in because they believe that a community If you appreciate this community resource and can afford to chip in, please join us now!

Brattleboro, Vermont • Wednesday, January 10, 2024 • Vol. XIX, No. 2 • Issue No. 747

commonsnews.org

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

# Vermonters ask: Where have all the workers gone?

A variety of factors, from demographics to a lack of housing, have led to many jobs being unfilled in Vermont, but Afghani immigrants have stepped in as a boon for the region's workforce

By Joyce Marcel

BRATTLEBORO—Everyone is hiring.

Drive down Putney Road, and you'll think that half the population was vaporized in an alien attack. One sign after another claims, "We're hiring."

And it's not just businesses that are seeing a population implosion.

The town of Brattleboro needs a police detective lieutenant, a police officer, a maintenance mechanic, and a firefighter/EMT/ advanced EMT/paramedic (bit. ly/747-brattjobs). The state has more than 40 jobs open right now.

In a series of meetings and conferences over the past few months, managers from all walks of life have bemoaned the lack of

■ SEE WORKERS, A6

# Ground to break for Brattleboro **Amtrak station**

### Construction on new \$10 million facility set to start in March

By Virginia Ray The Commons

first elevated passenger platform in the state, is now set to start in March, says Amtrak Lead Public Relations Specialist Jen Flanagan.

Enfield Enterprises, LLC has been hired to execute the work, which is expected to take 18

months to complete.

The new Amtrak station plan was approved by the BRATTLEBORO— Development Review Board Construction work on a new train in December 2020 and adminstation, which will include the istratively renewed through December 2023.

The Selectboard, on behalf of the town, voted unanimously to allow Amtrak to use a portion of the Depot Street parking lot to build the new station and

■ SEE AMTRAK, A3

# **Culinary students** bring home the gold ... ladle

Windham Regional Career Center team members take first place in regional Golden Ladle competition — on their first try

By Virginia Ray The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—In their first-ever culinary competition, the five team members from the culinary arts program of the Windham Regional Career Center (WRCC) have won the Golden Ladle.

"I was very impressed with all our performances," says team member Quin Forchion, 17, of Brattleboro. "I did expect us to

VERMONT INDEPENDENT MEDIA P.O. Box 1212, Brattleboro, VT 05302 CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Become a member and receive The Commons in the mail. Join today at http://donate.commonsnews.org. Your membership supports

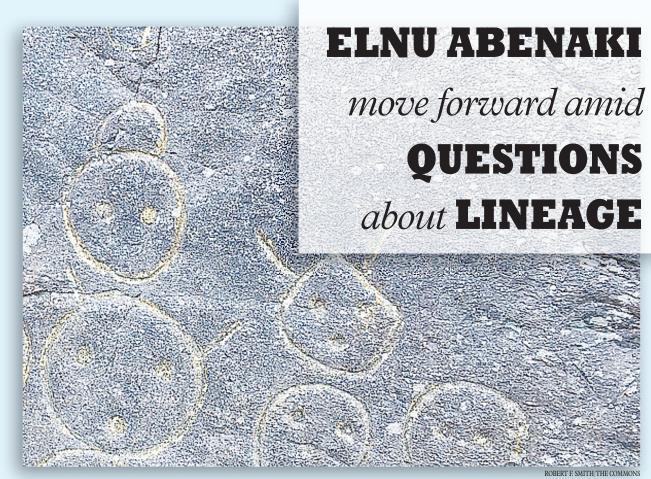
do very well, but I didn't think we'd come out with such a dominating win. On the day, everything just clicked into place and went perfectly."

"It was definitely unexpected," says Jazmin "Orion" Knowlton, 16, also of Brattleboro. "As manager of the team, it was kind of stressful. It took us all like a minute to realize we won.

"To be absolutely and 100%honest, it was a surprise, as the students have indicated," says Chef David Spanierman, their culinary arts instructor, who called his students "wonderful."

"This was our first competition as a group — we hadn't done this or been exposed to that environment or the skill level of other

■ SEE CULINARY STUDENTS WIN, A5



Petroglyphs in Bellows Falls, carved into stone centuries ago by Abenaki people, will be preserved for the future thanks to a recent grant from the National Park Service.

As new projects — study of petroglyphs in Bellows Falls and a tribal center in Brattleboro — bring visibility to the smallest of the four state-recognized tribes, Abenaki in Canada say that most Vermont tribe members cannot claim Native ancestry and that these activities are cultural appropriation.

By Robert F. Smith

RATTLEBORO—Southern Vermont's Elnu Abenaki tribe may be the smallest in the state, but it has seen some important changes in recent years.

Within the past year or so, the tribe has purchased a new Tribal Center at 350 Putney Rd., and has received grant money to research regional Native petroglyphs, especially those in Bellows Falls.

At the same time, the four Vermont Abenaki bands — collectively known as the Western Abenaki tribes — have also had to face a challenge to their tribal status from an unexpected source — the Abenaki in Québec, Canada.

"There is no Vermont Abenaki, and there is no Canadian Abenaki," said Jacques T. Watso, a band councilor for nation.

In addition to Elnu, other state-recognized tribes in Vermont are the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi, the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation, and the Ko'asek Traditional Band of Sovereign Abenaki Nation.

When the four tribes applied for state recognition in 2011, they collectively reported 2,611 members, with the vast ma-

jority in the Missisquoi tribe. State recognition was granted the four the Abenaki but is found throughout



Odanak First Nation. "There is only one Elnu Abenaki Councilman Jim Taylor, Chief Roger Longtoe Sheehan, and Rich Holschuh, public liaison for the Elnu Abenaki Tribe, shown in 2020 hosting an Indigenous Peoples' Day event at the Retreat Farm in Brattleboro. Holschuh is the director of the Atowi Project, based at the farm, which celebrates the region's undisputed Native heritage.

tribes in 2011 and 2012.

None of the Vermont tribes has been granted federal tribal recognition, and only the Missisquoi tribe has applied.

Tribal leader Rich Holschuh said that the discussion, which is not limited to

the Native populations of the U.S. and Canada, "needs to be humanized and de-politicized.'

He said that there is a need to provide context to the debate, which he says is "a result of colonization, one of a series of events going back hundreds of years.

"Why are there Odanak and Vermont Abenaki?" Holschuh says. "It's because it was a Colonial problem between the English and the French not being able to live together. It wasn't an Abenaki problem.'

**Testimony in stone** In the spring of 2022, the town of Rockingham, in collaboration with the Elnu Tribe, received a \$37,000 underrepresented communities grant from the National Park Service to study the historic indigenous rock carvings on the Vermont side of the Connecticut River in Bellows Falls at the base of Kchi Pôntegok, Abenaki for the Great Falls.

Local archaeologist Gail Golec and Holschuh are guiding the project, which includes several other local members from both the tribe and the community. The two-year grant started in the fall of 2022 and ends this year.

Two panels of petroglyphs, containing at least 28 figures between them,

■ SEE ABENAKI, A2

### PAID ADVERTISING • To place your ad, call 888-511-5150 or email ads@commonsnews.org

Jacques Watso, a band councilor for the Odanak First Nation, speaks in front of a church on the First Nation's reservation in Québec.

#### **DRYER VENT CLEANING** Installation & Repair 603-762-3433

durlingcleaning.com

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS Call: 802-579-1288 Emma Gardner LICSW ccepts Medicaid, BCBS

Golden Retriever **Puppies** AKC Registered Born on Christmas

Looking for a therapist?

FORMER HOSPICE SOCIAL WORKER

ICE GRIPPING **BOOTS** IN-STOCK! THE SHOE TREE

Main St. Brattleborg 802-254-8515 Brattleboro Music Center

rattleboro Concert Choi Songs for the People Latchis Theatre

Unity **Heat Pumps** Installation and Cleaning

Gallery in the Woods 145 Main St. Brattlebord 802-257-4777 galleryinthewoods.com 802-365-1009

Tuxedo & Suit Rentals For weddings,

Get out and

look at

some art!

BRADLEY HOUSE RESIDENTIAL CARE

**HELP NEEDED:** 

Sous-Chef Assistant Cai's Dim Sum Caterino Thurs. - Sun. 4-7pm Call 802-257-7898 x2 for interview.

warm this winter. Donate to WINDHAM COUNTY HEAT FUND 3 Cedar St., Brattlebor VT\_05301 or visit BS&L Every cent goes to those in need.

Please keep your The Commons 8,000 circulation 32 towns – 260 locations - strong digital following REACHING 20,000+ READERS EVERY WEEK!

The Commons **Get FREE EMAIL DELIVERY** 

of The Commons every week... to sign up!

WINTER FARMERS' MARKET Saturdays 10-2 Open every week thru March 60 Austine Dr.

Lots of convenient parking!

'ery healthy Sire & Dan Call/Text 802-451-6548

Sat, Jan. 13 @ 7pm Sun, Jan. 14 @ 4pm bmcvt.org

VT STATE INSPECTIONS No appt. needed during business hrs GOUIN SERVICES 500 Guilford Street Brattleboro

proms & more Vermont Artisan Designs 802-257-7044

SICK OF SHOVELING? **LET US DO IT** FOR YOU! **ROOMS & RESPITE AVAILABLE** 802-254-5524

RIZE GIVEAWAY! Visit commonsnews.org and look for the ad on our home page to enter for a chance to win a \$75 certificate to THE MARINA

### ommona

Vermont Independent Media

139 Main St. (Hooker-Dunham Bldg.) #601A — Newsroom #604 — Business and Advertising P.O. Box 1212, Brattleboro, VT 05302 888-511-5150 • fax 802-246-1319 commonsnews.org

Office hours by appointment

Jeff Potter Editor-in-Chief

Kate O'Connor Executive Director EDITORIAL

### EWSROOM **Randolph T. Holhut,** *News Edito***i** Elizabeth Julia Stoumen.

Heather Taylor, Copy Editor

Virginia Ray, Joyce Marcel, Olga Peters, Fran Lynggaard Hansen Robert Smith, Megan Applegate, Annie Landenberger, Dot Grover-Read, Victoria Chertok, Deborah Lee Luskin, Elayne Clift, Kevin O'Connor, Alyssa Grosso, Thelma O'Brien

Lee Stookey, Karen Cribari, Connie Evans, Kim Noble, Janet Wallstein, Elizabeth Trousdell, Wendy S. Collins, Proofreaders Taryn Heon, Editorial Assistant/Voices David Shaw, Photographer

### **OPERATIONS** REATIVE MARKETING SERVICES Amanda Harwood, Marketing and Office Manager Lori Pinsonault, Nancy Gauthier,

Advertising Sales

Elias Vary, Social Media DISTRIBUTION STAFF Grace Hedderman, Dan Lydon, Bill Wilmot

PERATIONS VOLUNTEERS **Spoon Agave, Karen Axelrod,** Karena Huber, Phoebe Wagner, Jon King, Philip Coolbeth, Alison Bundy, Membership

TAFF OFFSPRING **Owen Harwood, Olivia Harwood** onsultants **Agatha, Caslon, Elsy, Ghivashel**,

Mookie, Rocky, Valentino

Deadline for the Friday, January 12

### vermont independent media

change of ideas and information llows democracy to function and is the lifeblood of a community, Vermont Independent Media:

 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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Heather Ahrenholz, Barry Aleshnick, Lynn Barrett, Michae Bosworth, Don Cook, Randolph T. Holhut (ex officio), Phayvanh Luekhamhan, Steve Mundahl, Kate O'Connor (ex officio), Jeff Potter (ex officio), Stuart Strothmar

### ABOUT THIS NEWSPAPER

The Commons is a nonprofit community newspaper published since 2006 by Vermont Independent Media, Inc., a nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)3 of the federal tax code.

The newspaper is free, but it is supported by readers like you through tax-deductible donations, through advertising support, and through support of charitable foundations.

The paper is published weekly, with the exceptions of the weeks of July 4

### SUBMITTING NEWS AND TIPS

We welcome story ideas and news tips. Please contact the newsroom at news@commonsnews.org or at

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 polit ical 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@ commonsnews.org.

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

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

### ADVERTISING

Your advertising directly supports a better newspaper. The open display advertising rate is \$16.50 per column inch, and *The Commons* offers discounts. To place your ad, contact lori@commonsnews.org or nancy@commonsnews.org.

Advertising files can be saved as PDF (press-ready setting), as TIFF (600 pixels per inch), or printed as black-and-white hard copy.

We can design your ad, and you should not hesitate to ask us to do so. We love helping our clients.

### DISTRIBUTION

The Commons distributes 8,050 copies per issue to 250 drops in almost every Windham County town, as well as in neighboring towns in Windsor County (Vt.), Cheshire County (N.H.) and Franklin County (Mass.). Please get in touch (circulation@commonsnews.org) if you would like us to consider adding your business.

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

### **■** Abenaki

have been part of the written Changes amid record in Bellows Falls since the first Europeans traveled through and eventually settled in the area. Historical records indicate that dozens of other carvings might be near the site.

Records indicate that numerous other petroglyphs were buried there during construction projects — in particular, the building of the road directly above the carvings, which allowed a train spur from the nearby rail yard to feed directly into the lumber mills south of the carvings along the river.

Widening of the gorge by dynamiting the ledges on the New Hampshire side of the site during a half century of huge log drives down the Connecticut also likely destroyed other carvings there.

While a number of similar carvings can be found in New England, they are extremely rare, and the Bellows Falls petroglyphs are one of the largest collections in the East.

Vermont's State Archaeologist Jess Robinson said that, while the written record dates the carvings back at least a few centuries, they could be as old as 3,000 years.

Similar Native petroglyphs historically chronicled at the convergence of the West River and the Connecticut River in Brattleboro have been rediscovered in recent years after decades of underwater searching by scuba diver Annette Spaulding. The carvings ended up some 15 feet underwater when dams built along the Connecticut River a century ago raised the water levels.

The study hopes to create a context for the Bellows Falls carvings and connect them with others in the region. Vermont has at least 41 astronomically aligned stone chambers, as well as dozens of astronomically aligned stone sites and cairns up and down the Connecticut River Valley.

While the sites remain archaeologically controversial, there are strong arguments to be made that many of these pre-date European settlement. The Abenaki hope that future study and research on these stone witnesses scattered across the Vermont landscape will shed more light on the region's earliest inhabitants.

### **New tribal center**

In the last few years, the Elnu tribe has been working to buy the property bordering the West River in Brattleboro, where the long-lost petroglyphs were rediscovered.

The site was on what was once part of the Ennis Farm along Route 5. A 2-plus-acre plot with a large house and an attached garage/caretaker's building was for sale, but it was difficult to raise enough funds to buy the property.

The main house recently burned, while the caretaker's building was salvaged. The loss of the large main house lowered the price and, with Holschuh spearheading the efforts, the tribe was able to raise the \$350,000 to purchase the property.

The building will serve as a meeting place, tribal center, research site, and education center.

The property has special meaning to the Abenaki people for several reasons. In addition to the ancient petroglyphs on the edge of the property under the river, archaeologists have discovered village sites in the area, and historical records show that early European settlers at the site encountered Native graves there.

### FROM SECTION FRONT

controversy

In 2022, the University of Vermont hosted representatives from members of the Abenaki First Nation in Québec, giving them a platform to question the tribal status of Vermont's Abenaki.

Specifically, the Odanak First Nation and the Wôlinak First Nation, both federally recognized by the Canadian government, claim the Vermont tribes have not proven their genealogical links to their shared Abenaki ancestry. "The leadership from Odanak

have called for self-identified Abenakis in Vermont to undertake their own genealogy, to show how they are related to the Abenakis in Canada — who are the documented descendants of the original inhabitants of Vermont," said Jessica Dolan, Ph.D., a postdoctoral research fellow who grew up in and lives in Brattleboro. She has described herself as a "non-Native scholar ally" who has worked for Native communities as a scholar and professional researcher for the last 15 years.

Canadian tribal leaders charged at the symposium that the Vermont tribes were appropriating legitimate Abenaki culture

and "erasing us by replacing us." The Abenaki First Nation tribes have officially asked dozens of Vermont housing, environmental, and conservation groups to not work with the Vermont Abenaki Tribes.

While both factions agree that they share distant history centered around Lake Champlain and that bands of Abenaki spread all over New England and Québec for centuries before Europeans arrived, it is the modern history, particularly from 1800 to 1970, that is creating the conflict.

The basic argument of the Abenaki in Québec is that by 1800, what was left of the Abenaki people in New England had moved to two main tribal centers there.

"All Indigenous nations define membership through kinship and genealogy — not political, philosophical, or spiritual values affiliation," Dolan said. "The State of Vermont was likely misguided in developing their state recognition process, because they did not seek guidance from the Abenaki nations already in existence.'

On the other hand, the Vermont Abenaki have argued since the 1970s that small tribal groups remained scattered around Vermont after 1800, distancing themselves from tribal connections and culture.

The Vermont tribes have pointed to the eugenics movement as a main reason that they hid their Native heritage and

culture. Vermont tribe members say they often hid their Native heritage due to prejudice, particularly during Vermont's Eugenics Survey at the University of

Vermont from 1925 to 1936. That project gave academic legitimacy to the question of what its zoology professor leader termed "the quality of

Vermont's] human stock.' In 1931, Vermont passed a State Sterilization Law, which allowed the state to perform coerced sterilizations on those deemed unworthy of having

In 2019 and 2021, first UVM and then the Vermont Legislature publicly apologized for their roles in the sterilizations.

Brattleboro Office: 802-254-3922

Swanzey Office: 603-354-3325 | Greenfield, MA: 413-773-5119

We look forward to hearing from you!

www.BrattleboroHearing.com



The Elnu Abenaki Tribe is opening a new Tribal Center at 350 Putney Road in Brattleboro.

Whether there is evidence for these claims by the Vermont Abenaki lies at the heart of the debate. They say that there is strong archaeological and cultural evidence for their continued presence here and that they have good reason for the lack of state data documenting their presence through Vermont's recent decades.

But in 2002, the office of the Vermont Attorney General released a response to the Missisquoi application for federal recognition. The report determined that the Abenaki people had migrated north to Québec by 1800 and thus lacked a continuous presence in Vermont.

Complicating matters is the fact that 90% of the Native population died off, mainly from disease, in the first century following contact with European explorers and invaders. In the centuries that followed, intermarriage of the Native population with Europeans was common.

The result is that, by the 2020 census, more than 60% of indigenous people in the U.S. claimed to be multi-racial.

#### 'The original inhabitants of Vermont'

Watso acknowledged that as the Abenaki migrated to their current Canadian locale, some of their own had remained not just in Vermont but scattered throughout New England.

So in the 1990s, when Vermonters would come to Canada claiming shared ancestry, they "wanted to reconnect, so we accepted them," he said.

But when pressed for proof of their connection to Native heritage, "nobody had [any] links to [any] Native families," and "they all had this story of a mystical grandmother who was hiding in plain sight.

Odanak is about one hour's drive from the Vermont border, Watso said, making the claims of Abenaki ancestry of 10,000 Vermonters highly suspicious to their increasingly skeptical putative relatives.

He said that today, only about 1% of the Vermont tribes' member rolls have the genealogical bona fides to be recognized as Abenaki — and they already are.

As for the rest, Watso said that anyone from all these four groups and all that they know were culture, language, sounds, storytelling. Anything related to the Abenaki nation emerged here in Odanak.

Dolan works for the Indigenous organization Plenty Canada and consults with Saint Regis

At Brattleboro Hearing Center, your

hearing healthcare is our top priority.

Our Doctors of audiology keep up

with the latest technology and our

research-driven practices provide

the best possible outcomes in the

treatment of hearing loss.

We're proud to offer personalized,

patient-centered care.

### Open enrollment period for Vermont Health Connect ends Jan. 15

WATERBURY—The are enrolled through Vermont open enrollment period for Vermont's health insurHealth Connect qualify for financial help. Thousands Vermont's health insurance marketplace, known as Vermont Health Connect, is ending soon, but there is still time for eligible Vermonters to enroll or make changes to their plan.

Monday, Jan. 15 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), is the last day to enroll for qualified health plan coverage in 2024. Any eligible Vermonter can enroll for coverage starting Feb. 1.

This year, the Department of Vermont Health Access says that its online self-service is available through the end of open enrollment. In most cases, Vermonters can complete the application from start to finish — at VermontHealthConnect.gov (portal.healthconnect.vermont. gov/VTHBELand/welcome. action)

Additionally, customers currently enrolled in a qualified health plan can change their plan during this time. The Plan Comparison Tool is a resource available to Vermonters to help select the right plan for their needs.

Vermonters can save money on the amount they pay for plans, called *premiums*, if they qualify and sign up on the health insurance marketplace. More than 90% of people who of Vermonters now pay less than \$25 a month for coverage through the marketplace.

Customers eligible for financial help can apply the savings to the plan of their choice. It's important that customers shop to see which plan is best for them. All qualified health plans available include the same essential health benefits.

For Vermonters who have recently transitioned off Medicaid or other health coverage, these qualified health plans provide a way to regain or maintain continuous health insurance coverage at a low cost. If eligible for Marketplace subsidies, people who no lon-ger have Medicaid coverage may find health plans that, like Medicaid, have zero (or nearzero) monthly premiums.

Once open enrollment is over, customers can only change their 2024 plan if they qualify for a special enrollment period.

The Customer Support Center (855-899-9600) will extend its hours this week. In addition to normal operating hours, the call center will also be open on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 11 and 12, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and over the weekend on January 13 and 14, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Division (Akwesasne), though she emphasizes that her opinions do not represent these entities.

She has been outspoken in her stance that absent genealogical connection, the four Vermont Abenaki tribes are inappropriately appropriating a cultural heritage.

"I think it is important that the state and anyone claiming Abenaki ancestry or affiliation follow the lead of the Abenakis from Odanak and Wôlinak," she said.

'Self-identified Abenakis may find that they are distantly related or closely related enough to possibly enroll in that nation. But, people cannot 'work together' until people in Vermont honor Odanak and Wolinak tribal sovereignty by following their guidance, governance and membership structure," she said.

#### **Addressing the** questions

Local Abenaki leaders have decided it is time to publicly address the issues raised by the Québec Abenaki, and they have scheduled a public meeting to do that.

Holschuh added that the debate misses the context, the big picture and "the stories that got us to this place.'

'This is not something we should be fighting about," he said. "The fighting is the problem."

Living Earth Action Group, a group based in Westminster West that is centered on promoting sustainability and spirituality, will host a presentation by Holschuh and other possible speakers on Sunday, Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Westminster West at 44 Church St.

Press for the meeting says that

Mohawk Tribe Environment it will discuss the dynamics at work among those who "question the standing of the Vermont Abenaki," the Living Earth Action Group said in its release. "To those unfamiliar with placebased Abenaki histories and cultures, and Native-Settler politics through the present-day, this apparent dispute may appear puzzling or confusing.

The group promises to "examine some of the questions that arise: What is being said and by whom? What is the context? What might be the point? Are there root causes of these differences and how might they be engaged?

For her part, Dolan noted that "the current conflict offers a complex learning curve and tremendous opportunity for motivated education on Indigeneity — on kinship, Indigenous governance, on Abenaki history in Vermont over the last 300 years."

"Many Vermonters conflate distant Indigenous heritage with being Native, and that is not correct," she said, urging Vermonters to "lean in and listen to what Native people from the Northeast are saying about their cultures and kinship.

"Be prepared to listen and think carefully about this, and seek diverse sources of learning," Dolan said. "And please, listen to what the Abenakis from Odanak and Wôlinak and their families are saying and honor their suggestions. Their families are the original inhabitants of Vermont; their historians and archaeologists have documented the last 300-plus years of history that so many Vermonters are missing."

Additional reporting by Jeff Potter.

### **Noel Hoffmann Dog Training** & Behavior Consulting

### The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. There is a positive solution for every behavioral

problem: Aggression, Resource Guarding, Reactivity, Separation Anxiety...and more! Private training in a quiet and safe environment,

so that you can learn. Fully certified to work behavioral cases.

Westminster, Vermont - 5 minutes from Exit 5, I-91.

www.noelhoffmann.com • 802-375-5560 noelh@noelhoffmann.com

CPDT-KA, KPA-CTP, IAABC-CDBC Fear Free Certified



#### **BRATTLEBORO**

# Municipal EMS takeover plan may face state review

### Green Mountain Care Board regulators say they must rule whether they are required to approve the \$1.37 million project

By Kevin O'Connor

BRATTLEBORO—Health care regulators have told municipal officials here that a pending \$1.37 million fire department takeover of emergency medical services may require state review and approval.

The Brattleboro Selectboard voted unanimously last fall for the town to drop its nearly 60-year contract with the private non-profit Rescue Inc. — Windham County's largest and longestserving EMS provider — and instead buy and operate its own ambulances starting July 1.

At the time, local leaders said the Selectboard vote was the last step in their year-and-a-half-long effort to launch the plan. But after ordering three vehicles and hiring an EMS supervisor, they recently learned that a longtime Vermont law gives regulators from the Green Mountain Care Board the right to decide whether "a new health care project" must obtain a state certificate of need, or CON.

"The CON process," regulators note on their website, "is intended to prevent unnecessary duplication of health care facilities and services, guide their

serve public needs, promote cost containment, and ensure the provision and equitable allocation."

Under state statute, new projects require a certificate of need if the Green Mountain Care Board determines they exceed a series of thresholds involving costs and size of proposed changes.

Since the law's adoption in 1979, regulators have reviewed several transport applications submitted in the past to the Vermont Department of Health and then to the former Health Care Authority, the former Public Oversight Commission and now to the Green Mountain Care

The state, for example, granted a certificate of need in 1996 to Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center's DHART helicopter and, most recently, one in 2021 for a Maryland company's \$2.5 million acquisition of Franklin County's privately owned AmCare Ambulance Service.

Brattleboro leaders expect to outline their plans to the state "in the next week or so," Town Manager John Potter said. The Green Mountain Care Board then will decide within 30 days whether the project is within its

establishment in order to best jurisdiction and, if so, schedule a review that could take 90 days.

A state review would reopen a Brattleboro EMS debate that first sparked in April 2022, when the Selectboard voted with little notice or public debate for a transition plan to study if the fire department should pick up ambulance coverage.

At the time, then-Town Manager Yoshi Manale claimed the proposal not only would cost less than Rescue's \$285,600 annual fee but also collect "a \$500,000 to \$700,000 net gain in revenue.

Manale's assertions haven't proven true, and he abruptly resigned eight weeks later. But local leaders didn't give up on the proposal, even after a feasibility study found that a takeover would bolster the town's understaffed system of crisis response yet increase costs.

Just before approving the plan last September, the Selectboard received a petition signed by more than 400 residents seeking a return to Rescue. Robert Oeser, a vocal takeover critic and one of nearly 90 people who wrote the town's public feedback page in support of the past ambulance provider, said this week that any

new review would give people another chance to comment.

The Brattleboro news comes as the Vermont Legislature is set to consider a bill to create a task force to develop a more coordinated EMS system for a state where some communities are debating various options while others have few.

We all expect an ambulance to come if we call 911 — it's a critical part of our health care delivery system," said the bill's lead sponsor, Rep. Katherine Sims, D-Craftsbury. "We need to ensure it's more coordinated, more efficient and more effective, as well as has adequate oversight and accountability.'

In the same vein, Vermont's congressional delegation has introduced a bill in Washington to require the federal government to reimburse providers for all EMS services, and not just if a person needs an ambulance ride to a hospital.

"Rural communities depend on these critical services to close care gaps," U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., said in a statement. "This bill will mean common sense change to ensure EMS get properly reimbursed for their lifesav-



A view of the present and future sites of the Brattleboro Amtrak station. A new station will be built across from the current station on Depot Street.

### **Amtrak**

At that time, Selectboard Chair Ian Goodnow noted the easement would mean losing about 10 parking spaces, but said also that loss had been anticipated since the project was proposed in 2017.

Parking has since been added to ease the parking situation.

In addition to the easement from the town, Amtrak has had to negotiate a lease with track owner New England Central Railroad and work with the Vermont Agency of Transportation, the State Historic Preservation Offices of the National Park Service, and Green Mountain

The new station on the east side of the tracks will include a 36-seat waiting area, a restroom, an engineers' room, and a covered outdoor area with bench seating.

The project includes rebuilding existing siding track and switches and a new, 345-foot-long platform set 48 inches above the rail, a feature that will allow level

The new facility will also include an electric snow-melting system and new lighting, signage, and drainage.

#### Transcribing, Editing and Proofreading Services

Accurate, Confidential, Fast Turn-Around, Fair Pricing Elizabeth: elizabethjulia88@aol.com; 802-257-7475

The full station project construction cost has been estimated at \$7.4 million. Amtrak has also spent \$1.7 million on track work and \$1 million on design, so the total will be \$10 million by com-

pletion, Flanagan says. It is also expected that a new bike shelter with e-bike chargers will be installed in a covered area as well as a fast charger for electric vehicles in the parking lot, to be paid for with money from the federal Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), a bipartisan

infrastructure law enacted in

The law authorizes \$1.2 trillion for transportation and infrastructure spending with \$550 billion to go to new investments and programs. Money from the IIJA addresses energy and power infrastructure, access to broadband Internet, water infrastructure, and more. Some new programs paid for by the bill could provide resources needed to address a variety of local-level infrastructure needs.

Currently, Amtrak uses the

FROM SECTION FRONT

basement of the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center as its Brattleboro station. The space now used for the waiting room was once the baggage storage area when the building was an active train station from its opening in 1916 until its closure in 1967.

According to data from the Rail Passengers Association (railpassengers.org), Brattleboro is Vermont's second busiest station on the route of Amtrak's Vermonter, with 14,258 riders boarding or de-training in Brattleboro in 2022.

POST #5

32 Linden St. Brattleboro

802-257-1872

*=*=

**JANUARY 15-19** 

**LUNCH SPECIALS \$9.50** 

Mon. - Chick. parm sub

Tue. - Taco bowl

Wed. - Goulash

Thu. - Hot open faced

turkey sandwich

Fri. - Fried fish sandwich

\*\*\*Burgers, salads, apps

#### *≡*≡american HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY **EGION**

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR HOUSING AT

**PROPERTY APPLEWOOD AUTUMN LEAF BEECHBROOK BITTERSWEET BUTTERCUP CLEVELAND HOLLYBERRY** MAPLELEAF **ROLLING HILLS SUNRISE** 

WATERVIEW

**LOCATION** WALPOLE KEENE **MILFORD NEW LONDON HUDSON** KEENE **HOOKSETT HILLSBORO** HINSDALE WINCHESTER N. SWANZEY

Elderly - 62 or older, handicapped or disabled Qualify under income set by HUD. All units are one bedroom and include utilities.



For more information, call or send mail to: EJL MANAGEMENT CO. 603-352-9105 • PO Box 565, Keene, NH 03431



and take out available\*\*\* FRIDAY DINNER Burgers & Hotdogs - 5-7pm

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** www.brattleboropost5.org

# Bellows Falls Garage project receives award for architectural design

BELLOWS FALLS— Windham & Windsor Housing Trust's Bellows Falls Garage project has received a Citation Award as part of the American Institute of Architects, Vermont Chapter (AIAVT) 2023 Design Awards.

The award was presented to Montpelier-based Gossens Bachman Architects (gbArchitecture), WWHT's design partner on the redevelopment project, in the category of Commercial/Institutional/ Multi-Family/Mixed Use, at the AIAVT annual meeting this month.

The Awards program celebrates outstanding architectural design in Vermont and around the world, and the Citation Award represents exemplary achievement in a specific aspect of a project. Winning designs demonstrate exceptional skill and creativity in the resolution of formal, functional, and technical requirements, and address issues including ecological stewardship and social responsibility.

The design truly aligned with our vision to transform a blighted but historic property into an important and sustainable community resource. We want to congratulate our partners, Gossens Bachman Architects, as well as DEW Construction, for their exceptional work in realizing this vision for us," WWHT Executive Director Elizabeth Bridgewater said in a news release.

The Bellows Falls Garage project, completed in the spring of 2023, was originally conceived by WWHT as the adaptive reuse of a historic industrial building to create much needed affordable housing, as well as commercial space.

When the initial effort to save the existing concrete structure was realized to be cost prohibitive, a new

plan was made to rebuild the Bellows Falls Garage and reuse some of the original components, including concrete slabs, footings, and utility connections.

The new, highly energyefficient building contains 27 affordable housing units in downtown Bellows Falls. Views of the Connecticut River, the mountains beyond, and the surrounding downtown and ample daylight are some of the building's greatest assets.

A solar energy system generates about 20% of the building's total energy use and is part of a comprehensive system of energy efficiency measures employed within the building. Other sustainability features include a high-performance building envelope, brownfield remediation, and an EV charging station.

The award jury said it appreciated the project's artful resurrection of this historic building and applauded all this project was able to accomplish in remediating and recapitalizing the site — primarily the project's success in making this building a community asset once again.

Specifically, the jury appreciated the level of community involvement that was implemented during the programming phase. The jury also applauded the architects with prioritizing the view corridor of the building and noted that the plan does a beautiful job of ensuring that every unit is enhanced by the effects of blue space, being right on the water. Overall, the jury felt that this was an exceptionally strong project in all aspects.

The 2023 AIAVT Design Award winners were selected by a jury made up of members of AIA Grand Rapids. A full list of the AIAVT award recipients can be found at aiavt. org/awards/23.

### **Stewart Property Management**

### ABBOTT BLOCK BRATTLEBORO, VT

We are accepting applications 1 BR and 2 BR apartments that are currently available!

Rent for 1 bedroom is \$675 per month. Rent for 2 bedroom is \$775 per month.

Rent includes heat, hot water, snow and trash removal.



Off street parking and laundry on site. For more information call 802-251-0123 or complete an application at

www.stewartproperty.net





Solving hard water, iron, blue staining, radon and arsenic problems in the Windham County area since 1984.

- Water Conditioning
- Free On-Site Water Analysis & Estimate
- Iron and Manganese Removal
  - Radon & Arsenic Removal
  - Systems Maintenance
  - Home Supplies Delivery



We Service All Makes And Models Locally Owned & Operated Since 1984



ON SITE, NO CHARGE, TESTING AND ESTIMATES

800-252-8484

### **MILESTONES**

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

### College news

- Alexander Hrabchak of Putney and **Hunter Smith** of Westminster were both named to the Honors List for the fall 2023 semester at Husson University in Bangor, Maine.
- Ella Bursky of Westminster was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester at Belmont University in Nashville,
- · Jonathan Griffin, a business administration major from West Townshend, was named to the President's List for the fall 2023 semester at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South

#### **Obituaries**



· Hope L. Belair, 73, of Brattleboro. Died on Dec. 3, 2023, surrounded by loved ones, after a 14year battle with

lymphoma. Hope was born in Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. the second child of a set of twins. Her mother, Ruth Barnes. did not know she was carrying twins. As the family tells it, "the doctor delivered Faith [Hope's sister] and thought he was all done but Annie Bedard, the nurse, called him back in when Hope decided it was time to make her presence known. They were identical, so they needed to wear their ID beads home. On the way home, Hope's father, Stuart, panicked and asked Mom how they were going to know which one was which. Mom told him to make sure the beads stay on until they were comfortable telling them apart. Hope was very close to Faith as only twins could be, but were so different, too." Hope grew up in Vernon, and raised her girls there as well until 20 years ago, when she moved to Brattleboro. She graduated from Brattleboro Union High School and continued her education in Waterbury,

where she earned a Paralegal degree. She worked for years at The Book Press, the Vernon Town Clerk's office, and the Brattleboro Retreat. She loved horses; Hope was a 4-H member and belonged to the West River Valley Horse Association. She loved her plants, creating and maintaining her gardens, and canning often. She loved motorcycle and beach vacations with family and friends. Hope was a baptized Seventh Day Adventist. She was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years, Ernest J. Belair Jr. She is survived by her daughters, Jackie Belair Lee, and her husband, Robert, and Tonia and Jolene R. Belair; a stepdaughter, Alison Moore; a nephew/son, Robert Gleason; grandchildren Darrell Belair Miller, Chelsea Lee, Devon Monegro, Hunter Dingman, Clayton Dingman, Ronnie Lee, and Syndale Tremblay and her husband, Eric; and great-grandchild Hailey Tremblay. She is also survived by her partner of 10 years, Chris Chapman; Diane Buzby, her best friend of many years; sisters Donna Fecto and Lynda Tirrell, and many nieces and nephews. MEMORIAL INFOR-MATION: The family is planning a graveside service in the spring and a reception to follow. • Nancy L. Cavanagh, 83,

of Brattleboro. Died just before midnight on Dec. 31, 2023 at Vernon Green Nursing Home, where she had

been a resident since September 2021. Nancy was born in Brattleboro on Aug. 1, 1940, the daughter of John and Ruth (Hawkins) Thrower. She attended Brattleboro public schools and was a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School, Class of 1958. She went on to attend Keene (N.H.) Teacher's College. Nancy worked most of her career in finance, employed by various area businesses until her retirement as bookkeeper for GRACE Cares, an international nonprofit. A woman of faith, Nancy was a lifetime member

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.

### PETS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION



916 West River Rd. Brattleboro, VT 802-254-2232 wchs4pets.org



Hi, my name is Sasha! My adoption fee has been sponsored by one of my admirers. I am a very sweet and outgoing girl! I am trying to find my retirement home to live out my days. I seem to do ok with other laid-back dogs, but I would do best in a home without any. I am not a fan of cats and should not

live with any. I do very well with kids and should be able to live with respectful kids. Please stop by and make my dreams come true.



Hi, I'm Maggie! I am a sweet older gal that loves to hangout on your lap. I am timid, so fast, unexpected movements startle me. I would do best as the only animal in the home, as well as no young kids. I need a nice, quiet home to retire in. Could it be yours? I am in foster, if you are interested in adopting me call 802-254-2232 or email us at info@windhamcountyhumane.org

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



of First Congregational Church in West Brattleboro where she served as treasurer and sang in the church choir. She was known for her pleasant personality and spirit of friendship, fondly known by her family and friends as "Fancy Nancy." On June 20, 1959, at First Congregational Church, she was married to Earl E. Cavanagh, who predeceased her on March 12, 2018. Survivors include her three daughters, Cheryl Cavanagh (Rick) and Julie Houle (Jeff). all of Brattleboro, and Melinda Baronoski (Tim) of Marlborough, New Hampshire; a daughter-inlaw, Ginger Cavanagh, of Saxtons River; a brother, John Thrower (Johanna), of Williamsville; a sister, Susan Arnold, of Brattleboro; grandchildren John, Heather, Trevor, Tyler, Lynzee, Israe, and Grace; eight great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Nancy was predeceased by a son, John E. Cavanagh, in 2003. Memorial information: Committal services and burial will take place in the springtime in Williamsville Cemetery, where she will be laid to rest besides her beloved husband. Donations to The Earl Cavanagh Memorial Scholarship Fund, in care of BPO Elks, Brattleboro Lodge #1499 P.O. Box 8051, Brattleboro, VT 05304. To offer condolences, visit

atamaniuk.com. Richard Walter "Dick" Gauthier Sr., 89, died on Aug. 9, 2023 at Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, New Hampshire. He is survived by a son, Richard W. Gauthier Jr. (Christine) of West Chesterfield, and daughters Sherrie Gauthier of Brattleboro and Heidi Stanclift (James) of Keene. He was predeceased by his parents, siblings Elizabeth Smith and Bruce Gauthier, and daughter Michele Lemnah. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: At his request, no services were held.



William "Dick" Tenney, 89, of Clermont, Florida. Died peacefully on

Richard

Dec. 28, 2023 at the Superior Residences of Clermont, following a period of declining health. He was born in Woburn, Massachusetts on May 5, 1934, the son of Daniel and Margaret (Connelly) Tenney. He was raised and educated in Woburn, attending St. Charles Parochial School and graduated from Boston College High School, Class of 1952. Dick attended Boston College before proudly serving his country in the Navy in 1954-55 as a hospital corpsman. After he was honorably discharged from active service, he worked his entire career in retail sales employed by Seaman's Furniture Co. and Caldor Department Stores, where for 16 years he was manager of Caldor's Riverhead, Long Island, New York location. Previously Dick worked for F.W. Woolworth Company for 26 years, employed at several locations that included Brattleboro, Belfast, Maine, Cohasset and Worcester, Massachusetts, New Haven, Connecticut, and Lake Ronkonkoma, New York. He retired in 1999. A devout Catholic, Dick served as a Eucharistic minister for 20 years at Saint Louis de Montfort Parish in Sound Beach, New York. His ministry included helping the bereaved. He enjoyed camping, gardening, puttering in his yard, and spending time with his family. He was a faithful and devoted husband and loving father, grandfather, and great grandfather. On June 23, 1962, at St. John Berchman Catholic

Church in West Dummerston,

### Sierra Club chapter honors Burke, Braus

Sierra Club Vermont's 2023 Winter Gathering in Brattleboro on Dec. 16, the club honored state Rep. Mollie Burke, D-Brattleboro, and Brattleboro community leader Nancy Braus for "working within their communities to build a movement necessary to tackle the most difficult issues.'

More than 45 people participated in the event.

Isaac Evans-Frantz, Windham County resident and Vermont Sierra Club Executive Committee member, said that the honors for Burke and Braus came at "an important moment in history when the countries of the world reached a consensus at the United Nations' COP28 to move away from fossil fuels. "Are we willing to act on this consensus before it's too late? We need legislators and everyday people to speak up. That is how we will turn this ship around — by all of us finding our voices and using them to change policy."

Burke has been a pioneering advocate of measures to address climate change during her tenure on the House Transportation Committee.

"When Mollie first joined the Transportation Committee, the conversations were exclusively focused on roads, bridges, and paving," said Robb Kidd, Sierra Club Conservation program manager. "Now, the transportation discussion includes vehicle

transportation, and creating viable choices for using transit."

With the transportation sector responsible for about 40% of Vermont's carbon emissions, Kidd said that the Sierra Club 'has collaborated with dedicated legislators such as Burke and House Transportation chair Sara Coffey to build a rural sustainable transportation system that is accessible and equitable.

Braus, founder and former owner of Everyone's Books in Brattleboro, was honored for her decades of work as an environmental and peace activist. She had been outspoken in the effort that led to the closing of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vernon in 2014. Since then, she has turned her efforts toward safety from nuclear energy production and waste, both locally and globally.

"The Sierra Club appreciates Nancy's lifelong dedication to community engagement and, specifically, her organizing in response to the climate crisis," Evans-Frantz said. "The Vermont Sierra Club applauds community leaders like Nancy who are key to influencing policy.

The night's program also included Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak, who spoke of his efforts to address both the climate and housing crises. He congratulated Braus and Rep. Burke on their "well-deserved recognition for making our

BRATTLEBORO—At electrification, expanding active communities safer and our environment cleaner. Continuing their work to address climate change is critical for creating a sustainable economy that works for everyone.'

Other elected officials who spoke included state Rep. Tristan Roberts, D-Halifax, and state Sen. Wendy Harrison, D-Windham, who both offered praises of the honorees.

Roberts said that "through dedicated, persistent, and joyful work, they have kept a nightlight on for the values Americans hold dearest, even in the darkest of times.

Harrison read a statement from Coffey, who lauded Burke for being "instrumental in changing the culture in the House Transportation committee from one that solely focuses on paving roads and repairing bridges to thinking more holistically in creating a 21stcentury transportation system that is clean and green and accessible to all."

Harrison then added her own words, calling the Sierra Club recognition of Burke "timely and appropriate," adding that Burke "never wavered in her leadership toward a more sustainable Vermont. "Most of my work with her has been as fellow advocates of public transportation, and I look forward to continuing that work."

he was married to Virginia A. Worden, who survives. Besides his wife of 61 years, he leaves two sons, Andrew Tenney (Christine) of Punta Gorda, Florida, and John Tenney (Jodiann) of Litchfield, Connecticut; two daughters, Margaret Coveney (Kevin) of Clermont and Jennifer Francis (Elwood) of Lexington, Kentucky; two sisters, Margaret Callahan of North Reading, Massachusetts and Dolores Levesque of Methuen, Massachusetts; and nine grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by brothers Daniel, Hugh and John Tenney. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass of Christian Burial was held Jan. 6 at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Brattleboro, followed by burial in Taft Cemetery in Dummerston. Donations to Food For The Poor (FoodForThePoor.org). To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com. • Eleanor Louise "Ellie"

Vanderpool, 86, formerly of Brattleboro. Died in West Orange, New Jersey on Dec. 30,



Union High School in 1955. She attended Bates College from 1955-59, where she majored in English and was active in the French Club

from Brattleboro

and the Spofford Club. She taught English from 1966-1994 at Ponus Ridge Middle School in Norwalk, Connecticut. During that time, she was active in the local ski club and traveled with them to several ski resorts. In the warmer months, she loved to bike, taking many long bike trips. Always active, Ellie golfed, figure skated, crosscountry skied, and swam regularly. An avid photographer, she enjoyed birding and loved to travel, with the Audobon Society, with friends or with her sister to the Panama Canal, Costa Rica, Netherlands, Belgium and Italy. She had dozens of carousels of slides of her travels and many photo albums which included beautiful photos of nature and many covered bridges. After retiring, Eleanor bought land in Langdon, New Hampshire and 2023. Eleanor was born in Fall had a cedar clapboard cape house River, Massachusetts on May 20, built, later adding a large garage 1937, the daughter of Kenneth and changing the original garage Vanderpool and Clara (Stafford) into a lovely sun room. She had Vanderpool. Her family moved to a large pond on her property for Brattleboro in 1943. She attended wildlife and kept many bird feed-Green Street School and graduated ers on her back deck. She enjoyed

watching the birds and the deer in her yard. For several years, she was a substitute teacher at Fall Mountain Regional High School and was active on a citizens' committee to save two local covered bridges. Ellie loved music and took violin, clarinet and voice lessons. She sang solos for her church services and loved to sing with the Falls Chorus and Keene Pops Chorale. She regularly volunteered for the Alstead Friendly Meals. In 2018, she moved to Langdon Place of Keene Assisted Living, where she enjoyed the meals and walking on the grounds. She was moved to memory care in West Orange in 2022 to be near her niece. Eleanor is survived by her sister, Shirley Romoser and her husband Eric of Huron, Ohio; her nephew David Gould and wife Dawn of St. Augustine, Florida; and her niece Laura Greenwald Strom and husband David and their son Andrew of West Orange. MEMORIAL INFOR-MATION: A service was held at the First United Methodist Church in Brattleboro on Jan. 7, followed by burial in Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery. Donations to the First United Methodist Church, 18 Town Crier Drive, Brattleboro, VT, 05301. To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

### Windham World Affairs Council, Brooks Memorial Library to partner on 'America 250' events

BRATTLEBORO—Windham States in 2026. World Affairs Council (WWAC) recently received a three-year Vermont Humanities partnership grant to work with Brooks Memorial Library and Meg Mott, Ph.D, to help convene a townwide initiative for public dialogue leading up to the statewide and national "America 250" semiquincentennial anniversary of the founding of the United

The grant of \$7,500 annually over three years will help support "Examining America's Identity and Leadership in a Changing World," a series of lectures and town hall gatherings that organizers say "aims to provide opportunities to pause and learn from our nation's past, examine the long-term impacts of domestic and international policy choices, and build understanding across divides leading up to 2026."

The series focuses on the founding ideals in the Declaration of Independence — equality, safety, and happiness — and how those ideals can guide us in strengthening our democracy at a time when the appetite for authoritarianism is on the rise.

'At the heart of the 1776 Declaration is a bold assumption: The people have the capacity to form a government that, in the words of the Declaration, 'seems most likely to affect [our] Safety and Happiness," Mott said in a news release. "'Most likely' is an important element; self-government is a dynamic process. We have to talk with each other as we determine how best to affect our need for safety and our desire for freedom. The answer for one generation may not be the answer for the next.'

WWAC, Brooks Library, and Mott held the first lecture of this America 250 multi-year program with Ambassador Peter Galbraith's October 2023 talk, entitled "Is the American Century Over?" This talk, which encapsulated the trajectory of U.S. power over the past several decades, can be viewed at youtu.be/ L1bOLSib-Ms.

Working with Mott and other community members, WWAC

hopes these town halls and other public gatherings will explore America's capacity for self-cre-

ation through robust deliberation. "I'm especially excited about the role youth will play in this work," said Starr LaTronica, director of Brooks Memorial Library and a WWAC Board member. She went on to say that WWAC has worked Jody Williams, a member and Nobel Peace Laureate, to form a PeaceJam club at Brattleboro Union High School that provides insights inside and outside the school using engaging speakers, film, and music to explore topics like hate speech/free speech, immigration, income inequality, and climate.

Brooks Memorial Library also has a teen-led program, which "supports the intersection of this energy for such America 250 programming," LaTronica said.

WWAC plans to reach out to a diverse group of Brattleboro organizations and entities, from town government to media to groups whose rights feel under fire right now,' said WWAC board chair Tamara Stenn. "We want to hold gatherings in unlikely places and really reach into the community to identify shared values and a vision for the future.

terested in participating in this America 250 effort, joining WWAC, or serving on the WWAC board are welcome and encouraged to contact WWAC at windhamworldaffairscouncil@ gmail.com or to call Administrative Director Susan Healy at 781-422-9485.

Groups and individuals in-



thy immigrant neighbor thy black neighbor thy atheist neighbor thy religious neighbor thy depressed neighbor thy asian neighbor thy lgbtqia neighbor thy disabled neighbor thy indigenous neighbor thy conservative neighbor thy elderly neighbor thy homeless neighbor thy latino neighbor thy addicted neighbor thy progressive neighbor

thy incarcerated neighbor

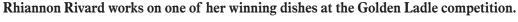
thy \_\_\_\_\_ neighbor



groundworksvt.org

adapted from ©TheHappyGivers.com







The pork and apple entree that was part of the Windham Regional Career Center's culinary arts team's winning dish at the Golden Ladle competition.

### Culinary students win

FROM SECTION FRONT

teams," Spanierman says. "We went in there blind and cold, and the kids did fabulous jobs. [...] The students excelled and produced a beautiful meal. We were elated."

### A 'unique platform'

The WRCC is a career and technical school that offers a diverse selection of career preparation programs for all students attending school in the Windham Southeast Regional School District at the Brattleboro campus.

The culinary arts program has been shepherding would-be chefs for 30 years. The culinary class is held for two hours each day, five davs a week.

All team members are in their second year of the WRCC's two-year culinary program and included seniors T. "Thalia" Contakos, Forchion, Rhiannon Rivard, and Blaize Weiss, as well as Knowlton, a junior.

The annual Golden Ladle Competition took place Dec. 1 at River Valley Technical Center in Springfield. The event, hosted by River Valley Culinary Arts Instructor David Groenewold, of Bellows Falls, brought together seven teams from across the state.

The competition is a cornerstone event for Vermont Career and Technical Education culinary programs and serves as an introduction to ProStart, Skills USA, and other national culinary educational programs and associated competitions.

"Ît offers students a unique platform to qualify at a regional level for the nationals,"

Spanierman says. ProStart is the educational organization run by the National Restaurant Association (or, as he calls it, "the other NRA"). The association also developed the ServSafe regulations with regard to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration food safety regulations and other professional food service standards and regulations.

Now the students are starting to prepare for a March invitational competition at The Culinary Institute of America in Poughkeepsie, New York, although they haven't yet received their official invitation.

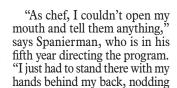
Culinary paraeducator Elizabeth "Lizi" Rosenberg, who works with the aspiring young chefs daily, was also surprised at the win, "not because they couldn't do it, but because they're rookies, so I was absolutely tickled and delighted. They were amazing."

Rosenberg says the March event has "more rules" and is "more intense, and more a national competition than regional, so the stakes will be a little bit higher."

### From ingredients to the plate

The Golden Ladle Competition saw student teams not only prepare an appetizer, entrée, salad, and dessert within an hour's time but also demonstrate knife skills by breaking down a chicken to its parts in the Statler manner, terminology derived from the turnof-the-century Statler Hotel in Boston and the hotel's chef's particular manner of breaking down the bird.

The students knew the menu in advance and committed all recipes to memory. They also designed the plating of each dish on their own.



my head." He calls the team "a really good

"I'm very happy with them and impressed with their to-getherness in pulling this off,"

Spanierman says.
The students' winning meal started with a spring mix and pomegranate salad with slices of Honeycrisp apple and red pear and a classic lemon vinaigrette, prepared by Weiss.

The main course featured panseared medallions of pork, prepared by Contakos and Forchion, that were elegantly placed over green beans with a mustard pan sauce, smashed potatoes, and wasabi dots.

Rivard executed the chicken breakdown and prepared a dessert of medjool dates stuffed with raspberries and pecans in dark chocolate, served on a bed of whipped cream, dark chocolate, and crushed pecans.

#### Winners look toward careers

Many of the students have after-school jobs in the food service sector and want to pursue culinary arts as a career.

Knowlton works in the retail field now but says she "definitely" wants to pursue a culinary career.

Weiss, 18, of Readsboro, is "passionate" about the culi-

nary arts. "I do think I want to pursue it after high school," he says.

Of the contest, he says, "we prepared as well as we could, and I think we did well, but there's always room for improvement."

Forchion, 17, of Brattleboro, has worked summer catering jobs and in family restaurants.

"I've applied to multiple culinary schools, and I'd like to pursue it after high school as a career path," he says.

Contakos, 17, of Whitingham, has worked at the Jacksonville General Store deli and at North Star Pizza and Bowling in because we assumed we didn't

Wilmington.

"I plan on going to college for acting, but I plan on using culinary to make money," they say.

Contakos added that the win was surprising, but that "we put a lot of work in and didn't have a lot of time to get [the meal] out, but I was very pleased. That was probably the best version of the

dish we had made."
Rivard, 16, of Brattleboro, works full-time on the line at

High Thai in Brattleboro. She is open to more culinary education, but for now plans to work and wants to "do interesting things like go on cruise ships and work at the coolest culinary restaurants I can.'

For her, the win was "shocking."

"None of us really listened [to the announcement of the winner] win," she says.

"It made me more confident in my abilities and also, watching the video, how calm I was," Rivard adds. "I felt like I was freaking out, but I wasn't."

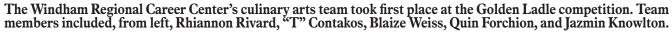
She says that having to separate from her team to cut chicken in under 10 minutes was anxietymaking, as was returning to help finish the full meal, but she says her mates were "very understanding and helped me organize my stuff and get on top of my task."

Apparently, the winning team prepared a meal that tasted as good as it looked.

"I would definitely eat it," says Knowlton.

See a slice of the WRCC's culinary action during the Golden Ladle competition on video at bit. ly/747-culinary.







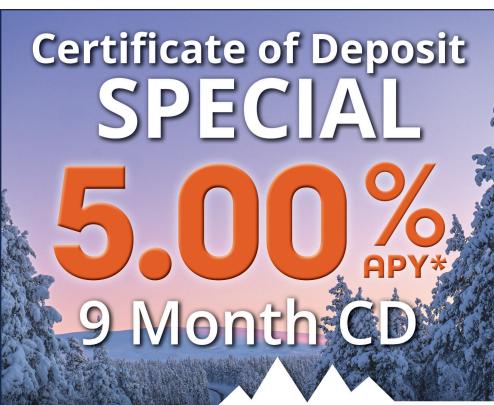
Call today!

603-460-5683

766 W. Swanzey Road, Swanzey, NH

Open Tuesday - Sunday

www.hyperbaricfitness.com



Call **(800)728-5871** or visit **802CU.com** for more details.

\*APY= Annual Percentage Yield. Early termination fees will apply. Fees may reduce earnings. Minimum deposit \$500. Maximum deposit \$50,000 per individual. Limited time offer - may end at any time. Share account required. CD will automatically renew at maturity into a standard 6 month CD at the current rate in effect at the time of renewal unless you instruct us otherwise. Federally Insured by NCUA.

credit union



802.254.8160

ORDER BOOKS ONLINE OR BY EMAIL

WWW.EVERYONESBKS.COM

INFO@EVERYONESBKS.COM

### **■** Workers

civil engineers in the state. Also the lack of doctors, nurses, grant writers, town planners, ski lift operators, teachers, and construction workers, just to name a few.

For Vermont, the disappearing workforce is a paradox.

Why? Many companies complain that they can't convince professionals to move here because of the lack of housing. To deal with what is now called "the housing crisis," lawmakers have been moving a number of bills through the legislative process, introducing 37 in the current biennium alone. Five have been enacted into law since 2021. Federal and state dollars are becoming available to help solve the problem.

One would expect a rush of construction to begin in the

But if the state lacks civil engineers, who "plan, design, and supervise the construction and maintenance of building and infrastructure projects," according to the U.S. Department of Labor, then how will this housing get built? Not to mention where will the carpenters, electricians, and plumbers be found who can put these buildings together?

To get a handle on the disappearing workforce and what is being done to stop it, The Commons talked with economist Mat Barewicz, the director of economic and labor market information at the Vermont Department of Labor.

He said the problem is perfectly illustrated by what recently happened in Burlington.

They had a couple of major projects going on, and that consumed much of the bandwidth of the entire construction industry," he said. "So it's not just civil engineers, it's also laborers, it's carpenters, it's people to drive the equipment. For all the specialties related to the construction fields, we're finding a tremendous

Barewicz said that when he was growing up in Vermont, the narrative was that there were no good jobs in the state.

"And growing up in Vermont, that was a tough thing to hear,' Barewicz said. "So we need to make sure that we are dispelling

He said the Department of Labor needs to double down and make young people aware of the availability of opportunities like registered apprenticeships, where "you can earn money while you're learning and have guaranteed employment at the end.

"So the registered apprentice model is something we're really promoting and trying to get people interested in because employers are joining that program," Barewicz continued. "We need people to fill the slots so that they can learn new trades, get new skills, and ultimately become a part of the solution.

Barewicz said that many people do not even know an attrition problem exists, because many jobs do not appear in the public eye.

"We don't see help wanted signs at the hospital for surgeons," he said. "We see it at McDonald's or at a local convenience store, because that's where we go more frequently.

But in reality, "the back office of many large organizations, whether they're health care, manufacturing, finance, business, or technical services, they're all struggling to find workers,'

Barewicz said.

"It runs the gamut from entry level to high-level senior specialty positions that are attempting to be filled," he added, describing the range of the approximately 20,000 job openings in the state that the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates are ready to be filled.

### Why so many job vacancies?

Before the pandemic, Vermont hit that 20,000 job openings threshold only once in its history, Barewicz said. But postpandemic, the state has hit that number 25 months in a row.

'The last few months it's been floating around between 18,000 or 19,000 or back to 20,000 again, he said. "Still, it's really high compared to pre-pandemic or even historical trends."

Two factors contribute, Barewicz said.

"One is labor demand, which is the job postings, what employers are looking for, and how they're trying to fill positions, he said. "The demand for labor is very high. And the supply of labor is low.

The supply of labor is low for a combination of reasons.

The biggest factor is the aging of the baby boomers, who began turning 65 in 2011," Barewicz said. "Since then, retirements have continued, as we would expect. And as a result, the availability of labor is quite low.'

This is counterintuitive, because state's population has not remained stable — it has increased. During the pandemic, many people moved into the state.

They did not enter the workforce — and "that's the funny

part," Barewicz said.
"We've seen our population grow significantly, but our labor force is still smaller than it was pre-pandemic. It's one thing to add people, but if they are not looking for work, if they are children, or retirees, or telecommuters, population growth does not always necessarily translate to increases in the labor force.

Another myth, besides the state not having any good jobs, is the one that says young people are leaving the state. While it is true that young people leave the state to pursue their education or to see the world, a lot of them come back to raise their families.

"I think what people see is that there are fewer young people," Barewicz said. "And that is a result of several decades of low birth rates.'

In Vermont, "we have one of the lowest birth rates in the country," he continued. "And if you do that for several decades — guess what: You're going to have a smaller population of people under the age of 20. We're seeing that in our schoolage population.'

Another part of the equation is entrepreneurship. Many people want to open and run their own businesses or take over someone's going concern. They do not want to work for someone else.

"That's something that I think people overlook in Vermont,' Barewicz said. "It's not just like, 'Oh, there are good jobs here.' There are great opportunities here to take over going concerns. Some people want to retire, but they have a going business with a whole book of customers and clients booked out years in advance of work."

FROM SECTION FRONT

Such people are "looking to step away from the business and don't know who to turn it over to," he continued. "There are a lot of economic opportunities in the form of [...] starting your own or taking over an existing business."

#### **Making higher** education attractive

The Department of Labor has been working with the J. Warren and Lois McClure Foundation to attract young people to good employment opportunities.

Together, they put out a brochure (which can be found at mcclurevt.org/most-promising**jobs**) that highlights some 500 categories of jobs that will be needed to be filled in the state between now and 2030. Each job pays above the state median wage of \$22.55 per hour.

The brochure breaks the jobs down into four groups: jobs that involve working with people and using one's creativity (sales jobs; teachers; substance abuse and mental health counselors; editors, writers, and authors; etc.); jobs that involve working with your hands or with machines to make and fix things (carpenters, chefs and head cooks, construction equipment operators, etc.); jobs that allow you to observe, learn, analyze, and solve problems (nursing, physical therapy, clinical laboratory, software developers and testers, etc.); and jobs that require being organized and detail-oriented (postal clerks, administrative assistants, bookkeepers, and accountants, etc.).

For the past 15 years, the McClure Foundation, which donates money to "promot[e] equitable access to postsecondary and career education," according to its website (mcclurevt.org), has been focusing on addressing the problem of a vanishing work force, said Executive Director Carolyn Weir.

"Our grantmaking has been exclusively focused on improving pathways to Vermont's most promising jobs and making post– secondary education an easy choice," Weir told The Commons.

She said that the charity's board of directors decided to narrow the focus of its mission because members "were noticing a theme across grant proposals from large organizations.

We're hearing across the board that schools are having a hard time hiring teachers, hospitals have a hard time hiring nurses, and construction firms are having a hard time hiring trade folk," Weir said. "So we're seeing this in a lot of sectors.'

The board was curious about how philanthropy could help.

"What could we do to support improved credentialing in Vermont, to support pathways that would make postsecondary education and staying in Vermont an easier choice for the people who grew up here?" Weir said.

The McClure Foundation wants to see incentives for young people to come to the state to create a workforce that meets the needs of its residents — hence, the brochure.

The nonprofit also wants to make "more secondary education an easy choice for the younger students approaching high school graduation and thinking about what comes next," Weir said, adding that Vermont has had the lowest college continuation rates



The signs of a strained workforce are everywhere, down to the one on the door of Walgreens on Canal Street in Brattleboro one recent evening.

in New England for a long time.

"Especially for the groups that stand to benefit the very most from a college degree, like students from low-income families, students who are the first in their family to pursue college," she said. "That longstanding trend is a part of what's contributing to the extreme workforce needs the state is seeing right now."

#### **Immigration** can help

Weir also observed that Windham County has led the charge in helping to increasing the workforce by integrating immigrants.

State Sen. Wendy Harrison, D-Windham County, is working with others at the State House to draft legislation that will assist immigrants with specialized skills in their own country (i.e., doctors and nurses) to get accreditation here.

And the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) has integrated approximately 100 refugees into the workforce, said Director of Programs Jennifer Stromsten.

Windham County has been one of the worst hit by the shrinking workforce," she said. "And that's because of our demographics.3

For starters, the median age in the United States is 38.8 years. In Vermont, it's 43 years. And in Windham County, it's 47.6 years.

We're one of the oldest counties in the state — in a very old state," Stromsten said.

"It's also because of a number of other factors, like a limited housing stock or housing stock that's been absorbed into second rates contribute. And some of us getting older."

BDCC works on a variety of levels for a new refugee workforce, Stromsten said.

The agency is leading on coordinating both first jobs as people arrive here, but also trying to help them adapt and augment and connect to the workforce system so they can continue to increase their success here," she said.

For example, the first wave of Afghanistan immigrants came to Brattleboro needing to work.

"They were really dying to work right away," Stromsten said. "They needed to send money home. They had various backgrounds — everything from being a mom, to soldiers,

Windham County's population numbers indicate a population that is at peak retirement age, with comparatively fewer residents under the age of 50 and a diminishing population of young children.

to construction workers, to teachers.'

These people are now in the labor force and finding careers.

Stromsten said she is currently supporting a couple of handfuls of people who want to be truck drivers, who are working but have been studying for their commercial driver's license (CDL).

They'd like to transition into a better paying, high-demand field," she said. "We need drivers of all kinds desperately in this region.

These workers have been taking an "every-Saturday, day-long technical class that will run for months," Stromsten said. "They hope to get their CDL license by spring in the hopes of becoming truck drivers by the summer or fall. And that's just one example.'

A few immigrants are working as supermarket cashiers. But "the majority of the jobs that have been offered are full-time, homes and things like that," she higher than minimum wage, and noted. "And certainly falling birth with benefits," Stromsten said.

The new Vermonters "tend to be jobs in a manufacturing setting, in a production setting, or in a health care setting," she added. "As we go about our regular lives, we don't have any idea that this is going on."

As examples, immigrant workers are working in Brattleboro at C&S Wholesale Grocers, Vermont Plank Flooring, Cersosimo Lumber, Commonwealth Dairy, and Against the Grain bakery, and in Arlington at Mack Molding.

These are the main employers that leaned in really early and have continued to hire people," Stromsten said. "And I want to say that these people have kept their jobs. It's increased the retention rate. It's much higher

than I think it is for the average worker, to be honest." She described Cersosimo

Lumber as "one of the best of the employers. "They helped with a million

things, including rides and you know, whatever," she said. "Against the Grain has been phenomenal, hiring a lot of different

Sometimes these employers hire people in groups.

"Ît's tricky sometimes," Stromsten said. "We have to ask them to hire a few people at the same time, so that we can have one of them with better English. We help train that person to be a trainer. Sometimes, the BDCC sends

staff, she said, "so that our interpreter is also embedded with the company." As a result, "we're not just

talking about onesies or twosies, Stromsten said. "C&S probably has 10 people there right now." One woman pursuing her

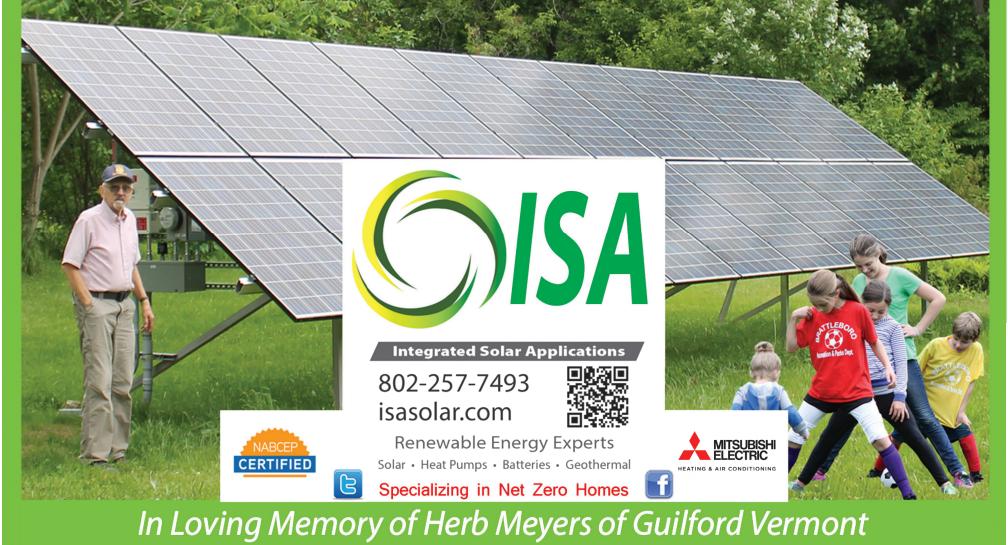
LNA nursing license is working at Vernon Green nursing home. A number of people are working for BDCC.

"My person who does employment, Amir, is an Afghan man who came here in the first wave," Stromsten said. "He did refugee resettlement and workforce support in Afghanistan to help Iranian refugees. He speaks four languages. We got lucky."

Trust the people you are working with, Stromsten said, and they will create their own solutions. "If you empower the people

that you're helping, they'll create a lot of the solutions," she said. "You can worry all day about the problems this is going to cause, but the solutions are there, too.





use for all Arthouse, a 'welcoming and immersive' new venue in Wilmington, hosts a grand opening Jaime Alvarez, left, and Jenevieve Penk are seated in the former church sanctuary that is now the main space of Art House in downtown Wilmington, which celebrates its grand

**By Annie Landenberger** 

opening on Jan. 13.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

ILMINGTON—The Deerfield Valley is wellknown for craft brews, nice shops, some good eateries, and handsome architecture. It's known for access to beautiful Harriman Reservoir in a relaxed, non-judgmental environfor water-bound recreation and, of course, ment, and to explore and expand ideas Mount Snow for winter sports.

Wilmington burbles with foot traffic on season but gets a little sleepy in uses "by creating a community space for muddy months. While Bennington and collaboration and a place to showcase" Brattleboro, which flank the town along Route 9, have robust arts scenes, though, Wilmington's is less so.

With a vision to ameliorate that deficiency, Jenevieve Penk and Vinnie Yeo are opening Arthouse, a studio, gallery, and lounge, at 12 South Main St.

In 2022, Penk and Yeo purchased the

Bissell Parish House, built in 1835, which originally served as a Universalist Church, in the town's historic district.

They have been working on it since to create what Penk calls "a welcoming, immersive space for all to enjoy various mediums of art, including visual and per-formance, to explore one's own creativity of what constitutes art.'

The goal, Penk says, is to support arttheir work.

A tall order, but Penk and Arthouse Curator and Director of Operations Jaime Alvarez have been busy at it.

After it was a church, the building then, in turn, became a day care center, a gift shop, and a gallery before it became the Valley Town Church for about a decade.

When the building fell into disrepair, clearly wanting attention, Penk said she saw an opportunity - and felt the positive energy and spirit in the space.

this Saturday

'It was like a diamond in the rough,"

She walked in and saw the stained glass windows, and, "even though they were all covered in black, they were just telling me 'Please come and love this building,'" she adds.

University's Tisch School, is a producer, performer, and arts entrepreneur who had run a business fabricating major arts installations for companies in New York City until it was slammed by Covid. She and Yeo moved to the area three years ago to finally work on a passion project: renovating an old cabin.

"After being here for most of two ■ SEE ARTHOUSE OPENS, B4

# Canal Street Art Gallery opens free community art studio

BELLOWS FALLS—Canal Program. The goal of \$1,500 Street Art Gallery (CSAG) presmust be met by Saturday, Feb. ents the Community Art Studio Program, providing a free-to-use space within the gallery, including artist-grade supplies, for the public to make art while overlooking the Bellows Falls Canal.

The Community Art Studio Program is open through Saturday, Feb. 24. During the gallery's regular hours, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., artists of all ages are welcome to walk in and create. Artwork made may be donated and hung on the walls of the program. Donated artwork is then mounted sent by mail as rewards to supporters of the program. Artists also have the option to mount and take their work home in a clear sleeve, allowing visitors to create finished pieces ready to

transport and frame. A campaign launched by the gallery using the Kickstarter crowdfunding platform, if successful, will fund the building of a permanent space to maintain the free Community Art Studio

3, at 8 p.m. To donate, go to bit. ly/747-csag.

page B1

The Community Art Studio Program is inspired by the success of incorporating an art-making table within the "Charles W. Norris-Brown Distant Thunder Studio" exhibit. During this unique exhibition, visitors of all ages were inspired to make art in the gallery by using Norris-Brown's supplies and being sur-

rounded by his work. Currently, the Community Art Studio Program is open in the Working Artist Program space and is provided by CSAG and the Charles W. Norris-Brown Estate.

The creators say it directly addresses a need and desire for additional and financially accessible creative outlets, communicated to the gallery by its friends and neighbors. The all-or-nothing fundraiser will pay for movable walls, lighting, archival foam board, dry mounting paper, clear archival sleeves, wall primer, and ■ SEE COMMUNITY ART, B3

## Next Stage hosts Maura Shawn Scanlin and her band on Jan. 14

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts and Hanneke Cassel. and Twilight Music present fiddler, singer, and songwriter Maura Shawn Scanlin and her band at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill, on Sunday, January 14, at

Scanlin plays Celtic and acoustic music across the country. Her playing, hailed for its inventiveness, fluidity, and tone, brings together influences from Ireland, Scotland, and the American South, where she grew up.

Touring actively with her duo Rakish and the Rasa String Quartet, Scanlin has also shared the stage with many cornerstone musicians in the Celtic music world including Seamus Egan, Maeve Gilchrist, Judy Collins,

She is a two-time U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion and a Glenfiddich Fiddle Champion, and she is touring for the first time under her own name, following the release of her debut full-length solo album. Her band features Conor Hearn on guitar (Rakish), Adam Hendey on bouzouki (The Fire), and Julian Pinelli on fiddle (Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band, The Foreign Landers).

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$24 at the door, and \$10 for access to the livestream. Advance tickets are available at **nextstagearts.org**. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For information, call 802-387-0102.

# VJC hosts vocalist/saxophonist Thurman



BRATTLEBORO—Tenor saxophonist and vocalist Camille Thurman, who has been called a "rising star" by DownBeat magazine and a "first class saxophonist that blows the proverbial roof off the place" by All About Jazz, will appear at the Vermont Jazz Center (VJC) on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

She will be accompanied by her touring ensemble, the Darrell Green Quartet, which includes Wallace Roney Jr., trumpet; Jordan Williams, piano; Paul Beaudry, bass; Darrell Green, drums.

According to VJC Director Eugene Uman, Thurman "is a modern player who both honors the past and looks towards the future. Her promotional materials make the legitimate claim that her sound on tenor evokes Dexter Gordon and Joe Henderson and that her vocals are suggestive of Ella Fitzgerald and Betty Carter. This is all true, yet Thurman's concepts are fresh, innovative and modern. She takes

Camille Thurman

Publication of this week's Calendar is underwritten by Berkley & Veller Greenwood Country Realtors • www.berkleyveller.com



### Buyer demand is still soaring!

Get in touch today for tips on getting your home ready for the market.

Let Us Help You Reach Your Real Estate Dreams!



Brattleboro: 802-254-6400 • Dover: 802-464-8900 • www.berkleyveller.com

# arts & community CALENDAR

**THURSDAY** 

.....

#### Music

BRATTLEBORO The Brattleboro Children's Choir led by Stefan Amidon (ages 7 and **up):** Kids get excited about music by using the instrument they were born with! We'll sing a variety of traditional songs and recent compositions, rounds, singing games. Through song we'll explore the world of nature, seasons, other parts of the world. Songs were collected from places as varied as VT, Zimbabwe, Ireland, England, So. Africa, West VA. We'll get used to singing two and three-part harmonies, learn a bit of solfège, and wake up the inner ear.

- ▶ 4-5 p.m. 10 weeks on Thursdays. Emphasis on enjoying ourselves through music while embodying musical ideas and bringing songs to life.
- ► Through Thursday, March 14. ► Tuition is \$175. Scholarships available.
- ► Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moyse Way. Information: Call to register: 802-257-4523.

BRATTLEBORO Sarasa **Ensemble Presents: French** New Wave Baroque - 25th **Anniversary Concert Sea-**

son: The "nouvelle vague" of French Baroque music heralded a wealth of chamber music from the likes of Couperin, Jacquet de la Guerre, Mondonville. Telemann caught the wave with great panache, resulting in his outstanding set of "Nouveaux Quatuors Parisiens" for flute, violin, viola da gamba, cello & harpsichord. Featuring Ashley Solomon, flute; Susanna Ogata, violin; Jennifer Morsches, piccolo cello; Timothy Merton, cello; John McKean, harpsichord.

7 p.m. Sarasa Ensemble is a collective of international instrumentalists and vocalists who perform classical music of THURSDAY CONT.

outstanding quality, spanning the 17th to the 21st centuries, on both period and modern instruments. \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. Concert available to stream free one week later on the Sarasa website.

► Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moyse Way. Information: Tickets: bmcvt.org.

#### The written word

**PUTNEY** Reading: Toni Ortner and Carolyn North at Putney **Library:** Toni Ortner lives in Putney and had 31 books

published by small presses most recently "Focused Light from a Distant Star" which honors women's art of the last few centuries. Toni will read from her new book accompanied by a slideshow of art by women artists who inspired this writing. Her website is toniortner.com. Carolyn North authored 18 books. Her focus now is preparing and reassuring people, through writing, to manage big societal shifts by working together.

- ► 6:30 p.m.
- Free.
- ▶ Putney Public Library, 55 Main St. Information: 802-387-4407; putneylibrary.org/events.

#### Community meals

**NEWFANE** Lunch at the Newfane Congregational Church: Appetizer: Frittata. Followed by Carrot Salad, Swedish Meatballs with Noodles and String Beans, Bread. Carrot Cake for dessert! This delicious meal is sponsored by Senior Solutions, and prepared and served by hard working volunteers from the church and

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

95 Main St, Keene, NH

On a Winter's Night

**NEW SHOWS!** 

On sale to members now

On sale to the public Jan 16

Tom Rush APR 12

with Matt Nakoa & Dar Williams

**Allman Betts Band** 

JUNE 7

Rosanne Cash JUNE 8

603-352-2033 TheColonial.org

SEASON UNDERWRITERS

The Colonial Theatre is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

singer-songwriters JAN

**FRIDAY** 

#### The written word

**Brattleboro Literary Festival** announces Literary Cocktail Hour to celebrate Histori-

cal Fiction (Online): Virginia Pye's "The Literary Undoing of Victoria Swann" set in Gilded Age Boston tells the story of a successful woman author of romance/adventure novels who becomes a champion of women's rights as she takes on the literary establishment and finds her true voice - on and off the page. Everything changes for Victoria when she goes against her publisher's expectations and abandons her frivolous style to tell her own story.

- ► 5 p.m. Pye shows that writing/ reading as acts of defiance can liberate us from narrow, constrained lives, and how revision in life and revision on the page are entwined. Whitney Scharer's "The Age of Light" was named one of the Best Books of the Year. "I'd rather take a photograph than be one," Lee Miller declares after she arrives in Paris in 1929, where she soon catches the eye of famous Surrealist Man Ray. Though he wants to use her only as a model, Lee convinces him to take her on as his assistant and teach her everything he knows. Her journey of self-discovery goes from inventing radical photography techniques to documenting the liberation of the concentration camps as one of the first female war correspondents.
- ► Online. Information: Register at: bit.ly/LitCocktail35.



**SATURDAY** 

.....

#### Music

**BRATTLEBORO** "Songs for the People" presented by the Brattleboro Concert Choir: "Songs for the People" - concert for this moment in history - consists of music by living America-based composers grappling with contemporary issues like climate change, immigration, racial injustice. Composers include wellknown names such as Eric Whitacre and Frank Ticheli, and fast-rising young composers Joel Thompson, Mari Esabel Valverde, B.E. Boykin,

- Sydney Guillaume. ▶ 1/13: 7 p.m. and 1/14: 4 p.m. "Every piece on the program grapples with these ideas and is written by a living America-based composer," says Music Dir. Jonathan Harvey. "A majority of the composers were born after 1980 and most of the compositions are under 10 years old. This is music for our time and place.".
- ▶ \$20 general admission in advance/\$25 at the door. Youth tickets are \$10, free for those 12 and under.
- ► Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St. Information: Purchase tickets through Brattleboro Music Center: bmcvt.org or 802257-4523.

#### Kids and families

**BRATTLEBORO** Kids Cooking Class for All Ages: Pizza!:

"We'll make pizza dough using the Artisan Bread in Five Minutes a Day technique. Each participant will chop toppings and make a pizza to enjoy."

- ► Choose from 10:30-12 noon or 1-2 p.m. For ages 0-14 with parent or caregiver.
- ► Free.
- ► Brattleboro Food Co-op Cooking Classroom, 7 Canal St. Information: Space limited - register appreciated: List kids' names/ ages/dietary needs in comments section: BFC.coop/events.

### SATURDAY CONT.

..... Well-being **BRATTLEBORO** The Brattle-

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

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

#### Visual arts and shows

**BRATTLEBORO** Harmony **Collective Artist Gallery** explorse "Black and White" theme: Artists and community members are invited to the themed opening reception of Harmony Collective's first group show. Dress in your black and white best and enjoy a gathering of creatives sure to inspire for the year ahead. Escape the winter blues. "This vibrant/dynamic group of local artists works in a wide variety of mediums. When you visit, you will always meet at least one of our member artists who work in and run the gallery."

- ▶ 1/13, 3-6 p.m.: Opening reception. Gallery is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily and this show runs through 1/30.
- ► Through Tuesday, January 30. ► Free.
- ► Harmony Collective,
- 49 Elliot St. Information: HarmonyArtsBrattleboro.com.

#### **Ideas and** education

BRATTLEBORO A Celebration of Community and

**MLK Jr.:** Join a discussion led by AWARE: A Brattleboro Union High School group for students of color that works to raise consciousness in themselves and their community.

- ► 1-3 p.m. ▶ Free.
- ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brookslibraryvt.org.

### **SUNDAY**

#### Music

**PUTNEY Next Stage Arts Project & Twilight Music** present fiddler/singer/ songwriter Maura Shawn Scanlin and band (In-Person/ **Livestream):** Maura Shawn Scanlin is making a name for herself among Celtic and acoustic music scenes across the country. Her playing hailed for inventiveness, fluidity, tone - brings together influences from Ireland, Scotland, and American South where she grew up. Touring actively with her duo Rakish and string quartet Rasa String Quartet, she's shared the stage with cornerstone musicians in the Celtic music world such as Seamus Egan, Maeve Gilchrist, Judy Collins, Hanneke Cassel. ▶ 7 p.m. Maura: A 2-time U.S. Na-

- tional Scottish Fiddle Champion, a Glenfiddich Fiddle Champion, is touring for the first time under her own name following release of debut full-length solo album. Her band features Conor Hearn on guitar (Rakish), Adam Hendey on bouzouki (The Fire), Julian Pinelli on fiddle (Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band, The Foreign Landers).
- ▶ \$20 in advance, \$25 at door, \$10 livestream. Advance ticketing closes 2 hours before showtime. ► Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: 802-387-0102; nextstagearts.org.

BRATTLEBORO People ages

#### ..... Community building

13-18 in greater Brattleboro area are invited to attend the first meeting in 2024 of interfaith youth group.: Attendees get to know each other through icebreakers, sharing a spaghetti meal, performing a community service project, setting group and individual goals for the new year. There will be a discussion about Martin Luther King Junior's legacy with Rev. Jeremy Kirk. According to organizers, the purpose of this group is fellowship, fun and service - making a difference in one's community - with church affiliation and attendance not expected.

- ▶ 5-7 p.m. "We'll benefit from the perspectives of young people who are newly arrived refugees, explained Brian Remer, group facilitator. "Goal for this group is to build leadership skills and friendships among young people who care and want to make a difference in their communities.".
- ► First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro, 880 Western Ave. Information: For information or to reserve a spot, please contact Nanci at 802-258-8348 or email nanci.leitch@gmail.com.

**TUESDAY** 

### Do you love working with elders? We would love to work with you!

with a home-like atmosphere and great benefits (we are not a nursing home).

Join our care team and begin your rewarding career in eldercare today! in a supportive, caring environment.

visit our website at www.gardenpathelderliving.org.

#### TOWN OF PUTNEY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Knowledge and understanding of general highway maintenance of roads, plowing and sanding operations is required. Must have a valid Commercial Driver's License. This position is a full-time hourly position. Salary is commensurate with experience. We encourage all abilities and experience to apply. An exceptional benefits package

> To apply, submit application to Town of Putney, Attn: Town Manager, PO Box 233, Putney, VT 05346 or email to Manager@putneyvt.org

The Town of Putney shall assure equal opportunity to all qualified applicants. The Town will not discriminate with respect to appointment, advancement, and general working conditions against any person regardless of their age, race, biological sex, gender identification, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, religious or political affiliation, or disabilities.

# Garden Path Elder Living

ads@commonsnews.org • 888-511-5150

WINDHAM SOLID WASTE

IS HIRING!

TWO 20-HOUR POSITIONS:

PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

and OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Benefits and training included

These two positions create a vital team to help WSWMD

achieve its goals for the community; to implement proper recycling and waste diversion, education, and outreach. Job descriptions and applications are available

at windhamsolidwaste.org or email admin@windhamsolidwaste.org. For more information, call 802-257-0272. WSWMD is an equal opportunity employer

We are a Level III Residential Care facility

We provide a sign-on bonus and paid training

To learn more and to apply for a position, please

The Town of Putney is seeking a qualified Highway Department Equipment Operator.

Applications will be received on a rolling basis but no later than March 1, 2024. Application with a complete job description is available at the Putney Town Hall or

#### **Local history BRATTLEBORO** Audubon

Talk on the "Mountains of Windham County" hosted by Southeastern Vermont **Audubon Society:** How many mountains are in Windham County? Where are they? What stories are behind their names? What makes something a "mountain" anyway? Find answers to those questions and more. Presented by Brattleboro resident Jeff Nugent who spent over 25 years exploring, mapping, contemplating Windham County's landscape. He'll also discuss how we relate to high places near and far and how to experience our local mountains on the trail or just appreciate them from the roadside.

- ► 7 p.m. in Community Room on 3rd fl.
- ► Free.
- ► Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brookslibraryvt.org.

#### Well-being BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro

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

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

wall paint.

are still needed.

### Interfaith Youth Group meets Jan. 14 in West Brattleboro

WEST BRATTLEBORO— a difference in one's community friendships among young peo-Young people, ages 13–18 are invited to attend the first meeting in 2024 of the Brattleboro Area Interfaith Youth Group. The gathering will take place on Sunday, Jan. 14, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., at the First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro, supported by various local faith communities.

Attendees will get to know each other through participating in icebreakers, sharing a spaghetti meal, performing a community service project, and setting group and individual goals for the new year. There will be a discussion about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy with the Rev. Jeremy

According to organizers, the purpose of this group is fellowship, fun, and service — making

- with church affiliation or attendance not expected.
"We will benefit from the

perspectives of young people who are newly arrived refugees," group facilitator Brian Remer said in a news release. "This is a good time to bring a friend, or attend for the first time. We will be assessing if there is interest for a winter trip to New York City.'

Past groups have tackled community service projects, social justice issues, learned about different faith traditions, canoed and camped together, held overnight "Lock-Ins" locally, attended youth leadership conferences, and explored New York City's diversity and rich traditions.

The goal for this group is to build leadership skills and

ple who care about and want to make a difference in their communities

In the past decade, the youth group performed community service in places as diverse as New Orleans, Kenya, St. Croix, El Salvador and the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. To ensure wide participation, the group raised funds leading up to each trip.

The First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro is located next to Academy School at 830 Western Ave. Each month, a different faith community hosts the group at their location. For information or to reserve a spot, contact Nanci Leitch at 802-258-8348 or nanci.leitch@gmail.com.

**PLUMBING & HEATING** 

SERVING THE BRATTLEBORO AREA

WITH RELIABLE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

**RESIDENTIAL · COMMERCIAL** 

- BATHROOM & KITCHEN REMODELING

- COMPLETE HEATING SYSTEMS

- WATER PUMPS & SYSTEMS

802-254-4963

1090 WESTERN AVENUE

WEST BRATTLEBORO

Septic Tank Pumping

e Portable Toilet Rentals

802-257-1619

Vernon, VT • stevessepticpumping.com

### Community art

been added to the program, along

with a large flat file, both given

by generous donation from the

gallery's artists. Donations of a

drafting table and a studio cart

If the GoFundMe campaign

achieves its goal and a permanent

space is created for the studio, the

gallery will then be responsible

for the costs to maintain the pro-

gram as free and open for com-

FROM SECTION FRONT

The gallery already has a third An H-Frame studio easel has fundraising campaign planned to make the Community Art Studio Program a long-term success. Using the Patreon crowdfunding platform, a committed group of patrons will pledge an initial total goal of \$250 per month.

The gallery also accepts donations of new or unused (only) artist-grade art supplies and preowned professional artist studio furniture during the gallery's regular hours.

#### Brattleboro Books Since 1988

Temporary home to the area's best USED books.

**25,000 USED BOOKS** Buying books by appt.

802-257-7777 OPEN THURSDAY,

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

11AM - 5PM SUNDAY 11AM - 4PM 36 Elliot St, Brattleboro

brattbooks@gmail.com

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

ads@commonsnews.org • 888-511-5150

### Town of Hinsdale 2024 FILING PERIOD TO RUN FOR TOWN OFFICE January 24, 2024 to February 2, 2024

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

> TOWN CLERK NORMAL OFFICE HOURS Monday and Thursday 7:30am - 6pm Tuesday 7:30am - 2:30pm Wednesday 7:30am - 11:30am

Additional Hours - Friday, February 2, 2024 3pm - 5pm

SELECTMAN - 1 for 3 Years TOWN CLERK - 1 for 3 Years TOWN TREASURER - 1 for 1 Year FIRE CHIEF - 1 for 1 Year MODERATOR - 1 for 2 Years

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST - 1 for 6 Years TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS - 1 for 3 Years LIBRARY TRUSTEE - 1 for 3 Years

CEMETERY TRUSTEE - 1 for 1 Year CEMETERY TRUSTEE - 1 for 3 Years BUDGET COMMITTEE - 2 for 1 Year BUDGET COMMITTEE - 3 for 3 Years PLANNING BOARD - 1 for 2 Years PLANNING BOARD - 2 for 3 Years BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - 1 for 2 Years BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - 1 for 3 Years

#### TUESDAY CONT.

#### **BRATTLEBORO** Free CoVid Vaccination Clinic: Brattleboro Recreation and Parks Senior Center is partnering with the VT Department of Health to offer this to our

- community. ▶ 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- ▶ Free.
- ► Brattleboro Senior Center, 207 Main St. Information: Call Sarah to make an appointment: 802-257-7570. Walk-ins are also welcome.

#### **WEDNESDAY**

#### Government

**BELLOWS FALLS Ameri**cans in Captivity: Towards the end of the war in Vietnam, during spring of 1973, the North Vietnamese released 591 American POWs for Operation Homecoming. According to U.S. military intelligence, by late 1972, close to 1200 Americans were being held in Vietnam, roughly 300 in Laos, 100 in Cambodia. So what happened to the rest of them? Get an idea as to the what and why.

- 7 p.m. Free.
- Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: 802-463-4270; rockinghamlibrary.org.

### Film and

video **BELLOWS FALLS Martin** Luther King, Jr. Day and classic film screening of

"SELMA": This year's recognition falls on what would have been Dr. King's 95th birthday - established as a result of his assassination on 4/4/1968 to recognize his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King was a Baptist Minister who believed that a platform of nonviolence was the most effective way to address racial segregation and first gained national attention during the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott in 1955.

- ▶ 6:30 p.m. doors open, 7-9 p.m. film. Wheelchair accessible. King spearheaded the March on Washington in 1963 leading in 1964 to passage of the Civil Rights Act and receipt of the Nobel Price for Peace. The civil rights movement was a catalyst to bring attention to social justice movements. i.e. women's/gay rights. Starstudded cast includes David Oyelowo, Tom Wilkinson, Tim Roth. Recognizing challenging political landscape for the LGBTO+ community, Bellows Falls Pride, an initiative of the nonprofit Rockingham Arts and Museum Project, sponsors this classic film screening.
- ▶ \$6 per ticket.
- ► Bellows Falls Opera House, Town Hall, 7 Square. Bellows Falls Pride is an initiative of the nonprofit Rockingham Arts and Museum Proiect, founded in

To submit your event: calendar@ commonsnews.org

> Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

# PUBLIC NOTICES

ads@commonsnews.org • 888-511-5150

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

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

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

- 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
- You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
- Watch and listen for public service announcements in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications. Check with your local electric utility regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
- You have the right to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
- You have the right to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are distribution lines, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
- You have the right to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are transmission lines or sub-transmission lines, bringing electricity to or between substations.

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

(leave blank for local electric co. mailing address and phone)

**Utility Initials** 

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

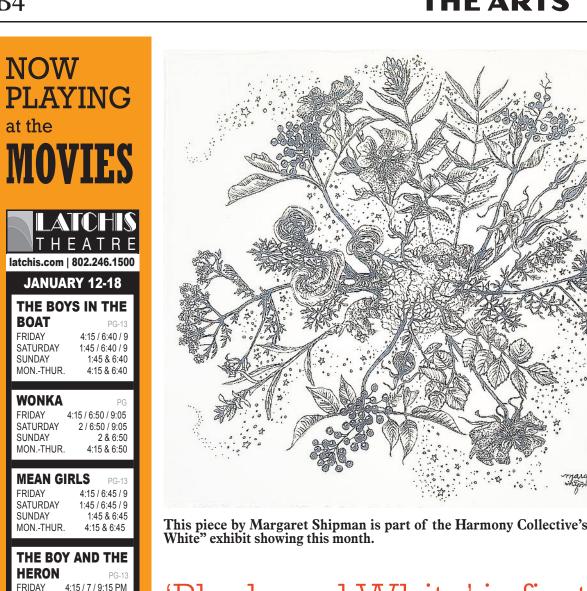
**Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information** 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620 1-800-622-4496

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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List	
Name	Town/City of Affected Property
Street Address	Home Phone Number
Town	Work Phone Number
State Zip Code	O.K. to use work number? Yes No (circle one)
Electric Utility Account Number	Best time to contact you
Affected Property: Year-Round Residence Summer Residence Commercial Property Water Supply Organic Farm Land	
Other (Circle all that apply)	
Line/Pole Identification:	

Please fill out this request completely to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification. MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

**Pole Numbers** 



This piece by Margaret Shipman is part of the Harmony Collective's "Black and

# 'Black and White' is first of four winter group shows at Harmony Collective

UNDERGROUND LOUNGE Dine In **Live Music** 

4:15 & 7 PM

SAT. & SUN.

Online Ordering for Take Out / Delivery. Free delivery in downtown area!

Saturday, Jan. 13, from 3 to 6 p.m., the Harmony Collective Artist Gallery hosts an opening for its first-ever group show, themed "Black & White," to signal the beginning of winter.

"Black and white art often symbolizes the interplay of light and dark that is so present this time of year," a gallery representative said in a news release. "A monochrome palette brings a different dimension to art — focusing on texture, contrast, and composition. The high contrast

BRATTLEBORO—On is emotive and encourages the viewer to focus on the subject. Harmony Collective aims to feature this collection of new work by artist members to celebrate their contrasting styles united by a theme."

According to gallery founder Kay Curtis, "We have artists ex-ploring the theme of Black and White through painting, illustration, and whatever their chosen medium may be. During the winter break from downtown Gallery Walk, we wanted to do something different in our gallery — a series of group shows showcasing the amazing talent of our 30 local member artists. We are creating an uplifting start to the new year through our artwork."

The "Black & White" show is the first of four monthly group shows at the Harmony Collective. Future themes include 'Hearts and Love" in February, "Protest Art" in March, and "Dreamscapes, Mindscapes & Wildscapes" in April.

Artists and community members are invited to the themed "Black & White Ball" opening reception and to dress in their black and white best and enjoy a gathering of creatives sure to inspire for the year ahead.

The Harmony Collective is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Learn more at harmonyartsbrattleboro.com, and follow them on Facebook and

### Thurman

that is informed by the legend-ary masters while simultane-Jazz Festival, the Super Jazz Ashdod Israel Festival, The ously imbuing it with the hip

language of her generation." Thurman is a member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra (LCJO) with whom she performed John Coltrane's immortal "A Love Supreme" and other Coltrane works. An accomplished performer and composer in her own right, Thurman has performed with notable jazz and R & B icons Dr. Billy Taylor, Chaka Khan, Benny Golson, George Coleman, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Alicia Keys, Ciara, and many

Thurman has recorded four albums as a leader and performed as a side-woman on several others, including Dianne Reeves's Beautiful Lifeand two releases with the LCJO under the direction of Wynton Marsalis. She leads her own quartet, which has performed at the Kennedy vtjazz.org, elsavjc@gmail. Center, Lincoln Center, the com, or 802-254-9088.

delight in presenting material International Women in Jazz Gallery, and many other prominent jazz venues, as well

FROM SECTION FRONT

as festivals around the world. Discouraged from playing music full-time due to costs of entering Berklee School of Music, Thurman graduated with a degree in Geological and Earth Sciences from Binghamton University. Her talent was recognized by a music instructor who brought in Tia Fuller as a mentor.

According VJC's news release, Fuller asked Thurman, "what are you doing here?" Thurman responded "I'm studying rocks and I'm going to be a scientist. I love dirt and trees and hug the earth all day." Encouraged by Fuller to pursue music full time, Thurman "embraced the challenge and is now one of the leading players of her generation.'

Tickets are available at

### Brattleboro Women's Chorus seeks new singers for spring session

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Women's Chorus is seeking new singers to join us for an exciting spring session, honoring and featuring songs created by African Americans.

On Mother's Day — Sunday, May 12 — at the Latchis Theatre, they will offer a concert of thanks and appreciation for all the richness given by the composers, named and unnamed, with African roots. Their music this spring includes songs by Ysaye Barnwell, Bobby McFerrin, Melanie Demore, Rollo Dilworth, and Stevie Wonder. Local artist Samirah Evans will be their featured soloist as well.

They will kick off the season with an extended first rehearsal on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 1 to 5 p.m., at the Brattleboro Music Center, where Director Becky Graber will introduce some of the songs they'll sing in the spring. After this introductory weekend, registered singers will have access to recordings to listen to until weekly rehearsals begin. Weekly rehearsals for the "concert singers" will be held in West Brattleboro on Thursdays, from 6:30 to 8:30

p.m., beginning Feb. 29. The Chorus will also offer a "relaxed singing" chorus on Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon at the Brattleboro Music Center for those who want to continue to sing together without the pressure of working between sessions, and without an attendance requirement. They will sing some (but



Kathy Bullock

not all) of the same songs as the evening session, and morning singers will be able to sing in the concert on some songs, if they choose to.

To put their repertoire into some historical context, the Chorus will also welcome Dr. Kathy Bullock to lead a virtual workshop called Singing in the Spirit: The African American Sacred Music Tradition. The workshop will take place on Zoom Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7 pm. This event is open to the public, and registration is required by Jan. 18 at BrattleboroWomensChorus.org/ workshops.

Registration to join the Chorus is required by Jan. 19. For more information and to register, visit BrattleboroWomensChorus. org/join-us.

### Arthouse opens

FROM SECTION FRONT

years," she explains, "we didn't want to leave.

But she soon noted the limited arts opportunities in the Deerfield Valley and said she drives her daughter to Brattleboro two times a week for dance, music, and cir-

Penk is active member of the parents club at Dover Elementary School, which her older child attends.

The school is resurrecting its dormant theater program, and Penk is engaged there now in prvoducing and directing a spring school production of *Peter Pan*. While the school can help boost arts offerings for area children, as well as area adults and visitors, so will Arthouse, Penk and Alvarez hold.

Penk and Yeo, a boat captain turned contractor, have spent months converting the needy structure into an arts and entertainment facility with a downstairs gallery, a workshop/ classroom, and an upstairs gallery with windows to the hall below. In the main hall, the walls are

now a Victorian olive green, the stained glass windows sparkle with stories, and a newly constructed bar — for serving wine and beer and simple, light fare - anchors the west side of the capacious event space.

This Saturday, Jan. 14, from 5 to 11 p.m., Arthouse will celebrates all that work with a splash of an opening.

Attendees can check out "Let Your Yoga Dance" at 7 p.m., a workshop taught by Sarah Lavigne, a "paint and sip" class

taught by Kristen Williams, and a short film by Hugh Joudry, Winter Carvings, documenting the sculptor's creative process. Visitors can wander the gallery

spaces to take in Arthouse's inaugural exhibit. Up through March, "Generations" will features works by Robert Burch, Ann Coleman, Kate Follett, Richard Foye, Judy Hawkins, Hugh Joudry, Jeanne Joudry, Patrice Schneider, T. Breeze Verdant, and Ray Warren in displays of pottery, sculpture, paintings, blown glass, burl wood furniture, and intricate wooden inlay jewelry.

From 8 to 10 p.m., the floor opens for enjoying the music of the Jacksonville Blues Band, the first in a winter-long series of weekend concerts by area solo musicians and bands.

Attaining sustainability will be a challenge, explains Alvarez, a former teacher and an artist who has lived in the area for 11 years. She says the intent is to be open year-round offering a host of programs.

There will be workshops in painting, drumming, and yoga, for example; programs for kids; music, dance, and circus events; and monthly artists meetings to generate dialogue around issues of concerns as Arthouse works to create a collaborative space for artists of all ages and mediums.

The space is for rent, too, to artists who wish to create and hold their own workshops.

"We want to bring artists together and say, "This is your space, too," says Alvarez.

"This space is malleable enough and open enough to showcase different art forms together," Penk adds.

For more information on the Arthouse opening celebration, the

music lineup, and other offerings, visit arthousevt.com.

THIS

**SPACE** 

**FOR RENT** 

other readers, are looking at Windham

County's best ad-

vertising value. To

promote your busi-

of The Commons, call us at (802) 246-

ness in the next issue

6397 or e-mail ads@

commonsnews.org.

You, and some 20,000







**New Patients Welcome** On-site Lab, X-ray, CT scanner, & Pharmacy



185 Grafton Rd, Townshend, VT gracecottage.org • 802-365-4331

OPINION . COMMENTARY . LETTERS . ESSAYS COLUMNS • MEMOIRS • EDITORIALS

Join the conversation: voices@commonsnews.org

SECTION AROUND THE TOWNS CROSSWORD ..... C3

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 page C1

### **ESSAY**



Some of the almost 800 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft still on the ground in Oklahoma in 2020 after two fatal accidents in 2018 and 2019. One major factor was determined to be faulty flight control software.

# Must short-term gain come with long-term suffering?

We have much to learn from individuals, communities, companies, and countries that are quietly trying to make life better

Brattleboro

VERYWHERE I LOOK, I see the failure of the idea that someone else has to lose for someone else to And, if I look beyond the news of the day, I see examples of what happens when a win-win approach is

The rise to prominence of those who have insatiable appetites for power, money, and attention is driving much of the world's foreign, domestic, and environmental policies.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai was one of the latest examples of just how horribly wrong

**FRIC SPRUYT** is a property owner and property manager in Brattleboro and a member of the town's energy committee.

even our best efforts can go, when narrow self-interest takes over. It might as well have been an OPEC meeting, given how well the petroleum industry was represented (as it has been in the past).

WHETHER IT'S destroying the environment of the only planet that sustains us (have you seen pictures of Mars?), waging genocidal war on a neighboring country, or making

products with intentional flaws, the same mentality is at play. The collective good is not the priority.

At the same time, as individuals, we regularly do things for one another. We might give a stranger directions or volunteer during disaster relief, and we sometimes travel at some expense and risk of injury to do so.

Those who reach out to help others tend to live happier and more fulfilled lives, while it is the rare billionaire who is truly happy.

Why do some of the people presumed to be the smartest among us do things that don't really make their lives better

■ SEE WINNERS AND LOSERS, C2

### VIEWPOINT

# What can businesses do to help prevent Trump's return?

If Donald Trump wins in November, the way we do business in this country will change, and most likely not for the better. Here's how people in the business sector and corporations themselves can join in with measures to preserve our democratic republic.

Brattleboro
ONALD TRUMP wice impeached, once defeated for the presidency, four times indicted in four different jurisdictions, facing 91 felony counts, and found liable in several civil cases — is on his way to becoming the presidential nominee of one of our two major parties.

Trump has spoken openly, and often, about his desire to be an authoritarian leader and to overturn many of our long-revered institutions to serve his own goals (which amount, in part, to seeking revenge against his political

Make no mistake about it: If Trump wins back the White House in November, the way we do business in this country will change, and most likely not for the better.

While Americans might be able to envision how a

### **VALERIE**

ABRAHAMSEN, **TH.D.** is a Biblical scholar with expertise in New Testament archaeology and women in antiquity. This piece appeared in its original form on her blog, Wisdom Words — Past, Present, and Future (WisdomWordsPPF.org).

dictatorship would negatively impact free speech, elections, and the judiciary, we must also recognize the probable impacts on business — small business, big business, the markets, and the very lives of wealthy owners and leaders who might think they are immune to political winds because they are so rich.

We must understand now that authoritarian leaders

■ SEE BUSINESS, C2

### VIEWPOINT

# Trump is too dangerous for his opponents to play nice

This current crop of Republicans use an array of dirty tricks to ensure longterm electoral power, and they dream of permanent minority rule

udos to Shenna Bellows! The secretary of state in Maine has done what every Republican would have done in the current situation, were the shoe on the other foot. If the Republicans had the opportunity to disqualify a candidate they consider an immediate threat to the survival of the world, there would be no restraint.

When Bellows used her power to disqualify Donald Trump from the 2024 ballot in Maine, she set an example that hopefully will wake up other Democrats.

She runs the elections in Maine. Will she have the guts to stand up to a Trump-appointed judge should they overturn her



Crowd of Trump supporters marching on the US Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, ultimately leading to the building being breached and several deaths.

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

decision? Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution is crystal clear: Donald Trump is not qualified to run for or hold office in the United States. The language is very specific, and if we lived in a nation

where fairness were valued, this

would not even be a question.

The situation we face now is that the Trump cult is ready, willing, and able to cheat in any and every way to take over power in the United States.

It is way past time for the center and the left to use every tool we have available. The hand-wringing and

self-recrimination over how prosecuting Trump for his many crimes has got to end.

Trump is too dangerous to the future of the planet for us to play nice with people who never, ever play nice.

This current crop of Republicans is already guilty of an amazing array of dirty tricks in order to ensure long-term electoral power, and they dream

■ SEE DANGEROUS, C2



The pleasant energy of a quiet country neighborhood and a sense of serenity from a tucked away deck that overlooks terraces filled with mature shrubbery and the woods beyond. The first floor features a light filled kitchen/dining with a brick fireplace (propane insert), and sliders to a very private deck. A large living room, a sitting room/den and a half bath. Upstairs a spacious primary bedroom with ensuite 3/4 bath. There are two other good sized bedrooms and a full bath off the center hall. At the back of the house, a two story flex space offers so many possibilities! The first floor has a small kitchen and sliders to the deck. A spiral staircase takes you up to a light filled aerie with treetop views. There is a full bathroom and a closet. The finished lower level offers a separate game/playroom, laundry area, a cedar closet, and a utility room. There is a separate craft/workshop space that walks out to a patio with views to the lower lawn. 1.58 acres; front and side yard with garden/play space, a fenced in dog area; back yard is terraced down to a lower lawn with a garden/storage shed. 2 car garage with a smaller third bay for garden/snow equipment. The driveway is paved. 3 miles from downtown Brattleboro.. Golf course close by. **EXCLUSIVE: \$465,335** 



### Business

impede "inclusive political institutions," thus ultimately impeding economic entities as well.

A dictator is unwilling to share power with anyone else (including any who might become wealthy at the start of a dictatorship), and an authoritarian regime "intervenes and directs companies as to what is possible and what is not, placing limits on people's ability to thrive," according to an article posted by the Civil Liberties Union for Europe (liberties.eu). Do wealthy CEOs really want their economic opportunities limited in this way? Doubtful.

Business owners and leaders understandably do not want to receive complaints from their stockholders or customers about political stances with which they do not agree. However, it is imperative that people in the business sector work on every front to preserve our democratic republic — the beloved system that the vast majority of Americans want.

Election Day may seem like a long way off, but the time for action is now — and ongoing on all our parts. Following are some ideas for the business community.

#### **Voting and** elections

We will surely lose our democracy — and all the economic advantages that go with it - if we do not retain our hardwon tradition of free and fair elections or if their reliability is undermined.

- Promote voter registration and voting. Combat the far-right narratives that there is considerable election fraud and that elections are "rigged."
- Promote efforts to expand voter access — generous absentee balloting, secure ballot

boxes, early voting, automatic voter registration, and other practices followed by many of our peer advanced democracies.

• Support efforts to allow voters to take time off to vote. Many of our peer nations treat their election day as a paid day off, and in the face of many states' and communities' attempts to limit expansive voting options, we are dependent upon employers who make it easy — and financially viable — for employees to vote on election day. Choose to be among those generous employers!

 Consider supporting rankedchoice voting in your community.

 Consider providing free transportation to voting locations for your employees, especially in rural areas or communities that have been restricting access. Advertise these options widely (and well in advance).

#### **Boycotts**

In the words of a New Republic article from December 2023, "An organized effort should be made to impose economic pain on [business leaders and others who endorse Trump through endorsements or campaign contributions] unless they withdraw their support." This translates to CEOs not doing business with Trump businesses and not supporting or endorsing political candidates that receive support from such businesses until support of Trump is withdrawn.

• Boycott businesses that give money to Trump, and withdraw support from candidates that take such money. Trump businesses include hotels such as the Trump National Doral Golf Club in Miami and various Trump hotels in Waikiki, Chicago, Las Vegas, and New York.

• Boycott businesses that

FROM SECTION FRONT

supported Trump in 2020. The list includes the Las Vegas Sands (\$45 million), Walt Disney (\$10.1 million), and Energy Transfer LP (\$10 million).

• Consider advising consumers to avoid the Sands, Disneyland, and Walt Disney World and to remove Energy Transfer LP from their stock portfolios.

• Small contributors: Again, from The New Republic: "Individual small contributors could be put on notice that if they give money to Trump after such-and-such a date, they too will be targeted for boycotts; many of these contributors operate small businesses identified in Federal Election Commission reports."

• Vendors who do business with Trump's campaign should be put on the same notice; these vendors are also identified in FEC reports.

#### **Public** pronouncements

There have been far too many instances over the past several years in which rhetoric based on lies and disinformation has led to violence.

• Promote civil discourse and decry political violence. Make it clear to your employees that political violence in the communities in which you do business, and in which your employees live, is never acceptable in our democratic republic. While we have First Amendment rights to free speech, we have seen lately (in the verdict holding Rudy Giuliani responsible for consequences of defaming two poll workers in Georgia) against the limits to those rights — they must never lead to political violence or harm to individuals.

Sign evidence-based petitions with fellow CEOs and business leaders that condemn destructive rhetoric. Your words have

### **■** Dangerous

of permanent minority rule over all of us.

It was not too long ago that the Republicans stole at least one — and, some of us believe, two — seats on the Supreme Court in a completely immoral, unprecedented, and barely legal manner.

This corrupt Supreme Court has stolen voting rights from Black voters by gutting the Voting Rights Act. The right-wing majority has permitted what would be considered outrageous gerrymanders in swing states and pure red states to limit the representation — and, ultimately, the voting rights — of Black citizens.

With no legal remedy to demand more opportunities to vote when cities with a large Black population are stripped of polling sites, voters have to stand in line, sometimes for up to 10 hours. Those of us in small towns and suburbs can waltz into the voting site, say howdy to our town clerk, vote, and leave in 10 minutes or less.

In Florida, nearly 65% of the citizens voted in a referendum to restore voting rights to those with past convictions who had fulfilled their debt to society. The state has undermined this law, with support from Trump-appointed criminals (a.k.a federal judges), by creating a new category of

"court fees" that these mostly poor and mostly non-white people are forced to pay in order to vote.

The dirty tricks abound. When will we again see the demand that Black voters cite the number of jelly beans in a jar in order to earn the right to the franchise?

As 2024 BEGINS, the coalition of those who understand the peril of another Trump term should be organizing poll watchers for every site with non-white voters. Lawyers, or those trained by lawyers, need to be available on call to assist those who are being denied the right to register or to vote.

As terrible as this sounds, we need to be more like our opposition — but in a smart

As Trump invents stupid names for his opponents, in contrast, we need to begin inventing creative ways to call out these guys for who they

Every day, we need to make public Trump's most vile and violent insults. The corporate media and the court system have given this guy a pass almost anyone else would be serving time in prison for the constant death threats to those he dislikes.

The press, without a direct challenge, allows the lifelong racist Trump to call strong Black women like Fulton

FROM SECTION FRONT

County (Georgia) District Attorney Fani Willis and New York Attorney General Letitia

James racists. That use of the term that is totally bogus, as true racism is part of a system of oppression of the powerless by the powerful. Whenever Trump's nonsense comes out of his hateful mouth, it needs to be countered with tough talk about real racism.

The fascist movement in the United States has come a very long way in the past 10 years. It is clear that the Koch family and the other oil/gas/and chemical barons have been planning this takeover for a long time -The Federalist Society, The Heritage Foundation, and lots of other secretive organizations have plowed the ground for a cruel, hateful, and corrupt Donald Trump.

Large corporations have basically decided to go along with Trump in exchange for eliminating regulations and taxes. And these corporations largely own the media.

So we — every one of us who is committed to protecting our ability to speak freely, to welcome immigrants into our country, who believe in a multi-cultural democracy had better get out and get voters to oppose Trump.

We might never get another chance.

influence.

• Consider sponsoring or cosponsoring nonpartisan forums, debates, and programs in your communities that showcase candidates for local or state offices and or ballot initiatives. Nonprofit organizations cannot promote individual candidates, and if they offer public events about politics, they must be nonpartisan. So businesses might have more resources at their disposal for this kind of activity than nonprofits or individuals do, and such events would be of great benefit to the community.

#### **Financial** initiatives: individual

business leaders Consider donating to President Biden and other Democratic candidates in this cycle rather than just to GOP candidates who have no hope

of defeating Trump in the primaries — or who actually support his far-right policies. Many of your stockholders and customers would probably support you in this effort. It is a financial examine their corporate valrisk, but it may be a risk worth taking this time around.

 Look to our sister nations, which support small businesses to a much greater degree than we generally do in the U.S. Do not automatically assume that policies promoted by Democrats or other liberals or progressives are anti-business or would diminish profits.

To take just one example, we are the only advanced nation without a national health care system — and our costs are much higher per capita. If we developed a workable health care system along the same lines, small businesses would almost certainly never have to worry about providing a health care "benefit" for their employees.

Trump is already vowing — again — to abolish the Affordable Care Act

"Obamacare"), on which millions of Americans now depend; while the ACA is is still a far cry from what our peer nations offer, it is an improvement over what came before — and demolishing it under a Trump administration would be disastrous for the country.

#### **Financial** initiatives: corporations

 Carefully consider the products you are producing and selling. If you are creating products that promote the values of a demagogue, consider halting production.

We know that Trump makes millions off his swag, and investigations have shown not only that Americans who do not have money to burn are among the buyers of these items but also that he uses the proceeds to pay his legal fees (at least when he actually pays his attorneys). Someone is creating Trump merchandise and making money off it (in addition to Trump).

Those manufacturers must ues and profit margins to see whether those are worth supporting a potential, self-admitted dictator and enabling vast exploitation of consumers. • Partner with community col-

leges, technical high schools, and other educational institutions to promote progressive workforce development. The major bills passed by the Biden-Harris administration — which combat climate change, among other things (climate change being a major denial point of Trump and other extreme right-wingers) — rely on a work force that will need retraining in many areas that do not necessarily require a four-year college degree.

Our sister nations have been in the forefront of this effort for decades, and many companies in the U.S. are finally waking up to this reality and taking creative action. That action needs

to be stepped up. • Ensure that migrants and im-

migrants are integrated into workforce training efforts as much as possible. Trump and others on the right rage against immigration and immigrants, painting them in the worst, most racist terms. Immigration is a huge and complex situation that has not been adequately solved in our country (or even in many others), but companies that appreciate what immigrants can offer (and have always offered historically) must work with Democrats, progressives, nonprofits, and others in productive ways and not give in to the destructive rhetoric (and even violence) of the right.

• Corporations and small businesses mustcombat racism, homophobia, misogyny, antisemitism, and other destructive stances that would only get much worse under a Trump dictatorship.

Trump and his allies are fond of blaming a so-called "woke" trend in the U.S. that supposedly threatens the straight white America that they crave. It is appalling that Trump is even resorting to language reminiscent of Nazism in 1930s Germany.

But enlightened business leaders know that a diverse workforce ultimately helps the bottom line. Such leaders will sorely regret failing to take appropriate action against these radical right-wing trends.

Business leaders are constrained by law and other factors, but there are many actions they can take on behalf of democracy in the dire circumstances in which we find ourselves. Some of these initiatives will take courage, but others are not necessarily difficult.

May they use the vast innovation and creativity that is inherent in their work to battle an authoritarian trend that we cannot allow to prevail.

## **LETTERS**

### Letters 'feel like attack on the history, memory, and safety of Jewish people'

e all want the war in Gaza to stop, now. But here, where we live, it is frightening to see recent letters in local papers not just criticizing the policies of Israel and its current government, but also

Jan. 8-14

CHANNEL 1078

Here We Are - Jonathan Harvey, Brattleboro Music Center, Concert Choir Music Director: Mon 8p, Tues 3:15p, Wed 9p, Thurs 1:15p, Sat 12:15p, Sup 5:15p

The World Fusion Show - Ep# 169 - Barbara Xu: Mon 5:30p, Tues 11a, Wed 9:30p, Thurs 12:30p, Fri 4:30p, Sat 11:30a, Sun 9:45p

Thorn in my Side - WINTER ROMANCE! December 29th, 2022: Mon 11a, Tues 8p, Wed 11a, Thurs 9a, Fri 9:30p, Sat 5p, Sun 4p

**Demonstration in Support of Gaza 12/23/23**: Wed 4:30p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 10a, Sat 8p, Sun 12:30p

Seasonal Specials - A Festival of

Nine Lessons & Carols: Mon 10a Tues 1p, Wed 3:30p, Thurs 10a, Sat

At BMAC - Artist Talk: Aurora Robson: Mon 3p, Tues 5:30a, Thurs 4:45p, Fri 12:30p, Sat 5:45a, Sun 8:30p

Couch Potatoe Productions -Soggy Po' Boys at the West River Park 10/8/23: Mon 12:30p, Tues 9p, Thurs 2p, Fri 6a, Sat 9a, Sun 6p

Hooker Dunham Presents Good King Wenceslas: Mon 2:10p, Tues 9a, Wed 12:30p, Fri 5p, Sat 10:40a, Sun 7:40p

Couch Potatoe Productions -Orchard Aid - Vermont Tambour Feat. Amelia Struthers & Mike Mrowicki: Mon 8:35p, Tues 3:50p, Thurs 6a, Fri 11:15a, Sat 9:15p, Sun 1:45p

Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p

Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p

News Block: WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p Reformer News Break: Mon-Fri

12:05p & 6:05p BUHS-TV News: Mon-Fri 12:15p &

St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a,

Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p

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

Mass: Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p

St. Michael's Catholic Church

**Around Town With Maria** 

12:15p, Sun 5:15p

6p. Sun 6a

including phrases and arguments questioning the very existence of Israel. These feel like an attack on the history, mem-

ory, and safety of Jewish people.
Within our parents' lifetimes, millions of Jews were murdered across Europe and kicked out of all Arab countries, while the U.S. refused entry to ships full of Jews, sending some back to die in concentration camps. Israel became their

**PROGRAM** 

HIGHLIGHTS

CHANNEL 1079

**Brattleboro Selectboard Special Mtg. 1/5/24**: Mon 8:45p, Tues 5:30a Wed 2:30p

Windham Elementary School Board Mtg. 12/22/23: Mon 11:25a & 4:40p, Wed 10:25a & 4:40p

Marlboro Elementary School Board Mtg. 1/4/24: Mon 6:15p, Tues 6:30a, Wed 12p

West River Education District Board Mtg. 1/8/24: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 12p

River Valleys Unified School District Board Mtg. 1/8/24: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2:30p

Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 1/8/24:

Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 1/8/24:

Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg. 1/8/24: Sun 6p

Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 1/9/24: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p

Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 1/9/24: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 2:30p

Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Board Mtg. 1/10/24: Sun

Putney Selectboard Mtg. 1/10/24: Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 12p

Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 1/10/24: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 2:30p

Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 1/2/24: Mon 4:45p, Tues 6p, Wed 10:30a, Thurs 4p

Town Matters - Weekly Episode: Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p

**The David Pakman Show**: Mon 8a Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p

Sat 6p. Sun 8:30a

Sat 8:30p, Sun 6a

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

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

only refuge. Everyone understood that "from the river to the sea" was a call for Arab armies to drive Jews into the sea. This refrain still holds that threat of annihilation today, as Hamas has echoed and viciously demonstrated.

Instead of inciting division and defensiveness, let's build on the hope that Jews can (and still do) coexist with Palestinians, and Arabs regionally. Many people work for peace and justice in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza — there as well as here.

Let us keep advocating to end the war, for long-term peace and justice, for better government in Israel, for hope and humane government in Gaza, and to end Hamas's murderous dictatorship and free their hostages.

We're certain you comprehend the unease we experience when swastikas and other antisemitic graffiti surface, as they did recently on a town mural and increasingly in area schools.

What might not be immediately apparent is that when you our friends, neighbors, and colleagues — make statements implying Jews have no right to live in Israel, you also frighten

Thanks for listening. Brattleboro Area Jewish

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

Brattleboro Rabbi Amita Jarmon, Stephan

Brandstatter, John Ungerleider, Michael Knapp, Selma Schiffer, Ienn Bennett, Ellen Appel Bronstein, Sue Lederer, Kate Tarlow Morgan, Faith and Abe Schuster

#### Don't stop people from going about their business

R: "Action opposing military support of Gaza war shut down 'business as usual'" [Letters, Jan. 3]:

Protesters need to think harder. When you block roads or bridges, when you prevent people from going about their business, who are you winning over to your cause?

Not the worker who can't be tardy to work one more time or thev'll be fired. Not the person trying to rush their ailing pet to the veterinarian. Not the parent rushing out to buy baby formula.

People trying to go about their business aren't suddenly going to be won over to your cause; they're going to be incredibly angry with you - and, by extension, possibly your

Please think of others. Hold your signs. Chant. But do not stop people from doing what they need to do.

> Sandy Golden Hinsdale, N.H.

### ■ Winners and losers

— and risk the future for their own offsprings and everyone else in the process?

WE USED TO take pride in making some of the most durable and repairable products, stocking parts to make those repairs. Our quality machinery was sought after around the world.

Some manufacturing hubs like Bridgeport, Connecticut, became indispensable resources for all machine shops. Then the urge to squeeze more short-term profits brought us value engineering and planned obsolescence.

Such thinly disguised and successful attempts to pick our pockets have crept into almost every corner of industry. From kitchen appliances to

automobiles to airplanes, the push to get more profit for a worse product has become the norm. The push to make it harder to repair the things and to include failure in the design of products have created the perception that anything old needs to be replaced, regardless of how easy it might be to repair.

We now have a generation that for the most part doesn't have the skills or inclination to repair anything. The ever-escalating quest for profits is largely just an annoyance when it comes to consumer goods, but it can turn deadly in other areas.

Whether we're looking at power generation, food safety, transportation, or any number of other large-scale industries whose products and services we can't resist, the quest for shortterm gain has lead to a lot of long-term suffering. One recent and well-publi-

cized example was Boeing's 737 Max. The bean counters who replaced the engineers at the helm of Boeing tried to solve a hardware problem with a software patch. They pushed the envelope of weight and balance in a way that even beginner student pilots are trained to avoid.

This also brings up the subject of oversight — and the coziness of regulators with the regulated.

Media has played a role in keeping us unsettled and divided, with the goal of selling more ads. Good news is boring, and doesn't inspire us to try to treat our anxiety with a

Examples of how things can

FROM SECTION FRONT go right don't tend to make national news, as much as they might give us a constructive path forward. There is much

to make life better. We have never needed to shine a light on them more than at this pivotal moment for our planet.

to be learned from individuals,

communities, companies, and

countries that are quietly trying

In this world of deep dysfunction, I hope that your holidays were filled with connection and meaning, filled with gifts homemade or regifted, or with lovingly restored antiques. And I hope that your gatherings have been filled with the joy and merriment possible only when all electronics are turned off.

May your new year bring the sort of community that can come only from finding common ground with those from different backgrounds and

perspectives. In this new year, let us seek to hold those in power accountable — or replace them, if that's not

possible. May our gift to our children

and grandchildren be a path to a sustainable future.

View full schedule and watch online at brattleboroTV.org BCTV's Program Highlights are sponsored by **The Commons**. BCTV's

municipal meeting coverage helps Commons reporters stay in touch. Read about it in the Town & Village section at www.commonsnews.org

Note: Schedule subject to change.

**Brattleboro Community Television – 257-0888** 

#### **Brooks Library** seeks trustee

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

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

Applicants should send an email and resume describing their interest in serving on the Library board no later than Wednesday, Jan. 17, to trustees@ brookslibraryvt.org.

### **Rock River Players** invite acts for Valentine's Cabaret

WILLIAMSVILLE — The Rock River Players (RRP) invites acts for its annual Valentine's Cabaret to run Friday through Sunday, Feb. 9-11, at the Williamsville Hall.

"A collection of songs, solos, and sketches, this light-hearted evening has become a RRP favorite," says RRP co-Artistic Director Bahman Mahdavi. Dan DeWalt will be accompanist for all music numbers.

Area performers interested in joining the RRP for this "loosely love-themed event" should contact Annie Landenberger at verbatimvt@gmail.com by Monday, Jan. 15.

#### Brattleboro Area **Contra Dance** on Jan. 14

GUILFORD — The Brattleboro Area Contra Dance

### AROUND THE TOWNS

series moves to the second Sunday of the month starting Jan. 14 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Broad Brook Community Center on Guilford Center Road.

This month, the music will be provided by Rebecca Weiss, Mary Cay Brass, and Rose Jackson, with Andy Davis as the caller. Admission is \$15-\$20, with children welcome at a reduced price. All dances are taught and no partner or experience is required.

Covid precautions include masking by choice, with N95 masks available at the door.

#### **COVID-19** vaccine clinic at Senior Center

BRATTLEBORO — The Vermont Department of Health will offer a free COVID-19 vaccination clinic Tuesday, Jan. 16, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Brattleboro Senior Center, 207 Main St.

Appointments can be made by calling Sarah Clark at 802-257-7570. Walk-ins are also welcome.

#### Wonder and awe in the natural world is topic of Dummerston talk

WEST DUMMERSTON — The Dummerston Conservation Commission presents a talk with Matthew Myer Boulton on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m., at the Dummerston Community Center at 150 West St.

In this interactive talk, Boulton will explore the role of wonder and amazement — from the astonishing size of the universe to the tiny marvels of ice and snow - in our personal and communal lives, including the work of conservation. And, along the way, recent scientific research on the life-giving power of awe will be discussed, as well as some ways to incorporate more of it into one's everyday routine.

Boulton is a writer and Emmywinning filmmaker based in Keene, New Hampshire. He has served on the faculty of Harvard Divinity School, and is currently at work on a book exploring the

49 50

111

122

Down

1. College game chant

4. Where many college

students live

6. Edit a voice-over

10. Hipster beer, initially

15. Jewish mourning period

shaking one's head

11. Follow, as a result

12. Workbench tools

13. Liberal leader?

14. Outdoors chain

16. Words said while

17. Brunch order

18. Mattress holder

Ice" singer

26. Mint

29. Variety

33. Criminal

36. Schuss, e.g.

37. Burgundy grape

39. Leave in a hurry,

44. In an unemotional way

47. Candy-filled party favor

45. Damage, as an auto

46. "Here's bad news"

60. Dollar offering

62. Like Quito and La Paz

64. Gen-Z subculture group

48. Down the \_\_\_

with "out"

24. "Walking on Thin

34. Edmonton athlete

"Simpsons" action hero

5. Miss the mark

8. Wall hangings

7. Unspoken

9. \_\_jacket

3. Ready to roll

wonders of the Connecticut River 802 257-0775. valley.

All are welcome. If possible, a suggested donation is \$5, which is split equally between the Dummerston Community Center and the Dummerston Conservation Commission.

### **Death Cafe in Putney**

PUTNEY — On Saturday, Jan. 20, from 1 to 3 p.m., Brattleboro Area Hospice will host a Death Cafe at Putney Friends Meeting, 17 Bellows Falls Rd.

At a Death Cafe, people, often strangers, gather to eat snacks, drink tea, and discuss death. The objective is to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives. A Death Cafe is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session.

Space is limited. For more infromation, email info@ brattleborohospice.org or call

### Rabies clinic for dogs in Williamsville

WILLIAMSVILLE — The Windham County Sheriff's Animal Control Officer has arranged for Dr. Paul Kotas of the Free Range Veterinary Services to hold rabies clinics, for dogs only, on the following Mondays, from 9 to 10 a.m., at the Williamsville Hall at 35 Dover Rd.: Jan. 22, Feb. 5 and 19, and March 4 and

The cost will be \$22. Dog owners must bring a copy of the prior rabies certificate. This clinic is only available to residents of Newfane, Dummerston, Putney, Windham, Wardsboro, Grafton, and Vernon.



### SEVCA is recruiting VITA tax volunteers

W E S T M I N S T E R — English-speaking taxpayers who Community Action (SEVCA) will provide free tax preparation for lower income taxpayers for the 2024 tax filing season through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

SEVCA is now recruiting volunteers to help as many families as possible claim the tax credits and refunds available to them. They are looking for individuals who are willing and able to commit to at least three hours per week, or at least 30 hours total from the last week in January to the mid-

dle of April.
The VITA program offers free tax help to people who have low to moderate income, persons with disabilities, and limited

'Every day my heart aches'

'm a 32-year-old preschool

teacher who moved to this

from the Bay Area. Since mov-

ing here I have met many others

cause of the progressive politics

that Vermont offers as well as

the vibrant culture and whole-

As a radical, queer person

I've only ever considered living

in politically progressive places,

my back and wants to be on the

I had high hopes moving to

Vermont with its long held rep-

Heck, it's Bernie Sanders' state!

Unfortunately, I have yet to see

this state take a stand with re-

gards to the war in Gaza — or,

Gaza and forced displacement

Every day my heart aches

people being killed with weap-

ons that the fruits of my labor

I won't sit idly by while the

support this slaughter. I will or-

ganize, I will march, I will dis-

rupt business as usual, I will

implore you to do the same.

Looking to support

**Brattleboro** 

Selectboard

candidates for

e are among several engaged Brattleboro citi-

zens who are less than happy

with the current composition of the Selectboard, and we are

looking for additional candi-

dates for the March election. There will be two one-year

seats and one three-year seat

tion are available at the Town

Clerk's office and must be re-

turned with valid signatures

on the ballot. Petitions for elec-

write, and I will not give up. I

And as for Vermont reps,

please represent us and support

Bernie's Senate Resolution 504.

Caroline Hannon

Brattleboro

U.S. chooses on my behalf to

knowing that there are innocent

of the Palestinian people.

are paying for.

rather, the war of aggression on

utation of progressive politics.

because I need to feel confi-

right side of history.

dent that my community has

some traditions.

town a little over a year ago

like me who settled here be-

**MORE LETTERS** 

Southeastern Vermont need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free federal and state income tax return preparation with electronic filing.

"Don't know that much about taxes? Don't worry — you'll receive specialized training from a certified VITA instructor plus IRS online courses," organizers say in a news release. "Although prior tax preparation experience is not necessary, a commitment to training and certification is required; and don't worry, there won't be much math!"

For more information, contact Emily Strasser at estrasser@ sevca.org or 802-722-4575, ext.

from at least 30 voters regis-

tered in Brattleboro no later

than Monday, Jan. 29 by 5 p.m.

We are proposing a consor-

tium of citizens and are seeking

candidates who broadly share

our concerns. We are prepared

to support the right candidates

the problems facing the town.

of running to serve the town

on the Selectboard, we would

like to hear from you. To dis-

cuss this further, please contact

us at fideladelphia@gmail.com

(David) and robt.oeser@gmail.

support Sanders'

n Nov. 28, Sen. Peter Welch released a statement

calling for the then-temporary

tended. Thanks to Sen. Welch

Now, logically, Welch must

co-sponsor Sanders' bill,

gal means to inquire into

the catastrophic use of U.S.

bombs on Gaza. After the State

Department provides informa-

tion on Israel's human rights

practices, each senator will de-

clare whether they agree with

late internationally recognized

Welch's rationale for an

"indefinite ceasefire" aligns

with Bernie's reasoning for

S.Res. 504. Their various state-

ments match. Both Welch and

Sanders denounce the loss of

innocent life, the human suf-

fering and destruction in Gaza.

And they factually report that

this massive death and devas-

tation proceeds thanks to U.S.

addressing this question in

to encourage Sen. Welch to

reached at 1-800-642-3193.

January.
As a Vermonter, I invite you

join his colleague and co-spon-

sor S.Res.504. His staff can be

Bernie expects a Senate vote

money and bombs.

U.S. weapons being used to vio-

S.Res. 504. It contains the le-

Israel/Hamas ceasefire to be ex-

David Levenbach and

**Robert Oeser** 

Brattleboro

com (Robert).

Will Welch

resolution?

for his action.

human rights.

If you have been thinking

who have thoughtful ideas about

### **BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY**

### THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

"Modern Maturity"

#### Across

- 1. More stylish
- 7. Pack (down)
- 11. Large jug 15. High-hatter 19. Novelist \_\_ de Balzac
- 20. Moroccan, e.g. 21. Florida State athlete, briefly
- Smart\_ 23. One raring to do surgery?
- 25. Sought by petition
- 27. Crossed out Cambridgeshire
- college, for short
- Birth control device 30. Track shapes
- 31. See 59-Across
- 32. Psychologist Jean without trousers?
- 38. Ransom payoff 40. Country bumpkin
- 41. Related
- 42. Bolted down 43. Sunburnt, perhaps
- 45. Onion, for one 46. "Checkmate!"
- 47. Bread with Halloumi 48. Seriously criticize
- beauty contests? Penned an editorial, say
- 55. Comic Wong 56. City on the Rhone
- Spanish waterways 58. Too many to count
- 59. Its last letter means 31-Across
- 61. Vare Trophy org.
- 63. Brown-\_
- 65. Cassettes 69 Evasive kids?
- 72. Hijinks with a beeper? 74. Zoo howler
- 75. High coifs
- 77. Take in a spread 78. Kind of clef
- 79. Blockhead
- 81. Tolkien tree creatures 83. Nadal's autobiography
- 85. Stitch up 86. Leave in the lurch
- "America's Funniest Home Videos" host's not here?
- 92. Ship part
- 93. Hamburger grade
- 95. "Well, phooey!" 96. Baby boxer?
- 97. With 123-Across, W-9, e.g. 98. Computer list
- 99. Scholz refusal 100. Air bag?
- 103. Biden looked for food? 109. Gets the picture
- 111. Talks wildly
- 112. Dispensary chemical 113. Physicians' org.
- 114. Real nasty
- 115. Command neighbor, on some Macs
- 118. Demonstrate being out of touch, or an alternate title for this puzzle
- 122. Fishing locale 123. See 97-Across
- 124. Boston Common, e.g. 125. Slurred over a syllable
- 126. Winds up
- 127. Use a stun gun on 128. Taradiddles

RARE

- 49. Quiet 50. Gnatlike insect 51. Appear suddenly
- 52. Slangy, elongated refusal
- 129. Shankar's instruments
- 54. Pasta cookers 58. Hippodromes

- 73. Direct elsewhere 76. Sound purchase?
- 80. Did nothing

66. Throb

67

"Door's

112

116 117

123

127

- 82. Flight segment
- 86. Play Double Dutch, say
- 89 Promenades
- 88. Was offended by
- 90. Sicilian volcano
- 70. Open wide
- 71. Giant cymbal

68. Vermont resort

- 84. Roll call misser
- 87. Freshwater turtle
- neighbors 94. Chemical suffixes
- Jananese 99. Super Bowl side

91. Help vacationing

101. The Silver State

100

114

107

125

113

118 119 120

124

128

that's part anime,

goth, and emo

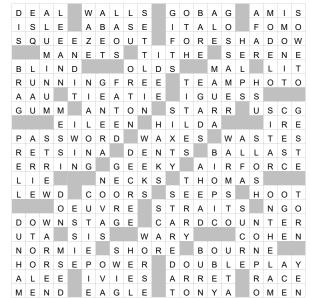
101 102

©2023

- 102. Kind of counter
- 104. Mixes up
- 105. Culinary herb
- 106. Goggles
- 107. Whiny music genre 108. Krone spenders
- 110. Coasters 116. Crypto collectible
- 117. Campground letters 118. Tanning lotion letters
- 119. Yokohama yes
- 120. Globe shape
- 121. New Haven student

### Last issue's solution

"Out and Out"



PUBLICATION OF THE COMMONS CROSSWORD IS UNDERWRITTEN BY

# **GOTAN OPINION?**

words that have not yet appeared elsewhere.

(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

### **OPENING! Looking for**

a qualified individual. Top pay & banefits!

**Deb Pierotti** 

Brattleboro

### BRATTLEBORO TIRE Locally owned for over 46 years!

TIRES & ALL UNDER CAR SERVICE

OIL CHANGE \$74.95 **FULL SYNTHETIC** UP TO 5 QTS. **INCLUDES 30 POINT COURTESY CHECK** 

Fluids • Belts • Hoses • Steering • Brakes **Lights & Much More Upon Request** \*(\$3.00 disposal fee) most cars. Special diesel oil & filter extra.

802-254-5411

558 Putney Rd.

Call for an appointment!

VT State Inspections • Courtesy cars or rides available at no cost



IT WILL GET COLD AND SNOW THIS WINTER... BE READY! Get your snow tires

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 page C4

### COLUMN | Sports Roundup

# Rebel boys fall to Poultney; BF avenges loss

ometimes, you take a look at the records of the teams playing in the game you are going to cover and think that you are going to see

I wasn't expecting much from the Jan. 5 boys' basketball game in Townshend between the 2-5 Leland & Gray Rebels and the 1-8 Poultney Blue Devils. Instead of a dud, it turned out to be an exciting game that tested the mettle of the Rebels as they lost, 67-56.

The start of the game was bleak for the Rebels, as they trailed by as many as 11 points after the six minutes of the first quarter. But from that point, the Rebels went on a 15-6 run and tied the game, 21-21, with 4:35 left in the second quarter. Forward Cody Hescock had the hot hand, scoring 10 of his 20 points in the second quarter as the Rebels clung to a 28-27 halftime lead.

Leland & Gray kept up the momentum as guard Chip Winkler scored 12 of his teamhigh 22 points in the third quarter as the Rebels ended the

quarter with a 50-47 lead. However, the second half and especially the fourth quarter — belonged Poultney's Ari Camp, who scored 17 of his team-high 23 points in the final two quarters. Free throw shooting also made a difference as the Blue Devils were 11-for-11 from the line in the fourth, including eight free throws from

Poultney also got 14 points, including four three-pointers, from Wyatt Gillett, and 13 points from Peyton Book. Together with Camp, they battled back to put the Blue Devils in front, 51-50, with 6:41 to play and held the Rebels to just six points in the fourth quarter.

While Rebels head coach Luis Vargas was pleased with Hescock and Winkler's efforts, he said after the game that the two biggest things his team needed to work on were team chemistry and "bringing the intensity for all four quarters.'

Despite the loss, Vargas felt there were "a lot of positives" that came out of the effort and believes the 2-6 Rebels have time to pull things together for a playoff run. "We still believe in each other," he said.

### **Boys basketball**

• The chaotic ending in the championship game of the Green Mountain Holiday Tournament in Chester on Dec. 14, a game where the Twin Valley Wildcats pulled out a last-second 51-48 victory over the Bellows Falls Terriers, left a

mark on both teams. Both Division III Bellows Falls and Division IV Twin Valley have the talent to be playing for a state basketball title in their respective divisions at the Barre Auditorium in March. While Twin Valley celebrated their hard-fought victory over BF, the Terriers were seething and were immediately counting down the days to Jan. 4 when the teams would face each other again, this time in

Whitingham. When I asked BF coach Evan Chadwick about the rematch after the Terriers defeated Woodstock on Dec. 29, and whether his players were thinking ahead to avenging the Twin Valley loss on Jan. 4, he laughed off the suggestion. But we both knew the reality was a bit different. The Terriers had a chance to make a statement with a big road win, and they weren't going to miss their shot.

Jaxon Clark scored 23 points as the Terriers came away with 63-53 win over the Wildcats. Unlike the first meeting, BF



**RANDOLPH** T. HOLHUT, deputy editor of this newspaper, has

written this column since 2010 and has covered sports in Windham County since the 1980s. Readers can send him sports information at news@commonsnews.

controlled the area around the basket and got lots of extra chances to score thanks to their size and determination to grab every possible rebound.

Wildcats guard Brayden Brown scored 25 points, but the Terriers managed to keep his teammates in check. BF led by as many as 17 points in the fourth quarter before turning aside a late Twin Valley comeback in the final 4:30 of regulation.

The intensity of this game apparently took the starch out of both teams when they both played again on Jan. 6. The Terriers lost, 69-44, to Otter Valley on Jan. 6 in Brandon to finish the week with a 5-3 record, while the Wildcats lost to White River Valley, 65-26, to fall to 4-3.

· Brattleboro picked up a big road win against Fair Haven on Jan. 5 as the Bears rallied in the second half to topple the Slaters, 71-62.

Fair Haven led by as many as 13 points midway through the third quarter, but Brattleboro closed out the third with a 15-5 run, then ended the fourth quarter with a 12-2 run to complete the comeback and snap a four-game losing streak.

While Slaters forward Phil Bean pummeled the Bears inside with a game-high 30 points and 11 rebounds, Brattleboro used a balanced attack to counter that performance. Jack Cady led Brattleboro with 16 points, including seven in the third quarter. Keagan Systo added 14 points and Jackson Emery and John Satterfield scored 12 and 11 points, respectively. The Bears improved to 3-5 with the

### Girls' basketball

• Bellows Falls lost to Long Trail School, 39-29, on Jan. 4 to drop their record to 4-2.

 Leland & Gray split its two games last week, with a 53-20 win over Sharon Academy on Jan. 4 and a 51-39 loss to West Rutland on Jan. 6 to finish the week at 3-7.

• Twin Valley is still looking for its first win. On Jan. 6, the Wildcats lost to Arlington, 57-25, to fall to 0-6.

### Ice hockey

• With a team that is small in number and short on experience, the Brattleboro boys have to play nearly flawless hockey to win games. Against U-32, penalties were a problem for the Bears and the result was a 7-1 loss at Withington Rink on

Brattleboro got its only goal early in the first period from Henry Schwartz, assisted by Will Miskovich and Andy Cay, to tie the game at 1-1. Then the penalties started piling up, seven of them in all, which led to six unanswered goals by

The Bears trailed 3-1 heading into the third period thanks to some solid goaltending by James Fagley, but a 10-minute game misconduct penalty in the final period sealed the Bears' fate.

Brattleboro then turned things around on Jan. 6 with a 5-4 road win over Lyndon. Alex Dick scored a pair of goals, and Cay, Evan Wright, and Carter

Tel: (802) 257-5131

Fax: (802) 257-5837



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

Leland & Gray defenders Cody Hescock (22) and Chip Winkler (0) force Poultney's Wyatt Gillett to turn over the ball during the first half of their boys' basketball game in Townshend on Jan. 5.



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/COMMONS FILE PHOTO Brattleboro guard Jack Cady scored 16 to lead the Bears to a 71-62 road win over Fair Haven in boys' basketball

Mialkowski each added a goal. Fagley had 13 saves as the Bears improved to 2-5-1.

action on Jan. 5.

• It's been a tough season so far for the Brattleboro girls. They are 0-8 and have been outscored 65-2 in those eight

On Jan. 3 against Kingdom Blades in St. Johnsbury, the Bears lost, 10-0. Alexandra Mosher had three goals and an assist to lead the Blades as Bears goaltender Nellie Sterling made

Against U-32 on Jan. 6, the Bears lost, 10-1. Greta Koenig scored Brattleboro's only goal as Sterling made 24 saves. Hannah Drury scored four goals and Alex Pickel, Emily Tringe, and Chloe Pembroke each had two

goals for U-32.

### Nordic skiing

• The Brattleboro Nordic team finally got a chance to get on the snow on Jan. 4 with a freestyle time trial race at Rikert Outdoor Center in Ripton.

'This was our first time on snow this season," wrote coach Amanda Dixon in an email. "It's always exciting and nerve wracking to have your first true skiing experience of the season be a race!"

Katherine Normandeau led the BUHS girls with an eighth place finish, completing her six 0.8 kilometer laps in 23 minutes, 59.3 seconds. Maeve Bald was 15th in 26:09.6, Prya Kitzmiller was 16th in 28.11.6,

Maayan Coleman was 18th in 31:16.7, and Evelyn Kiehl 23rd in 40:14.3.

In the boys' race, Nico Jonathan-Leach was the top finisher for BUHS, skiing the six laps in 19:30.4. Willow Sharma was ninth in 19:50.6, Gabe Jeppsen-Belleci was 11th in 20:34.7, Oliver Herrick was 16th in 20:34.7, Desmond Longsmith was 19th in 22:44.0, Eben Wagner was 21st in 22:58.2, and Galen Fogarty was

### Wanna bet?

• Starting on Jan. 11, online sports wagering will be legal in Vermont.

In December, DraftKings, FanDuel, and Fanatics Sportsbook were selected through a competitive bidding process by the Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery. Those companies have been doing pre-registration for new Vermont customers over the past few weeks, and saturating the airwaves with ads touting their services.

Vermont is the last state in New England to legalize online sports wagering, which is projected to raise roughly \$7 million in new revenue in its first year. The legislation signed by Scott last July, H.127, also calls for at least \$250,000 of that money to go toward state programs to help Vermonters struggling with gambling addiction.

Betting on games has been going on for decades, despite it being illegal in every state except Nevada. That changed in 2018, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a ban on sports betting was unconstitutional, and legal online betting operations sprouted like mushrooms after a rain. Now, more than 30 states permit sports wagering.

There are a few caveats for gambling in Vermont, however. You have to be 21 or older. You can't use a credit card. You can't wager on any Vermont college games unless the teams are playing in an NCAA tournament.

Like all gambling, there is the risk of going beyond your means if you're not careful.

There is lot of truth in the old adage that you should bet only what you can afford to lose.

In the fine print that comes at the end of all the online gambling ads you see on TV, you see the toll-free numbers that bettors can call if they find themselves in trouble. Draft Kings, Fanduel, and the like put that in for the same reason that the Vermont Lottery always ends its ads with the admonition to "please play responsibly" – plausible deniability for any of the social costs.

People aren't always responsible, and that's the doubleedged sword that comes with state governments legalizing vices in the hopes of earning lots of revenue through taxes and fees. The jury is still out on the effect of all the cannabis shops that are opening all over Vermont. We'll soon see how legalized sports gambling will work out in Vermont.

### Senior bowling roundup

• The winter/spring season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl began on Jan. 4 with Good Times, Stayin' Alive, Slow Movers, and Stepping Stones II all tied for first at 4-1, and Hairiers, Four Seasons, High Rollers, and Four Pins all tied for second at 1-4.

Debbi Rittenhour had the women's high handicap game (238) and series (662), while Gary Montgomery had the men's high handicap game (256) and series (676). Good Times had the high team handicap game (858) and series (2,426).

Montgomery had the men's high scratch series (580) with a 224 game. Fred Ashworth had a 536 series, and Milt Sherman had a 534 series, as did Peter Deyo, who had a 192 game. Wayne Randall had a 501 series, John Walker had a 198 game, and Robert Rigby had a 192 game.

Carol Gloski had the women's high scratch series (463), with games of 156, 154, and 153. Shirley Aiken had the high scratch game (159) and also had a 155 game, while Diane Cooke had a 158 game.



Big Heart.

NCUA

Richard S. Frost 802-254-8533 802-451-6989 Residential - Commercial www.dickslockvt.com 356 S. Main St. Brattleboro, VT 05301

### THIS SPACE FOR RENT

You, and some 20,000 other readers, are looking at Windham County's best advertising value. To promote your business in the next issue of *The* Commons, call us at (802) 246-6397 or e-mail ads@ commonsnews.org.