overturn. But when those moves were temporarily blocked by contested court orders, the

KATE PAARLBERG-KVAM (she/her/they/them) is executive director of the Community Asylum Seekers Project (caspvt.org).

administration chose instead to use it to continue putting tens of thousands of people in harm's way.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S announcement detailed its plans to expel 30,000 additional asylum seekers from Venezuela, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Cuba to Mexico per month in addition to rejecting all asylum claims from people who traveled through Mexico and other countries without attempting to seek asylum there prior to arriving in the United States. (This ban was found to be illegal by U.S. courts when the Trump administration tried it, which apparently isn't enough of a reason to take it off the table.)

The Biden administration is forcing people to seek asylum in a country from which thousands of people every year flee to seek

asylum elsewhere, which cannot grant them protection from gang violence, gender violence, kidnapping, or torture.

"These policies violate domestic and international law and actively put asylum seekers in harm's way," said the Center for Victims of Torture in a statement.

IN AN EFFORT to put a humanitarian mask over these violations, the Biden administration announced a concurrent plan for a mini-parole program modeled on a program offered in October to a select number of Venezuelans.

The plan immediately met with resounding condemnation from the immigrant support community, with Human Rights First reminding us that the parole plan for Venezuelans is "a humanitarian discrete."

The new plan offers a chance at parole for 30,000 asylum seekers a month from four select countries: Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Haiti. Under the plan, asylum seekers can apply for parole by way of a cell phone app — if they already have available a

■ SEE ASYLUM SEEKERS, C2

MEMORIAM

'He touched a lot of lives. He changed mine.'

Gary Smith 'was smarter, funnier, and more talented at almost everything than pretty much everybody, but he never held that over anybody's head'

Bellows Falls
OR ME, "friend" is an elevated concept seldom bestowed. I don't make friends easily. And then, being a socially inept dumbass, I'm not always a particularly attentive friend when I get one.

But somehow Gary Smith was one of my best friends. He was that for a lot of people.

My friend Gary died. There's a mountain of good things to say about Gary, and many of them are being said by famous people and not-famous people alike.

I'm one of the not-famous ones. He touched a lot of lives, changed a lot of lives. He changed mine. I was lucky to know him.

A lot of the same things irritated us. A lot of the same things inspired us. He was smarter, funnier, and more talented at almost everything than pretty much everybody, but he never held

MARK PIEPKORN is the founder of Stage 33 Live and a longtime volunteer with Black Sheep Radio (WOOL). He posted this piece on Facebook on Jan. 19. His friend Gary Smith, a founder of WOOL, died Jan. 16; an obituary will appear in next week's Commons.

that over anybody's head.

I didn't know him until after his days in the thick of the music biz — I didn't even realize initially that he'd had his fingers in so much of that stuff that defined my life. He didn't hide it, but he didn't crow about it.

ut he didn't crow about it.

He wasn't much older than me.

I MET GARY when I moved to the small Vermont village of Bellows Falls and got involved with the community radio station that he'd helped found, one of his many passions.

This was after the Windham
Ballroom concerts ended, and a few
years before he started planning Popolo

restaurant.

He once had an idea for a regional events magazine. We launched and ran it together, he and I. It only managed to last for four issues, but it was pretty great and should have been successful.

He was one of the earliest supporters of the music performance documentation project I've been hacking away at the last handful of years. The spirit of it resonated with him even though it's mostly defined itself as an acoustic folkie thing rather than the crunchier stuff that really moved him. He donated some bits and bobs left

■ SEE SMITH, C2



Gary Smith, right, visits with Mark Edson at the headquarters of WOOL-FM, the community radio station that he helped found.



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LETTERS FROM READERS

ELL teachers supported Afghan family's children educationally, culturally, and personally

ver the past year, I had the privilege of serving on an Afghanistan refugee cosponsorship team composed mostly of members of three local United Church of Christ congregations. Our team supported a family of refugees, which consisted of two parents and, until a recent joyful addition, three children.

There were countless ways that our community inspired us with the welcome they extended to the family. I want to speak specifically about the area I helped facilitate — education.

Our family's children were warmly welcomed by school representatives from the outset, and they and their parents were treated with compassion and dignity.

The English Language Learners (ELL) teachers were the first and most constant connections between the family and the schools. From the initial encounter, an intake interview, I was struck by the high degree of preparation and care these teachers showed. Deb Coombs, Jen Course, and Rachel Scarano were remarkably ready for the large influx of ELL students created by our community's resettlement of refugees.

Despite the stress this must have caused them, they were calm, gentle, and reassuring as they discussed the previous educational background of the children, the process for enrolling them at Academy School and Brattleboro Area Middle School, and what their experience would be like there.

Once the students started going to school, the sense of a warm embrace was extended by the entire school population, from the classroom teachers who welcomed and fully included each child in instruction as well as their classroom communities, to the students who reached out and befriended them and created room signs in Dari or Pashto languages, to the administrators who extended offers of support and created spaces for the children to privately observe their noontime prayers, to the coordinators of after-school programs who eagerly included the children in their activities.

But the anchor of support educationally, culturally, and personally — for the children continued to be their ELL

Jen, Deb, and Rachel as well as Olivia Clark and Heidi Pancake established strong, healthy, positive relationships with the children, helping them to understand academic content in a new language and creating

a space in which they felt comfortable and known. The children loved their schools and looked forward to attending every day.

The family we welcomed to Brattleboro last February has recently relocated to another part of the country where the father has found a good job in his professional field.

As our work with them concludes, our team felt it was important to shine a positive light on the outstanding experience this family of refugees had in our schools.

> Stephen Rice Brattleboro

The writer has served as educational liaison for a refugee resettlement cosponsorship team from First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro, Centre Church, and Dummerston Congregational

Brattleboro Selectboard: Reconsider making Representative **Town Meeting** in-person only

n Jan. 3, the Selectboard voted to hold Annual Representative Town Meeting as a strictly in-person event for the first time since 2019. The vote took place during the first board meeting of the year, and those of us with family obligations during the holiday could not attend.

The Selectboard should reconsider this decision for two

First of all, in the minutes of the meeting (bit.ly/699-brattsb), I see that Selectboard members asked for the opinion of RTM members. However, no one actually seems to have checked the minutes of last year's meeting (bit.ly/699-artm2022).

At the end of that long night last March, as recorded on page 12 of those minutes, RTM passed the following motion:

"RTM recommends that the 2023 RTM be held in a hybrid format, and offer ways to attend in-person or virtually, while also having a Zoom option made available to the public, with a Zoom co-host assigned to assist with the virtual aspect of the meeting, with details to be developed by the Selectboard.'

This passed 80 in favor, 8 opposed.

If the Selectboard's decision was meant to be based on the needs of RTM members, they ought to take this motion into consideration.

The second reason is one of selection bias. There were multiple RTM members at the Jan. 3 meeting who spoke in favor of in-person meetings. I must point out that the minority of RTM members who are

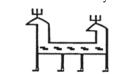
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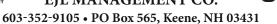
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VIEWPOINT

We need zoning for the Vermont that we are

Our look should be protected — but so should the possibility of at least being able to rent, if not buy, a place to live

LL THAT state Rep. Seth Bongartz (D-Manchester) and his colleagues are doing is facing the fact that lovely Vermont just isn't what it thinks it is anymore.

The bill they're proposing to enable housing development by banning singlefamily zoning and allowing duplexes and even three-and-four-unit homes in some municipalities just makes sense.

A couple of decades ago I began to understand what Vermont had become.

Driving from our Weathersfield house to a friend's place a few miles down the Center Road, I found myself thinking how great country living was as I passed generally modest homes set far apart from each other, with lots of trees and brambles and brooks in between.

It couldn't get any better.

Then something else occurred to me. For the first time since we'd moved to Vermont some years before, I began to think about where the people who lived in those houses worked: some in Springfield, Windsor, and Claremont a half-dozen miles away; a few farther away, in Brattleboro or Ludlow, or, increasingly, in Lebanon and Hanover.

That's when I realized a simple fact: I didn't really live in the country. Vermont wasn't rural. It was just another set of suburbs with big lawns.

A few people actually lived off the land,

NICHOLAS BOKE is a freelance writer and international education consultant.

like the Woods on Center Road and the McDermotts down the hill. But most of us drove to work in the morning, some of us nearby, others quite a distance away. Almost none of us lived a truly rural existence.

Sure, some of us raised laying hens and even a pig or milk cow, and grew and preserved lots of vegetables, but our lives where we worked and bought our food and clothes and such — were not much different from the lives my wife and I had lived in the Maryland suburb we'd moved from, or the Connecticut one the Harrises up the hill had left. Even multigenerational Vermonters like the Stoodleys down the hill and Joe Dodge just up Jarvis Road left home every morning for their work.

My WIFE AND I left Vermont for a while in 2005, but moved back, to Chester, a few years ago. None of my new neighbors runs a dairy farm or relies on the sugar maples on their property for a living here,

Every morning, everybody gets in a car (or pickup) and goes to work. I get it that we love the look of Vermont. All those white-clapboarded

houses and open fields, all those trees and brooks. They're lovely.

And they should be protected. But so should the possibility of at least being able to rent, if not buy, a place to live. And the simple fact of the matter is that, according to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, if we're to house those who'll need to live in Vermont in 2030, 40,000 new housing units must be built.

That's a lot of houses and apartments. If we don't allow more residences on smaller parcels, we'll never make it. If we don't make it, there'll be no place for all those people to live, the ones who would drive to the restaurants and antique shops, fire departments and nursing homes, hardware stores and supermarkets that'll be necessary to take care of Vermonters needs - our needs.

Lots of People and organizations are generally on board with Bongartz's efforts, as many are with the concomitant need to reform Act 250.

Given how long it takes to go from having an idea about what and where to build, to slapping on that last coat of paint, we'd better get started on all this pretty soon.

Sure, Vermont may not end up looking quite so country. But at least the people who'll be needed to make it work will have places to live.

available to come to the very first Selectboard meeting of the year are, by default, the ones who do not have a problem with in-person meetings.

Those of us who have athome obligations and Covid concerns are less likely to be able to come and speak in person, much as we might want to. I know at least one candidate for this year who is no longer going to submit an application because she cannot and will not attend a strictly in-person meeting.

I may not be able to, either. I have managed to attend hour-long, masked Finance Committee meetings with six people in them, but a day-long indoor meeting with 250 is more Covid risk than I want to bring home to my child — in particular, during the rise of a treatment-resistant variant.

At least one person last year had trouble with Zoom because he called in from a beach in Florida and then seemed surprised to have connection issues. I hope folks who had technical troubles last year will take them as a learning opportunity, take advantage of provided tech support, plan to be at a computer for future Zooms, or come in-person in the event of a hybrid meeting.

For all its flaws, Zoom is still the best option to attend RTM for me and my family.

Eli Coughlin-Galbraith Brattleboro

The writer is a Representative Town Meeting member serving

Emergency housing in RVs: a good, simple plan

Prattleboro Common Sense has a broad and practical agenda to address the housing crisis, including emergency housing in RVs. Rights and Democracy (RAD) and BCS are working out a joint proposal not for eviction alone, but also for rent control. We hope it will be a model for the state campaign.

Since BCS started negotiating with the Selectboard on the Fair Evictions and Rents Law (FERL) in 2020, we have consulted with many allies and are ready and eager to proceed with a petition drive. RAD is not endorsing the BCS emergency housing plan.

BCS believes Vermont must enact fair evictions and rent controls together for housing retention, but these acts would offer no protection for the people moving into the local economy or people who are most vulnerable in our society — the many people or who are already homeless.

BCS is developing policy for emergency housing in RVs so that people can rent out space for RVs on land in town. Property owners can donate space or get extra income.

Brattleboro officially needs 500 rental units as soon as possible. Officials around Vermont

have plans for big housing construction projects and for new ways to pay for them, but big construction projects take years. They will be of no help to homeless people this winter and no help to other people moving here to live.

Besides that, there is a shortage of construction workers because of the labor shortage, and no place for them to live, because there is a housing

So, big construction projects are a shortsighted plan.

Emergency housing in RVs is a good, simple plan. RVs can be complete separate rental units, or they can be used like a detached bedroom. Creating one can be as quick as buying a car.

People in non-profit organizations around town and people in town government have been very helpful, and we invite everyone to join us and develop these new policies. BCS's first RV has arrived. It's as cool as a baby elephant and deserves a name.

> Brattleboro Commons Brattleboro

Kurt Daims

No legitimate argument in favor of trapping

came within inches of stepping in a steel-jaw leghold trap while hiking along an established trail on state land. While I would have suffered a lot of pain and significant injury had it crushed my foot, the fact that I was hiking with my dogs and grandchildren elevated my concern to another level and led me to give this issue a critical review.

As demonstrated by my experience, these traps are entirely indiscriminate, maining and often killing animals, wild and domestic, that not only are unintended targets, but which often are protected species. Dogs, cats, deer, black bear, eagles, turkeys, and owls are among the many animals that are captured in these devices by trappers seeking fur, control of "nuisance" animals, or simply for "sport."

If a similarly lax approach were applied to hunting, people would have license to shoot anything that moves.

Of course, no creature should be subjected to the suffering caused by this cruel and inhumane practice. Trapped animals are left to suffer for hours or days in the elements, while experiencing blood loss, frostbite, exhaustion, predation, severed tendons, torn ligaments, dislocated joints, and broken bones and teeth (from desperately chewing at the trap to escape). Many die trying in vain to escape the steel jaws of the trap. With no other hope of escape, trapped animals may resort to amputating their own limbs.

It has been argued that trapping, including the use of leghold traps, should be protected because it is a longstanding

tradition, is "necessary" to limit property damage (such as flooding caused by beavers), and provides an important economic

None of these arguments has merit: The economic value of fur trading continues to decline with limited to no markets; there are more effective, lasting, and humane ways to control nuisance wildlife; and, while there is value to tradition, it also is necessary to recognize when a tradition (for example, discharging raw sewage into rivers, burning plastic trash in

backyards) must be abandoned. Legislation has been pro-

posed that would severely restrict trapping and ban the most barbaric trapping practices. Hardly a radical idea, as such restrictions already have been enacted in 10 states and more than 100 countries. Please consider contacting your state representatives and senators and urge them to ensure that Vermont joins this growing group of responsible and humane jurisdictions.

Jim Sullivan North Bennington

Asylum seekers

FROM SECTION FRONT

passport, a U.S. sponsor who commits to two years of financial support, and international Access to all three of these

prerequisites is limited to people of relative means, effectively shutting out the poor from the chance to save their own lives. "People fleeing for their

safety are often unable to obtain passports or wait in their countries of origin while their applications are processed, particularly those who are fleeing government persecution," said Human Rights Watch.

Moreover, given that 60% of current asylum seekers come from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador — none of which are on the list of eligible countries — Biden's new policy is essentially an asylum ban levied on the people most often seeking safety.

For a man who lauded himself publicly for ending Trump's so-called Muslim Ban, the move is particularly repugnant.

Even those few asylum seekers admitted by way of the new program will be shunted into the broken and backlogged asylum system. Thousands

of Afghans admitted into the country on similar grounds over a year ago, including many of our neighbors and colleagues, are still in legal limbo. Adding more people to those rolls does nothing to advance immigration justice in this country.

At the Community Asylum Seekers Project, we work with 20 asylum seekers building new lives in Brattleboro. Each one of them faced torture, government persecution, gang violence, or rape in their countries of origin.

Under the new rules, three quarters of them would not have been permitted to seek safety in the United States.

All of them left family members and loved ones behind who are facing similar harms at this very moment, blocked now from accessing their legal right to seek safety in this country.

The administration's parole program is a policy of smoke and mirrors, wearing an ill-fitting costume of humanitarianism while dispossessing and endangering tens of thousands of people for political gain.

Here in Vermont, we're trying to open our doors. When will our government get out of the way?

Smith

- gear that might very well have been used in sessions with The Pixies, Billy Bragg, Radiohead, Big Dipper, Juliana Hatfield, Throwing Muses, Belly, Tanya Donelly, Dinosaur Ir., Sebadoh, The Connells, The Specials, Blake Babies, Weezer, Yo La Tengo, Warren Zevon, Uncle Tupelo, or countless other bands and performers.

over from Fort Apache Studio

To be the steward of a tiny slice of that legacy, to keep it fulfilling the purpose Gary intended, is heady stuff.

As HE STARTED getting sick and then sicker, Gary and I had frank and mostly irreverent

FROM SECTION FRONT

conversations about mortality. We were both pragmatic about

He lasted a lot longer than he always thought he would; except for his mom, his family all died young. He didn't want to die, though. There were a hundred things he still wanted to do. There were always a hun-

dred things he wanted to do. It's been three days since I got the text: "Gary died tonight." I was in Minnesota visiting my mom, something I know Gary would have ap-

proved of. I'll miss Gary. It's not really

real yet.

Brattleboro Retreat to ramp up inpatient care and transport capacity

Hospital adds more beds, signs contract with Rescue Inc. to provide patient transport

By Kristen Fountain

BRATTLEBORO—As much as any provider within the state's strained mental health system, the staff at the Brattleboro Retreat

day Vermonters in crisis wait for care in emergency departments across the state. That's why they are pushing to get back to pre-COVID-19 lev-

els of inpatient beds as quickly

as possible, and why they just

launched a new ambulance

are attuned to the fact that every

transport service pilot program through a contract with Rescue

that 100-bed mark here in 60 days," said Brattleboro Retreat Vice President Erik Rosenbauer. "That is what the planning is, and that is why all these other initiatives are underway.

Getting back to 100 beds would be an increase of 16 beds over what the state's largest provider of inpatient mental health services has had available in recent days, Rosenbauer said.

just part of the solution.

Brattleboro Retreat CEO Linda Inc.

"The Retreat will be over Rossi said in a Jan. 17 statement concurring the new contract with announcing the new contract with Rescue Inc. that patients sometimes wait in hospitals for hours or days solely because of the lack of available transport.

In December, on any given day, between 25 and 30 patients were in emergency departments around Vermont, waiting to be transferred elsewhere for mental health care, according to the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, which surveys its members on this topic twice a week. The majority wait longer than 24 hours.

Inc. vehicle and crew entirely to the transport needs of incoming patients five days a week, between noon and 8 p.m., which is when historical trends suggest the service is most needed, said Drew Hazelton, Rescue Inc.'s chief of operations.

The crew is set to receive training from Retreat staff on best practices for interacting with patients in a mental health crisis. The ambulance itself will also be physically adapted to create a more calming environment.

"Ambulances can be very busy," Hazelton said. "They are like emergency departments.

But having the space open is contract will allocate one Rescue challenging to some patients."

Rescue Inc. has long provided transportation between local hospitals and the Retreat, but this program expands that service to other hospitals statewide, Hazelton said.

Hazelton also hopes to make the training available to EMS providers statewide through the Vermont EMS Academy, which Rescue Inc. launched in August in Newfane. Existing EMS training programs do not focus enough on interacting with mental health patients, he said.

Like the rest of the health care system, the Retreat experienced significant staff turnover during There is a lot of stimulus in the Covid-19 pandemic, as well The new Brattleboro Retreat ambulances, and that can be as several outbreaks of the virus,

both of which led to the decrease in bed capacity.

According to a recently released Legislative report by the Vermont Department of Mental Health, the Retreat's capacity fluctuated by more than 20 beds between October 2021 and late February 2022. Staffing shortages continue to force facilities to close beds at times, the report says.

With the new transportation program and the return to prepandemic bed levels, the Retreat is trying to make a difference in the long emergency room waits.

"From the bottom of my heart, I really think that this is something that can have an immediate impact," Rosenbauer said.

DVFiber connects first customers in Readsboro

Halifax, Marlboro, Stamford, and Whitingham are next on the list

READSBORO—Deerfield for our residents to have the same Valley Communications Union District (DVCUD), operating as DVFiber, the communications union district serving 24 towns in southeastern Vermont, says it has connected its first customers with high-speed fiber optic Internet.

According to a news release, customers in Readsboro were connected to **DVFiber.net** late in December. This pilot group is testing the DVFiber network for reliability of speed and access to the Internet for a three-month trial period.

DVFiber says it will survey the pilot group for feedback regarding all aspects of customer service, including initial connection, call response time, repair, customer support, and billing. The survey findings will help ensure that connecting larger numbers of customers will go as quickly and smoothly as possible in 2023.

"The connection of the pilot program customers last week marks a huge milestone for Readsboro. In recent years, whenever someone new moves into town the first thing they ask is, 'What's the best option for Internet service?' and really there were no good broadband options

"So, for me," says Omar Smith, Readsboro's representative to the DVFiber Governing Board, "it's very exciting to see a 'world class' option available for our community. It creates a level playing field

Scholarships available

for older students

General Federation of Women's

Clubs of Vermont (GFWC-VT)

announces the availability of

scholarships for Vermont women,

beyond the traditional high school

to college age track, seeking to

further their education, training,

or to upgrade their skills in prep-

aration for entering or advancing

Applicants must submit a specific plan for their education or

training. Applications are due

to Betty Haggerty, 16 Taylor St., Bellows Falls, VT 05101

by March 15; her contact infor-

mation is also included on the

The scholarships range from

\$500 to \$1,500. GFWC-VT has

been awarding this financial aid,

which is funded through contri-

butions from the state federated

clubs and from individuals, for

in the workplace.

application.

BELLOWS FALLS—The 29 years.

connected services as many larger, more densely populated areas.

Now that DVFiber is officially an internet service provider (ISP) for Windham and Bennington counties, its next focus will be to press forward speedily with its construction to expand and connect more customers in 2023.

The current expected engineering plan is that DVFiber will connect customers in areas of Halifax, Marlboro, Readsboro, Stamford, and Whitingham. DVFiber's construction build-out design does not track town borders, so portions of some member towns may be available to be connected sooner than another section of the same town. This construction work is expected to take the better part of the next

These initial homes mark the first step in achieving our goal to make fibernet service accessible and affordable to all in our district," said DVFiber Chair Steven John. "This is our mission and sole purpose as your publicly owned and operated Internet service provider."

DVFiber was established in 2020 to provide universal, affordable, reliable high-speed Internet service that will support economic development and expand educational opportunities within the district. For more information, visit**DVFiber.net**.

The scholarship is named

for late Barbara Jean Barker,

of Poultney, who served as

GFWC-VT President from 1992-

1994, and who was instrumen-

tal in establishing the program.

Women receiving the awards over

the years have come from a range

Applications for the schol-

arship can be obtained from

Betty Haggerty (hubett@

hotmail.com) and GFWC-VT

president Beverley Pallmerine

(bpallmerine@gmail.com). They

are also available through fed-

erated women's clubs in several

towns, and through Community

College of Vermont and Vermont

Technical College sites around the

state. The scholarships will be

of Vermont towns.

JOON PAHK

THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

"We're Expanding"

Across

- 1. Penicillin discoverer War and Peace`heroine
- "You'd think so, wouldn't
- you?" follow-up 2022 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Megan
- 21. Less tactful 2018 title role for Bullock Chapel that also sells
- fried chicken?
- Singer Osmond Wall St. letters
- 27. Pilgrimage to Mecca
- 28. Teacher's grad deg. 29. Grammar topic
- 30. Fish tank fish 32. Polynesian nation
- Name that's Hebrew for "adversary"
- Online alternative, briefly
- Take wing 40. Corn
- Operate "Gangnam Style" guy
- Delivery method Board game cafe that
- also sells pizza?
- Venues Sphere
- Place for a new do Fabric store that also sells trail mix?

Fonzie catchphrase that's

- also an office chair brand Middle distance
- distance, informally
- Reporter's coup 66. Hosiery color
- 67. Dubious blockchain asset 69. Shot blocker?
- 73. Made inquiries 75. Fast tempo
- 77. Bloke 78. Fairy tale's second
- word, often 80. Give a once-over
- 82. Homer's hangout
- 83. Home of soccer's OL Reign
- 85. Ice cream parlor that also sells fishing gear? 89. Around
- 90. Important time 92. Audition
- Car wash that also
- sells Jamaican food? Very, very cold
- 102. Australia's busiest airport `Silent Spring` pesticide
- 104. Eschew 106. Afternoon meal
- Taking estrogen, 107. informally
- 108. Have your say Civilization of
- ancient Mexico
- 112. Belly button `Squid Game`language
- 117. Actress Carter 119. Campus marching gp.
- `Cryptonomicon author Stephenson
- 123. Bond formers 124. Pot dispensary that's
- also a laundromat? Tag declaration
- 128. Used a crowbar on "Who's with me?",
- in a word
- 130. The ones here 131. Confessional opening
- 132. Insects with prominent eyespots

Down 1. Wildly distraught

- Bar workers?
- 3. Letter

9. Mont Blanc, e.g. 10. Great disturbance 11. Ancestral Puebloans 12. Eyelid woe

arcade game

4. Stratego piece that

Gerund ending

6. Ancient mariner?

7. Actress Rowlands

8. 1990s hoops

can defuse bombs

114 115 116

- 13. Listens to
- 14. Itinerary abbr. 15. Music club that also
- does auto repair? 16. Where Sue Bird
- played college ball
- Circus setting 18. Grandma
- 19. Banded gemstone
- 24. Provides music
- 29. Floor
- 31. Union that merged
- with SAG 33. More, in Madrid
- Coffee variety
- 38. Home security?
- 39. Over there, poetically
- 41. Prefix with tourism
- 43. Kicking someone
- when they're down 44. Unpunished
- 45. Desire
- 47. Winery barrels
- 48. Catches 50. Form of Irish
- 51. Columnist Savage
- Trinidadian music genre NFL coaching
- great Chuck With misgivings Submitted, as an offer 59. Also-ran
- 60. Where Suni Lee won gold 61. Alacrity
- 63. Carson Daly's old MTV show
- 68. Coin flip Butcher shop that also
- sells fake jewelry? Suitable
- 72. Cornmeal dish

- 76. Twitch stream reaction 79. Ardent hobbyist
- 81. Separate

74. Check for prints

117 118

128

- 84. Obama health
- measure, for short 86. Duma denial

- "There!" 88. Habanero, e.g.
- 89. Includes in an e-mail
- 91. Basketball star Wilson 94. Yemeni port

- 95. Turns into a different
- Pokémon
- 96. Curling tools 97. Surname of
- three unrelated members of BTS
- "That was great!" 100. Anywhere to be found
- 108. Penultimate round 109. Genuflect 111. Gear tooth 113. Attracted to masc

101. "I mean, that goes

105. Make fun of

without saying"

122

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129

- people, in brief 114. Categorical imperative
- philosopher
- 115. Texter's "However..."
- 116. Mechanical repetition
- 118. Icicle site
- 120. Cuisine with pad see ew
- 121. Military garb, briefly 124. Barrister's deg.
- 125. Line of fashion?
- 126. Game played with matchsticks

Last issue's solution

"What Are the Odds?"



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begins on Feb. 2 BRATTLEBORO—Beginning Feb. 2 and continuing through April 13, AARP Foundation is

Free Tax-Aide service

providing tax assistance and preparation through its Tax-Aide program — and it's completely free. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRScertified every year to ensure they understand the latest changes to

the U.S. Tax Code. Tax-Aide has two sites available in Brattleboro this year. The Brattleboro Senior Center, 207 Main Street, will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. Call 802-257-7570 to schedule an appointment. VFW Post 1034, 40 Black Mountain Road, will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 pm on Mondays. Call 802-490-4619 to schedule an appointment.

Your taxes will be prepared and filed in person at either site, or for those concerned about

awarded at the state federation's annual meeting in the spring.

COVID-19, materials may be dropped off on those days. Tax-Aide provides tax preparation assistance services nationwide. For more information about AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, including what type of service is available where, and which

documents you need to file your

taxes, visit aarpfoundation.org/

taxaide or call 888-AARPNOW

(888-227-7669).

hey can't collect le-

page C4 Wednesday, January 25, 2023

COLUMN | Sports Roundup



BUHS defeats Harwood for third straight win

Brattleboro forward Evan Wright narrowly avoids being slammed into the glass by a Harwood defender during boys' hockey action on Jan. 21 at Withington Rink. Wright had a goal and two assists in a 6-3 victory.

RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

rattleboro boys' hockey coach Eric Libardoni admits his team got beat up by the top teams in Division II in the first part of the season. "We had a ridiculously hard schedule to start the season," he said.

But a four-game homestand at Withington Rink against opponents that are at the same level as the Colonels enabled them to get things right heading into the final weeks of the season.

The Colonels picked up their third straight win with a 6-3 victory over Harwood on Jan. 21. Brattleboro sophomore right winger Evan Wright, who scored four goals in an 8-4 win over Burlington on Jan. 14, had a goal and two assists against Harwood. Sophomore Alex Dick added two goals and Riley Dionne, Henry Schwartz, and Carter Mialkowski also scored. Gabe Alexander had a pair of assists and Andy Cay and Rowan Lonergan were credited with one assist each.

We're starting to get more scoring from different people, which is always good to see," said Libardoni. "We're doing a lot of things right, but we're not doing everything right."

The one thing Libardoni singled out that needs improvement is the defense. "We have to start limiting teams to a goal or two," he said. "You can't beat the better teams if you're giving up three or four goals in a game."

Brattleboro got out to a quick 2-0 lead in the first period as Wright showed off his speed and some nifty stick work in getting an unassisted goal just 53 seconds into the game. Those same moves led to another goal about a minute later as Wright and Alexander set up Dionne for his tally.

Harwood had two power play chances later in the first period. They came up empty on the first one, but Eli Harrington scored the first of his three goals in the game during the second power play with 4:32 left in the period. Brattleboro wasted no time getting that goal back as Cay and Mialkowski set up Schwartz for his goal just 25 seconds later.

Harrington scored again just 2:03 into the second period to cut the Colonels' lead to 3-2, but Dick scored a power-goal assisted by Wright to make 4-2 with 9:36 to play.

Dick scored an unassisted goal to start the third period, but Harrington finished his hat trick with a power play goal with 11:12 left in the game to cut the lead to 5-3. Mialkowski, a

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.

freshman forward, then capped off the Colonels' scoring with a power play goal assisted by Alexander and Lonergan with 2:04 to play.

Darek Harvey got the start in goal for Brattleboro and wasn't seriously tested. "The goals we gave up were team goals, and not Darek's fault, Libardoni said.

Brattleboro, now 4-6-1, finishes the homestand on Jan. 25 against Lyndon. With six games left in the regular season, the Colonels have a good chance to move up in the Division II standings if they can keep improving.

Girls' basketball

• Leland & Gray picked up their ninth straight win on Jan. 17 with a 55-11 victory over visiting Rivendell. Senior forward Hannah Greenwood scored 18 points to lead the Rebels. Junior guard Maggie Parker scored 12 points and sophomore guard Abigail Emerson added nine points.

The 10-1 Rebels remain in the No. 2 spot in Division IV, a game behind undefeated West Rutland. At press time, the two teams were scheduled to face each other on Jan. 24 in West Rutland.

· Brattleboro dropped its third game in a row with a 51-22 loss to the South Burlington Wolves on Jan. 21 at the BUHS gym. The Wolves got hot in the second half and outscored the Colonels 37-13. Aleah Staley was the catalyst, scoring 19 of her game-high 27 points in the second half, including four three-pointers. The Colonels are

• Bellows Falls came close, but couldn't quite finish off Long Trail School, as the visiting Mountain Lions pulled out a 48-46 win at Holland Gymnasium on Jan. 21. BF is 3-8 on the season.

• Winless Twin Valley didn't play last week, due to weather issues that forced the postponement of their scheduled home game with Proctor.

Boys' basketball

• Brattleboro traveled south to Northampton, Massachusetts to take on the Blue Devils on Jan. 16, and came away with a 52-45 loss.

The Colonels trailed 28-19 at halftime, but outscored the Blue Devils 15-6 in the third quarter to tie the game at 34-34. Northampton then stopped the Brattleboro rally in the final quarter to secure the win. The Colonels are now 6-4.

• Colby Dearborn scored 21 points and Jamison Nystrom added 19 points as Bellows Falls defeated the visiting Poultney Blue Devils, 67-58, on Jan. 16. BF had a narrow three-point lead at the half, but held off Poultney in the second half. Peyton Book led Poultney with 26 points, while Marcus Lewis added 16 points.

The Terriers then improved their record to 7-3 with a 70-40 win over visiting Leland & Gray on Jan. 19. BF had a 34-21 lead at the half, and started the third quarter with an 11-4 run to dash any hopes of a Rebel comeback.

Dearborn led BF with a game-high 17 points, including an 8-for-9 performance at the free throw line. Cole Moore scored nine points and Jake Moore and Walker James each added eight points. Trevor Stillwagon and Matt Winkler led the Rebels with 15 and 12 points, respectively, while Cody Hescock chipped in nine points.

• With a 44-38 win over White River Valley on Jan. 21, the Rebels ended their week at 4-4.

• Weather woes kept Twin Valley, now 1-7, from playing any games last

Girls' hockey

• Brattleboro started its week with a 5-1 loss to South Burlington. Sabrina Brunet scored twice in the first period as the Wolves took a 3-0 lead and cruised from there. Ava Hershberg, Izzy Redzic and Rosa DiGulian also scored for South Burlington. Willow Romo got the Colonels' lone goal and goaltender Angela Jobin made 36 saves.

The Colonels then snapped their six-game losing streak with a 3-0 road win over Harwood on Jan. 21. The Colonels are now 2-9.

Nordic skiing

· A lack of snow forced the cancellation on Jan. 18 of Brattleboro's lone regular season meet. Their home course at the Brattleboro Outing Club's trails at the Brattleboro Country Club has seen more rain and days above freezing than snow.

For the BOC, that has meant very few days where there has been enough snow for skiing, although that changed with the most recent storms that unfortunately came too late for the Colonels to host their meet.

The next chance to see the Colonel skiers on their home course is Wednesday, Feb. 15, when the Southern Vermont League's relay championships are scheduled. Weather permitting, of course.

Harris Hill Ski Jump prepares for its 101st year

• The annual Harris Hill Ski Jump competition, featuring up to 40 of the world's up and coming jumpers who soar more than 300 feet at speeds of nearly 60 mph, is set to take place on Feb. 17-19 in Brattleboro. Organizers have their fingers crossed that the weather in mid-February will be favorable for snowmaking so they can get the hill ready for competition.

For the first time at Harris Hill, the weekend will kick off on Friday, Feb. 17 with two rounds of a fun target jump challenge under the lights. Saturday's and Sunday's events will be the official judged competition sanctioned by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association. This year will mark the 101st year of the event.

Harris Hill's inaugural nighttime event will be held under new lights installed last year. There are no advance ticket sales for Friday night; admission is first come, first served and parking is only available at the ski jump. Pricing is \$10 per adult (kids age 10 and under are free) or fill the car for \$30. Light food concessions will be available.

Saturday the 18th features the Pepsi Challenge and Sunday's competition is the Fred Harris Memorial Tournament. Each day, gates open at 10 a.m., and competition starts at noon. The event features professional announcers, music, a bonfire, a beer garden, local food concessions, and a great family atmosphere. Tickets start

Full details on the Harris Hill Ski Jump weekend — including details on tickets — can be found online at harrishillskijump.com, and you can follow the latest news on Harris Hill on Facebook and Instagram.

Martinez to play pro football in Germany

• BUHS and Castleton University alumnus Anthony Martinez will try his hand at playing professional football this summer in the German Football League.

Martinez, a receiver, will be playing for the Dusseldorf Panther, which was founded in 1978 and is the oldest American football club in Europe. It is also the most successful, with six league championships.

After starting for the varsity for three seasons and finding his niche as a pass catcher for the Colonels, Martinez went to Castleton and was a four-year starter with the Spartans from 2017 to 2021. He finished his collegiate career as Castleton's fourth all-time leading receiver with a total of 1,830 yards, and is ranked fifth all-time in career receptions with 125 and fourth all-time with 12 career touchdown catches.

Since graduation, the 23-year-old Martinez has been a receivers coach last fall at Castleton, and hopes to return to Castleton to continue coaching in some capacity this fall after the Dusseldorf Panther season—which runs from June though September — is finished.

Senior bowling roundup

• Week 3 of the winter/spring season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on Jan. 19 saw The Markers (Team 5) move into sole possession of first place with a 5-0 week to improve to 13-2. The A-1's (Team 1) had a 1-4 week to fall into a second place tie with Slo Movers (Team 7) at 9-6, followed by Split Happens (Team 8) at 8-7, Trash-O-Matic (Team 3) at 7-8, 10 Pins (Team 4) and The Strikers (Team 2) at 5-10, and Fab Four (Team 6) at 4-11.

Nancy Dalzell had the women's high handicap game (240), while Carol Gloski had the high handicap series (678). Robert Rigby had the men's high handicap game (271) and and Larry McIntosh had the high handicap series (678). Slo Movers had the high team handicap game (883) and series (2,591).

In scratch scoring, Rigby led the men with a 689 series with games of 268, 289, and 191, while Chuck Adams had a 591 series with games of 204, 194, and 193. Warren Corriveau Sr. had games of 211 and 191, and Pete Cross also rolled a 191 game.

Gloski again had the women's high scratch series (533), with games of 187, 178, and 172. Dalzell had the high scratch game with a 191, and Shirley Aiken rolled a 172.



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