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Brattleboro, Vermont • Wednesday, March 13, 2024 • Vol. XIX, No. 11 • Issue No. 756

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Recount underway for tight WSESD board race

Two votes separate Leavy and Savage for three-year Brattleboro seat

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

After a very close March 5 race for the two three-year school director seats for Brattleboro representative, a recount has been initiated for votes cast for those two seats.

The three candidates, and the number of votes each candidate has unofficially received from the four member towns of the Windham Southeast School District — Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, and Putney — are Tim Maciel, with 1,677 votes; Colleen Savage, 1,661 votes; and Rich Leavy, 1,659 votes.

Leavy confirmed he submitted a request for a recount on March 8.

Town clerks and boards of civil authority in the four member towns will convene to re-count votes as follows:

- Brattleboro Town Clerk's office, March 13, at 11 a.m.
- Guilford Town Clerk's Office, March 13 at 11 a.m.
- Putney Town Clerk's office, March 13 at 2 p.m.
- Dummerston held its recount on March 12, but no results were available at press time.

Election recounts can be observed by candidates and the general public. Town Clerks will provide guidance as to where observers may be positioned. The results from each town will be sent to the WSESD clerk.

Unofficial results will be posted at wsesu.org/wsesd-board.

Other election results

Voters in the district have

re-elected two incumbents and elected two newcomers.

In Guilford, newcomer Brian Remer took the open three-year term for director with 1,298 votes, unseating incumbent Kelly Young, who received 823 votes. Challenger Deborah Mcneil, who had dropped out of the race, received 589 votes.

"I'm very appreciative of the work that Kelly Young has done and want to thank her for her service for the community through the school board," Remer said upon hearing the news. "And I hope she continues to participate in community life and contribute her skills."

Remer thanked voters for their support and "expression of faith in me and what I can do for them," and said he hopes all voters will reach out with "questions, concerns, and ideas for improvement in our school system."

An educator and facilitator, Remer recently retired from his position as training and engagement specialist at the Center for Achievement in Public Service for the state. He was creative learning director for The Firefly Group, his consulting firm.

In Brattleboro, incumbent Matt Schibley, who was appointed to the board in October 2023, kept his one-year seat with 1,580 votes to challenger Lance Cutler's 1,184.

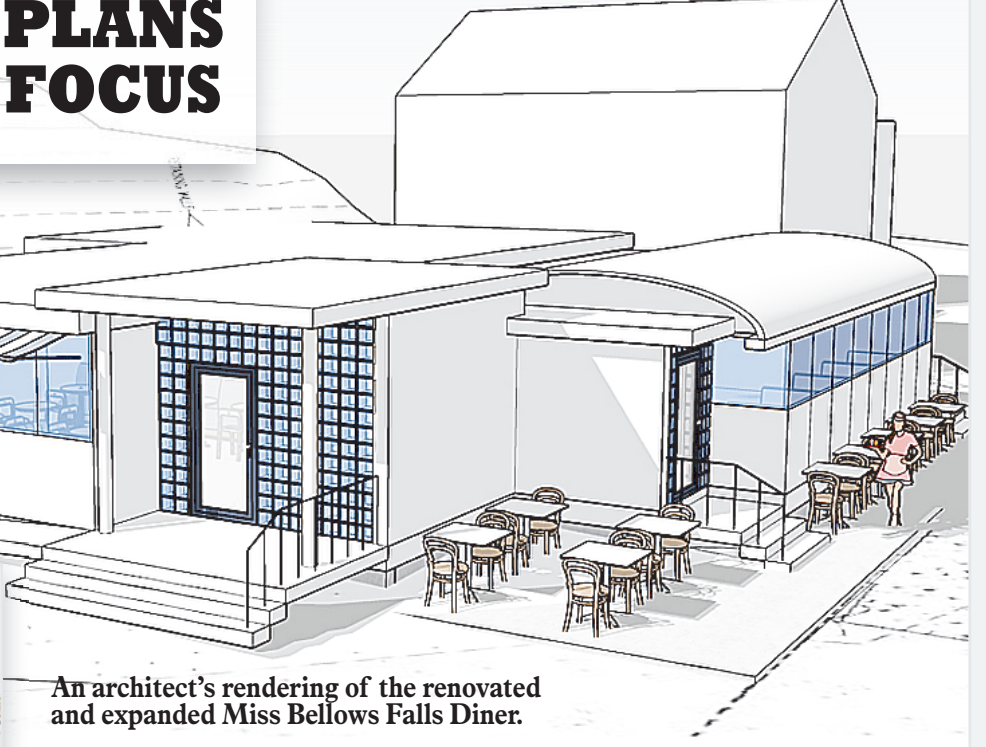
Schibley is executive director of the New England Adolescent Research Institute; a 12-month day school for learning-disabled, emotionally disturbed, neurologically challenged students, ages 7-22, in Easthampton, Massachusetts.

■ SEE RECOUNT, A2

Bellows Falls DINER PLANS come into FOCUS



LITTLE POND DIGITAL, LLC
Charlie Hunter



An architect's rendering of the renovated and expanded Miss Bellows Falls Diner.

A nonprofit group looks to make the Miss Bellows Falls 'a fully functioning, profitable diner' to lease to an operator 'without the burden of debt'

By Robert F. Smith
The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—Plans are falling into place to make sure that a restored and reopened historic diner installed downtown 80 years ago heads into its next 80 years on a strong and sustainable foundation. Literally.

Over a year ago, the citizen's group Rockingham for Progress Inc. signed a purchase-and-sale agreement with former owner Brian McAllister, for the Miss Bellows Falls Diner, on Rockingham Street. The 1941 Worcester Lunch Car has been closed for over three years.

Rockingham For Progress, a civic organization formed in 2016, had been mostly inactive the last few years until it decided that restoring and renovating the diner would be a worthy next project. Board members include Bonnie North, Jeff Dunbar, Kristen Fehrenbach, Doug Anarino, and Charlie Hunter.

Andrew Dey has been brought on as project manager, and Raphael Rosner of Austin Design Cooperative in Brattleboro is the project architect, said Hunter, who serves as spokesperson for the group.

"No investor was going to take this

project on," he said this past week. "The only way this can happen is through a nonprofit group like ours applying for historical restoration grants. This is not a viable project for a private owner."

A public meeting on the next phase of the project, revealing the restoration design details, is scheduled for Thursday, March 28 upstairs at the Rockingham Free Public Library at 7 p.m.

Several of the details on the newer parts of the buildings, including rooflines and exterior siding, have yet to be decided. But the group will reveal the design work completed so far, which they say will give a good idea of the general layout and appearance of the restored diner.

Several other public meetings about the project over the past year have allowed for open discussion of the project, offering details of the diner's history and public input about the restoration.

"This is our chance as a community to get this done and get it done right," Hunter said. "The idea is to get the diner set up for the next 80 years."

Restoration plans revealed

Like many a small-town diner, this one

is in the village's historic downtown district and has been a center of community life for decades. And while a few local people have expressed their opinions about seeing a diner restored to exactly the way it was 40, or 60, or even 80 years ago, the restoration's guiding principle is to honor the building's history and create a space for a viable, profitable business in the decades to come.

Hunter said that the end goal is to recreate the original diner "as practical and durable" as possible for generations of use ahead, while still fitting in with the character of the village and the diner's important legacy in Bellows Falls.

"We want to get this done so an operator can lease it as a fully functioning, profitable diner without the burden of debt," he said.

Experienced, potential operators have already become involved in the project. The proposed design addresses several of these issues. First — and, for many, most importantly — the main diner building will be preserved and restored. Several key elements in the diner, such as the counter, stools, booths, and other interior features, are in great shape and can be reused.

As many of the remaining original features and appliances will be reused as is possible or

■ SEE DINER, A8

'We felt like we have to see for ourselves what's going on'

Balint joins five House colleagues in factfinding visit to Israel and Gaza

By Joyce Marcel
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—On Feb. 18, six Democratic members of Congress began a stealth six-day trip to Israel and Gaza in the midst of war. One of them was Vermont's lone representative, Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt.

Balint and her colleagues favor a two-state solution with Israel and Palestine existing side by

side as neighbors and economic partners. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu rejects such a solution.

The Times of Israel covered the trip by reporting, "Six U.S. House of Representatives Democrats returned from an Israel trip accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of 'utter disregard for Palestinian lives' and fearing that he is moving toward Gaza's 'total destruction.'"

Balint, who is Jewish and often talks about losing family in the Holocaust, could not help but be deeply moved by the trip.

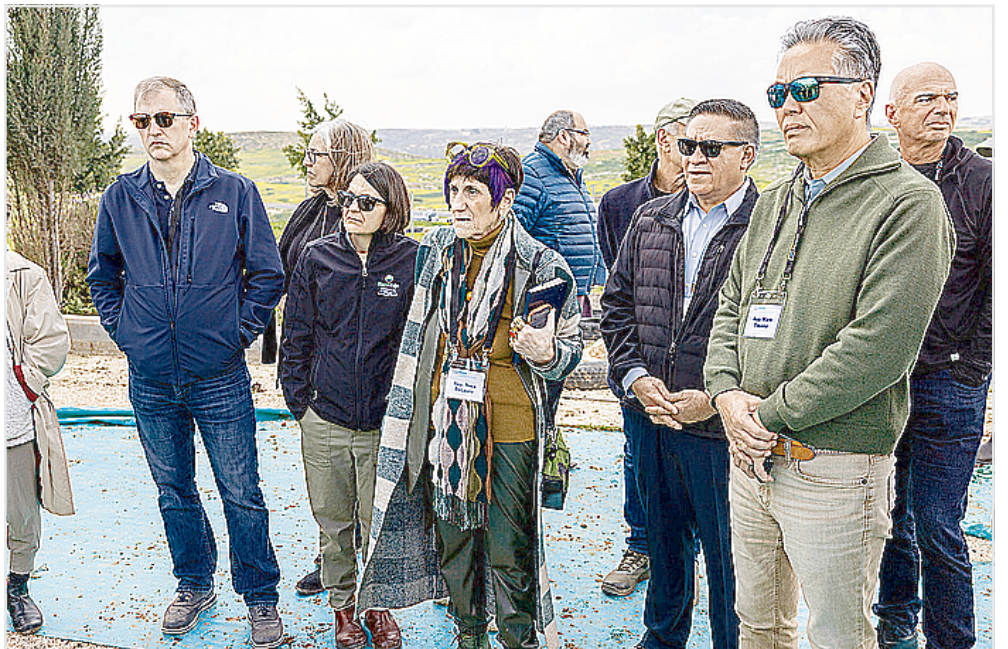
"When you talk to people who have some connection with the Holocaust, either of their survival or of their family members who perished, and hear from them

what Israel has meant for them in their lifetime, they thought there was a safe place," Balint told *The Commons*. "And they do absolutely understand this as a continuation of the kind of hatred of Jews that they saw in the Holocaust."

The Oct. 7, 2023 attacks by Hamas on Israel were not directed at the military. They were not directed at specific citizens on the ground. They were specifically directed at a string of villages where the "peaceniks" live — people who had been working toward a two-state solution for a very long time.

"Speak with the survivors, and they say, 'If they will come for us, they will come for anyone, and

■ SEE ISRAEL AND GAZA, A2



U.S. Rep. Becca Balint was among a contingent of lawmakers who traveled to Israel and Gaza recently.

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order for there to be a new governing coalition, members of the Cabinet would have to resign," Balint said.

In a twist, two hours before they left for Israel, the representatives were briefed that there was a chance the Israeli government might fall while they were there.

"But there are two factions that could still decide to leave the government," Balint said. "One is the extremist settler representatives. They are absolutely transparent about the fact that they want to wipe out the Palestinians and have control over the entire region."

But other, more moderate voices in the war cabinet are very, very frustrated with the way that Netanyahu is conducting this war.

If either thing happens, the government will fail.

"The only other way they can bring about a new governing coalition is if Netanyahu decides to hold a snap election, which I don't anticipate him doing," Balint said.

"But the woman who led the judicial reform protests [Shikma Bressler] said that she anticipates that in the next month, you will see more and more of those activists take to the streets to call for him to resign," Balint said.

She said that Bressler has indicated that in the early stages of the war, "People felt like you have to — for lack of a better term — rally around the flag."

But now, Bressler has said "that the level of anger and frustration with Netanyahu was so high she anticipates that those protests are going to take to the streets again," Balint said.

The representatives were surprised by the confidence that people in the war-torn area have placed in President Joe Biden.

"What we've heard over and over again was the sense that President Biden is the player on the world stage who could help to convene the partners necessary to bring about the two-state solution," Balint said.

"These are people who are really looking to the future for their kids or grandkids," Balint said.

Trying to get through

The representatives did get to share their concerns with other members of Netanyahu's government.

"We were able to, in real time, meet with them to say, 'We see what you have been doing is shameful — being unwilling to allow the level of humanity and services that are needed to get into Gaza,'" Balint said.

"Some of the stories that I heard are just too, too horrible and too graphic. One thing we heard from an American who works on the ground in Gaza is that they're doing cesarean sections without any kind of anesthesia right now. Amputations are happening without painkillers or anesthesia. People are starving. Children are starving."

Making matters even worse, each side is being fed its own propaganda, Balint said.

"Folks in Gaza and the West Bank in Israel are in their own bubble of news," Balint said. "So there isn't a real understanding of the level of suffering on both sides."

Balint is calling for "better

leadership."

"We need President Biden to continue what he did at the State of the Union [on March 7], which is to say that Netanyahu must allow the aid to get through. He must be at the table to get this ceasefire and the hostages [must be] returned. There is not going to be a situation — as it's been for decades — that as the United States of America, we give a blank check to the Israelis — or, rather, to the Netanyahu government — to continue to bomb civilians."

Air drops of humanitarian aid have not been sufficient to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians. Now the United States is setting up a temporary port to allow a higher level of humanitarian aid to be unloaded and distributed.

"It is clear that we can't trust Netanyahu to do it," Balint said. "So one ship, delivering to that floating dock, would bring 1,200 trucks worth of goods."

"And that was consistent with what we heard from humanitarian aid organizations on the ground: 'We need at least 500 trucks a day to get into Gaza with supplies.' We are able, with one ship, to bring 1,200 trucks at a time. That's the level of support we need," she continued.

"So to have the president say at the State of the Union that we're doing this was a clear, forceful signal to Netanyahu. We're not putting up with him."

The geopolitics of the trip, Balint said, let her come away feeling that there was much to be hopeful about.

"Israel is an economic powerhouse in the Middle East," Balint said. "And one of the catalysts for this attack on Oct. 7 was the fact that Israel and Saudi Arabia were about to normalize relations. There had been a buildup, and it seemed like the announcement was fairly imminent."

"Hamas, in connection with Iran, absolutely did not want the Saudi Arabians to normalize relationships with Israel. They wanted to prevent a sort of a realignment in the Middle East. If the Saudis did that, then others would follow. And the Saudis are still saying, 'We still want to do that. And we want to bring other Middle Eastern partners to the table to also normalize relationships. There is an incredible amount of technology that [can benefit us] from Israel, with their big trading partners. We have the opportunity to raise the standard of living for people across the region.'"

Balint often heard the same thing from the Palestinians in the West Bank.

"These are people who are really looking to the future for their kids or grandkids," Balint said. "They say, 'Yes, what we want is to have a partner side by side that we can have strong economic ties to. We know, essentially, we want our economies intertwined because that will raise the level of safety and security simultaneously.'"

This will not happen in the near future, Balint admitted. But the goal would be to build a foundation for it.

That makes the upcoming presidential election very important, she said.

"If you care deeply about the state of Israel, as I do, if you care deeply about the Palestinians, as I do, we know now that it's going to be a rematch of Biden and Trump," Balint said. "That's basically been settled. Biden is the one who is working behind the scenes to get a ceasefire now, to get the hostages home, and is simultaneously working towards a two-state solution. Trump is not at all interested in guaranteeing safety and security for both Palestinians and Israel."

"Netanyahu wants to be able to deal with Trump," Balint continued. "And the extremists in the West Bank, the Israeli settlers,

want Trump to win. And so the stakes are incredibly high."

Hope amid the ruins

Even in turmoil, Balint came away from the trip feeling hopeful.

"The six of us...saw some horrible, painful, traumatizing things," Balint said. "And yet we all left feeling hopeful. So I'm going to hold on to that right now. And I'm going to continue to do everything that I can to encourage the president and the vice president — through all of our channels — to continue what they're doing. The folks in the region see that they are trying to hold both these people safe and get the region to a better place."

Upon return, the six lawmakers issued a five-part declaration demanding:

- An immediate end to violence in Gaza and the West Bank;
• Humanitarian aid and security for refugees;

BRATTLEBORO

Gravel roads get monitored, mapped as mud season starts

BRATTLEBORO—As we enter the spring season, be aware that gravel roads may become muddy due to the thawing of winter snow and ice. The Brattleboro Department of Public Works will be monitoring these roads and providing status updates through roadside signage, which will be placed at the end of gravel roads throughout town.

Road conditions will also be reported via an online map, which you can view by visiting bit.ly/755-roads.

The roadside signage and online map will be color-coded. The colors will indicate the following:

- Green: Passable by all

• A "Day After" Plan that includes reforms to strengthen the Palestinian Authority so it can represent the Palestinian people and a Palestinian state...including new leadership;

- Increased efforts by the U.S. and Israel to bring an end to settler violence; and
• The promotion of long-term regional stability.

The trip was "very rich," Balint said. "We worked from about eight in the morning till about 10 o'clock every night, out among the people and the policymakers. We were able to represent Congress, and also to be able to convey to our colleagues back here what's going on on the ground right now."

"We are the members of Congress who have now spent the most time in Israel and in the Palestinian territories since the war broke out. We have important information to get to our colleagues."

vehicles. Expect seasonal conditions.

• Yellow: Four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles recommended. Some rutting and muddy conditions.

• Orange: Four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles advised. Local traffic only. Expect heavy rutting and deep mud.

• Red: Closed to through traffic. Emergency vehicles and residents with proper vehicles only. Some areas are not passable.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Department of Public Works at 802-254-4255 or email Peter Lynch at plynch@brattleboro.gov.

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LONDONDERRY

Bob Perry Lane House completed as the Corlew family takes ownership

LONDONDERRY—Martha Dale and Patty Eisenhour, co-chairs of the Mountain Towns Housing Project (MTHP) Steering Committee, recently announced the completion of the Bob Perry Lane House and the transfer of ownership to Kara Corlew. The closing took place on March 1, and the family moved into the house shortly thereafter.

“We are first and foremost deeply grateful to Don and Deb Hazelton, who donated the land for the project and put countless hours into managing and participating in the construction process,” said MTHP Fundraising chair Cynthia Gubb in a news release. “Without their leadership, this project would not have gotten off the ground.”

The Hazeltons shared their sentiments about the project and stated, “We are proud to be part of a church and a community that was able to work together to build an affordable home for a working Londonderry family. We have been very blessed living and working in this area and are grateful for this opportunity to pay it forward.”

Gubb said nearly 200 individual donors, organizations, foundations, and businesses either made a gift or pledged services to help complete the project. The town of Londonderry

provided some funding through an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and two state agencies — the Vermont Housing Finance Agency and the Vermont Housing Conservation Board — also provided grants to this project.

She added that the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust, specifically Bruce Whitney, provided untold hours of technical advice along with taking on this property as a shared equity home in the WWHT portfolio to ensure its perpetual affordability. The Community Fund for Londonderry provided a low-interest bridge loan while MTHP completed its fundraising efforts, and the Second Congregational Church providing a nonprofit umbrella to work under, a loan, and a major gift to get the project started.

“And last, but certainly not least, our volunteer crew, who put in hundreds of hours of labor, needs to be fully acknowledged and thanked, for without their day-to-day efforts, the house would still be a shell,” Gubb said. A full listing of project supporters can be found at mountaintownshousing.org.

“This has been an amazing project from start to finish, and it has taken three years to get to this point,” said Eisenhour. “We are so happy to be able to

hand over the keys to the house to Kara, especially since she has put many hours of sweat equity into the project, even before her family was selected to purchase the home.” Commenting on the local community that provided financial and volunteer support, gifts to the project in the form of products and services, and the many hours of volunteer labor, she says, “You helped make this dream a reality.”

She said that limited workforce housing “continues to be a big challenge in our community and our plan is to reinvest the funds we received at closing into another project. We are going to take a little time to review the process and determine if there is a more efficient way to accomplish our goal of providing affordable housing options one home at a time.”

MTHP said it has reached its final fundraising goal for this house. Those interested in making a gift in support of their next project may send checks payable to Mountain Towns Housing Project to PO Box 538, Londonderry, VT 05148. Donations may also be made online through the Second Congregational Church at bit.ly/756-mthp, click on “Mountain Towns Housing Project.”

Balint to discuss housing, proposed federal legislation

Voices Live returns with online public forum on March 18

BRATTLEBORO—Vermont Independent Media, publisher of *The Commons*, invites the public to an online conversation on housing with U.S. Rep. Becca Balint on Monday, March 18, at 7 p.m.

Balint will be interviewed by award-winning *Commons* reporter Joyce Marcel, kicking off a revived year-long series of Voices Live interviews, in-person events, and Special Focus sections in the pages of the newspaper.

The discussion with Balint will focus on roadblocks and new opportunities to address Windham County’s housing needs at the federal level and what’s being done currently to make a difference.

Balint has introduced sweeping new housing legislation, the Community Housing Act, a plan that proposes to invest over \$500 billion via federal programs that fund construction

of affordable and deeply affordable housing.

The bill includes a suite of creative policy solutions to address root causes of the housing crisis and alleviate long-term affordability challenges.

The public and housing representatives are all invited to attend via Zoom. The program will be broadcast on Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) and livestreamed on the respective Facebook pages of both BCTV and *The Commons*.

To attend, email a request to Office Manager Amanda Harwood at amanda@commonsnews.org.

The housing discussion this spring is the first in a series of Voices Live online discussions and in-person events. In addition to housing, the spring series will also focus on homelessness and opioid-use disorder (OUD).

Voices Live will return in the fall with three more forums and

another live event. The fall series will focus on civics and democracy and what Vermonters will need to know to make informed voting decisions locally and nationally.

Additionally, *The Commons* will publish three Special Focus sections this year focusing on critical issues facing Brattleboro and the surrounding communities in southeastern Vermont.

The goal of the Voices Live project is to assist area residents, particularly young people, with practical, engaging news that connects local issues to national and world events, following VIM’s belief that a vibrant democracy requires an informed, empowered, and outspoken citizenry.

The Voices Live series was originally launched in 2012 by Editor-in-Chief Jeff Potter to complement the newspaper’s award-winning opinions and commentary section.

BRATTLEBORO

Green Mountain Gardening to take over DBA’s downtown flower program

BRATTLEBORO—The Downtown Brattleboro Alliance (DBA) announced a new partnership with Green Mountain Gardening of Brattleboro to continue the downtown flower program. Green Mountain Gardening will take on the responsibility of cultivating and maintaining the downtown flower displays, starting this summer season.

In a news release, DBA said that “this program, which has been a staple of our community for years, adds vibrancy and color to our streets, creating a

welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. For the past 10 years, Dick DeGray has dutifully tended the flowers and built the program we all know and love. After he announced his retirement last year, the DBA got to work on a plan to carry on the flower legacy.”

DBA Executive Director Kate Trzaskos called Green Mountain Gardening “a business rooted in our community and known for its exceptional commitment to quality and service,” and said the new collaboration “represents a perfect synergy

between our organization and a local, family-owned business that shares our passion for fostering a thriving and joyful downtown environment.”

“Being a part of the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance’s flower program is an honor for us,” said Danielle Lacroix, owner of Green Mountain Gardening. “We understand the importance of cultivating a vibrant and aesthetically pleasing downtown, and we are excited to contribute our knowledge and resources to enhance the overall experience for everyone in our community.”

Spots remain for weatherization training

WESTMINSTER—Southeastern Vermont Community Action Inc. (SEVCA) is teaming up with Vermont Adult Learning to offer a free, two-week long, hands-on training to introduce weatherization as a career. The training will be on site at the SEVCA main office in Westminster from Monday, March 18, through Wednesday, March 27.

Energy Works trainings are for individuals aged 17 and older who are seeking a great job and want to learn more about how to start a career in the green energy sector.

Following completion of this training, participants will have

gained vital skills and may be able to immediately start with SEVCA as a weatherization technician. Entry-level weatherization techs at SEVCA earn an average starting salary of \$21/hour.

“This is a demanding job, working in all weather, all year ’round, but individuals who are willing to learn can move up after gaining some experience in the industry,” said Vic Baisley, SEVCA’s director of weatherization, in a news release. “We are always looking to find more people who are interested in working in this field.”

With additional experience and training, many technicians

are able move into roles such as crew leader, energy auditor, and eventually to quality control inspectors.

Participants in Energy Works trainings will receive a \$500 stipend upon completion of the weatherization training. Individuals who enter the weatherization field following the training will receive an additional \$500 after 60 days of employment.

For more information about the program, contact Haley Stephen at 802-560-4036 or hstephen@vtadultlearning.org, or visit vtadultlearning.org/energy-works.

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SPACE, and a REAL STAGE

L&G Players find a welcoming home for winter show — and maybe beyond — in Townshend’s Town Hall

By Annie Landenberger
The Commons

TOWNSHEND—Student actors and backstage crews at Leland & Gray Union Middle/High School have come full circle and have returned to the Town Hall as they prepare for a performance there of Hans Christian Andersen’s *The Emperor’s New Clothes*.

“In terms of space, being in the Town Hall has been amazing,” says Doran “Dory” Hamm, director of the Leland & Gray Players. “Just having the giant space to both rehearse and to give the kids a stage. I can’t stress how much a bunch of boards raised up can change how kids mentally see a space.”

Hamm leads a creative team — all alumni of New England Youth Theatre in Brattleboro — who took over the Players’ leadership in the fall. Shannon Ward, Ben Stockman, Cassidy Majer, and Hamm produced the Players’ fall musical with an eye toward future productions.

Hamm quickly zeroed in on listening to student actors and crew and to their wishes for the continued growth and well-being of the school theater program, which began producing three shows a year in 1997.



On the stage of the Townshend Town Hall (left to right): Addison Sticklor, Stephen Shine, and Kianelise “Kiki” Pena. The members of the Leland & Gray Players are rehearsing for *The Emperor’s New Clothes*.

SHANNON WARD COURTESY PHOTO

In 2014, the Leland & Gray Players’ production of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* earned the New England Theatre Conference’s prestigious Moss Hart Memorial Award for secondary school performance region-wide.

But the Players have never had a true stage to work on — nor a space designed for performances.

Hamm says the reaction of the young actors is similar to when

their rehearsal and performance space, the Dutton Gymnasium, transforms.

“When the stage goes up they see it differently,” he says. “It becomes their space; it gives them a sense of ownership and it feels different than being just a gym.”

Townshend Town Clerk Ellenka Wilson and Selectboard Assistant

■ SEE LELAND & GRAY PLAYERS, B4

COLUMN | *Deeper Dive*

Legendary sound

Fusion guitarist
Mike Stern to perform in quintet
setting at Vermont Jazz Center

THE VERMONT JAZZ CENTER presents one of the greatest fusion guitarists in the history of the style. On Saturday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m., six-time Grammy nominee Mike Stern will perform with his wife, Leni Stern, on guitar, accompanied by Bob Franceschini on saxophone, Noam Tanzer on bass, and Juan Chivassava on drums.

Using the vocabulary of jazz, rock, fusion, funk, New Orleans music, and African music, Stern’s masterful and grooving command of his instrument conveys a sense of joy that uplifts audiences and astounds fellow musicians.

At 71, Stern is a living legend who continues to tour the world, performing with vigor and compelling younger bandmates like Tanzer and Chivassava to exceed their own expectations of themselves.

Whether playing slow, funky grooves or breakneck tempos (check out his version of Sonny Rollins’ “Oleo” with John Patitucci and Jack



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

DeJohnette), Stern is always in control, effortlessly playing melodic lines that telepathically anticipate the ideas of his fellow musicians.

Stern’s expertise was developed over 50 years of nonstop performing, beginning when he was scooped up by Blood, Sweat & Tears while still a student at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Stern’s musical excellence and productivity are manifestations of his curiosity, his positive attitude, his humble spirit, and his desire to pay it

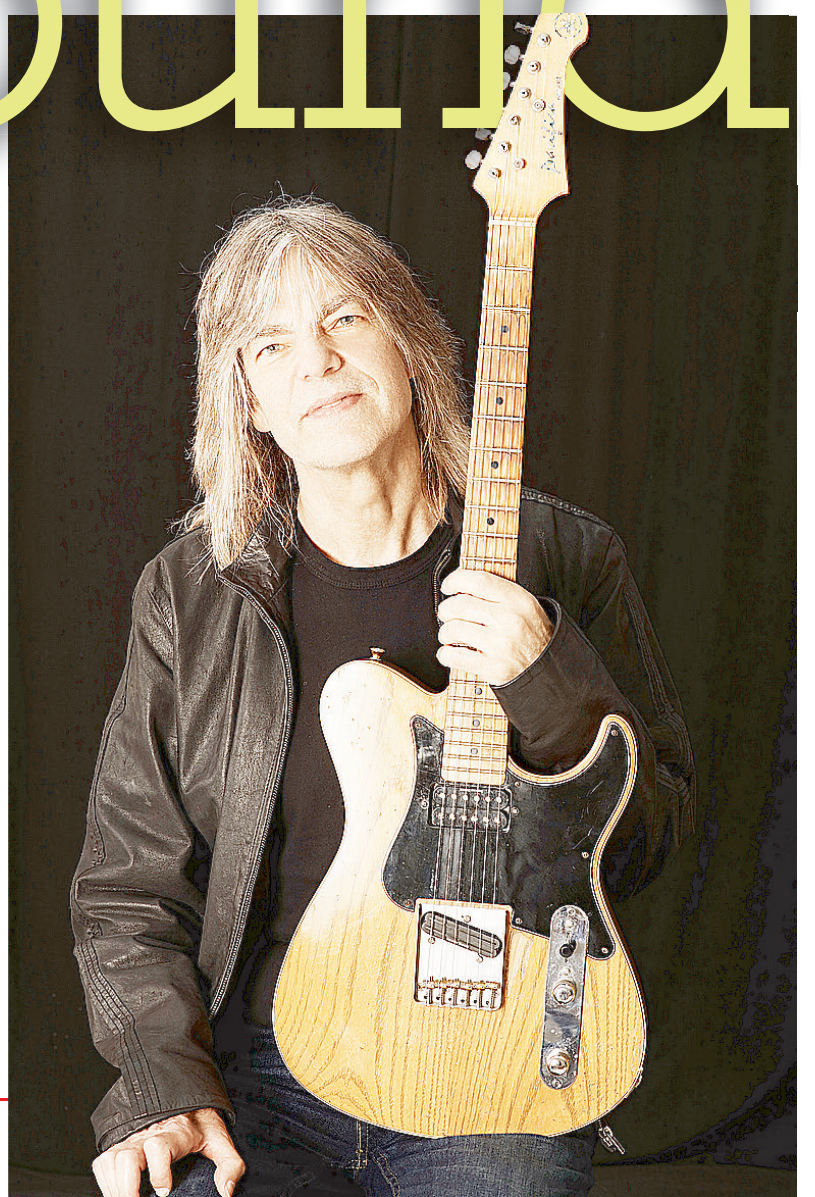
forward.

In a recent interview with Mike and Leni posted on YouTube by Berklee, the pair spoke about the years they spent practicing and encouraging fellow musicians and students to join them. Their curiosity and engagement with others who share their passion has been a driving force that sustains them and gives their lives purpose.

After three years with Blood, Sweat & Tears, Mike Stern was hired by the fusion drummer Billy Cobham. He then joined Miles Davis for two years and toured with bassist Jaco Pastorius. In the mid-1980s, Stern began touring and recording as a leader, forming lifelong alliances with David Sanborn, Dennis Chambers, Jim Beard, Richard Bona, Steps Ahead, and the Brecker Brothers.

■ SEE STERN TO PERFORM, B4

Mike Stern



SANDRINE LEE COURTESY PHOTO

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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY CONT.	SATURDAY	SATURDAY CONT.
14	15	<p>tric," says Anni, an actor and costumer for the show.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 3/15: 6 p.m., 3/16: 7 p.m. <p>Show is under an hour in length.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Through Saturday, March 16. ▶ Suggested donation: \$10 adults, \$5 kids and seniors for admission. ▶ Townshend Town Hall, 2006 Rte. 30. Information: 802-365-7300, tnclk@svcable.net. <p>Music</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Old Fashioned: Comfy Classics and Acoustic Instrumentals: Old Fashioned brings to the evening forgotten hits and b-side essentials of the late 1900's. From Neil Young to Radiohead, The Beatles to Crash Test Dummies, Old Fashioned invites you to revel with him in</p>	16	<p>acoustic instrumentals. Even some jazz!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 7 - 9 p.m. ▶ Free. ▶ River Garden Marketplace, 157 Main St. Information: rivergardenmarketplace.com. <p>Performing arts</p> <p>PUTNEY Soaring: An Evening of Circus and Song: Join soprano-aerialist Elizabeth Wohl, pianist Ivan Tan, guest artists for circus</p>
<p>Community meals</p> <p>GUILFORD The Guilford Cares Food Pantry: Shop from a grocery list of canned goods, packaged items, produce, dairy, meats and more. All are welcome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 3-4 p.m. Guilford Cares Food Pantry is open every Thursday for curbside service. ▶ Free. ▶ Guilford Cares, Leah Gessner. Information: Pat Haine, Pantry Dir.: 802-254-0626. 	<p>Performing arts</p> <p>TOWNSHEND Leland & Gray Players Present "The Emperor's New Clothes!": This version of "The Emperor's New Clothes" was written by Brattleboro's own Rosa Palmieri and features an eclectic cast of commedia dell'arte style characters. The play is directed by Doran Hamm with Cassidy Majer as assistant director. Ben Stockman is tech director and Shannon Ward is the producer. "This show is</p>	<p>with original aerial choreography. Wohl's a professional classically-trained opera singer based in New England. She adds aerial acrobatics to well-loved arias to complement each arias inherent dramatic arc. She delights in developing innovative interpretations of beloved classical music.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 4 p.m. Wohl draws audiences into performances through alchemy of vocal and aerial arts inspiring wonder, delight and awe. She believes each of us is an artist and that we shape the world together through every interaction. She's performed aerial arias as part of one-woman show, "Three French Birds," at Providence Fringe Festival and separately throughout New England for concerts, non-profit fundraising events, weddings. When not singing in the air, you can find her singing on the ground as a soloist with Friends of Music at Guilford, Keene Choral, Windham Philharmonic. ▶ \$15. Advance ticketing closes two hours before showtime. ▶ Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: 802-387-0102; nextstagearts.org. <p>Music</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Legendary Fusion Guitarist Mike Stern performs in Quintet Setting (In Person/Livestream): Jazz influenced by fusion and African music. Mike Stern (guitar), Leni Stern (guitar and n'goni), Bob Franceschini (saxophone), Noam Tanzer (electric bass), Juan Chiavassa (drums).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 7:30 p.m. Handicapped access for in-person event available: email elsavjc@gmail.com. ▶ Sliding fee scale from \$25 to \$60 (contact VJC about educational group discounts). ▶ Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, #222. Tickets: Online at www.vtjazz.org, by email at elsavjc@gmail.com, or phone 802-254-9088 Livestream available at no charge (donations welcome) on VJC website day of performance only: vtjazz.org. <p>The written word</p> <p>PETERBOROUGH New Hampshire Literary Agent John Knight: "Developing a Successful Writer-Editor Team": This is an opportunity to hear about the world of editing and how to make the editor-writer partnership work. Knight states: "Drawing upon many years as a writer and editor, I will describe the different kinds of editors and how they work with authors in various stages of writing, and discuss how to make the most of a writing collaboration." Knight also will facilitate a conversation about good revision strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 9:45 a.m. This monthly series is hosted by Monadnock Writers' Group. ▶ Free. ▶ Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St. Information: More info about this meeting/other Monadnock Writers' Group activities, email monadnockwriters@gmail.com.. <p>Community meals</p> <p>GUILFORD Sugar-on-Snow Supper: Menu features baked</p>	<p>ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, potato salad, coleslaw, freshly-made baked rolls and donuts, sugar on snow, dill pickles, coffee, ice tea, or milk. A half-gallon of maple syrup will be raffled off during each seating. Money raised helps underwrite the many local charities the church supports with its outreach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Three seatings: 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m. From I-91 take VT Exit 1 (Brattleboro), go south on US Rte. 5 just past Guilford Country Store, but before the bridge make a left on Bee Barn Road, then left again to 38 Church Drive. ▶ \$15 adults, \$7 children age 11 and under, \$3 preschoolers. ▶ Guilford Community Church, 38 Church Dr. off Rte. 5. Reservations/more information call 802-254-9562 or email guilfordchurchsupper@gmail.com. guilfordchurch.org. 	

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SUMMER PROGRAM

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Registration begins March 25th!

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Monday - Friday: 9am - Noon / 1pm - 4:30pm

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Well-being

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

To submit your event: calendar@commonsnews.org

Deadline:
5 p.m. Friday

EDITOR'S NOTE

Slow views

We're taking steps to get your contributions into print faster. Thank you for your patience.

As mentioned in a previous issue, the Voices section has had a record-breaking number of contributions in recent months. Despite our best efforts, some contributors have been waiting far too long to see their work in print — this week we have tried to catch up with the letters that follow. Some pieces have gone out of date faster than we could get them through the pipeline, particularly during the run-up to Annual Town Meetings and elections.

This is a) a sign that Voices is a necessary and valuable community resource and b) these delays are not acceptable.

Again, we apologize. We have been instituting several measures to make it possible for your Voices section to be more timely and responsive.

- We have already started integrating other editors who can help shepherd your contributions into print more rapidly — that's been the big challenge, and as you can imagine, our needs are not simple. We've been learning a lot as we go through this process.

- Thanks to a generous donation from a reader, I can promise to add extra pages now and then to make sure we can accommodate these important conversations. (We would have sooner, but we couldn't add extra pages for material we've run out of time to edit.)

We appreciate all of the readers who take the time to engage and to contribute to these pages. —*Jeff Potter, editor*

LETTERS FROM READERS

In candidates' forum, sentiments toward survivors misplaced and patronizing

RE: "WSESD board candidates eye process, priorities" [News, Feb. 28]:

In the recent WSESD candidates' forum, Kelly Young talks about empathy for survivors, and Tim Maciel says his "heart goes out" to them.

Brian Remer says that he hopes survivors will someday "build resilience."

These sentiments are misplaced and patronizing when referring to the fully empowered, accomplished adults who came forward and reported to Attorney Goddard. The fact that survivors remain anonymous does not give license to create fictional depictions of them — especially not depictions that suggest the problem is some kind of personal, psychological deficit in the survivors themselves, rather than a failing and sick institution.

None of the survivors I spoke with mentioned wanting the board's empathy, or for the board to provide support for them through "social and therapeutic structures," as Lance Cutler termed it. They wanted accountability and change. They wanted the board to follow through on promises of transparency. They wanted their abusers exposed so that kids would be protected.

Board members seem to think that survivors are the only people who were harmed by their recent actions. In fact, the whole community — including current students — suffers when its institutions fail to act with integrity.

Now, every student has witnessed the way the WSESD will handle reports of abuse and how they will treat those who are harmed while in their care. This is the real tragedy, and it will surely have repercussions for years to come.

Mindy Haskins Rogers
Brattleboro

Also signing this letter were Brandie Starr, of Brattleboro, and Diana Whitney, of Brattleboro.

When you can afford to do for only your own, how do you afford to do for others?

Why are refugees and people who are not citizens of the United States of America granted more rights than U.S. citizens?

We have a homelessness problem. We hold vigils for people who are homeless while refugees get to sleep in nice warm beds. We have insurance for our pets, when some can't get insurance for themselves, human beings. Landlords make rents so high, people can't afford to pay it on income from a Social Security check.

Something is wrong here, especially when we treat animals with higher regard than a human soul, when we treat people outside of our own families better than we do members of our family or country.

What you would do for one, you should do for the other. When you can afford to do for only your own, how do you afford for others?

Wise decisions need to be made, or you end up spending your time and money on things that will make no difference in the end.

We need to stop enabling people. Allow them the dignity to work (day labor), or help them get a job. Help them find ways to acquire food at the food pantries. There is usually one open every day of the week.

Help if you can help. But sadly, that is not an option for some.

Thousands of people are coming into the U.S. via the southern border. They are dispersed throughout the U.S. and asked to show up on a specific date for court hearings. How many of them will do so?

I have friends who came to the U.S. by application, and when it comes up for review, when they are married to American citizens, have children, and pay their required filing fees, they are still scrutinized more than the individuals just let in across the border.

When will people start standing up for justice and what really matters?

This will be the third or fourth time I've written to *The Commons* and, like the other times, I am sure this won't get printed, either. It seems that if

RESPONSE



JEFF POTTER COMMONS FILE PHOTO

Kurt Daims with two of the RVs on his property in February 2023.

No good deed goes unpunished

The town of Brattleboro should drop its cruel lawsuit against Kurt Daims, who could lose his land and home for the crime of helping to shelter people who had none

Brattleboro

PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME here in Brattleboro, know that I work a lot, and I work hard.

For many years, I lived under the worries and pressure of struggling to make ends meet as a single mom without a safety net. Now that my daughter is grown, I do so because of the many worries that go along with the terrible economic situation in this town and in this nation.

Most rents here in Brattleboro and elsewhere are unlivable for many, and they cater to people who work remotely at high-end jobs in a city somewhere else. (High rents are partly due to greed in the banking and lending industry, but that's another story.)

People who have lived here

KLARA CHARLTON describes herself as an "artist, writer, activist, naturalist, and unabashed tree hugger." This piece is in response to "Compared to homelessness, an RV was a godsend" [Viewpoint, Feb. 14].

for decades have been forced to move away due to impossible rents. Fires keep destroying beautiful old houses and buildings, rendering even more people displaced, leaving us with fewer available units.

Businesses fail and are not replaced, because online shopping has killed storefronts. Dilapidated buildings are allowed to stand for decades — some even with fallen trees resting on them.

Homelessness is rampant here and throughout this country (a 12% increase in 2023, almost a million souls). Drug-ridden apartment houses are

allowed to remain. Road repair does not get completed. And yet we were somehow voted "The Strongest Town."

Apparently, the town of Brattleboro has chosen not to spend real time concretely addressing the issues that impact so many people who have fewer resources or privileges to fall back upon — people who struggle to make rent.

Endless committee meetings may occur that are paid for by tax dollars, but what direct results do we see around these issues?

Instead, the town of Brattleboro has spent more

than a year, and unnecessary labor, pursuing cruel and unnecessary legal action against the people at Brattleboro Common Sense, a small non-profit, who took it upon themselves to directly help a few human beings in need of shelter during the winter of 2022–2023 by supplying RVs as emergency housing.

Clearly, the maxim is true: No good deed goes unpunished.

I TOURED Kurt Daims' property — where Brattleboro Common Sense operates — on a warmish day in March of 2023 after hearing about the supposed smells and safety hazards.

March is the time when poop — be it from cats, dogs, or errant humans — that has

■ SEE GOOD DEED, C2

you don't agree with the opinions of the editor, you don't get printed.

Linda Morse
Brattleboro

Standing with Vt. Abenaki

RE: "Vt. Abenaki talk about controversy over legitimacy" [News, Jan. 31]:

After attending a meeting that *The Commons* reporter, Robert F. Smith, was covering, I want to state that I wholeheartedly support the Vermont Abenaki tribes.

The controversy from the Québec tribes reads as a disrespectful attack on our state-recognized tribes and individuals within them.

If there is ever any effort to rescind that state recognition and disenfranchise Vermont Abenaki of their heritage, I would stand with them and hope that fellow Vermonters would do so as well.

Emily McAdoo
Putney

Close access to the parking garage roof

It is my understanding that there have been four completed suicides from the Transportation Center roof in a

little bit over a year.

Surely, the parking revenues are not worth this tragic loss of life. The town needs to close access to the roof immediately, until a different solution emerges.

Leo Schiff
Brattleboro

'I must assert my right to freedom of speech and expose the lies'

RE: Viewpoints by Valerie Abrahamsen ("What can businesses do to prevent Trump's return?") and Nancy Braus ("Trump is too dangerous for his opponents to play nice"), Jan. 10:

Nancy Braus claims "President Trump is too dangerous for his opponents to play nice." If Braus and her supporters are comfortable with the open southern border, with a record high of 12,600 illegal crossings in one day since recordkeeping began, and with a daily average of illegal crossings on the border at 10,000, and the current estimated number of "got-aways" into our country is two million. We don't know who they are, where they are, or what their motives are for coming here.

We do know we have stopped those on the terrorist watchlist,

drug smugglers, and human trafficking at the southern border, as well as gang members and criminals.

We are being invaded. I believe immigration is important, but legal immigration, by coming in through the proper entries. So again, if Braus is OK with all of this, then she would be right that Trump is dangerous, as he would stop the illegal influx that the USA can't sustain. It's been accurately said that "a country with no borders is no country at all."

Braus also claims in her words, "This current crop of Republicans is already guilty of an amazing array of dirty tricks in order to ensure long-term electoral power," to which I have to laugh. It is quite the opposite; Republicans are trying to end the long-term money-making politicians — you know, like Bernie Sanders' 18 years and Patrick Leahy's 48 years.

If Braus is comfortable with the three different countries' wars under this administration, then, again, yes — Trump would be dangerous. Not one war started under his four-year administration, and he established the Abraham Accords to promote peace in the Middle East. Peace through strength was achieved. This current administration has us on the brink of World War III.

Braus also makes several false accusations, such as calling Trump a lifelong racist. President Donald Trump signed a bipartisan bill that will permanently provide more than \$250 million a year to the nation's historically Black colleges and universities, along with dozens of other institutions that serve large shares of minority students.

I'm not sure how Braus thinks that Trump stole two seats on the Supreme Court. That would be quite an impossible feat. If she means Trump filled two vacant seats, then she would be correct. Every president tries to accomplish this.

Abrahamsen says, "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." She calls Trump an authoritarian and a dictator. Those are both false accusations.

From where I'm sitting, I'm seeing both of those accusations at work in the current administration by erasing history, by weakening our military, by shutting down our own energy sources for their Green New Deal, and by indoctrinating our children in our elementary schools.

And by doing what Abrahamsen is suggesting we

■ SEE LETTERS, C2



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COLUMN | Sports Roundup

Lot of changes ahead for Legion baseball in Vermont

We're about three months away from the start of the 2024 Vermont American Legion Baseball season, but it's not too soon to note some big changes for the upcoming season.

Tom Haley of the *Rutland Herald* reported last week that there will be three new teams this season in Vermont. St. Johnsbury Post 58 and Champlain Valley Baseball will be added to the Northern Division, while Ludlow's Ballard-Hobart Post 36 will join the Southern Division.

Champlain Valley Baseball, which will play its games at Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg, is the reincarnation of the former S.D. Ireland team, a longtime fixture in the Northern Division that did not field a squad in 2023.

Post 58 will be playing their games at Blue Mountain Union High School in Wells River and will have BMU's head coach Scott Blood as manager.

Ludlow Post 36 will play its games at the former Black River High School, and Southern Division teams will love smacking the ball around the hitter-friendly dimensions of that diamond. Jeremy Parker will be Post 36's head coach.

The three new teams mean that the Northern and Southern divisions will once again have eight teams each, which will make the regular season schedule more even and make it tougher for the top four teams in each division to qualify for the state tournament. It will also give more opportunities for players.

Haley also reported that the 2024 state tournament will again be at Vermont State University-Castleton, with Brattleboro Post 5 providing the volunteer staffing. This is interesting, because the experience that Post 5 will receive might be come in handy when Brattleboro becomes the host of the state tournament.

This season, Post 5 will be without their usual home field. The long-awaited upgrades to the historic Tenney Field grandstand at Brattleboro Union High School, with improved seating and accessibility for disabled fans, are set to begin this summer.

While construction takes place, Post 5 will be playing their 2024 games either at Hinsdale High School, Gouin Field in Dummerston, or Leland & Gray Union High School in Townshend.

The news about the rebirth of the Tenney Field grandstand is welcome. Brattleboro is still a baseball town and deserves a first-class showcase for the game. Reopening the concrete and steel grandstand, closed to spectators since 2017, will open the door for the return of state and regional Babe Ruth and Legion baseball tournaments to Brattleboro.

Senior All-Star basketball games set for this weekend

The Vermont high school basketball season concludes on Saturday, March 16, with the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association's Senior All-Star games at Windsor High School,



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT, deputy editor of this newspaper, has written this column since 2010 and has covered sports in Windham County since the 1980s. Readers can send him sports information at news@commonsnews.org.

with four games featuring the best senior basketball players in the northern and southern halves of the state.

The Division III-IV girls' game is at 11 a.m., the Division III-IV boys' game is at 1 p.m., the Division I-II girls' game is at 3 p.m. and the Division I-II boys' game is at 5 p.m.

In addition to the games, awards will be given out for the Dream Dozen teams, this season's 1,000-point scorers, the Stretch Gillam, Eric Ward and VBCA scholarships, and the Coaches of the Year and Players of the Year.

Two local players were selected to Dream Dozen teams, each with the 12 best non-seniors in the state. Twin Valley's Brayden Brown, a 5-foot-10 freshman guard who led the Wildcats to an 11-9 record this season, made the boys' Division III-IV team. Brattleboro sophomore guard Reese Croutworst,



The grandstand at Tenney Field in Brattleboro, closed to fans since 2017, is set to get some much needed repairs and upgrades this summer.

who led the Bears to a 11-10 record this season, was selected to the girls' Division I-II team.

Rec. Dept. sign-ups for softball, lacrosse programs begin

The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Department will again offer girls' youth softball and boys' and girls' lacrosse programs this spring.

Girls' youth softball is for those in grades 3-6. Players will learn the fundamentals of softball, stressing safety, skills, and fun. Players will be assigned to a team and will have 2-3 games and practices a week at Living Memorial Park or away against neighboring towns.

Each child will need to bring their own glove, water bottle, and appropriate footwear

(sneakers or cleats) to each practice and game. The fee is \$45 for Brattleboro residents and \$60 for non-residents. Each player will be assigned to a team as well as a practice location. Practices will begin the week of April 22 (weather permitting). Games will begin the week of May 6 and continue until early June.

Girls' youth lacrosse is for those in grades 2-5. The season will begin the week of April 22nd depending on field conditions. Practice will be held 1-2 times per week. Participants should provide their own equipment. This includes mouth guards, cleats or sneakers, water bottles, stick, and goggles. There is minimal girls' lacrosse equipment available for use; let the Rec. Dept. know as soon as possible if you need to borrow equipment for the season.

This group is strictly skills and drills-based and will not play any games against other towns. A minimum of 10 participants is required to run each age group. Note the girls' program will take place at BUHS and the JV lacrosse coach and team will be running the program this season. The practice date is to be determined. The fee is \$20 for Brattleboro residents and \$35 for non-residents.

Boys' youth lacrosse is for those in grades 2-6 and will have two practices a week that will focus on fundamentals and skill building and will not play any games against other towns. A minimum of 10 participants are required to run this program. Participants should provide their own equipment (mouth guard, cleats/sneakers, a water bottle, a boys lacrosse stick, and helmet and pads.) The fee is \$20 for Brattleboro residents and \$35 for non-residents.

Individuals can register online at register1.vermontsystems.com/wbws/vtbrattleboro.wsc/splash.html or in person at the Gibson-Aiken Center. After March 29, a \$10 late fee will be charged for those who sign up.

For all programs, events, facility information, and more, visit Brattleboro.gov. Once you are on this page, hover over the "Departments" tab found on the blue horizontal bar. A new drop-down menu will appear and click "Recreation and Parks." If there are special accommodations required for these programs, let them know at least five days in advance. For more information, call the Gibson-Aiken Office at 802-254-5808.

Girls on the Run sign-ups begin; coaches still needed

Girls on the Run (GOTR) Vermont's registration for its spring program is now open statewide. GOTR is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that inspires students in grades 3-8 to be joyful, healthy, and confident. Organizers say the 10-week program "incorporates movement to empower participants to develop critical life skills, build confidence, cultivate positive connections with peers, manage their emotions, and stand up for themselves and others."

The spring season begins this week statewide. Teams will meet twice a week for 90 minutes and the program culminates with all southern Vermont teams participating in a noncompetitive, celebratory 5K event at the Manchester Recreation Fields on June 8.

Schools in Windham County ready to begin the season include Academy and Green Street schools in Brattleboro, Dover Elementary School, Dummerston School, Grafton Elementary School, School, Guilford Central School, NewBrook Elementary School, Putney Central School, Saxtons River Elementary School, St. Michael's School in Brattleboro, Twin Valley Elementary School in Wilmington, Vernon Elementary School, and Wardsboro Elementary School.

Local schools that still need coaches include Central Elementary School in Bellows Falls, Flood Brook Union in Londonderry, The Grammar School in Putney, Jamaica Village School, Oak Grove School in Brattleboro, and Townshend Elementary School.

The program fee for participants in the spring 2024 season is \$130 and financial aid is available to those who need it. The program fee includes registration and activities for the end of season 5K event, a program t-shirt, personal journal to use throughout the season, cinch sack, water bottle, and more. Information about the program and registration can be found at gotrvt.org.

Nominations open for Terrier Hall of Fame

The Bellows Falls Terrier Hall of Fame is seeking nominations for its 2024 class. Nominations are open through April 30. Organizers seek to honor individuals who have "demonstrated outstanding contributions to the proud Terrier tradition."

The nominee must be a

graduate from BFUHS or BFHS and been out of school for at least 10 years, or a teacher/staff member/coach at BFUHS or BFHS for at least 10 years, or a member of the community who has given to the proud Terrier tradition for a minimum of 10 years.

To submit your nomination, or for more information, visit their webpage at sites.google.com/wnesu.com/terrierhalloffame, or [facebook.com/TerrierHallofFame](https://www.facebook.com/TerrierHallofFame).

The inductees and information on the induction ceremony will be available in the summer of 2024.

Morning pick-up basketball at Leland & Gray

Looking for a game of hoops, and don't mind getting up early? Head to the Leland & Gray main gymnasium in Townshend on Mondays and Fridays, from 6 to 7 a.m., from now through April 26 for an hour of pick-up basketball. All skill levels are welcome. Contact refundworks@gmail.com for more details.

Senior bowling roundup

Week 10 of the winter/spring season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on March 7 saw first place High Rollers (33-17) extend its lead to six games over Four Seasons and Stayin' Alive (both 27-23), and eight games over Good Times and Stepping Stones II (both 25-25). Hairiers (20-30), Four Pins (19-31), and Slow Movers (12-38) all have some catching up to do.

Vikki Butynski had the women's high handicap game (263), while Debbie Rittenhour had the high handicap series (663). Jerry Dunham had the men's high handicap game (241) and Ron Cargill had the high handicap series (660). Stayin' Alive had the high team handicap game (857), while High Rollers had high handicap series (2,486).

John Walker had the men's high scratch series (615) with games of 227, 195, and 193. Robert Rigby had a 595 series that featured games of 231 and 195. Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 549 series with a 201 game, Jerry Dunham had a 523 series with a 198 game, and Gary Montgomery had a 519 series with a 198 game.

Pat Bentrup had the women's high scratch series (473) with games of 168 and 167, while Butynski had the high scratch game (192). Diane Cooke had a 169 game and Pam Greenblatt rolled a 160 game.



Twin Valley freshman guard Brayden Brown was named to the boys' Division III-IV "Dream Dozen" by the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association as one of the top 12 underclassmen in the state.

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