

Bellows Falls

DINER PLANS

come into FOCUS

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 submit-ted 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.

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,

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'

project on," he said this past week. "The is in the village's historic downtown district 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 comand 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 rec-reate 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

JTTLE POND DIGITAL, LLC **Charlie Hunter**

By Robert F. Smith The Commons

ELLOWS FALLS—Plans are fall-ing 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.

• 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

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

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

pleted 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

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

RATTLEBORO—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

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side as neighbors and economic what Israel has meant for them 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.³

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

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.²

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

The paper is published weekly, with

FROM SECTION FRONT

there's no way that we're safe,"" Balint said. The peaceniks now feel a deep

distrust of their own government, Balint said.

"There is a deep, deep feeling of betrayal," Balint said. "They were very clear that yes, they hold Hamas responsible for the attack and the horrors of it. But they also believe that Netanyahu has set the stage in so many ways for this to happen. And he promised that he would protect them."

Planned in advance

The Congressional trip was planned before Hamas's surprise attack on the Supernova Sukkot Gathering music festival in Israel, in which multiple women were raped, 364 people were killed, and 248 were taken hostage.

At the same time, Hamas attacked other locations in Israel with rockets and paragliders, seizing unprepared military bases and overrunning Israeli communities.

In retaliation, Israel has unleashed an all-out war against Palestinians that is estimated to have killed 31,000 people, including 94 journalists. Many more Palestinians are buried in the bombing rubble, and of those who are still living, starvation and human misery have reached a critical mass

While the attack was truly a surprise and revealed unexpected vulnerabilities in Israeli defenses, the country's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has been creating gulags for the Palestinian people for years and allowing right-wing Jewish religious extremists to build on Palestinian land.

The area has long been a powder keg. Balint and her five colleagues — Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, the most senior Democrat on the House Appropriations committee; Mark Takano and Salud Carbajal of California; Madeleine Dean of Pennsylvania; and Sean Casten of Illinois — had concerns for their safety when they decided to

continue with their travel plans. "I'll be perfectly honest," Balint said. "There were many of us who were concerned about our safety. But we felt like we have to see for ourselves what's going on, so we can make informed decisions going forward.'

The legislators talked to people on all sides of the conflict.

"The level of trauma that Palestinians and Israelis are dealing with right now cannot be overstated," Balint said. "You have two peoples who feel that there is no place right now where they feel safe and secure.

"And talking with Palestinians in the West Bank, talking to Israelis who either lost family members in the attack or are waiting for hostages to come home, or the tens of thousands of Israelis who have been displaced because of Hezbollah in the north, you hear the same theme. Palestinians and Israelis, over and over and over again, say, 'I want a safe and secure place to raise my children and my grandchildren.'

The representatives first met with people in "the Gaza envelope," which is the area attacked on Oct. 7. "We went to meet with both

survivors from the attacks in the kibbutzim and the family members," Balint said. "We also went to the site of the music festival, where hundreds of young people were killed. We saw rows and rows and rows of markers for all the dead from the young people that were slaughtered.

"And then that same day, which was really important for us to understand — again — the level of suffering and trauma, we went from that really intense morning to the West Bank to meet with Palestinians who had had their homes bulldozed by extremist Israeli settlers in the West Bank."

The representatives felt it was most important to hear from the people on the ground, directly, without social media or other filters, as well as from government officials

Recount

"I am honored to be elected to the WSESD school board," said Schibley. "I want to express gratitude to all who supported me; in particular, my wife, Jill, and my two sons, Jack and Gavin. Thank you. I also want to acknowledge my opponent, Lance Cutler, for his participation in the race. I look forward to working collaboratively with the administration and my fellow board members to serve our district's educational needs effectively in the coming year."

Although awaiting the recount, Brattleboro incumbent Tim Maciel has so far retained his seat for another three years.

Speaking with The Commons, Maciel thanked Savage and Leavy for running and congratulated Schibley, Remer, and Savage on their wins.

Maciel has served on the WSESD board four years. He is a higher education consultant for his company, Educational Solutions of New England, focusing on campuses that want to increase their international

populations. "For now, I'll say that it's been an honor to have served with someone like Kelly Young, who has served the WSESD

"I heard people talk about what their life is like right now, and how we as Americans can actu-ally make a positive difference," Balint said.

"We met with the Palestinian Authority. We met with members of the Knesset. We did not get to meet with Netanyahu directly. He canceled his meeting with us, but he sent Ron Dermer, an American-born Israeli political consultant who has been the Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs since 2022. They call him 'Bibi's Brain,' if that gives you any idea of where his politics lie. We were supposed to have a half-hour meeting with him. We stayed in there for two hours."

DeLauro was able to push back "in no uncertain terms" on

with heart, passion, and integrity for over six years," Maciel said. "I'm very grateful to those voters who have placed their trust in me to continue serving and, if my win holds up, I will continue doing all I can for the students in our district.

"I also want to thank those kind folks who took the time to support my candidacy with letters of support. This is the first time I've had to campaign — I was unopposed in past elections

- and it has just reinforced my belief that the direction of the board is strengthened when we hear directly from our constituents. I've learned a lot.

'So, to all those individuals who paused outside the Co-op, or who answered my knock on their door to speak with me about the welfare and education of the children in our district — and to the kind lady who offered me her umbrella at the polling station — thank you and please continue to share your viewpoints with me and other board members.

"Your voice greatly mattered in this election and your voices continue to matter as we work to improve education for all students in the WSESD. It's time

Dermer's positions, Balint said. "She was able to say that things will not continue to be as they

are," Balint said.

The legislators met with Palestinian entrepreneurs and bankers

'We also met with a woman who led the judicial reform protests," Balint said. "And we were able to ask her questions [like], What does this mean for Israel now? Does she imagine that more people are going to take to the streets to drive Netanyahu out?"

Feeling trapped

Balint wants Vermonters to know that both sides of the conflict are trapped with "terrible, terrible leadership."

"We met with a pollster for

FROM SECTION FRONT

now for a hot toddy toast to our newly seated board.'

Newcomer Savage is a former marketing executive for a nonprofit company and has a child who attends Green Street School, where she serves on the PTO.

"I would like to thank everyone who voted in this and all of our local and national elections," Savage said.

"And I would like to thank all the folks who have been working so hard on this recount," she added, acknowledging "the countless hours they have spent working to preserve our democratic system."

"I am confident in those that are a part of the recount process and will be waiting with bated breath to see the results," she said. "No matter the end result, I am proud to be a part of this election and will do my best to serve our phenomenal community as best as I can."

No seats were open for election in Dummerston.

In Putney, incumbent Anne Beekman ran unopposed for a three-year seat and received 2,511 votes to keep it.

the Israelis," Balint said. "And 75% to 80% of Israelis want Netanyahu gone. They hold him responsible for what happened."

The Israelis "don't want to be beholden to the extremists," she continued. "We also met with a Palestinian pollster. And in addition to that, you have a Palestinian Authority that has not been effective. And, of course, you have a terrorist organization in charge in Gaza.

For there to be a new Israeli government, one of three things has to happen.

The first would be the unlikely resignation of Netanyahu, who denies his unpopularity.

The second would be for the current government to fall. "In ■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE



the exceptions of the weeks of July 4 and Dec. 25.

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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.

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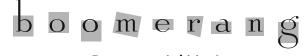
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order for there to be a new governing coalition, members of the Cabinet would have to resign," Balint said. "The government would, essentially, fall and then they have to reconstitute another government.'

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. In the end, of course, that didn't happen.

"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." The "very distasteful, odious people" could leave if they feel like Netanyahu "is bow-ing too much to the Americans," she said.

But other, more moderate voices in the war cabinet are very, very frustrated with the way that Netanyahu is conducting this war. "There's a chance that they could resign," Balint said.

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. "People in Jordan and Egypt, the Saudis and the Emirates, they have confidence in the president's willingness and commitment to really use Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Ambassador to Israel Jacob Lew to finally bring about this two-state solution that has been elusive for so long.'

Trying to get through

The representatives did get

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

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 secu-

rity for refugees;

• 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.²

BRATTLEBORO Gravel roads get monitored, mapped as mud season starts

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. v/755-roads.

The roadside signage and online map will be color-coded. The colors will indicate the following: • Green: Passable by all

BRATTLEBORO-As we 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.



A3

ads@commonsnews.org • 888-511-5150

| STATE OF VERMONT | |
|--|-------------------------|
| SUPERIOR COURT | PROBATE DIVISION |
| Windham Unit | Docket No.: 24-PR-00798 |
| In re ESTATE of: William Henry Gembaro | owski |

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: William Henry Gembarowski (Decedent) late of Brattleboro, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

| Dated: March 8, 2024 | c/o Amelia W. L. Darrow, Esq |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Alexa H. Gembarowski, Administrator | Secrest & Darrow, PLC |
| | 209 Austine Dr. Brattleboro, VT 05301 |
| Name of Publication: The Commons | adarrow@secrestdarrow.com |
| Publication Date: March 13, 2024 | 802-251-6598 |
| | |

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

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT Windham Unit In re ESTATE of: Adrienne Carroll

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE DIVISION

Docket No.: 23-PR-06712

To the Creditors of: Adrienne Carroll (Decedent) late of Jamaica, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

| Dated: March 5, 2024 | c/o Amelia W. L. Darrow, Esq, |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| James M. Carroll, Co-Exec. | Secrest & Darrow, PLC |
| & Leslie P. Carroll, Co-Exec. | 209 Austine Dr. Brattleboro, VT 05301 |
| Name of Publication: The Commons | adarrow@secrestdarrow.com |
| Publication Date: March 13, 2024 | 802-251-6598 |
| Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superio | r Court Windham Probate |

e of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windham Probate

Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301

STATE OF VERMONT PROBATE DIVISION

Docket No.: 24-PR-00837 In re ESTATE of: Charles Molongoski

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Charles Molongoski (Decedent) late of Guilford, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)

SUPERIOR COURT

Windham Unit

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

| Dated: March 8, 2024 | Molly Ladner, Attorney |
|------------------------------|--|
| Mary L. Molongoski, Executor | 147 Western Ave. Brattleboro, VT 05301 |
| | |

802-257-7244 mladner@pdsclaw.com

Docket No.: 24-PR-00855

Name of Publication: The Commons Publication Date: March 13, 2024

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

PETER HAVENS 32 ELLIOT ST. BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301 Open Wednesday - Sunday 5pm - Close

Reservations can be made online via RESY. or by calling 802-257-3333.

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

to share their concerns with economic ties to. We know, esother 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."

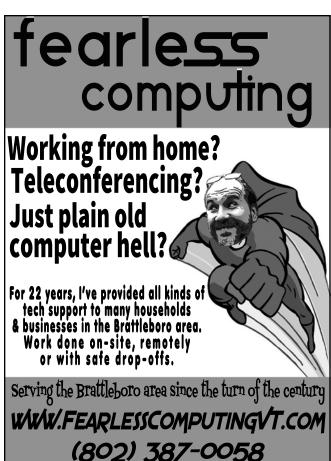
sentially, we want our economies intertwined because that will raise the level of safety and security simultaneously."

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 Balint is calling for "better West Bank, the Israeli settlers,



Discounts available to seniors, essential workers and anyone who needs a break

| | PROGRAM |
|---|---|
| March 11-17 H | IGHLIGHTS |
| CHANNEL 1078 | CHANNEL 1079 |
| PLEASE NOTE NEW | CHANNEL NUMBERS! |
| Here We Are - Ember Rebrina, LGBTQ+ Activist, Asylum Seeker: Mon 8p, Tues 3:15p, Wed 12:30p, Thurs 9a & 1:15p, Fri 9:30p, Sat 11a, Sun 5:15p | Brattleboro Representative Town Meeting Info Session 3/13/24: Wed 7p (LIVE,) Sun 6p |
| The World Fusion Show - Ep 173 - Sweet Plantain: Mon 5:30p, Tues 1:30p, Wed 11a, Thurs 4:45p, Sat 6:30p, Sun 9:45p | Windham Town Meeting 3/9/24 : Thurs 12:30p |
| BUHS-TV - Vermont Representative Becca Balint Speaks to BUHS Students: Mon 6a, Tues 3:45p, Wed 9p, Thurs 9:30a, Fri 4:55p, Sun 5:55p | Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 3/11/24: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 12p |
| Stained Glass Windows of St. Michaels - Week 11: St. Gabriel: Mon 7p, Wed 5p, Fri 10a, Sat 5:30p | Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 3/11/24 : Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p |
| Windham County Genealogy Interest Group - Using A.I in Genealogy & Navigating David Rumsey Map Collection: Mon 10a, Tues 8p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 6a, Sat 2p | West River Education District Board Mtg. 3/11/24: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 2:30p |
| Couch Potatoe Productions - Harris Hill People 2/18/24: Mon 8:30p, Tues 9a, Wed 3:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 4p, Sat 10a, Sun 2p | Townshend Selectboard Special Mtg. 3/11/24: Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 12p |
| Keeping Up with Senior Solutions - Ep 32 - Main Street Arts, Community Lunches, & Outreach 2/22/24: Tues 12:40, Wed 4:25p, Thurs 5:15p, Fri 10:45a, Sat 12:25, Sun 9:30a | Windham Southeast School District Public Information Mtg. 3/12/24: Sat 8:30p, Sun 6a |
| Harris Hill Ski Jump 2024 - Saturday : Mon 12:45p, Fri 12:45p, Sat 8p | Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Board Mtg. 3/13/24: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 2:30p |
| Harris Hill Ski Jump 2024 - Sunday : Thurs 2p, Sun 7p | Putney Selectboard Special Mtg. 3/13/24: Sat 6p, Sun 9:30a |
| Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p | Jamaica Town Meeting 3/5/24 : Tues 5:45a |
| Vermontitude - Weekly Episode : Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p | Townshend Town Meeting 3/5/24 : Mon 8:30p |
| News Block: WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p Reformer News Break: Mon-Fri 12:05p & 6:05p BUHS-TV News: Mon-Fri 12:20p & 6:40p | Guilford Town Meeting 3/5/24 : Tues 5p |
| St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a | Dummerston Town Meeting 3/5/24: Wed 8a |
| Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p | Putney Town Meeting 3/5/24: Wed 11:45a |
| Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service: Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a | Town Matters - Weekly Episode : Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p |
| St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass : Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p | The David Pakman Show : Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p |
| | |

Note: Schedule subject to change.

View full schedule and watch online at brattleboroTV.org

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

Brattleboro Community Television – 257-0888

STATE OF VERMONT PROBATE DIVISION

SUPERIOR COURT Windham Unit In re ESTATE of: Donald Pratt

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Donald Pratt (Decedent) late of Vernon, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

c/o Alvcia Sanders, Attorney Dated: March 12, 2024 147 Western Ave. Brattleboro, VT 05301 Michelle Penza, Executor 802-257-7244 x120 Name of Publication: The Commons asanders@pdsclaw.com

Publication Date: March 13, 2024

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windham Unit, Probate Division

Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, 2nd Floor, Brattleboro, VT 05301

Request for Bids Windham Solid Waste Management District 327 Old Ferry Rd, Brattleboro, VT 05301 **Compost Aeration and Heat Recovery Project**

Project Overview: Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) seeks bids for a new Compost Aeration and Heat Recovery Facility Project at 327 Old Ferry Road in Brattleboro, VT. See separate provided Scope of Work Packages.

Scope of Services: There are three separate bid packages for Sitework, Compost Aeration, and Fabric Building. Perspective bidders must specify which package(s) they are interested in. Provide all labor, materials, tools, and equipment per the plans and specifications. All inquiries, questions, and clarifications must be directed to Bob Spencer, Executive Director of Windham Solid Waste Management District at: director@wswmd.org. Addenda information shall be shared, as necessary, to all participants.

Bid Instructions: Bids are due no later than April 10 at 2:00 PM. Bid forms are provided. Bids may be either mailed or hand delivered to; Bob Spencer, Executive Director, WSWMD 327 Old Ferry Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301. No email, fax, or other electronic delivery will be accepted.

Schedule

• Request for bids issued March 11, 2024.

- Questions no later than the end of day March 29, 2024. Responses to questions will be provided to all interested bidders by the end of the day April 3, 2024.
- Bids due April 10 no later than 2:00 PM.

• Award to lowest qualified bidder subject to Board approval. Notice of Award immediately following Board approval. Site work is intended to start in early summer of 2024.

Expiration of Bid: By submitting a bid the applicant offers to enter into the Contract, the form and content of which shall be agreed upon by both parties. The applicant's proposal shall not be revocable for thirty (30) days following the response deadline indicated above.

Reservation of Rights

• WSWMD reserves the right to waive any defects in the offer of any vendor, to reject any or all offers, and to request additional information from any vendors. • If an agreement cannot be reached with the firm initially chosen for the contract, WSWMD may enter into contract negotiations with other qualified firms that submitted acceptable proposals or bids, rather than redoing the bid process for the project.

Negotiate with another firm to include further services not identified in this RFB.

THE COMMONS · Wednesday, March 13, 2024

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FirstLight MA Hydro LLC Project No. 1889-085 NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING, SOLICITING MOTIONS TO INTERVENE AND PROTESTS, READY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PRELIMINARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND PRELIMINARY FISHWAY PRESCRIPTIONS (February 22, 2024) Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection. a. Type of Application: New Maior License

b. Project No.: 1889-085

c. Date Filed: April 29, 2016: material amendment filed December 4, 2020

d. Applicant: FirstLight MA Hydro LLC (FirstLight)

e. Name of Project: Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (project)

f. Location: The project is located on the Connecticut River in Windham County, Vermont, Cheshire Co New Hampshire, and Franklin County, Massachusetts. The current project boundary includes the appro-20-acre Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Laboratory, which is administered by the U.S. Geological Survey.

g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a) - 825(r)

h. Applicant Contact: Mr. Alan Douglass, Regulatory Compliance Manager, 99 Millers Falls Road, Northfield, MA 01360; (413) 659-4416 or alan.douglass@firstlightpower.com

i. FERC Contact: Steve Kartalia, (202) 502-6131 or stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov

j. Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions: 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.

comments are oue uso basis mont the tasance stare of mit notes. The Commission trongly encaurages electronic filling. Pasaes file motions to intervene and protests, comment recommendations, terms and conditions, and generaciptions using the Commission's effining system at https:// forconline.fcer.gov/BKCOMine.assc. to memetters can submit their comments up to 5.000 characters, without prior registration, using the Gomment ystem at https://forconline.fcer.gov/BuickComment.assc. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, plasse contact FERC Online Support at FERCONIENSport@ferc.gov, 0469, 208-3476 (coll Free), or (202) 902-8859 (TT). In lise use clearchoir filling, you may submit a papart corp. Submitsions servit via the U.S. Fortal Service ML, Roho Resex, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Begulatory Commission, 1225 Willink Aneure, Rockville, Maydand 20852. The first page of any filling should include docket number P-1889-085.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serv copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an interver comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issuer that may affect the resp ties of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource age

k. This application has been accepted and is ready for environmental analysis at this time.

The Turners Falls Project operates in peaking and run-of-river modes, depending on inflows. A generation from 2011-2019 was approximately 332,351 MW-hours.

FirstLight proposes three changes to the current project boundary: (1) remove 0.2 acre of land associated with residential property; (2) add 0.8 acre of land for recreational purposes; and (3) remove 20.1 acres of land associated with He U.S. Geological Survey S Silvo Conte Anadromous Fish Laboratory.

Firstlight proposes to construct new fish passage facilities and recreational access trails. Firstlight also proposes changes to project operation that would generally reduce inpundment fluctuations and increase flow releases to the portion of the Connecticat River that is bypassed by the project. The specific proposed changes are described in the amended application and the settlement agreements filed on March 31, 2023 and June 12, 2023.

m. A copy of the application can be viewed on the Commission's website at http://www.ferc.gov using the "eLibary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FRR Online Support.

n. Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. §§ 385,210, 211, and 214. In determining the appropriate act to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a notio intervene in accordance with the Commission' Rulem apple scheme a party to the proceeding. Any comment protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particul application.

Application: All filings music. (1) base in all capital letters the title "PROTEST," MOITON TO INTERVENE " "COMMENTS," "REFLY COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS," "PRELIMINARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS," or "PRELIMINARY FISHWAY PRESERVATIONS(") cay as furth in the heading the name of the application at the project number of the application to which the filings range () otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 (FR § 34.38.2001 through 385.2005, All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions must set forth their of the application of and therwise comply with the requirements of 18 (FR § 34.38.2001 through 385.2005, All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions must set forth their of the application directly from the applicant. A corp of all approach on Acoupt of all other filings reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of servicular application. Acoupt of all other filings reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of aven the 16 (FR § 44.40) and 38.5.2002.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landownes, environmental justice commission. This members and others, access publicly and/adla information and markgate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making fillings such as interventions, comments, or requests for relearning. The public is neuroaged to contact OPP at (20) 562-5655 or OPP/Perc.gov.

You may also register online at https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.aspx to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support

o. The applicant must file no later than 60 days following the date of issuance of this notice: (1) a copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of waiver of water quality certification. p. Procedural Schedule: The application will be processed according to the following schedule. Revisions to th schedule will be made as appropriate.

| MILESTONE | TARGET DATE | |
|---|-------------|--|
| Deadline for filing motions to intervene, protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions | April 2024 | |
| Deadline for filing reply comments | May 2024 | |

q. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of this notice.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary.

| THE COMMONS • Wednesday, March 13, 2024 |
|---|
| |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION |
| Northfield Mountain LLC Project No. 2485-071 |
| NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING, SOLICITING MOTIONS TO INTERVENE AND PROTESTS, READY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, RECLIMINARY TERMS AND CONDUTIONS, AND REALINARY FISHMAR PRESENTIONS |
| (February 22, 2024) |
| Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection. |
| a. Type of Application: New Major License |
| b. Project No.: 2485-071 |
| c. Date Filed: April 29, 2016; material amendment filed December 4, 2020 |
| d. Applicant: Northfield Mountain LLC (Northfield) |
| e. Name of Project: Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (project) |
| f. Location: The project is located on the Connecticut River in Windham County, Vermont, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, and Franklin County, Massachusetts. |
| g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a) - 825(r) |
| h. Applicant Contact: Mr. Alan Douglass, Regulatory Compliance Manager, 99 Millers Falls Road, Northfield, MA 01360; (413) 659-4416 or alan.douglass@firstlightpower.com |
| i. FERC Contact: Steve Kartalia, (202) 502-6131 or stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov |
| j. Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protects, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions: 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice. |

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and protexts, comments recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions using the Commission's effling system at https:// froomline.fcc.gov/RRObinia.asp. Comments can aubuit bird comments up 6.000 characters, without prior registration, using the element system at https://froomline.fcrc.gov/BuitKenmentLange, You must find and contact information at the end of your comments. For austaince, please contact FIRC Dnine Support at FRECOmineSupportGiferc.gov, (Bdb) 288-3616 (Pull free), or (202) 502-4569 (TIT). In lise of to: Bubits.Ame. A Resex, Acting Socratury, Indeas Temmy Regulatory Commission, BdB First Street RF. Room 14, Washington, DC. 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed for: Debits-Ame A. Resex. Acting Socratury, Forderal Lenger Regulatory Commission, 12258 Willshow, Revea, Rochville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-2485-071.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor file comments or documents with the Commission relating to the metils of an issue that may affect the response is of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. This application has been accepted and is ready for environmental analysis at this time.

k. This application has been accepted and is ready for environmental analysis at this time.
L. Project Description: The Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project consists of: (1) a 1-mile-long. 30-foot-wide, 3-be to 1-do-foot-high main dam that includes: (1) an intake structure with two 7-foot-wide, 5-foot-high dam of and main that includes: (1) and the structure with two 7-foot-wide, 5-foot-high dam of and main that includes: (1) a 2-800-foot-long, 3-foot-high dam of the structure with two 7-foot-wide, 5-foot-high dam of the structure with a 2-foot-long, 2-foot-high dam of the structure with a 2-foot-long, 3-foot-high disc (North Weyl dam; (6) an ungated 550-foot-long, 4-foot-high gains (North Structure with a 2-foot-long not a 1-200-foot-high gains (1) a 2-800-foot-long, 3-foot-high disc (North Structure with a 2-foot-long not 1-300-foot-high 3-10-foot-high disc (North Structure) and 1-300-foot-long, 3-foot-high disc (North Structure) and 1-300-foot-long, 3-foot-high 3-0-foot-high disc (North Structure) and 1-300-foot-long, 3-foot-high 3-0-foot-high 3

The Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project generally operates in pumping mode when electricity demand is low and generating mode when electricity demand is high. In the summer and winter, the project may operate in a pasking mode in the morning and last affermon. In the sering and fall, the project may operate in a pasking mode one or two times a day depending on electricity demand. The existing license requires maintaining the upper reservoir between elevations 280 feet and 10.005 feet 16W10.200 (e.g. a maximum reservoir drawdown of 62.5 feet). Average annual generation at the Northfield Mountain Project for 2011-2019 was 38.86 WH-hours, and average annual energy consumption for pumping from 2011 to 2019 was 1.189,640 WH-hours.

rthfield proposes three changes to the current project boundary: (1) remove 0.2 acre of land associ th residential property; (2) remove 8.1 acres of land referred to as "Fuller Farm" that include residen ricultural structures; and (3) add 135.5 acres of land that include recreation trails.

Nothfield proposes to increase the maximum water surface elevation of the upper reservoir to 1.00.45 feet Not002 93 and decrease the minimum water surface elevation of the upper reservoir to 20.0 feet NG/0 29 (1.0002 93 and decrease the minimum water surface elevation of the upper reservoir to 20.0 feet NG/0 29 (1.0002 91 and decrease the minimum cater surface elevation of the upper reservoir to 20.0 feet NG/0 29 (1.0002 91 and decrease the minimum cater surface elevation of the upper reservoir and to construct the reservoir and to construct the reservoir and to construct new recented on corest strills. The specific proposed tanges are decreded in the amended application and the settlement agreements filed on March 31, 2023 and June 12, 2023. 29 (i.e.

m. A copy of the application can be viewed on the Commission's website at http://www.ferc.gov using the "eLibnay" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements or Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFAR, §3 385.210, 211, and 2214. In determining the appropriate actio to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion intervene in accordance with the Commission's fulls may above one a party to the proceeding. Any comments protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particula application.

A filings must: (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST." "NOTION TO INTERVENE." "COMMENTS," "REPLY COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS," "PRELIVANCE TERMS AND CONDITIONS," ar "PRELIVANCE FISHWAY PRESCREATIONS," (2) as forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filings and (4) obtervise comply with the requirements of 10 ETR §§ 38.2.001 through 385.2005, All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions must set forth their of the application during the filings and (4) obtervise comply with the requirements of 10 ETR §§ 34.3.2.001 through 385.2005, All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions must set forth their of the application during the applicant. A cary of any protest or mutions to intervise must be served of the application mixed second comparised by protest or during with the requirements of a server's hist prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR §§ 4.3.4(b) and 385.2010.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communitier, This members and others, access publicly available information and anarytae Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making fillings such as interventions, comments, or neguests for networks, the product is encouraged to contact OPP a (CO) 526-555 or OPP/Gercagor.

You may also register online at https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.aspx to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

o. The applicant must file no later than 60 days following the date of issuance of this notice: (1) a copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of water quality certification.

p. Procedural Schedule: The application will be processed according to the following schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

| MILESTONE | TARGET DATE |
|---|-------------|
| Deadline for filing motions to intervene, protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions | April 2024 |
| Deadline for filing reply comments | May 2024 |

q. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the iss date of this notice.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ads@commonsnews.org • 888-511-5150

Great River Hydro, LLC

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING, SOLICITING MOTIONS TO INTERVENE AND PROTESTS, READY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND SOLICITING COMMENDATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, RECHMINARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND PRELIMINARY TERMAY PRESCRIPTIONS (February 22, 2024)

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is a. Type of Application: New Major License

b. Project No.: 1904-078

c. Date Filed: May 1, 2017; material amendment filed December 7, 2020

d. Applicant: Great River Hydro, LLC (Great River Hydro)

e. Name of Project: Vernon Hydroelectric Project (project) f. Location: The project is located on the Connecticut River in Windham County, Vermont, and Cheshire County, New Hamoshire.

q. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a) - 825(r)

h. Applicant Contact: John Ragonese, FERC License Manager, Great River Hydro, LLC, 40 Pleasant Street, Suite 202, Portsmouth, NH 03801; (603) 498-2851 or jragonese@greatriverhydro.com

i. FERC Contact: Steve Kartalia, (202) 502-6131 or stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov

j. Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions: 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and protests, comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions using the Commission's effling system at https://feconilee.fecr.gov/FEXOfine.aspx. Commenters: can submit brief Comments up to 6.000 characters, without prior englistication, using the Comment system at https://feconilee.fecr.gov/ for assistance, please contact. FEE Online Support at FEEXOfineSupport[ferc.gov, (869) 2020-8767 (tot)] freely. of (2022 502650 (TTV). In lise of electronic filing, you may submit to paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Deble-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Inergy Regulatory Commission, 12252 Willins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-1904-078.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating ta the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency. Diey must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. This application has been accepted and is ready for environ

k. This application has been accepted and is ready for environmental analysis at this time.
L Project Description: The Vernon Project consists of: (1) a 956-foot-long, 58-foot-high concrete dam that includes: (a) 356-foot-door spectro integrate to the powerhouse; (a) 654-foot-door overflow spillawy section that includes: (b) a 190ot-high, 6-foot-wide downstream fishway stactor: (f) a overflow spillawy section that includes: (b) a 190ot-high, 6-foot-high concrete divergence of the spillawy section that includes: (b) a 10-foot-high, 56-foot-wide standards by 16-foot-high, 50-foot-wide stantenion tays; (wii) a 10-foot-high, 42-5-foot-wide standards by; (d) two 10-foot-high, 50-foot-wide stantenion tays; (wii) a 10-foot-high, 42-5-foot-wide standhon bay; and (iii) eight 7-foot-high, 50-foot-wide stantenion tays; (wii) a 10-foot-high, 42-5-foot-wide standhon bay; and (iii) eight 7-foot-high, 50-foot-wide stantenion tays; (wii) a 10-foot-high, 42-5-foot-wide standhon bay; and (iii) eight 7-foot-high, 50-foot-high shorthigh tays (b) a 25-foot-high tays (b) a 19-foot-high 12-foot-high 12-foot-high 12-foot-high 12-foot-high 12-foot-high 12-foot-high (c) a 35-foot-high, 5-foot-wide, 5-foot-high 12-foot-high 12-foot-high 12-foot-high 12-foot-high 12-foot-high (c) a 35-foot-high, 5-foot-high 12-foot-high 12-foot

Great River Hydro operates the project in a peaking mode in coordination with its upstream Wilder Project No. 1892 and Bellows Falls Project No. 1855. Average annual generation is approximately 18,028 WH-hows, Great River Hydro is opposing changes to project operation. That would reduce impoundment fluctuations and increase the stability of downstream flow releases relative to current project operation, including targeted water surface leavation levels and flow running rates. Great River Hydro also proposes several protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures for aquit, terrestria, cutural, recreation resources, and threatened and endangered speciefs. The specific proposed changes are described in the amended application and the settlement agreement field on August 4, 2022.

m. A copy of the application can be viewed on the Commission's website at http://www.ferc.gov using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. Anyone may submit comments, a protect, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of faulte of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. §5 385 210, 211, and 214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protects or other comments filed, but only toos who file a whole in a constance with the Commission States may be appreciated as the second or the comments protects, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

Spectree comment date for the particular application. All filings must: [1] bays in all carling latents the title "PRDTEST," "MOTION TO INTERVENE." "COMMENTS," "REVIT COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS," "PRELIMINARY TEMES AND CONDITIONS," or "RECLIMINARY TEMESTATION COMPARING (2) set for the the handing the man of the applicate and the project number of the application to which the filing responds (2) furnish the name, address, and the project number of the application to which the filing responds (2) furnish the name, address, and the project number of the application to which the splication directly with the requirements of 18 CFR § 3.85.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or projections must be forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR § 4.34(b). Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant, Acopy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon acet hrepersentative of the application must be accompanied by proof Service on all persons listed on the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceed-ing, in accordance with 18 CFR § 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

The Commission proceedings of the Commission proceedings. OP can be made the public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can belo members of the public including landown environmental justice communities. In that members and others, access publicly vanibles informati and avigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@/errc.gov.

You may also register online at https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.aspx to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

o. The applicant must file no later than 60 days following the date of issuance of this notice: (1) a copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of water quality certification.

p. Procedural Schedule: The application will be processed according to the following schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

| MILESTONE | TARGET DATE |
|---|-------------|
| Deadline for filing motions to intervene, protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions | April 2024 |
| Deadline for filing reply comments | May 2024 |

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Project No. 1904-078 Great River Hydro, LLC

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING, SOLICITING MOTIONS TO INTERVENE AND PROTESTS, READY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PRELIMINARY TERMS AND NALYSIS, AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND PRELIMINARY FISHWAY PRESCRIPTION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Project No. 1855-050

(February 22, 2024)

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. Type of Application: New Major License

b. Project No.: 1855-050

c. Date Filed: May 1, 2017; material amendment filed December 7, 2020 d. Applicant: Great River Hydro, LLC (Great River Hydro)

e. Name of Project: Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project (project)

f. Location: The project is located on the Connecticut River in Windsor and Windham Counties, Vermont, and Sullivan and Cheshire Counties, New Hampshire.

g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a) - 825(r)

h. Applicant Contact: John Ragonese, FERC License Manager, Great River Hydro, LLC, 40 Pleasant Street, Suite 202, Portsmouth, NH 03801; (603) 498-2851 or jragonese@greatriverhydro.com

i FFRC Contact: Steve Kartalia, (202) 502-6131 or stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov

j. Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions: 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.

Comments are use 100 usey inom the issuance and in its North States the Commission torongle encourages activations (Hing., Plasse file meliants to intervene and protects, commends, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions using the Commission's elling system at https://ferontink.srcg.org/HEROIntins.aux, commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the comments yeas using the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FER Online Support at HEROInties/support/elfer.gov. (B66) 2083-1076 (tot) energy legalatory Commission, 8287 efficient Streter HK, Boom JA, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via the U.S. Potal Service must be addressed to: Debie-Anne A, Reeze, Acting Secretary, Federal Fenergy Regulatory Commission, 12252 Willine Streter HK, Boom JA, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debie-Anne A, Reeze, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12252 Willine Swenep, Rockville, Mayland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-1885-050.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an interveno files comments or documents with the Commission relation to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that

k. This application has been accepted and is ready for environmental analysis at this

 κ . This application has been accepted and is ready for environmental analysis at this time. I. Project Description: The Bellows Falls Project consists of (1) a 643-6ot-long, 30-fort-high concrete dam that includes: (a) the 14-fort-high, 15-fort-high steel roller gates; (b) them 13-fort-high, 121-fort-wide stanchion flashbards, and (-) 13-fort-high, 10-fort-high stanching, 122-fort-wide concrete forebay a 26-mile-long, 2.64-are impoundment with a usable torage volume of 292 (100-12); (3) a 1.700-fort- long, 36-to 10-fort-wide, 25-fort-wide gates; (b) a 186-fort-long, 10-fort-wide, 12-fort-wide concrete forebay that includes trashracks with 4-inch clear bar spacing; (5) a 186-fort-long, 10-fort-wide, 25-fort-wide concrete forebay that functions; (b) a 100-fort-wide, 25-fort-wide concrete forebay that functions; (b) a 10-fort-wide, 25-fort-wide concrete forebay that functions; (b) a 00-fort-wide, 25-fort-wide, con-wide, 12-fort-wide, 13-fort-wide concrete wide frame, hick powel-house containing there 13-means(1). Fort-wide, 13-fort-wide, 13-fort-wide concrete frant, the: (c) 30-06-fort-long, 13-fort-wide, 13-fort-wide, 13-fort-wide schementar units, for a total project capacity of 40.8 MW; (c) three approximately 20-fort-high, 31-fort-wide concrete frant, the: (c) 30-06-fort-long 13-fort-wide, 13-fort-wide, 13-fort-wide concrete (10) a 920-fort-long, 13-fort-wide, 13-fort-wide, 13-fort-wide concrete (10) a 920-fort-long, 13-fort-wide fishway; (11) a concrete fish barrier dam in the bypassed reach; and (12) apputenant facilities.

Grat River Hydro operates the project in a peaking mode in coordination with its upstream Wilder Project No. 1892 and downstream Verone Project No. 1904. Average annual generation is approximately 239,070 Wirkhous. Grat River Hydro is proporting several protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures for aquatic, terrestrial, cultural, recreation resources, and threatened and endangered species, as well as changes to project operation that would reduce impoundment fluctuations and increase the stability of downstream flow releases relative to current project operation, including targeted wates surface elevation levels and flow ramping rates. Grate River Hydro also proposes to install a new turbine on the downstream side of the spillway that would generate power using the 300-cubic feet per second proposed minimum flow to the typosed reach. The specific proposed changes are described in the amended application, the settlement agreement filed on August 4, 2022, and the revised relicensing proposal filed on Jane 8, 2023.

m. A copy of the application can be viewed on the Commission's website at http://www.ferc.gov using the "eLibray" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Bulse of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. §§ 385.210, 211, and 214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission with comforder all protests or other comments field, but only those who file a motion to intervenes in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protexts, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application. Lever nor the particular application. All Rings must: (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST, " "MOTION TO INTERVENE," "COMMENTS," REPLY COMMENTS," RECOMMENDATIONS, "PRELIMINARY TEMPS AND CONDITIONS," or "PRELIMINARY FISHWAP MESCREPTIONS," (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the applicant to which the filing regords; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the project number of the applicant to which the filing regords; (3) furnish and conditions, or precipition smuts tele hourds) 352.052, All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or proceedings to the applicant on the the applicant. A copy of any protest or motion to informer which end the application directly from the applicant. A copy of any protest or motion to informer subs served upon each representative of the applicant. A copy of any profest or on all persons tisted on the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR §§ 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public including landowers, environmental justice communities, Trail members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inguines and assistance with making filings such as interven-tions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or OPP/@ferc.gov.

You may also register online at https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.aspx to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Onlin Support

o. The applicant must file no later than 60 days following the date of issuance of this notice: (1) a copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of waiver of water quality certification.

q. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of this notice.

TARGET DATE April 2024

May 2024

p. Procedural Schedule: The application will be processed according to the following schedule. Revis to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

MILESTONE Deadline for filing motions to intervene, protests comments, recommendations, preliminary erms and conditions, and preliminary fishway wearingtone.

Deadline for filing reply comments

prescriptions

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary.

MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

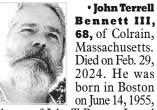
College news

 Grace Wilkinson of Bellows Falls, Lucy Daly of Jamaica, Annabelle Gray of Londonderry, and Althea Holzapfel of Marlboro were all named to the fall 2023 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. • Jessica Tatro of Brattleboro was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Audrey LaMorder of Guilford was named to the Dean's List at St. Michael's College in Colchester for the fall 2023 semester.

• Maria Carfora of Brattleboro was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut.

Obituaries



on June 14, 1955, the son of John T. Bennett Jr. and Ellen (Dunnell) Bennett. He was a warm and humorous man who loved his family above all. A diehard Patriots fan, flannel connoisseur, and dedicated civil servant, he drove with the windows down vear-round. He had an unmatched affinity for nature and spent every spare minute in the woods. His hobbies included hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, map reading, and cooking outside. John is survived by his wife, Katherine Montague-Bennett, son Sam (Hannah) Bennett, daughter Margaret Bennett, granddaughter Eleanor Bennett, sister Caroline (Todd) Grady, and brother George (George Patsouris) Bennett. He was preceded in death by his father John Bennett Jr., mother Ellen Bennett, brother David Bennett, and uncles William Dunnell III and Jacob Dunnell. John graduated from St. Mark's School and went on to receive his bachelor's degree from Colby College and his master's from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He dedicated more than 20 years of his career to the Windham Regional Commission in Brattleboro, and nearly 40 years of volunteer work to the Franklin County Conservation District. MEMORIAL INFORMA-TION: A celebration of John's life was held on March 9 at Hitchcock Brewing Company in Bernardston, Massachusetts. Donations to Betsy's Park Foundation in Holderness, New Hampshire; Squam Lakes Conservation Society, Squam Lake Natural Science Center, the Connecticut River Conservancy, or the Deerfield River Watershed

Association. To offer condolences, visit smithkelleherfuneralhome. com.

• Donald H. Campbell, 89, of Putney. Died on Jan. 18, 2024. Born Sept. 12, 1935, to the late Linnie Mae Campbell

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and Donald Campbell in Westmoreland, New Hampshire. As a child, Don was known around town going door-to-door selling homemade chocolates and was quite successful. He knew honey would get you farther than vinegar. Don graduated from Kurn Hattin Homes for Children in 1949. There, he learned what a hard day's work was in the print shop and developed a good work ethic and what it meant to be part of a team. He graduated from Brattleboro Union High School in 1953, and earned school credit while working in a couple of local print shops. Don then served in the Army from 1954 to 1956, and was stationed in Germany as a military policeman. He married June T. Garfield on Sept. 8, 1956. After graduating from Bryant College in 1957, completing his four-year business degree in two years, he worked for the Metropolitan Life insurance company in Brattleboro for 12 years. Selling life insurance doorto-door, Don quickly became integrated into the community on such a level that folks would often leave their insurance premiums on the kitchen table for him to pick up. At Metropolitan Life, he met future business partner Dennis Boyd and, in June 1981, they started Campbell and Boyd Insurance Services in Brattleboro. They became best friends and had many humorous stories and adventures to share over the years. Don always had a way of retelling a story that kept you hanging on every word. Sometimes, you weren't sure if he was pulling your leg or just sharing a fact you didn't know about. You looked for the twinkle in his eye to tell the difference. Don was known for his radio ads for Campbell and Boyd with his native twang and spoofs of the people and doings around town such as Luther and his "pick 'em up truck, Bessy the Cow, the "Putney Road puzzle," and the tourist's \$30,000 "Me'r cedes" car stuck in the snow pulled out by the farmer's \$60,000 John Deere tractor, to name a few. Don was a hard worker on their homestead, helping June keep Debonair Riding School going and giving a happy home to various farm animals

which he instigated. Don and June volunteered on the Dummerston took a new interest and adventure in flying. They became members of the Southern Vermont Flyers at "Dummerston International Airport," where they flew their powered parachute, and then their ultralight plane. Don was quietly but strongly protective of family and always made newcomers feel welcomed. He taught all the grandchildren, and their friends, that a firm handshake and proper eye contact with no smirking (which he made almost impossible) was the price to pay to cross the threshold entering the house. Don took an honest interest in everyone and always could see the good in them. He saw the humor in every situation and took it that direction every chance he could. He leaves his wife of 68 years, their daughters Deborah Hardy and husband Steve, Bonnie Kimball and husband Mark, Christine Kowalski and husband Mark, and Jennifer Wood and longtime boyfriend Mike Cavanagh. They leave their grandchildren Timothy Campbell and wife Brianna, Daniel Butler and wife Shirley, James Kimball, Jessica Lambert and husband Elias, Gretchen Lachance and husband Nate, Stephanie Ludlow and husband Jarrett, Sarah, Jason, and Peter Hardy, and Trevor, Jada, and Dakota Wood; 11 great-grandchildren and lots of extended family filled with many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his half brother Francis Lambert and his wife, Barbara. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Donations to Kurn Hattin Homes for Children, 708 Kurn Hattin Rd., Westminster,



Hazelton, 93, of Dummerston. Died peacefully, surrounded by family members, on March

• Donald

Merton

8. 2024. The son of Hazel (Carr) and Merton Hazelton of Dummerston, he graduated from Brattleboro High School with an Austine Prize for being one of the top four students. He was an electrician in the Air Force in Biloxi, Mississippi, before returning to Dummerston. He worked at the Scott Farm and was a delivery man before joining the family farm, H&M Orchards. Don grew "happy" strawberries, the highest quality apples (particularly his large Macouns), and made hundreds of gallons of maple syrup each year. In the late 1980s, he gave up the farm and began working at the School for International Training in the maintenance de-

Fire Department and Rescue and was honored as Rescue Person of the Year by the Vermont State Firefighters Association. He was a leader for 4-H groups and sum-mers at Camp Waubanong in Brattleboro. The Evening Star Grange awarded him and Bunny Citizens of the Year for their involvement. At the Dummerston Apple Pie Festival, he organized parking for the hundreds of cars and motorcycles attending. For the Grace Cottage Fair, he would annually donate time setting up and taking down booths. He served as custodian for the Dummerston Center Cemetery. He and Bunny were officers for the Maple Leaf Squares western square dance club. Even in his 80s and 90s, Don was a vital part in running a "wood kitchen," splitting and delivering wood for those in need, earning him Super Senior designation by WCAX-TV. In 2023, he was honored by the Dummerston Historical Society with a Don Hazelton Day for his years of service to the town. He spent his final year at Valley Cares Assisted Living in Townshend, and was lovingly cared for by staff there and from Bayada Hospice. Above all, Don was a true family man who loved spending time with others playing cards, appreciating nature, or working outside, especially at a camp on Putney Mountain. He is survived by sons David (Karen) of Dummerston, Steven (Barbara) of Mount Holly, and Ted (Joan) of Vassar, Kansas; daughters Phyllis (Dominic) Isbell of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Jeanette (Allen) Fairhurst of Thornwood, New York, as well as his many cherished grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and many "adopted" family members. He was predeceased by his wife; a son, Michael; and a granddaughter, as well as his beloved sisters and their husbands, Mary (Robert) Bolster and Carol (Raymond) Bessette. He leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, resiliency and common sense. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services will be held in the summer. Donations to Valley Cares Assisted Living, P.O. Box 341, Townshend, VT 05353; Grace Cottage Hospital, P.O. Box 216, Townshend, VT 05353, or Evening Star Grange, 1008 East-West Rd, East Dummerston, VT

05346. To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

• Hildamarie Hendricks, 97, of Putney. Died peacefully in her home on Feb. 29, 2024. Born

of Westminster. Died March 3, 2024. She was born to Mary and Floyd Tuttle on November 12, 1929, in Reid, Oklahoma. Her mother had journeyed to her parents' home from Liberal, Kansas, and returned there with Lee when Lee was about two weeks old. So, way back then, Lee ceased to be an Okie and became a Kansan prairie farmer with her skilled farming parents. Lee described cooking for harvest crews of 15 folks when her Mom was ill one year, and also driving grain trucks to the elevator at age 12. Lee was a leader in her tiny Greeley County High School, editor of its yearbook and baritone player in its little marching band. She went to Kansas State University, earning a bachelors degree, and was a baritone player in its marching band. She then married Bill Harper with whom she had three children. They lived in Braintree, and then Walpole, Massachusetts. She was president of the League of Women Voters in Walpole, and also instrumental in promoting educational opportunities and programs at the state prison in Walpole. After her divorce from Bill Harper, she met Bruce MacDuffie, and they built a life together. She pursued graduate work in counseling at the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University, and art therapy training at the Chicago Art Institute and Lesley College. She had also become a skilled painter in watercolor, acrylic, and a little oil. Bruce found her a healing support for his own three children and for himself over the years. She practiced psychotherapy and counseling for more than 20 years. Letters from former clients speak of her as the most skillful and supportive of therapists. She also was active in the churches her husband pastored and was much loved in those church communities. Even in retirement, in 2018 to 2020, she helped host a total of five Honduran asylum seekers sharing their home and life with them. Najenyi Domingez, who was age 9 when she came to the U.S. and is now 16, calls her grandmother, expressing the loving relationship that developed. Lee gave of herself to her children and her communities. Two of her now adult children, William Harper III and Karen Davidson, succumbed to cancer last spring and summer. Her youngest child, David, moved from Mississippi to live with his mom and step-dad, and was able to be with her in her last days, as was her stepson, Robert

Gloria Lee MacDuffie, 94,

children, Ramona and Llewyn. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of her life was held at the Westminster Institute on March 10. A funeral service was held March 11 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Chester, followed by burial at Immanuel Church Cemetery in Bellows Falls.



 Marlene Rose (Coon) Simon, 41, died on March 6, 2024 after a short illness. She was born on Aug. 14, 1982,

the daughter of Bertha and Robert LeClaire. She was the wife of Matthew Simon. Marlene attended Wilmington Middle High School and graduated with the Class of 2003. She enjoyed watching her two sons ride and race on their dirt bikes, spending time with her family and friends, and running around outside with her dogs. Marlene was survived by sisters Jennifer (Samuel) Abora and Stephany (Kristen) Miller; brothers Bobby and Brett (Yvonne) LeClaire; sons Gavin and Matthew (Amaya) Simon; nieces Gwendelin Cusack and Alexis Johnson, and nephews RJ, Brett, and Max LeClaire. MEMORIAL INFORMA-TION: Calling hours will be on March 14, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Ker Phaneuf Funeral Home, 57 High St., Brattleboro. To leave a message of condolence or for more information, visit phaneuf.net.



Elizabeth " Pat" Woodard, 90, of Putney. Died peacefully on Feb. 6, 2024, at Charlene Manor

Patricia

in Greenfield, Massachusetts. where she had been a resident for the past three years. She was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, on Sept. 21, 1933, the daughter of Julius and Marion (Hunting) Hayward. Pat was raised and educated in East Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and graduated from East Bridgewater High School. On Nov. 6, 1954, in Brockton, at a small wedding ceremony for family and close friends, she married Daniel E. Woodard, who survives. Pat attended the former Faulkner Hospital School of Nursing in Boston, earning her Registered Nurse diploma. After graduation, she worked as a registered nurse at Brockton Hospital in the nursery for over 30 years. She retired from the hospital in 1986 and moved to Putney with her husband, where they started a new adventure. Sunday mystery rides to new places always included a meal at a local diner. Pat enjoyed knitting, crocheting, puzzles, gardening, and bird watching. She was an avid reader and excellent baker, famous for her sour cream coffee cake, whoopie pies, and rhubarb pies. Her cookbook collection was vast. Besides her faithful and devoted husband of 69 years, she leaves one daughter, Deborah Corthell of Putney; three grandchildren, Kelly Lownds of Assonet, Massachusetts, Patrick Corthell of Springfield, Massachusetts, and Richard Corthell III, of New Zealand; six great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, Hope, Hunter, Ella, Anna, and Hazel; and a half-brother, Mark Hayward of East Bridgewater. She was predeceased by one brother, Julius Hayward. MEMORIAL INFORMA-TION: Graveside services will be conducted later in the springtime in Dummerston Center Cemetery at a date and time to be announced. Donations to Rescue Inc., P.O. Box 593, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To share a memory or offer condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.

something to build, fix and create. They had abundant gardens where Don would pass on his great work ethic, sprinkled with humor, while digging harder for potatoes to find the craziest looking ones. He started the "Great Family Pumpkin Contest" that over the years involved all sorts of mischief

over the years. There was always

partment. He loved meeting people from all over the world and retired at age 82. Don married the love of his life, Carolyn "Bunny" Jones, while on leave from the Air Force and they shared many adventures. They raised a loving family while tirelessly serving their community. Don

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

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on Jan. 2, 1927, she was a trailblazer in progressive education and a staunch advocate for social justice. She founded a pioneering school in Edinburgh, Scotland, and served as regional director at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, dedicating her life to experiential learning and global understanding. Her legacy of impact on education and community service continues to inspire today. She is survived by her daughters Janet Meynell (Jay Pittard), Katharine Meynell, and Selina Rutovitz; her son, Philip Rutovitz (Bettina Rutovitz-Kraft); her brothers Jon Hendricks (Joanne Hendricks) and Nat Hendricks; as well as six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services will be held at the Putney Friends Meeting House at a date to be determined. Donations to Doctors Without Borders at donate.doctorswithoutborders. org, or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at give.unrefugees.org.

After years of living with dementia, she passed into continuing her journey in God's loving care. Her family all give thanks for her loving presence in ther lives. She is survived by her husband, Bruce MacDuffie, of Westminster; stepdaughter Elizabeth MacDuffie of Holyoke, Massachusetts, and her husband, Mark Miller; son David Harper of Westminster; stepson Joe MacDuffie and his spouse, Donna Reed, of Westerville, Ohio; stepdaughter Emily Klein of Barrington, Rhode Island; grandchildren Erin Hamann of Easthampton, Massachusetts, and Erin's two sons Finnegan and Killian; Jennifer Higdon of Apex, North Carolina and her husband Ryan and new baby Mairi (born Christmas Day 2023); Andrew Harper and his wife Catie of Mebane, North Carolina; Megan Harper of Cary, North Carolina; Madeleine Darling and her husband Steve Schmelz and their daughter Oona of Philadelphia; grandsons Benjamin and Christopher Davidson of Colorado; greatgrandson John Paul MacDuffie Woodburn of Seattle, and his two

MacDuffie, whom she nurtured

and mothered from age 5 on.

State offers assistance for child care costs

Department for Children and Families (VDCF) offers the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP), which helps Vermont children access quality child care by covering some assistance, families must have

WATERBURY—The Vermont or all child care costs for eligible families.

The CCFAP is a service of the Child Development Division, a part of the VDCF.

To be eligible for financial



child(ren) ages 6 weeks to 13 years (19 years for those with special needs); have an approved reason for needing child care, such as work or training; meet income guidelines (even a family of four making \$105,000 qualifies); be state residents; have less than \$1 million in assets; and have child(ren) with eligible citizenship status (not required starting July 1).

Families in need meeting these criteria can visit the program's webpage at **bit.ly/756-ccfap** to learn more. The local Community Child Care Support Agency (bit. ly/756-local) can also help answer questions. Agency staff will help find child care, preschool, or afterschool services.

New guidelines that will take effect Tuesday, April 7, will expand eligibility based on family size and income. More families may qualify for assistance (for example, a family of four making \$124,800 will qualify). Subscribe to receive news/updates at dcf. vermont.gov/cdd.

LONDONDERRY Bob Perry Lane House completed as the Corlew family takes ownership

Dale and Patty Eisenhaur, cochairs 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

LONDONDERRY—Martha provided some funding through bale and Patty Eisenhaur, co- an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and two state agencies - the Vermont Housing Finance Agency and the Vermont Housing Conservation Board — also pro-

vided 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 lowinterest 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 Eisenhaur. "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.³

Balint to discuss housing, proposed federal legislation

Voices Live returns with online public forum on March 18

BRATTLEBORO— of affordable and deeply afford-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

able 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.

A7

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.

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

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

gained vital skills and may be able 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.

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

I

welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. For the past 10 years, Dick DeGrav 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."







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*Subject to availability and eligibility.



The exterior of the Miss Bellows Falls diner in 2011.

Diner

definitely worn out."

But other structural elements need replacing — in particular, the foundation.

When a smaller diner that had sat on the site for a few years was removed and the current lunch car was located in 1944, it was set much closer to the road. The original foundation was too small for the diner from the beginning.

The diner includes the property behind the building, which will allow for expansion of the building footprint about 10 feet into the rear of the property.

So a new basement and foundation will be created, with dry storage, and slabs will be poured to accommodate an additional dining room, bringing indoor seating up to 50 from the original 32 seats.

Also, the entire structure will set 5 feet farther back from the street. That will allow the addition of 15 to 20 seasonal outdoor seats along the front and end of the building.

The classic glass block entrance at the north end of the diner will be duplicated at all the new entrances, including a fully accessible entrance at the south end of the building.

Inside, a new accessible bathroom will be created, along with raised about \$175,000 in 2023,

practical. Some, Hunter said, "are a larger separate kitchen space and group members are hoping with new appliances, separate pass-throughs for food and dirty dishes, and a supply delivery entrance at the back of the building that leads directly to a new walkin refrigerator.

A preliminary analysis has found that the site is not contaminated and that drainage is good.

"At this point we are getting prices for materials and that sort of thing," Hunter said. "Some aspects of the final design, such as surface finishes, will be decided as we get the pricing on materials."

The diner itself will be removed from the site and brought to a yet-to-be-determined indoor spot where restoration will take place. While that is happening, the new foundation and slab will be completed, along with other site work.

Plans call for the restored diner to be returned to the site, ready to reopen, in 2025.

Fundraising

While original estimates of the restoration came in at around \$500,000, it is likely that doing the job right will end up costing close to \$1 million, Hunter said.

He anticipates that most of that funding will come from grants.

Rockingham for Progress has

FROM SECTION FRONT March 5.

to reach \$200,000 from individual donors by April 1.

The money raised so far has already allowed the group to completely pay for the building and the lot it sits on.

A variety of new fundraising incentives are being offered by the group to community members who would like to be part of the process.

These include items from local businesses, such as diner soap from Grace and Miss Mouse Soaps, diner spice boxes from Halladay's Harvest Barn, a Miss Bellows Falls Diner pin by Amar & Riley, and vintage diner coffee cups. All profits from these sales, with prices ranging from \$29 to \$99, go toward the diner restoration.

Naming rights for a favorite counter spot, stool, or booth are also available for donations from \$2,500 to \$15,000. Efforts are already underway to do so in memory of local residents Gary Smith, Ray Massucco, and Curtis "Sparky" Caswell.

Details on how to support the effort, purchase Miss Bellows Falls Diner products, and more can be found at MissBellowsFalls. com.

Athens

• One seat for school director that has been open for several years remains open after the Annual Town Election, with nine people having received one write-in vote each. Election would require a minimum of three votes.

• Voters approved the proposed \$643,357 general budget by paper ballot in a 52–30 vote.

• An article to discontinue use of the Australian ballot system was defeated, 60–21, in a paper ballot vote. Voters also agreed to hold fu-

ture Annual Town Meetings on

the Monday night before the first

Tuesday in March at 6 p.m.

Grafton

• Voters approved spending \$607,080 to maintain highways and bridges, \$233,894 for the general budget, and a \$200,000 capital budget for the town's highway structures program, the fire truck fund, and highway equipment. They also agreed to spend \$29,950 to operate the fire department, \$9,000 for ambulance service, and \$4,500 for rescue squad operations.

 Also approved was spending \$12,181 to support 15 local and regional humanitarian organizations. • An article to raise \$2,037 for the support of community programs of

Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) was not considered.

Guilford

• Voters approved an \$810,993 general operating budget, a \$1.105 million highway budget, \$268,550 for fire department operating expenses, and \$35,000 for the fire department capital improvement fund. They also agreed to spend \$68,000 to contract with the Windham County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services.

• The general operating budget was amended down when voters removed a \$14,500 increase for the town clerk's office staffing and the SeVEDS request. That request started as \$6,363, or about \$3 per resident, and was first amended to \$2 per person, and ultimately to \$0 per person.

From battles about ballots to decisions about dates

Notes from the floor of Annual Town Meetings from more towns throughout Windham County

By Virginia Ray The Common

ollowing is a roundup of Town Meeting news that came too late for last week's edition of *The Commons*. Most towns held their annual meetings on Town Meeting Day on Tuesday,

Australian ballot failed.

· Incumbent Selectboard member Zon Eastes retained his seat for two years, having bested his opponent, Steven Pritchard, 373-219.

Chip Carter took a three-year term on the board after defeating Hannah Trustin, 371-202.

A video of the meeting is available at guilfordvt.gov.

Jamaica

• Voters approved a \$1.831 million general operating budget for fiscal year 2025.

· They also agreed to exempt the Masonic Lodge Mt. Lebanon #46 land and building from taxation for a period of five years.

 After several amendments, voters agreed to keep next year's Annual Town Meeting on the state's Town Meeting Day, as it has been. Next year's will take place on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 10 a.m.

But first voters asked to move it to 6 p.m. so more could attend; that proposal failed in a voice vote. Then it was moved to change the date to the second Saturday in March; that motion failed in a voice vote. Then it was moved to hold the meeting on Tuesday, but at 4 p.m.; that also failed.

· Only one contest took place on Town Meeting floor: that of agent to deed land, which went to a paper ballot when Rob Willis and Andy Coyne were both nominated for the post. Coyne was elected, 41–30.

• It was also noted at the meeting that the projected enrollment for Jamaica Village School next year is nine students and that 60% of local students attend schools elsewhere.

Marlboro

· Voters handled all business by Australian ballot this year and turned down an article to return to in-person town meetings in two votes of 286-110 and 272-122.

They did agree to change the term of constable from one year to two years.

• Voters approved a \$570,400 general operating budget and a \$1.05 million highway budget. They agreed to spend \$55,000 to help defray fire department operating expenses, \$50,000 for fire department capital improvements, \$21,905 to Rescue Inc. and \$5,000 to Deerfield Valley Rescue, \$5,000 for the community center, and \$15,868 to support 16 health care/ social service organizations. • Also approved was the \$3.846 million proposed operating budget — a 2% decrease to this year's budget — for the Marlboro School District for fiscal year 2025, in a vote of 318-69.

Voters will be asked to approve a proposed \$6,536 million appro-priation for combined general and highway expenses, \$436,780 for Rockingham Free Public Library operational expenses, and "an amount not to exceed \$125,000" for five years to pay the town's share of structural repairs to the Rockingham Meeting House.

They will also consider borrow-ing up to \$280,000 for five years to buy a new highway department grader; up to \$150,000 for the same time period to pay the town's share of Bellows Falls Train Station repair; up to \$125,000 to pay for Town Hall structural repair.

Voters will also consider spending \$67,019 to support 16 humanitarian and community organizations.

Whitingham

Voters here approved general fund operating expenses of \$766,326 and \$1.628 million for town roads on March 5. They also agreed to spend \$193,425 for fire department operations and \$94,180 to operate the library, and they appropriated \$50,000 to the highway garage renovation/replacement fund, \$125,000 to the highway department equipment fund, and \$60,000 for the fire department equipment fund.

• The Twin Valley Unified Union School District budget of \$10.847 million was approved by both Wilmington and Whitingham, 443-221.

Windham

• In an eight-hour Annual Town Meeting on March 9, voters decided to pursue school choice and reject the one-school (Windham Elementary School) Windham School District operating budget.

An article authorizing the School Board to offer elementary school education for students by paying tuition to other elementary schools passed 82–45, while the \$596,012 proposed budget to keep the school operating failed, 77–60.

Voters also rejected an article asking to petition the state to be included in a supervisory union other than Windham Central. The school was "temporarily" closed after the winter holidays, and 17 students have been bused to Townshend due to lack of staffing.

• A three-year term as school director went to Daniel Roth, who took the seat also sought by Nancy Tips in a paper-ballot vote • Approved were the proposed \$342,107 town budget, a \$537,286 road budget, \$180,703 for new road machinery, \$60,000 to repave roads and bridges, \$10,000 for a townwide reappraisal, \$8,535 to support 19 nonprofits, and \$10,000 each for the town garage, town office, and meeting house maintenance and improvement funds. • Voters agreed to change the constable's position from elected to appointed and to prohibit the constable from exercising any law enforcement authority. • They also agreed to adopt Australian balloting, but only for the election of town officers and for special elections, except in cases where a floor vote is mandated by state statute.



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• Voters agreed to change the Annual Meeting date to the Saturday immediately preceding the first Tuesday in March. Two articles asking to switch to

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The discussion will focus on roadblocks and new opportunities to address Windham County's housing needs and what's being done currently to make a difference.



Balint will be interviewed by award-winning reporter, Joyce Marcel.

The program will also be live streamed on both BCTV's Facebook Page and The Commond Facebook Page.

To register for the Zoom link visit the Voices page at commonsnews.org, or email amanda@commonsnews.org.

Rockingham

• Voters here on March 5 did not approve the proposed \$7.941 million Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS) operating budget in a vote of 430-412, but the budget did pass among other BFUHS district member towns. Rockingham voters did approve the River Valley Technical Center's \$3.279 million budget in a vote of 580-548.

 Annual Town Meeting will be held Monday, April 1 at the Opera House at 7 p.m., and on Tuesday, April 2 the polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, 61 Westminster St.



Vermont Independent Media invites you to join our **Discussion on Housing** with Rep. Becca Balint March 18 at 7pm

via Zoom





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

OWNSHEND—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 wellbeing 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.

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

But the Players have never had a true stage to work on — nor a different than being just a gym." space designed for performances. Townshend Town Clerk Ellenka

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



Legendary

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

Brattleboro

HE 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 Chiavassa 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 Chiavassa 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

leboro

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

EUGENE UMAN *is* 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

<image><image>

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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY

..... Community meals

GUILFORD The Guilford Cares Food Pantry: Shop from a grocery list of canned goods, packaged items, produce, dairy, meats and more. All are welcome. ▶ 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.

Sandri

ENERGY

Performing arts TOWNSHEND Leland &

FRIDAY

Gray Players Present "The Emperor's New Clothes!": This version of "The Emperor's New Clothes" was written by Brattleboro's own Rosa Palmeri 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

FRIDAY CONT.

tric," says Anni, an actor and costumer for the show. ▶ 3/15: 6 p.m., 3/16: 7 p.m. Show is under an hour in length.

► 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.

Music

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

PELLET SALE

acoustic instrumentals. Even some jazz! ▶ 7-9p.m.

- ► Free.
- ► River Garden Marketplace,
- 157 Main St. Information: rivergardenmarketplace.com.

SATURDAY



Performing arts

PUTNEY Soaring: An **Evening of Circus and Song:** Join soprano-aerialist Elizabeth Wohl, pianist Ivan Tan, guest artists for circus

SATURDAY CONT.

with original aerial choreography. Wohl's a professional classically-trained opera singer based in New England. She adds aerial acrobatics to wellloved arias to complement each arias inherent dramatic arc. She delights in developing innovative interpretations of beloved classical music. ▶ 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 Chorale, Windham Philharmonic. ► \$15. Advance ticketing closes two hours before showtime. ► Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: 802-387-0102: nextstagearts.org.

Music

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). ► 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.

The written word

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. ▶ 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..

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.

- ► 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.

MONDAY



Well-being

Rich Earth Institute and three farmer partners talk about completing Food Nutrient Cycle in Vermont (Zoom): Learn about recent findings from on-farm research with urine fertilizer on sweet corn/nut tree seedlings. Be part of the conversation. Dive into concept of urine nutrient reclamation, explore practicalities/safety concerns/ social research with farmers/ buyers/consumers. Rich Earth shares insights from 12 years of on-farm and lab research. Lively discussion, pose questions to research team/farmer partners, contribute to shaping forthcoming Farmer Guide to Urine Fertilizer.

- ▶ 11 a.m. 12 noon.
- ► Free.
- Soom. Information: Register: tinyurl.com/RichEarthWebinar.

TUESDAY



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Community meals

GUILFORD Sugar-on-Snow Supper: Menu features baked



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Well-being

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

▶ 5 - 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

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

Rock River Players announce offerings for 2024 season

nounce their slate of productions for 2024, which opened with its annual Valentine's Cabaret.

From May 30 to June 2, the Players will present another Evening of One-Acts, produced by RRP's co-Artistic Director Amy Donahue and featuring predominantly new works, most by area writers.

RRP's John Moran produces an evening of dramatic narrative poetry readings from July 12 through 14, sharing our human condition as we live, love, and die.

From Aug. 9 to 18, RRP presents Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling, based on his experience with his sister's death. The play is a comedy-drama about the bond among a group

WILLIAMSVILLE—The of six women honed through Rock River Players (RRP) an- joy and tragedy. RRP's Cris Parker-Jennings directs.

Moran directs Antigone, to run Friday through Sunday, Sept. 13 to 15, at the Players' home, the Williamsville Hall; and Friday, Sept. 20, and Saturday, Sept. 21, at Brattleboro's Hooker-Dunham Theatre. A tragedy about gender, intergenerational, and authoritarian conflict, the play is as meaningful today as it was when Sophocles wrote it some 2,500 years ago.

Peter Broussard and company will produce a Night of Improv from Friday through Sunday, Oct.11 — 13. Broussard says patrons will "see a show that has never been done before and will never be done again." This show "will be improvised on the spot and include a few different improv forms and approaches.'

Jon Mack directs The Maids to run Friday through Sunday, Nov. 1 - 3, in Williamsville; and Friday, Nov. 8, and Sunday, Nov. 9, at the Hooker-Dunham. In this drama by Jean Genet, sisters Solange and Claire are housemaids. When their mistress (Madame) is away, they take turns role-playing her while the other plays her maid. Feeling abused by Madame and desperate, the sisters attempt extreme actions to escape their subjugation.

The RRP will also host monthly improv jams, as well as occasional craft development workshops.

For more information regarding programs, auditions, and how to become involved on stage or off, contact info@ rockriverplayers.org.

Artists Town Meeting will take place at MSA

Artists Town Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 24, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, at Main Street Arts in Saxtons River. Artists, artisans, local food growers, and the general public are encouraged to participate.

The focus of these meetings is to bring creatives together in or-der to share ideas, challenges, and opportunities.

The more we know each other and can identify ourselves as a constituency the more strength and credibility we gain," Robert McBride, director of Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP), said in a news release.

"There is an ever-growing community of working artists

SAXTONS RIVER—The next and local growers in our midst, all of whom are contributing to the cultural and economic vitality of our communities." One of RAMP's many roles, he says, is to be an advocate for these artists. "In order to be effective in that role, RAMP creates and participates in opportunities to hear from local artists and assist them in making community connections that benefit us all.

This is the first time the Artists Town Meeting will be held at MSA.

"This gathering aligns with our new mission statement to strengthen personal and community well-being through diverse arts experiences and social connection," said Ashley Storrow, director of programs at MSA.

For accessibility questions, call Main Street Arts in advance at 802-869-2960.

RAMP and MSA thank The Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts for helping to make these meetings possible. Interested participants are asked to RSVP by emailing ramp@sover.net with "Artists Town Meeting RSVP" in the subject line.

CSAG's Spring Salon opens on March 15

BELLOWS FALLS—Canal Street Art Gallery, 23 Canal St., presents their Spring Salon 3rd Edition, opening Friday, March 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. as part of 3rd Friday Gallery Night and running through June 1. It is an exhibition hung in the floor-to-ceiling salon style, this year showing artwork from 38 local artists.

The gallery also welcomes back Trish Baggott to the Working Artist Program through April 6. This program is an artist's studio and exhibition space within the gallery, and is open during the gallery's regular hours, Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Additionally, the New Work show is open through April 13 and exhibits one new artwork from a selection of the gallery's roster of 35 represented artists.

The Spring Salon 3rd Edition presents artworks of Jennifer Anderson, Penelope Arms, Carol Aspesi, Debi S. Barton, Simi Berman, Tafi Brown, Len Emery, Jacqueline Evans, Mindy Fisher, Nancy Fitz-Rapalje, Judi Forman, Kim Grall, Judy Hawkins, Sharon Ormes Hinds, Ailyn Hoey, Deedee Jones, Theresa Karpinski, Carol Keiser, Sara LaMott, Su Lin Mangan, Dierdra Michelle, Gail Mickle, Martha Nichols, MC Noyes, Phyllis Odessey, Phyllis Rosser, Roxy Rubell, Melissa Rubin, Gretchen Seifert, Marianne Shaugnessy, Mitch Sidd, Megan

Song, Jeanette Staley, Della working gallery artist at Canal Thompson, John van der Does, John Terry Woods, Kathleen Zimmerman, and Teresa Zuverino.

Baggott, based in both Hull, Massachusetts, and Ludlow, Vermont, has been an exhibiting artist since 2006, and began working with collage as her primary medium in 2021. Baggott was part of the Collage Artist Residency: Scotland in Sanquhar, Scotland, in September 2022. Her work from that residency was published by Kolaj Institute in Folklore of the Upper Nithsdale in 2023 and shown in Sanguhar and at the Knoxville Museum of Art in Tennessee.

In March 2023, she was the

Street Art Gallery and returned for a second stint this month. In January 2024, Baggott was a resident artist in New Orleans through Kolaj Institute, where selected artists were invited to explore joy as a subject and consider how to bring joy into one's practice. She is currently focused on private commissions and continuing series.

For wheelchair accessibility and more information, call 802-289-0104. To learn more about doings at Canal Street Art Gallery, go to canalstreetartgallery. com, or email artinfo@ canalstreetartgallery.com.

All gallery events are free.

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Brattleboro Police host rabies clinic

BRATTLEBORO — The Brattleboro Police Department's Animal Control Officer will host a rabies clinic on Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Brattleboro Police Station, 62 Black Mountain Rd.

Registration is not required for this event. This event is open for Brattleboro residents and non-Brattleboro residents. The rabies clinic is for cats and dogs. The rabies vaccines cost \$15 per

meet the pre-purchase require- are now open. Market organizers ment for most lenders.

AROUND THE TOWNS

All courses are on a Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Classes are held in person and via Zoom. The next class is scheduled for March 16. View WWHT's full calendar of monthly education workshops and register at homemattershere.org/ how-to-buy-a-home.

St. Patrick's Brunch and Broadway at **Ciao Popolo**

say they are "excited to welcome a diverse group of artisans, farmers, and food producers to our vibrant market this year."

The market will be open on Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., from May 24 through Oct. 11, at the West Townshend Country Store on Route 30.

Applications can be found on the West River Community Project website at westtownshend.org/farmersmarket, and are due April 1. For more information, Contact

or email Joann Erenhouse at jerenhouse@seniorsolutionsvt. org

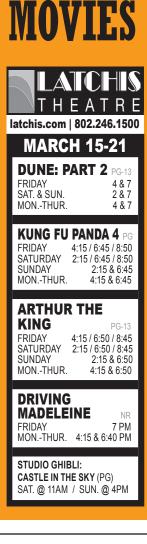
RFPL receives grant for 'seed to spoon'

BELLOWS FALLS -The Rockingham Free Public Library has received a \$15,000 Sustainable & Resilient New England Libraries Grant from the Association for Rural and Small Libraries which will support "From Seed to Spoon: Cultivating Community.'

NOW

at the

B3





animal and will be a cash-only service. The rabies vaccine will be the only vaccine available during this clinic.

Sugar-on-Snow **Supper in Guilford**

GUILFORD — The annual Sugar-on-Snow Supper at Guilford Community Church will be held on Saturday, March 16. Seatings are at 4, 5:30, and 7 p.m. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$7 children for age 11 and under, and \$3 for preschoolers.

The menu features baked ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, potato salad, coleslaw, freshly made baked rolls and doughnuts, maple sugar-on-snow, dill pickles, and coffee, iced tea, or milk. A half-gallon of maple syrup will be raffled off during each seating. The money raised helps underwrite the many local charities the church supports with its outreach.

For reservations or more information, call 802-254-9562 or email guilfordchurchsupper@ gmail.com. From Exit 1 of Interstate 91 in Brattleboro, go south on Route 5 until just past Guilford Country Store, but before the bridge, then make a left on Bee Barn Road, then left again to 38 Church Drive. Visit guilfordchurch.org for more information.

WWHT hosts Home **Buyer Education** Workshop

BRATTLEBORO — Get a smart start to home ownership by attending one of Windham & Windsor Housing Trust's (WWHT) Home Buyer Education Workshops.

The cost of the class is \$99 per household and includes a one-on-one financial counseling session after completing the course. Their Home Ownership Specialists will analyze credit ratings and budgets and guide attendees through the process of buying a home. The fee is waived for current WWHT residents who are up to date on rental payments.

Participants will learn about grants and other downpayment assistance as well as which mortgage is right for you. Attendance at this workshop plus a meeting with a homeownership specialist

BELLOWS FALLS Celebrate community on St. Patrick's Day with an Oh-So-Gay Brunch organized by Bellows Falls Pride and held in the Lounge at Ciao Popolo in downtown Bellows Falls on Sunday, March 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Broadway tunes interspersed with Irish classics take center stage while you enjoy brunch offerings from the Ciao Popolo menu. Zack Danziger on piano and guitar will be accompanied by singer Robin Lloyd, and the audience will be invited to join in the festivities. Dress to impress and win a prize. There is no admission charge for the musical entertainment.

Special meal offerings will include classic corned beef and cabbage, eggs benedict with corned beef, and a variety of libations suitable for the occasion. To reserve a table in the lounge, email ciaopopolovt@gmail.com. For information, visit **bellowsfallspride**. com.

Recent findings from Rich Earth Institute's on-farm research presented

BRATTLEBORO — Join the Rich Earth Institute and three of its farmer partners on Monday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to noon for a webinar presenting recent findings from on-farm research with urine fertilizer on sweet corn and nut tree seedlings.

Participants will dive into the concept of urine nutrient reclamation, exploring practicalities, safety concerns, and social research with farmers, buyers, and consumers.

Rich Earth will also share insights from twelve years of prior on-farm and lab research. Participants can engage in a lively discussion, pose questions to the research team and farmer-partners, and contribute to shaping the forthcoming "Farmer Guide to Urine Fertilizer." Register for free via Zoom at tinyurl.com/ RichEarthWebinar.

Townshend Farmers' Market seeks vendors

TOWNSHEND Applications for the 2024 Townshend Farmers' Market

townshendfarmersmarket@gmail. com.

Senior Solutions to host 'Memory Cafés'

SPRINGFIELD — Memory Cafés are welcoming places for caregivers and their loved ones with dementia or other cognitive disorders to come and enjoy support, learn about resources, and make connections. Senior Solutions sponsors these Memory Cafés, which are nonjudgmental places where caregivers socialize, share stories, and learn about resources.

Senior Solutions staff and volunteers will engage with your loved one while you meet with other caregivers. Come with your loved one who has dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's. Music and refreshments provided. Free for everyone.

Upcoming Memory Cafés will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the following dates and places:

Ludlow: March 14, 48 Pleasant St. Every second Thursday of each month.

• Brattleboro: March 25, at American Legion Post 5 on Linden Street. Every fourth Monday of each month.

• Wilmington: March 21, in The Old Firehouse on Beaver Street. Every third Thursday of each month.

• Chester: April 4, in Willard Hall, at the rear of St. Luke's Episcopal Church on the Village Green. Every first Thursday of the month.

For more information, go to seniorsolutionsvt.org/services/ caregiver-support/memory-cafes,

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ads@commonsnews.org.

According to a news release, the grant will be used "to help build a sustainable food network in the Rockingham area to encourage the community to grow, locally source, and cook with the seasons." With this project, the RFPL "will help restore, renew, and enhance our natural resources and agricultural food ways; create greater equity for all people and communities; and, being a public library, promote lifelong learning habits and skills."

Upcoming projects around the grant include developing a seed library and a gardening tool lending library, two indoor gardens and programming to teach and encourage people of all ages and abilities to grow their own food, a year of programs to connect people to local food, seasonal cooking, composting, beekeeping, and more; and a small kitchen classroom in the RFPL for cooking demonstrations.

'The library is thrilled to receive this grant so we may support a sustainable food network for all ages in our community while also developing more sustainable practices and skills for the future," said Reference and Historical Collection Librarian Pamela Johnson-Spurlock.

The library has begun making connections throughout the community and welcomes any gardener, cook, or other food or food-related producer who has an interest in this program to reach out to the RFPL by email at reference@rockinghamlibrary.org, calling 802-463-4270, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St.

It's MAPLE SEASON

Maple Dinner Saturday, March 30

Evening Star Grange 1008 E. West Road **Dummerston Center, VT**

Menu: Homemade Baked Beans, Baked Ham, Homemade Potato Salad, & Cole Slaw. Vermont Maple Pudding Cake for dessert! Seatings: 4:30pm & 6:00 pm. \$12 per person. RESERVATIONS ONLY: 802-254-1138. No take-out. Please help support your local Grange Hall

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THE ARTS

THE COMMONS • Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Leland & Gray Players

Connie Holt "have been amazing, so welcoming and accommodating," Hamm adds.

Hamm has a few specific dreams as to how the Players could thrive at the Town Hall.

"This is our test float," though. "Everyone's so stoked about it. The kids have been very respectful of the space and know they're lucky to be in it."

Timeless satire

The heroes of *The Emperor's New Clothes*, Hamm explains, "are two quick-witted, but very poor, tailors who try their best to follow the rules, but life keeps kicking them in the butt. So they turn to swindling the rich as their backup."

Soon, the greatest swindle of all is rendered on the most powerful emperor, and it takes an innocent child to blow the cover.

The stage version of the timeless satire, adapted by Brattleboro's Rosa Palmieri, features an eclectic cast of 13 from the tradition of commedia dell'arte, which flourished first in Italy and then throughout Europe from the 16th to 18th centuries.

The foundation on which much of modern comedy has developed, commedia was performed outside, in public halls and marketplaces, and in courts of the time employing stereotyped characters from various walks of life who follow a scenario, more than a script, improvising along the way.

The Players' production, Hamm says, staged with the help of a crew of three, "is very stylized, very commedia in terms of the largeness and the satirical fashion of it."

The setting, he says, is "French-y Renaissance but not in any specific country."

The spirit evoked is of "a commedia troupe, patched and tattered, strolling town to town to perform, talking usually about the social dynamics and the politics of the time, making fun of the rich along the way — it's still very relatable now."

Performances will take place this Friday and Saturday at the Townshend Town Hall. Following this opening, the Players will enter the one-act in the Vermont Drama Council's Regional One Act Festival, where it will compete against performances from North Country Union High School in Newport, Rutland High School, Windsor High School, FROM SECTION FRONT

and Thetford Academy. Reflecting on what he hopes the Players will gain from the experience of participating in the festival Hamm says, "for me winning or losing: I don't care."

"It's really important and really inspiring for the kids to see other young performers," he says. "I don't care about progressing to the all-state festival: that's not important to me, but [giving the Players a chance] to really be immersed in the theater arts that's what's important."

Hamm adds that, "if nothing else, this is a great exercise in satire."

"Commedia offers a rich platform for play and a license to be big — and satirical, which kids do well," he says. "The work of memes today — that's just a modern adaptation of old-time commedia."

Full circle

A once-vibrant theater program lay dormant for years until the founding of the L&G Players in 1996.

While earlier productions had been mounted in the school's main gym, the Players' 1997 inaugural production, Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman's *Stage Door*, was offered in the Townshend Town Hall. Hopes were high then for finding a home for the Players there.

For a number of reasons, primarily the reluctance of the Selectboard of the time, a permanent home in the Town Hall didn't work out.

Efforts ensued to finally give Leland & Gray a home for its student actors, stage designers/ makers, and growing number of theater "techies."

The proposal for such a designated space that would have served all performing arts at the school was rejected by voters in 2002.

The next year, plans started taking shape to renovate the school's 1929 Dutton Gymnasium, just south of the school's main building, into a space that would accommodate basketball overflow, school gatherings, and some public use, as well as the theater arts. In 2009, the renovated gym debuted as a performing arts space with a production of Kaufman and Hart's Once in a Lifetime.

Per consultation with New England Youth Theatre cofounder Jerry Stockman — the





The Townshend Town Hall from the stage.

area's go-to professional for technical theater needs — the new space included room-darkening shades, stage curtains, accordion bleachers, a light loft, and a pipe grid to hold lighting instruments.

An addition at the rear of the building offered backstage space for rehearsals and a green room during performances. The downstairs of that addition served as a scene shop for both summer youth theater programs and L&G productions.

A trapdoor in the addition allowed completed scenery to be passed up from the scene shop and carried into the gym, which was outfitted show by show with risers and drapes to create a stage, but that door proved to be a major hazard and was rendered unusable.

By 2017, the backstage area had been loaded with costumes which had had to be moved from the gym basement for building safety reasons.

Over time, Dutton Gymnasium has become "overbooked," Hamm says. The scene shop has recently been taken over by a bicycle repair program.

If the current production goes well at the Town Hall, Hamm hopes that this spring the Players can use the space for their final show of the year: the Players' annual cabaret, *Hats Off!*

"As L&G does so much for kids [that demands time and space], I'd rather put my energy toward [nurturing a relationship with Townshend and] the Town Hall than fight to maintain a tiny foothold in Dutton," Hamm says. Hamm hopes for "continued collaboration between the Town Hall and the L&G Players and what that relationship could

shows and dance recitals, weddings, birthday celebrations, memorial services," Wilson says. "It's wonderful to hear footsteps above my office and to have joy and excitement in the building."

Stern to perform

To date, Stern has released more than 20 albums as a leader, six of which have been nominated for Grammy awards, and has appeared as a sideman or co-leader on an estimated 500 recordings.

A friend of Attila Zoller, the founder of the Vermont Jazz Center, who died in 1998, Stern appeared on a 2015 tribute album dedicated to Zoller, *Memories of Attila*, and contributed to the liner notes of Zoller's final record.

Along with his six Grammy

Jack Wright brings improvisational brilliance to 118 Elliot

BRATTLEBORO—118 of Wright's book, The Free

DORAN HAMM/COURTESY PHOTO

admission donation is \$10 (\$5 for kids and seniors). The show will be less than an hour long, and a question-and-answer time with the company will follow. For more information, visit bit. ly/756-lgplayers.

FROM SECTION FRONT

In the 1970s, she moved from Munich, Germany, to Boston to study composition at Berklee, where she met Mike. They fell in love, and they were married in 1980. Their partnership has been a musically fruitful one, inspiring for both.

"Of all the things I've learned from Mike," Leni says on her website, "the most important was how to integrate rock and blues with jazz in that soulful American style — as well as how to adapt the guitar to playing horn-like improvisation."

Mike's style has also been influenced by Leni's deep connection to Africa and African music. She has traveled and studied extensively in Mali and Senegal, spending months at a time touring and performing with artists such as the celebrated singer-songwriter Salif

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25 Elliot Street Brattleboro, VT 802.254.8160 ORDER BOOKS ONLINE OR BY EMAIL WWW.EVERYONESBKS.COM INFO@EVERYONESBKS.COM yield." Wilson echoes Hamm's enthusiasm and says that "old buildings come to life when people are able

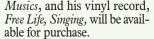
to enjoy them." "I'm very excited that Leland & Gray is able to use Townshend Town Hall: It is a beautiful space and very underutilized," she said.

"Having grown up in Townshend, I recall the elementary school used Town Hall for performances; there were variety Elliot presents Zounds!, a special performance by master saxophonist Jack Wright on Monday, March 18, at 8 p.m.

Zounds! is a collaboration of Wright, of Easton and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on alto and soprano saxophones, and Patrick Crossland, of Baltimore, Maryland, on trombone, performing improvised solos followed by a duet.

Crossland has had a long career as professional musician performing mainly new classical compositions and is now teaching at the University of Maryland.

Wright has been playing free music the past 45 years, evolving in his playing through his choice of partners. Copies



The Emperor's New Clothes

plays the Townshend Town Hall on

Friday, March 15 at 6 p.m. and

Saturday, March 16 at 7 p.m., as

well as at the Regional One Act

Festival at Thetford Academy on

Saturday, March 23. Suggested

nominations, Stern received

zine in 2012; he appeared on

a Certified Legend award

from Guitar Player maga-

DownBeat magazine's list

of "75 Great Ğuitarists" in

2009; and in 2007 he received

the Miles Davis Award at the

Montréal.

Festival International de Jazz de

LENI STERN has released 22 re-

cordings as a leader, and Guitar

Player magazine named her one

Female Guitarists of All Time."

of the "50 Most Sensational

118 Elliot is a collaborative gallery and environment for the creative arts and education. Programming includes film showings, gallery exhibitions, musical performances, and conferences, as well as physical culture classes. It is home to the Brattleboro Words Project (supported by the

cal culture classes. It is home to the Brattleboro Words Project (supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities) and is exhibiting the Brattleboro Words Trail landscape murals and community audio stories, which will be a permanent exhibit at the new Brattleboro Amtrak station when it opens in late 2024.

916 West River Rd,

Brattleboro, VT

802-254-2232

Keita.

Leni told the interviewer from Berklee that she initially decided to travel to Africa because she had heard that was where the concept of swing music originated. Since then she has visited the continent numerous times, and the music she encountered there has influenced her playing style. She also learned to play n'goni, a "rhythm harp" of West Africa.

"I've always been drawn to the sound of the n'goni, as well as to the kora, a similarly harplike West African instrument," she said. "I love the warm, plucking quality of their untempered sound, and the gently driving rhythm that they provide."

Leni Stern's music has taken her all over the world. She was selected as a U.S. Cultural Ambassador on a 2014 tour of Nicaragua, and artist-in-residence at Nepal's Jazzmandu in 2015. She has released 22 recordings as a leader and played alongside many greats.

COME LISTEN TO Mike Stern, check out his legendary sound, and be amazed by his technical ability, his heart, and his connection to the blues.

Stern's sound has evolved into an often-copied aesthetic that serves as an important reference for geeky guitarists who have followed in his footsteps. But nobody can truly copy Mike Stern — he is the original, a consummate musician who illuminates jazz fusion with dynamics, energy and brilliance.

In-person tickets are offered on a sliding fee scale from \$25 to \$60 per person at **vtjazz.org**.

Tickets, including for educational groups at a discount, are also available by contacting Elsa Borrero (**elsavjc@gmail.com**, or 802-254-9088, ext. 1). Also contact her to arrange support for audience members who need mobility assistance.

The online streaming of this concert will be offered free, but donations are welcome at **vtjazz**. **org**. There will be no Facebook Live access to this concert; the livestream will occur simultaneously with the show, and it will not remain on the VJC website.

WINDHAM COUNT HUMANE SOCIETY wchs4pets.org WILL YOU ADOPT ME?

Make a friend

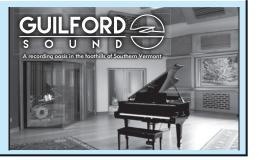
for life.



WINDHAM COUNTY

Hi, I'm **Winnie**. I can be a bit shy at first, but in a nice quiet home I will warm up quickly. I can live with other cats if introduced properly. I could live with respectful dogs. Younger kids would be too much for me, so if there are any in the home they should be older and mellow. If I sound like the best fit for you, come meet me today!

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





Wednesday, March 13, 2024

EDITOR'S NOTE Slow views

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

s 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

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

In the recent WSESD candi-dates' 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 empow-

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

hy are refugees and peo-ple 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 af-

RESPONSE



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 EOPLE 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.)

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 allowed to remain. Road repair 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 shopdoes 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 im-

than a year, and unnecessary labor, pursuing cruel and unnecessary legal action against the people at Brattleboro Common Sense, a small nonprofit, 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.

IEFF POTTER/COMMONS FILE PHOTO

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

pact so many people who have I TOURED Kurt Daims's prop-

ered, 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.

ford 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 People who have lived here

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 garagē roof

t is my understanding that there have been four completed suicides from the Transportation Center roof in a ping 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). Drugridden apartment houses are

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,

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

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 moneymaking 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.

erty — 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

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



Here's a great option for your investment or as an owner occupant! This 4 unit multi-family has a convenient country location within an easy drive to Mount Snow and Stratton as well as lots of character and history. Three units are rented and the fourth unit is a canvas for a buyer to finish to their taste. There's also generally unfinished space on the

third floor for storage or potential other uses. There's a carport out front and a garage that could be utilized with some attention. There is a lot of potential here just waiting for the next owner!

EXCLUSIVE: \$185,000



Letters

do in her Viewpoint — and that is to pull funding and shut down businesses that don't agree with her viewpoint because they support her apparent nemesis.

Abrahamsen writes her piece on emotions and not facts. Reading her piece, I see more violence-inciting words than those accused of Trump for Jan. 6, when he told the crowd to march peacefully. He sent out a tweet telling the crowd to go home — that they needed to be peaceful and to respect the laws.

I believe everyone has a right to speak out on their views on the issues, whether we agree or not. However, when they project downright falsehoods, then I must assert my right to freedom of speech and expose the lies.

I'm praying for a better America, so that my children and grandchildren can experience the freedoms I have enjoyed while growing up. I may be casting myself to the wolves here, but so be it. I'm confident in the fact that I have the truth on my side.

Lyle Howe Guilford

Daims faces the consequences of his actions

E: "Compared to homelessness, an RV was a godsend" [Viewpoint, Feb. 14]:

While I applaud Spoon Agave's passion and appropriate highlighting of several important issues we must address, his choice to praise Kurt Daims as an exemplar, while well-intended, is misguided.

Communities are formed based on a set of expectations and constructs. Among those are respect for your neighbors, respect for the rules and regulations that govern the community, and respect for the behavioral tenets that define community membership. These unwritten guidelines keep communities functional and dynamic.

Mr. Daims's abject disregard for adhering to health and zoning regulations, his continued unwillingness to comply with multiple town ordinances and laws, and his increasingly aggressive behavior toward his neighbors have compromised the health and safety of those in proximity to his property and have engendered several legal disputes between him and the town of Brattleboro.

Mr. Daims openly admitted in a Development Review Board hearing that he reached out to Brattleboro officials and was informed what he needed to do to have additional dwellings (RVs) on his property. Rather than continue in a manner compliant with existing policy, Mr. Daims chose to proceed as a rogue operator, ignoring the protocols the town had stipulated. Unfortunately, he is now facing the consequences of his actions Mr. Agave's article speaks

of the humanity involved in the placement of RVs on Mr. Daims's property. It is important to note that the RVs came under public scrutiny due to their defiance of public health and safety codes and because of Mr. Daims's refusal to operate within those regulations. This noncompliance with legal and humanitarian regulations completely supersedes the discussion of ethics regarding long-term solutions to the housing crisis.

Homelessness is a local, regional, and national issue that we all must acknowledge and work to rectify. The town of Brattleboro is actively working to address this very challenge through making conscientious strides in providing resources and building appropriate housing.

In contrast, Mr. Daims chose to not only ignore, but work in opposition to, these efforts by creating unregulated and unsafe spaces. His efforts also compromise the constructs that define the community where we reside.

As Brattleboro residents, we have an obligation to address these critical issues, but in a legal, respectful, and safe manner. **Tom Oxholm**

Brattleboro

Support group offers hope to families touched by addiction

Someone you know may be an addict; in fact, you may love an addict yourself.

Addiction to illegal substances — yes, drugs — destroys families. Using is personal to each individual, who often believes their actions affect only themselves; not surprising, because addiction to drugs is often described as an egocentric disease.

As the user destroys their life, those people around them are drawn into the insanity. Thus, they become "sick," too. That's why substance use disorder is often referred to as the "family disease."

In 1998, when addiction crossed over my threshold and entered into my family, I had no clue. I expected it to be a minor inconvenience interrupting our lives. I was sadly mistaken.

After several years of feeling broken and exhausted, someone referred me to a support group for myself called Nar-Anon Family Group. When I discovered that not one chapter existed within a 50-mile radius of Brattleboro, I learned more about bringing one to our comFROM SECTION FRONT

in making a difference by helping others who find themselves ready to take the plunge into recovery.

But today, I want to focus on *hope* for family and friends who need just as much support as the people they love who are suffering from the disease of addiction.

The basic purpose of support groups is to provide mutual aid and emotional support to those who share the same predicament. Facilitators, based upon their personal experiences, guide and offer perspective that lends itself to look at a whole picture. It takes practice to not address the many parts of a sum-total problem but to take each segment, then figure out the best way to address the situation. This is sour "one day at a time" thinking.

If you feel damaged and are suffering behind closed doors, not knowing where to turn, all as the result of a loved one with the disease of addiction, please consider attending our support group, and then make a commitment to attend at least six meetings and draw from the experience of those of us who can offer education, support, and hope (and — most importantly — a listening ear).

And although nothing can cure addiction — simply stated — you can develop tools for survival from this insidious disease. Our weekly Nar-Anon

Family Group meeting is open to all every Monday at 7 p.m., St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 16 Bradley Ave., Brattleboro.

Additional information can be found at **nar-anon.org** or by contacting me at 802-345-4145 or **sueavery1@comcast.net**. Susan Avery

Brattleboro

Subtle, yet powerful, omission diminishes a woman athlete

E: "Slovenes sweep Harris Hill events" [News, Feb. 21]:

I noticed some text in this article that I, as a woman, found annoying at best and at worst, disturbing, considering the emphasis on the history of women being excluded from these events.

To include pertinent details for one athlete while omitting them for another is a subtle, yet powerful, way to imply that one athlete's achievement holds a higher value than another.

My case in point is in the second paragraph: "The winner in

Good deed

been covered by snow is released unto the air and nostrils of all who come upon it.

During my visit, I was relieved to find that it was one of the least smelly yards I ever encountered. I did not smell a single bad odor.

Were there trash cans? Why, yes! Are there a *lot* of very trashy, hazardous properties in Brattleboro? Yes. Is BCS one of them? Seems low on the list compared to many others.

I went inside one of the RVs where the former resident even had a dog living there. The only smell I noticed was of disinfectant.

I smell more dog, cat, and human poop smells in neighborhoods of homeowners, walking anywhere in Brattleboro, where it often litters the sidewalks, than I did at Brattleboro Common Sense.

There was exactly zero odor of human excrement at BCS.

contact C. William Mattoon, commander, Green Mountain Submarine Veterans, Inc., at cmattoon@vermontel.net. C. William Mattoon Springfield

Everything about decommissioning Fukushima reactors is experimental

Thirteen years ago, no one knew how to remove radiation from water. Then the Great Tōhuko Earthquake occurred, and the Fukushima nuclear electric power station was flooded with water by the tsunamis of 2011. It is still flooded with water in an attempt to cool the reactors.

Literally every step of the decommissioning of the Fukushima reactors is experimental. It has never been tried before. Maybe it will work. Now, after 13 years of collecting the water that runs over and through the reactors to cool them, the storage of the tainted water that saturated the site is leading to the release of the supposedly treated water into the Pacific against the will of the South Korean and Chinese governments. Currently, Japan is involved with the fourth release of water to the Pacific.

Nothing like Fukushima had ever happened previously. Never before has more than one reactor had a meltdown, melting the fuel into massive "elephant's feet" of melted corium.

The best technological minds were no match for the destruc-

You can't fake that. Odors like million ing even

I have been thinking of volunteering some garden time, maybe offering to plant some shrubs between that house and the neighbor's to allow BCS some better privacy from the peering eyes of those who persecute people who attempt to help some of the most vulnerable human beings in this town.

KURT DAIMS was once described to me as a gadfly, in the kindest sense. He may have been irritating the town of Brattleboro for decades, both beginning and supporting campaigns to further democratic ideals and increase social justice for the benefit of everyone.

But that does not make it proper or right for the town to try to take Daims's house away, to the tune of \$4

to win the presidency. I recently saw a wonderful film, *Rustin*, about the 1963 March on Washington organized by Bayard Rustin. I couldn't help thinking, *If only* someone would organize a march on Washington to protest our government's role in the catastrophe that is the Israel-Gaza war.

While the attack that brought about this war on Oct. 7 was unspeakably horrible, Israel's reaction, which is decimating a whole population, a whole people, cannot be justified by that attack or anything else.

If anyone doubts the genocidal intent of Israel, this last phase of the war would seem to confirm it: Israel's government has forced Palestinians into a corner. And with more than 1 million people huddled into this area of the southern Gaza strip, the Israeli government has announced its intent to concentrate its next military action there.

Under the guise of humanitarian consideration, they've ordered the people taking refuge there to leave, using a "military plan." Yet there is no plan, and military bombardment has already started.

Essentially, families taking refuge cannot go beyond this small area in southern Gaza without permission from another government, one that has repeatedly stated the Palestinian "problem" is not theirs to solve and that will cause global repercussions and possibly greatly expand the war. The people are sitting ducks.

Netanyahu's government

FROM SECTION FRONT

million, and therefore displacing even more people.

I hope that the town drops this cruel lawsuit, and finds a more reasonable way to cover some of the increased budgetary line items that they have recently incurred than to take someone's land and home for the crime of helping to shelter people who had none. Should Brattleboro succeed in this endeavor, it would set a terrible legal precedent for all other homeowners.

You can find more information about BCS, its accomplishments, and its work at

brattleborocommonsense.org.

To readers: Please consider speaking directly with Selectboard members, others in town government, and anyone in the Vermont Legislature to help put an end to this persecution.

To the town: Please, don't punish this good deed.

report disputed the credibility of claims by Israel (which the United States and other democracies confirm as facts) while repeating as gospel unverified Hamas accounts. A double-standard?

In his letter, Thomas Kim Hill invoked South Africa's peaceful transfer of power as assurance that Israeli Jews need not fear a Palestinian takeover.

Sorry, Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar is no Nelson Mandela, any more than Benjamin Netanyahu is the incarnation of F. W. de Klerk. An infeasible fantasy may look good in an opinion piece, but any intelligent person would be insane to stake their life on a kinder, gentler Hamas.

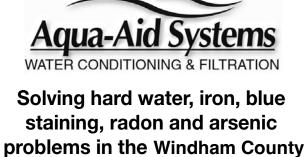
Finally, Hill claims that "No Truth, No Justice, No Peace [...] is taken from the Jewish Torah." I wanted to see the context, particularly because that chant at demonstrations sounds like a threat of violence if we do not get our demands. So it was important to see what the Torah actually says. Unfortunately, Hill invoked scripture without giving the reference to the book, chapter, and verse, which would have taken, at most, 17 characters.

Regardless of real-world human shortcomings, Jewish law, teachings, and rabbinical commentary recognize that even when deadly force becomes necessary, it is terrible to take a life. It is nothing to celebrate — an indecent violation.

I very much doubt that Hill actually studied the Torah. More likely he was reciting a debating point, which he had come by secondhand. Steven K-Brooks Brattleboro

munity. We have one that has actually been in existence for over 20 years now.

For the addict, *hope* is on the horizon. More services are becoming available and, while stigma still exists, I believe people in our community are becoming educated, more knowledgeable, and interested



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the Men's Open class was Uhr Rosar of Slovenia, with a jump of 98 meters. On the women's side, the Open class was won by

Nejka Zupančič of Slovenia." Why do we know how far Mr. Rosar jumped but not Ms. Zupančič?! If you did not have access to her metrics, then the appropriate thing to do would

be to state so in the article. It is a glaring omission that does a profound injustice to not only Ms. Zupančič, but the entire sport of women's jumping. The important role acknowledgement plays as a factor in authentication, relevance, and recognition cannot be overstated.

Jane Kolias Putney

Veterans will gather to commemorate centennial of Vermonter's Medal of Honor

A tribute to Torpedoman Henry Breault is planned for Friday, March 15 at 9:30 a.m. (0930) to honor the 100th anniversary of this Vermont resident receiving the Medal of Honor.

Rep. Michael Morgan of Grand Isle-Chittenden District is initiating a Legislative resolution to honor Breault, the first submariner and only enlisted submariner to receive the Medal of Honor.

The date was chosen because the Vermont Legislature was in recess on March 8, the actual date in 1924 when the Medal of Honor was presented to Breault by President Calvin Coolidge.

All veterans — especially Navy veterans, to show their support of one of their own — are encouraged to attend the resolution reading at the Vermont State Capitol building in the House of Representatives chamber.

A group of active-duty submariners from the Naval Submarine Base, Groton, Connecticut, and the Vermont Submarine Veterans Green Mountain Base members of the United States Submarine Veterans are planning on attending this memorable event. For additional information, tive tsunami of 2011. The Fukushima earthquake and tsunami created three meltthroughs of the six reactors on site.

Since 2011, underground water has flowed through the damaged reactor site. Japan tried to build a frozen ice wall to contain the underground escaping water. The wall failed repeatedly.

The reason nuclear power is so dangerous is that the force of splitting atoms creates unstable atoms that attach to healthier atoms, causing cancer.

The great hope of nuclear power has failed. It could have been great if it didn't poison downwinders.

We all live downwind.

The above-ground testing of nuclear weapons released radionuclides. The "partial meltdown" of Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania in 1979, and the complete meltdown of Chernobyl in 1986 sent free radicals into the air, destroying many peoples' thyroids.

I like to think of an old advertisement. Like Madge of Palmolive Liquid Dish Soap fame, I believe we are all now "soaking in it."

Gary Sachs Brattleboro

Will someone organize a huge march to protest this slaughter that is happening in front of our eyes?

n 2002, my partner, Marty, and I took a bus to Washington, D.C. to protest the looming war in Iraq. There was a huge turnout. But on the bus heading home we were all aches. A wake-up call — we are no longer young and able to do what needs doing.

"The young have to step up!" we felt like shouting. Maybe we did! At the time and for many years after, there seemed scant chance of that happening.

But now they — you, if you're young or youngish have stepped up! The politicians wring their hands but seem incapable of actually *doing anything*, or taking the youth demographic seriously. Even, as it appears, if it means less chance of gaining enough votes has made no secret of its desire to have all of Israel's territory, including Gaza and the West Bank, to itself. *The New York Times* has reported that, in settler meetings, its been said that the way to get rid of Palestinians in Gaza (and perhaps, next, the West Bank) is not to force them out but to make it appear that they are voluntarily leaving. The choice between death and leaving is hardly voluntary!

Since seeing *Rustin*, I have wished fervently for someone to show up, someone who is willing to organize a huge march to protest this slaughter that is happening in front of our eyes — specifically, to protest our government sending money and arms to this effort.

It seems that is the only thing that might wake up this administration and save it from dooming itself, along with the Palestinians of Gaza.

Arlene Distler Brattleboro

Jewish Voices for Peace parrots Hamas

RE: "Extreme language from Israeli officials signals genocidal intent" [Letters, Feb. 7]:

The news report (jewishvoiceforpeace. org/2023/10/07/

statement23-10-07) of the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks posted to the Jewish Voice for Peace website is basically regurgitated Hamas party line. There is no horror, no outrage at the Hamas atrocities of that day.

Instead, an anemic recital of general concern in the style of an official position drafted by a committee, followed by a standard-issue justification for Hamas's crimes, normalizing those atrocities and blaming Israel as entirely responsible for the Hamas attack.

"Right now, Palestinians, Israelis, and all of us with family on the ground are terrified for loved ones. We grieve the lives of those already lost and remain committed to a future where every life is precious, and all people live in freedom and safety."

The Jewish Voice for Peace

Legislators should demand release of hostages before urging ceasefire

f the massacre of Oct. 7 in Israel were to have happened at our border with Canada, would the United States be willing to urge a ceasefire without the return of the hostages?

It is disappointing and surprising to me that our Vermont leaders, Bernie Sanders, Becca Balint, and Peter Welch, are calling for a ceasefire in Gaza when over 100 hostages are still being held by terrorist organizations entrenched there.

Our concerned politicians seem to forget that there was a ceasefire before the devastating horrific invasion of vicious attacks against over 1,200 innocent civilians in Israel on Oct. 7, a holy day for the Jewish people.

This tiny courtry in the Middle East is 96.64% the size of Vermont. Its inhabitants are Jews who always lived there, the few Jewish survivors of the Holocaust and their descendants, the over 700,000 Jews forced to leave the homes they occupied in Arab lands, some for centuries, as well as those Arabs, Christians, and Muslims who chose to become Israeli citizens, and many more individuals of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Perhaps I need to remind you that the Arab Muslim nations surrounding this tiny land rejected the United Nations' 1948 mandate that offered two states: one for a Jewish homeland side by side with one for the Arab/ Muslim Palestinian population. Israel became the only real democratic state in the region and has had to defend its population from frequent attacks since that time.

Our legislators should acknowledge the pain and suffering of the outcome of war on the innocent victims who have been suffering under the leadership of terrorists. However, they should be demanding that those terrorists lay down

■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE

VOICES

their arms and release the kidnapped victims to their grieving families.

Only then ceasefire and peace negotiations should be called for with our country offering them as much support as possible. Marlene Wein

Wilmington

Biden administration grievously complicit in civilian deaths

 iving unrestricted U.S. military aid to Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu is like one parent telling a teenager they're grounded while the other parent slips them the car keys.

President Biden has stated many times that Israel must be more careful to protect civilians when they bomb Gaza. Meanwhile, our country continues to send billions in unconditional military aid, even slipping more than a hundred "secret shipments" to Netanyahu's government.

Six months in, Biden persists in bypassing Congress, pursuing a war that only Congress can legally declare.

This administration is grievously complicit in the more than 30,000 deaths in Gaza and the suffering on both sides. Israel is right to defend itself after the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7, but Netanyahu's government is thoroughly flawed to have carried it to this extreme.

I'm grateful that our Rep. Becca Balint has called for "an immediate ceasefire;" it is the only way for critical food and medical aid to enter the killing zone in the quantities needed and for the possibility to advance peace negotiations. I'm also grateful that she's called for restoration of U.S. funding for the United Nations Refugee and Works Agency, "robust aid to Gaza, [and] the release of all hostages.

Balint needs to now help secure that ceasefire by declaring that any further U.S. money for Israel's military will receive her no vote if a ceasefire is not in place. She can reinforce this by calling for regional deescalation, including the end to Biden's illegal airstrikes on Yemen

> MaryDiane Baker Brattleboro

Balint should work to make her call for ceasefire a reality

ep. Becca Balint has rightly called for a ceasefire in Gaza. Now it's time to make that call a reality. She should use her position as Vermont's sole member in the U.S. House of Representatives to pledge to vote no on any further funding for Israel's military in the absence of a ceasefire. Israel's military is escalating its bombing of Rafah, where more than 1.4 million displaced Palestinian people are seeking refuge. The United Nations is warning of mass atrocities if the offensive is not stopped.

 Why we should never have enjoyed the benefits of oil for at least the last century, as many in Montpelier are currently insisting. According to The Orientalist (by Tom Reiss): "Since ancient times Azerbaijan's abundance of oil and natural gas, which led whole hillsides to naturally explode into flame, made it the center of Zoroastrianism, Persia's ancient pre-Muslim religion."

Should we have all just made pilgrimages to someplace like Baku, by sailing vessel and on foot, to stare and bow and worship the eruptions of oil and the flaming hillsides for centuries, instead?

· Finally, why everyone currently running for president apparently supports the genocide of the Palestinian people.

Not only am I finding it hard this year to engage in the charade of filing a tax return (to a government that just incessantly prints money anyway), but it's going to be damned hard to vote for anyone who is currently running, this November.

Jacqueline Brook Putney

Trash pick-up post ski jūmp event

t's Wednesday afternoon, three days after the ski jump event. I walked through the woods to get to the field and trails past the parking area on Cedar Street, and continued on up past the Ice Pond to the top field, delighting at the clear sky, sunshine, and warm-ish air.

When I got back to the base of the jump, I started picking up pieces of trash that were left over from the event. My hands were full by the time I reached the parking area, and thankfully, before I crossed back over Cedar Street, a man drove in with his dog, and happened to have an extra plastic bag I could use for the trash I'd gathered. You'd think I'd remember to put a bag in my pocket when I leave my apartment, because I do trash pickup there often. Part of me hopes that if people see there's no trash, they won't add their own, but it doesn't work like that.

I'd sent a message via the Ski Jump website several days ago, asking them to please, please, do a fine-tuned trash pickup after the event, but I didn't hear back, nor had I the last time I pointed out how much trash was still there, days after the event. I'm not sure why that doesn't seem to be part of the post-event cleanup, but maybe a letter to the editor will help nudge that for next year's event.

For now, I'll just try to be

That ad hoc committee took from December 2019 to June 2021 to come up with a proposed draft for the Fair and İmpartial Policing subcommittee of the VCJC. More than two more years went by until that subcommittee finally conducted a vote in November 2023 and passed the proposed policy on to the full VCJC.

We anticipated that the VCJC would vote on the revised policy at its Feb. 7 meeting. Even though the outburst by Mike Major showed that the protections in the revised policy are needed more than ever, instead of adopting the subcommittee's recommendations, the council voted to have the reforms sent back once again to the subcommittee to review last-minute suggestions sent in by the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police. The police chiefs had plenty of time before the subcommittee vote to send their comments.

This action demonstrated clear bias in favor of law enforcement, as the council granted yet more time to consider these law enforcement

objections. The review of the 2017 racist policy has been going on since 2019, and our undocumented neighbors continue to live in fear that a routine encounter with law enforcement could lead to detention or deportation.

Stand with immigrants and call on your legislators to urge the Criminal Justice Council to vote on the proposed policy without further delay!

WINDHAM NO MÁS POLIMIGRA Putney

Liv Berelson, Brattleboro, John Field, Putney, Jane Katz Field, Putney, Claire Halverson, Dummerston, Francie Marbury, Marlboro, Ann Schroeder, Dummerston, Ellen Schwartz, Brattleboro

Bike Project appreciates sūpport

t the Bellows Falls Bike Project, our mission is simple, yet profound: to provide the Greater Falls community a space for all to access bicycles, learn bike repair, and safe riding skills. Our vision is a flourishing

culture of bicycling as a means of alternative transportation, self-sufficiency and overall wellness.

Our organization, fueled by the dedication of volunteers and staff, and supported by generous donations and grants, endeavors to make cycling accessible to all members of our greater community.

Thank you for your support, enthusiasm, and solidarity. It means a lot to us as we continue our mission and expand our services.

As advocates for local economies and sustainable living, we emphasize the importance of supporting businesses within our region. Putney is home to vibrant local businesses, and we urge you to consider them for your cycling needs.

Specifically, we encourage you to visit the West Hill Shop for e-bike and new bike purchases. Not only does the West Hill Shop offer quality products and top-notch service, but they also share our commitment to fostering a thriving local cycling community.

However, we understand that

purchasing a new bicycle may not be feasible for everyone. That's where we come in.

At the Bellows Falls Bike Project, we offer repair services and a diverse selection of exclusively used bicycles. We take great care to clean and repair donated bikes so they are ready for reuse. Whether you're in need of a tune-up, a new-toyou ride, or just some friendly advice, our dedicated team is here to assist you.

We invite you to visit our website (**bfbike.org**) to learn more about our organization, or stop in. We believe that by working together and supporting one another, we can create a more inclusive, sustainable, and bike-friendly community for all. Volunteers are always welcome, no matter what your skill level

We look forward to seeing you on the roads and trails of Putney and Bellows Falls. BELLOWS FALLS COMMUNITY **BIKE PROJECT**

Bellows Falls

Daniel Hoviss, Bonnie Anderson

97. "Take this'

98. Fishing nets

104. Maestro Zubin

109. CD-__

C L I V E B A R K E R S T A T E L I N E

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C H A L E T S M A C H K N O B

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111. Other: Sp.

108. Gumbo thickener

99. One putting their

name on the line?

103. CVS Health subsidiary

114. "__ the fields we go ..."

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115. Cinephile's channel

116. Keychain doodad

117. Spike Jonze film

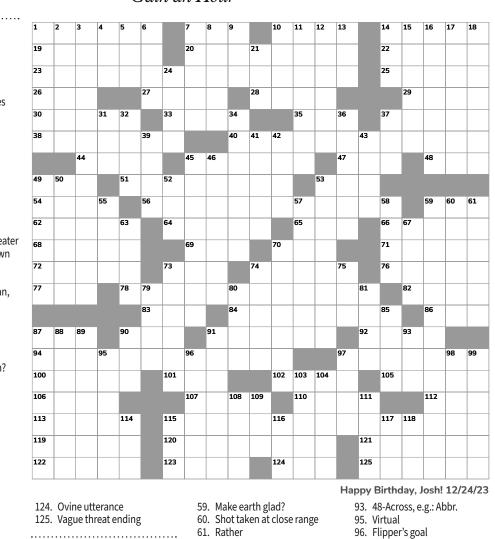
118. 128 in Mass., e.g.

THE COMMONS CROSSWORD "Gain an Hour"

JOON PAHK

Across

- 1. "And if I refuse?"
- "Anderson Cooper 7.
- 360°" channel
- 10. "Frozen" queen
- 14. Most desirable celebrities
- 19. Put in one's two cents 20. Dad's offering
- 22. Nonstarters
- 23. Ominous warning
- to a monarch? 25. Braugher of "Brooklyn
- Nine-Nine"
- 26. List-shortening abbr. 27. Brings a claim against
- "My bad" 28.
- 29. Ending with opera or theater
- 30. Middle-earth realm known
- for horses and riders
- 33. Treble or bass symbol
- "Reading the __: One Man, 35. One Year, 21,730 Pages" (Ammon Shea book)
- 37. Vermont ski area
- 38. Language of "The
- Seventh Seal"
- 40. Plant in a Roman garden?
- 44. Like an aborted launch
- 45. Robert __, the Birdman
- of Alcatraz
- 47. Goldin with a camera
- 48. Operative 49. "Arthur" network
- 51. Quaint restaurant
- convenience
- 53. Commit to the 54. Bert who played the
- Cowardly Lion 56. Good time of year for
- phone hacking?
- 59 Recipe amt.



The U.S. must use its leverage to stop the violence — and Rep. Balint, hers.

Isaac Evans-Frantz Brattleboro

A roundup of the incomprehensible

S ome of the things I don't understand these days:

• How Donald Trump could possibly get insurance deals by inflating the value of his properties. It has always been my experience that the more something was worth, the more it cost to insure it. Do the wealthy get insurance deals?

• Why a member of the South Carolina National Guard (Nikki Haley's husband) should be deployed to Africa. What are we cooking up in Africa now? Another Libya? Or has he perhaps been sent to the Horn of Africa in support of the genocide unfolding in Gaza?

• How it benefitted Putin to murder Navalny the day before a huge victory in Ukraine; the day before the opening of the Munich Security Conference, where Navalny's wife showed up to weep on cue; at the same time that most of Europe is panicking that the U.S. may not hurl any more money into the black hole that is Ukraine; and shortly after the interview of Putin with Tucker Carlson that millions of people have at least clicked on. And likely watched.

• Why, if Alexander Smirnov is facing criminal charges for allegedly fabricating something about Biden, Hillary Clinton did not face criminal charges for the Russia-gate fabrication. (People may not know that both the DNC and the Clinton campaign were fined for "misreporting the money that funded the [infamous Steele] dossier," according to CNN.)

better at remembering to grab a trash bag when I head to the trails.

> Jenny Chapin Brattleboro

Protect immigrants from unfair policing

any of you have read of the vile and racist comments uttered by a police officer at the meeting of the Vermont Criminal Justice Council (VCJC) on Feb. 7.

An undocumented worker spoke of being afraid to leave the farm because of Vermont's law enforcement's continued cooperation with federal immigration and his fear of deportation. Mike Major, a deputy at the Chittenden County Sheriff's Office, then said, on a hot mic, "You're f—ing here illegally and you're worried about being safe? Yeah, OK.'

Even worse, Mike Major was a member of the VCJC. He has resigned from that body and from his law enforcement position. But this is not over.

How can any immigrant in Vermont hear those words and not fear that the police will turn them over to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or the U.S. Border Patrol?

This has been happening in many parts of Vermont. As an example, a Chittenden County deputy detained, arrested, and turned over a farm worker to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which incarcerated and ultimately deported him. His alleged crime was averting his eyes when a car he was riding in was pulled over for speeding.

Vermont's Fair and Impartial Policing Policy currently allows this cooperation between our law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. During Donald Trump's presidency, the 2016 model policy underwent reevaluation. The current policy reflects the rollback of safeguards for immigrants that were in the original policy.

A process to review and update the policy began in late 2019 but was delayed by the ad hoc committee for 18 months.

Down

1. Lawn tools

4. Fnv. insert

5. Just OK

- 62. Degree alternative
- 64. Cracker brand
- 65. Indeterminate ordinal
- 66. Headliner of the next Super Bowl halftime show
- 68. Genre for N.K. Jemisin
- 69. Cutesy eating sound
- 70. Actress __ Pounder 71. Early TV host Milton
- 72. Features of lions
- 73. Classic Pontiac
- 74. Language in which "kia
- ora" means hello
- 76. "Anti-Hero" singer
- 77. Noah's vessel
- 78. What makes for a
- very shiny duck?
- 82. Buttonhole, e.g.
- 83. Grandmaster
- Nepomniachtchi 84. The Pacific Princess
- of 1980s TV
- 86. ESPN host Bob
- 87. Penny-dropping sound?
- 90. Hieroglyphics snake
- 91. Thanksgiving tradition
- 92. Twit, in Twickenham
- 94. Statute regarding holy sites?
- 97. "In the ___" (musical)
- 100. Researcher's funding source
- 101. Brief moment, briefly
- 102. "Yeah, me too"
- 105. Comedian Cheri
- 106. This isn't good
- 107. Toffee bar brand
- 110. Architect Saarinen
- 112. Droop
- 113. Numerical comparison
- 115. Do rodeo commentary?
- 119. Chemist __ Joliot-Curie
- 120. Pioneering steamboat
- built by Robert Fulton
- 121. Fix the floor, in a way
- 122. Summer or serpent
- 123. Butte relative

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- 67. Makes clothing
 - 70. Solicit votes

 - 73. Common data visualizations

81. Back of the neck

87. Africa's largest country

is Claudine Gay

89. Looked forward to

90. Back on board?

"Scare Quotes"

88. University whose president

91. Makes kimchi or sauerkraut

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Last issue's solution

85. TLC or Haim

63. Ultimate object?

- 74. "Tangled" star Mandy
- 3. Therapist who's also a cook? 75. _ Jima

80. Flair

- 79. Radiator sound
- 6. Breyers alternative
- 7. Sadistic 8. Like Freya and Odin

2. "This Is 40" director Judd

- 9. Hardly
- 10. Iberian river
- 11. __ Senghor, first
- president of Senegal
- 12. Dojo master 13.
- "Facts __ facts" 14. Terza rima rhyme scheme
- 15. Duration
- 16. Good place to be
- on a rainy day
- 17. Blow it 18. In so doing
- 21. However, briefly
- 24. Pained expression?
- 31. Agitation
- 32. Close at hand
- 34. Many a Western weapon 36. Pastry called "wienerbrød"
- in Copenhagen
- 37. Form 1040 ID
- 39. Daytime drama
- 41. Sounds that rhyme
- with "clocks," aptly
- 42. Northern seabirds
- 43. Org. with a phonetic
- alphabet
- 45. "The Office" setting
- 46. Famously terrible 2003. Tommy Wiseau film 49. Makeup for a star?

50. Drinking coach

55. Widespread

53. Post-shower wear

58. Worn-out pencils

57. Like a secret message

52. Active ingredient in edibles



ORIS

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

COLUMN | Sports Roundup

Lot of changes ahead for Legion baseball in Vermont

'e'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 hitterfriendly 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

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,



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

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

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 10week 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 partici-pants 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.

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.

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

Morning pickup 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 refoundworks@gmail. com for more details.

page C4

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 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/THE COMMONS 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.

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/wbwsc/ vtbrattleboro.wsc/splash.htmlor 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 spe-cial accomodations 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.



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

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 Greenblott rolled a 160 game.

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