

Celebrating our **20th anniversary** in 2024!

The Commons

FREE

— thanks to hundreds of readers who chip in because **they believe that a community thrives when everyone has access to news.** If you appreciate this community resource and can afford to chip in, please join us now! donate.commonnews.org

Brattleboro, Vermont • Wednesday, May 15, 2024 • Vol. XIX, No. 20 • Issue No. 765

commonnews.org

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

Clock ticks for weighing in on license renewals for hydro projects

Comment period ends May 22 for new licenses for multiple hydroelectric dams and stations in Vermont and Massachusetts — a ‘once-in-a-lifetime opportunity’ to weigh in, the Connecticut River Conservancy says

By Robert F. Smith
The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—Three Vermont hydroelectric dams and generating stations on the Connecticut River in Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon, plus two in Massachusetts, are in the process of renewing their operating licenses — a process that has been extended for public comment by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) until Wednesday, May 22.

The operating license renewing process has been going on since 2012.

The facilities were last issued licenses by FERC over 40 years ago and the licenses for the five facilities expired in 2018.

Renewed licenses can cover a period of 30 to 50 years, making public opportunity to comment on the process fairly rare. Per FERC policy established in 2017, the default license term for these dams is 40 years.

The Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon dams are owned by Great River Hydro (GRH), formerly known as TransCanada. In February 2023, GRH was sold to Hydro-Québec, a corporation owned by the government of Québec.

The two Massachusetts hydro facilities, Turners Falls Dam and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project, are limited liability companies owned by PSP Investments under FirstLight Power Services LLC. PSP is also a Canadian company that manages a large pension investment fund.

These dams and companies control the flow of the river over

approximately 126 miles, affecting three states and 30 towns.

On Feb. 22, FERC issued a notice that the final license applications had been completed and accepted and were ready for environmental analysis. An initial 60-day period to submit comments and interventions for the projects was extended to the May date.

FERC requires that hydro-power operators provide direct benefits to the public and protect its ecological health. The public comment period offers an opportunity to address these issues and suggest improvements.

The publicly available comments came from individuals, organizations, and municipalities up and down the river, including the towns of Vernon, Wilmington, and Dummerston, and organizations such as the Springfield Trails and Rural Economy Advisory Committee and the Thetford Conservation Commission.

Several themes emerged repeatedly in the comments, particularly with regard to rate of water flow and bank erosion in the miles of rich farmland and ancient agricultural meadows along both sides of the Connecticut.

The dams’ impact on aquatic life was also a major concern. Mentioned several times was the need to control extensive damage from more frequent flooding events, such as the one last July.

Another major concern was increasing access to the water on both sides of the river for fishing, camping, birding, boating, and general recreation, as well as greatly increasing accessibility and improving facilities in

■ SEE HYDRO LICENSE RENEWAL, A2



Serving **HUNGRY PEOPLE** with **KINDNESS** and **EMPATHY**

Carolyn Pieciak is the retiring founding leader of St. Brigid’s soup kitchen in Brattleboro.

KEVIN O’CONNOR/VTDIGGER.ORG

Carolyn Pieciak, retiring as co-founder of Brigid’s Kitchen, says that the 200 or so people who visit on a given day are not who you’d think. ‘Probably the biggest misunderstanding is they’re all homeless,’ she says.

By Kevin O’Connor
VTDigger

BRATTLEBORO—Carolyn Pieciak can tell you how she made peanut butter, jelly, and Fluff sandwiches for her son, State Treasurer Mike Pieciak, long before he sank his teeth into Vermont’s financial ledgers.

But the 78-year-old Brattleboro resident would rather chew over the smorgasbord of meals she has coordinated as founding leader of St. Brigid’s, one of the region’s largest soup kitchens.

“They say to cook chicken to 165 degrees,” she began a recent interview, “although dark meat isn’t fully done at that, so we cook it to 175 to 185 degrees — until it’s falling off the bone.”

After four decades serving up such facts, Pieciak is retiring as the lunch spot’s director. She spread the news one day this month as she welcomed dozens of people into its Walnut Street dining room.

“Probably the biggest misunderstanding is they’re all homeless,” she said. “Instead, 76% are low-income elderly who worked their whole lives, are

living on Social Security, and are struggling.”

Pieciak’s peers statewide have reported a similar shift in clientele.

The need was there — out of sight

Times have changed since Pieciak was a Catholic schoolgirl in West Springfield, Massachusetts, during the post-World War II boom.

“I can clearly remember feeling that God wanted me to work with the poor,” she said.

Pieciak moved to Brattleboro

in 1970 and was head of the peace and justice committee of St. Michael’s Catholic Church when the pastor noted a growing number of visitors requesting food.

“A lot of people didn’t see the need,” she recalled.

That’s because those seeking help were either transients catching rides along the nearby train tracks or former mental health patients holed up in apartments after their release from the Brattleboro Retreat.

Pieciak and fellow volunteers soon were raising money,

■ SEE ST. BRIGID’S KITCHEN, A2

The COLOR of MEDICINE

Local hospitals work on eliminating racial disparities in the delivery of health care as a Windham County NAACP group targets race-based presumptions in the medical milieu

By Joyce Marcel
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Medically, the only two ways in which white patients and Black patients differ are skin color and hair type.

That’s it. Everything else is a social, not a racial, construct.

Yet it is not widely known, at least among the white population,

that there is medicine for them and then there’s medicine for African Americans and other people of color.

The medical establishment has now acknowledged that there is a problem. And, in Windham County, both Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and Grace Cottage Hospital are taking steps to fix it.

Established medical procedures that have factored race into account “have resulted in some unintended consequences,” said Dr. George Terwilliger, the chief medical officer and emergency medicine physician at Grace Cottage. “And it turns out that race is a bad idea.”



Working on the issues of race and medicine at the local level are Imogene Drakes, the director of laboratory services at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital; Dr. Rebecca Jones, a dermatologist in private practice; and Dr. George Terwilliger, chief medical officer and emergency medicine physician at Grace Cottage.

“Between a Black person and a white person, there’s so little difference genetically, other than skin and hair,” he said. “I mean, there are facial features, there might be more common body types, but medically, [race distinctions are] based more on social factors than it is on biology.” Those differences do matter.

For example, take those little non-invasive pulse-oximeter devices that nurses put on your finger to check your pulse and oxygen levels.

Can this device be racist? The answer is yes.

“The machine uses a color-response beam,” said Dr. Rebecca Jones, a dermatologist in private

practice in Brattleboro, who is white. The device emits light and analyzes the red of the red blood cell to measure how much hemoglobin it has.

“You see me, and my skin is darker, right?” said Imogene Drakes, the director of laboratory services at BMH. In Black people and other people of color, the

color-response beam is “thinking that this means hemoglobin, when it actually means melanin.”

‘No biological significance’

Drakes, along with Jones and several others, are part of Anti-Racism in Medicine, a

■ SEE RACE AND MEDICINE, A3

PSKRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BRATTLEBORO, VT 05302
PERMIT NO. 24

Become a member and receive The Commons in the mail.
Your membership supports our journalism and lets us make this newspaper available for all, in print and online.
Join today at <http://donate.commonnews.org>.

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

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

DRYER VENT CLEANING Installation & Repair 603-762-3433 durlingcleaning.com	VT STATE INSPECTIONS \$50 No appt. needed GOUIN SERVICES 802-257-1800 500 Guilford Street Brattleboro	SANDALS AND SUMMER SHOES THE SHOE TREE Main St. Brattleboro 802-254-8515	FREE REAL ESTATE ADVICE 1st time buyers / renters One hour consultation R. JOHN & CO. Rick John, Consultant 802-254-2484 rjandco@yahoo.com	SPRING SALE 26 Williston St. Brattleboro Through May 20th Antiques, Navaho neckties lots of cool stuff, and large display case. 802-380-4104 bidie41@gmail.com	Vintage Camper BBQ Party! May 18, 11am-3pm Adults \$17. Kids \$8. Brattleboro North KOA 1238 US Rte. 5 E. Dummerston, VT Benefits W. Dummerston Volunteer Fire Dept.	COLLEGE STUDENT \$99 SUMMER SPECIAL Supreme Fitness 1589 Putney Rd, Brattleboro 802-257-4944	Promote your EVENT in The Commons! \$45 for an ad in the paper, (or) bundle with an ad on our website and an ad in our e-newsletter for \$70. Contact one of our ad reps: lori@commonnews.org nancy@commonnews.org
Summer Camp Season is coming! Sandals & Swimsuits Whippersnappers Hannaford Plaza Brattleboro	THE NEW ENGLAND HOUSE RESTAURANT & TAVERN Let's Do Breakfast! BREAKFAST & LUNCH Wednesday-Sunday 8-2 DINNER Friday & Saturday 4:30-8 254 Marlboro Road, Brattleboro TheNewEnglandHouseVT.com	Meeting House Garden Perennials Open Wed. - Sun. 10:00-5:00pm 41 Meetinghouse Rd. Hinsdale, NH 603-256-8892	WINDHAM PHILHARMONIC Mozart & Ravel Monday, May 20th Latches Theatre 7:00pm windhamphilharmonic.org	Make Bowls to Feed the Hungry Brattleboro Clayworks BOWLERAMA MAY 18TH 10am-12pm or 1-3pm Call to sign up: 802-254-9174 Brattleboroclayworks.com	Tuxedo & Suit Rentals For weddings, proms & more Vermont Artisan Designs 106 Main St. Brattleboro 802-257-7044	Get FREE EMAIL DELIVERY of The Commons every week... Visit commonnews.org to subscribe to our e-newsletters.	Brattleboro Memorial Hospital is proud to celebrate our 120th Anniversary of serving our community! 1904 - 2024

MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

College news

• Hana L.S. Aleshnic, daughter of Barry Aleshnic and Martina Sczesny, has graduated with a dual Masters of Science in Nurse-Midwifery and Family Nurse Practitioner at the University of Michigan Graduate School of Nursing in Ann Arbor.

Milestones



• Elizabeth "Lisa" Blake of West Dummerston died on Nov. 28, 2023, on her way to her morning routine at the Colonial Pool.

her lifelong friend, Grace Bates of Boston. In 1982, she moved to the island of Saint Vincent in the West Indies, with her husband Jim and her two younger children Alex and Natalie.

She always loved listening to her favorite music — Bach, Mozart, spirituals, Peter Paul and Mary, and Bob Marley.



• Arden "Boogie" Fagelson was born on a Thursday in 1936 in Chicago, and died on May 7, 2024, at her home in Brattleboro.

Association or the Brattleboro Fire Department. To offer condolences to Booie's family, visit atamaniuk.com.



• Thelma Lanphere Mason, 92, of Newfane. Died on May 2, 2024. Thelma was born on Jan. 1, 1932, to the late Earl and Evelyn (Moody) Lanphere.



• Carol Moriarty, 84, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Died peacefully at home while embraced by the love of her family on May 8, 2024.

experience in business. The store thrived for 19 years and closed upon their retirement in 2012. In 2016, Carol's health began to decline and she experienced another setback in 2020 when her condition was determined to be terminal.

• David E. Robarge, 74, of Saxtons River. Died peacefully, with his family by his side, on April 28, 2024, after complications from pulmonary disease.

• Susan Stebbins, 66, of Saxtons River. Died April 27, 2024, at Springfield Hospital. She was born in Philadelphia on March 30, 1958.

Services

• A graveside service for Julian Mitchell "Mickey" Jackson will be held on Saturday, May 18, at noon, at Friedsan Cemetery in Chesterfield, New Hampshire.

Milestones are published as community news at no cost to families, thanks to financial support of our members and advertisers.

Aqua-Aid Systems WATER CONDITIONING & FILTRATION Solving hard water, iron, blue staining, radon and arsenic problems in the Windham County area since 1984.

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

Harm reduction and overdose prevention training offered in Newfane

NEWFANE—Community Substance Use Response (CSUR) and West River Valley Thrives invite the public to join them on Thursday, May 23, at 6 p.m., for "Empowering Communities: Harm Reduction & Overdose Education for Substance Use Disorders."

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

We're excited that **2024** marks the **20TH ANNIVERSARY** of Vermont Independent Media!

WHAT STARTED TWO DECADES AGO IS STILL GOING STRONG TODAY!



- **The Commons**, one of the first nonprofit newspapers in the country, covers all things local with award-winning reporting and commentary.
- **Media Mentoring Project** provides programming that aims not just to train good citizen journalists, but to build media literacy.
- **Voices Live** hosts public events that facilitate dialogue on critical issues facing our community.

Each spring, we ask our readers to help us continue our work by making a tax-deductible donation. Our goal this spring is to raise \$25,000 by June 30th.

Will you help us by making a contribution today?

The Commons and our special programs would not be possible without community support. For that we say, thank you!

With your continued support, we'll be going strong for another 20 years!

Thank you for your support!

Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Vermont Independent Media is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, EIN 20-2140604

The Commons **vim** vermont independent media Questions? Call 1-888-511-5150, or email info@commonsnews.org

YES, I want to support fearless, independent journalism!

\$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$125 \$50 \$25 Other

I would like my donation to include mail delivery of The Commons for one year (Donations of \$125 or more).

Gift Method: Check Credit Card (circle one) Discover Visa AMEX MC

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____


Phone: _____ Email: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CCV#: _____

Signature: _____

Or make a secure gift at commonsnews.networkforgood.com

Please list my gift as anonymous

 **SCAN HERE to make a secure gift online.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

vim vermont independent media

P.O. Box 1212, Brattleboro, VT 05302

Please make checks payable to Vermont Independent Media.

VIM is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

Make a gift!

Online: commonsnews.networkforgood.com

By phone: 1-888-511-5150 **By mail:** Send us this form

The ARTS

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

page B1

COLUMN | *Deeper Dive*

Natural chemistry

Jazz supergroup Artemis to appear at the Vermont Jazz Center on May 18

ON MAY 18, at 7:30 p.m., the Vermont Jazz Center will present Artemis, voted the Jazz Group of the Year in *DownBeat's* 2023 Readers' Poll. This supergroup was initially organized by pianist and music director Renee Rosnes. The other members are trumpeter Ingrid Jensen, saxophonist Nicole Glover, bassist Noriko Ueda, and drummer Allison Miller.

The first incarnation of Artemis was formed in 2016 when Rosnes put together a band for a European tour. In an interview with Don Was of Blue Note Records, she recalled, "We had so much fun playing together [...]. We realized then that we had something special and that there was a natural chemistry that you can't make happen."

The band has evolved to its present format: a quintet of leader-level musicians who love performing and touring together so much that they collectively regard this project as a high priority.

WHEN ASKED BY Was how the musicians came up with the name Artemis, Ingrid Jensen brought up her research on powerful ancient goddesses. She said she explored the "poetic and beautiful land of Greek gods and goddesses" and found Artemis. "It just jumped off the page — that's us."

Jensen discovered an image of a statue of Artemis online and, in digging deeper, she learned that Artemis was the goddess of the hunt.

"It was perfect," she said. Later on, Miller wrote a song on her electric bass, which she called "Goddess of the Hunt." She said "the hunt-like, aggressive,



EUGENE UMAN is director of the Vermont Jazz Center. The Commons'

Deeper Dive column gives artists, arts organizations, and other nonprofits elbow room to write in first person and/or be unabashedly opinionated, passionate and analytical about their own creative work and events.

repetitive bassline became what I felt was a representation of Artemis and reflected the determination of each member in this band."

"And then from there [that composition] became a way to feature each member in the band and a way to explore the qualities that I think make women so incredible and powerful," she said.

In an interview with *Neon Jazz*, Rosnes discussed the way the band collaborates as a collective. She said she was an "organizing force," but "it's all of our vision together."

"We do work well together, and since we're performing pieces from everybody (everybody's a composer or arranger)... whoever's piece we're working on conducts the rehearsal," she continued.

Rosnes said that she hoped the "music could be inspirational for young women so that they could look at a band like this and say, 'If they can do it, then I can do it — I can have a career in jazz.'"

THIS INSPIRATIONAL GROUP plays music that is carefully scripted and expertly performed. The arrangements are clear and tight, and the blend and dynamics are

■ SEE ARTEMIS, B3



Genevieve Redmond, 17, will choreograph her own work for the Brattleboro School of Dance's annual spring show.

Honoring the darkness, unearthing the joy

Brattleboro School of Dance students prepare for annual spring show: 'Shadows & Glimmers'

By Victoria Chertok
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro School of Dance's annual spring show, "Shadows & Glimmers: An Evening of Dance," will feature more than 50 dancers, ages 6 to 72, who live, work, and attend school in the community.

"Evoking themes of shadows, where light and darkness meet, and glimmers, where inescapable joy bursts forth in our everyday lives, this show reflects and transforms our daily experiences, both individually and collectively, into works of art," says Bridget Struthers, in a recent phone call with *The Commons* about the 48th annual show, which takes place on May 17, 18, and 19.

This spring show includes classical ballet works, including *The Dying Swan* and

excerpts from *Sleeping Beauty*, as well as modern and contemporary choreography, hip-hop, flamenco, Dunham Technique, and everything in between.

According to Struthers, co-artistic director of the show and director/owner of BSD since 2018, after covering costs, paying choreographers, and the venue, the remaining proceeds of this show will support the BSD scholarship fund.

"Our philosophy is simply 'all comers welcome!' In this world of conflict, it is a gift to be able to walk through those glass doors into the spaces that house classes that promote an inclusive atmosphere," Struthers adds.

"At BSD, we are proud of our more than four decades of dance education and performance offerings to the community," she says.

Students of all ages attend BSD for pre-professional training, to build a healthy

lifestyle, or to experience the bonds that come from a sense of camaraderie centered around the love of dance.

Struthers acknowledges that it might feel indulgent to create art when there is so much pain and suffering in the world.

"This show's theme, 'Shadows & Glimmers,' seeks to acknowledge and honor the darkness in today's world and to also unearth the undeniable beauty and joy that is present in every moment," she says.

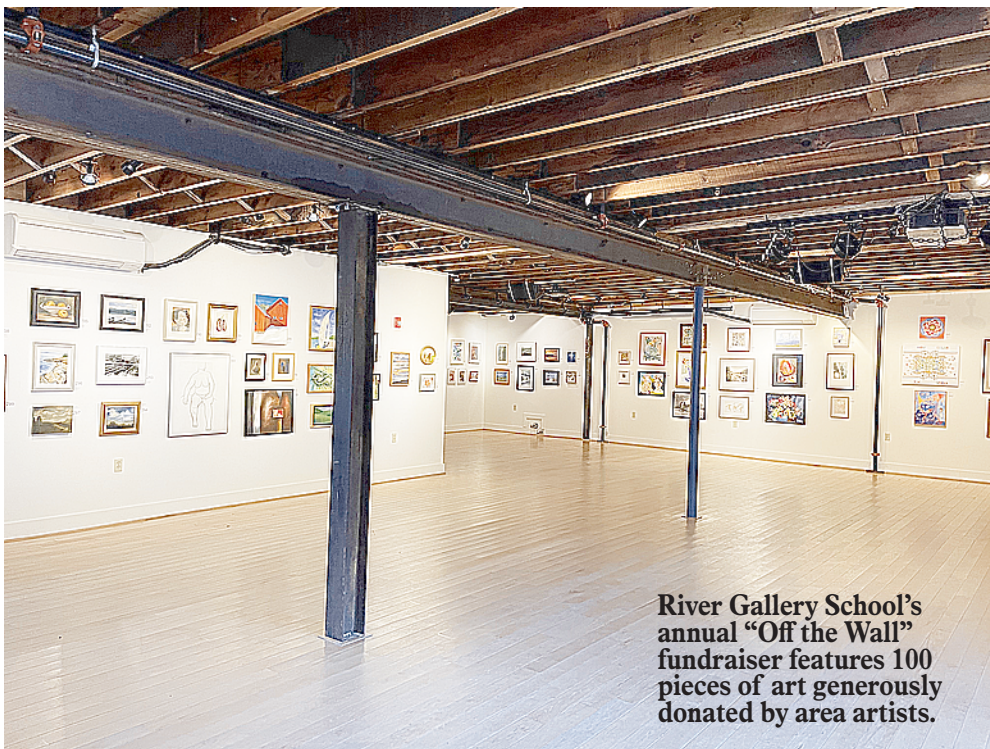
"Through the process of choreography and dance, we aim to process and transform personal, community, and global grief and hardship into something complex and beautiful," Struthers adds.

She explains that dance is a unique art form, in that the human body is the medium.

"When we are an audience to dance, we

■ SEE SPRING PROGRAM, B3

Artists donate work to benefit River Gallery School



River Gallery School's annual "Off the Wall" fundraiser features 100 pieces of art generously donated by area artists.

BRATTLEBORO—River Gallery School (RGS) is abuzz prepping for "Off The Wall: the art lottery where everyone wins." This fundraising event will take place on Saturday, May 18, from 5 to 8 p.m., at 118 Elliot.

Those who cannot attend in-person may take part remotely. A complete show of the diverse and beautiful artwork can also be seen, by arrangement, at 118 Elliot.

Proceeds from the evening will be used to help provide scholarships to the many art programs at the school. For 48 years, RGS has offered high quality art education to children and adults through year-round classes, camps, and workshops.

People of all ages and skill levels are welcomed into the studios to immerse themselves in the transformative process of creating.

"Off the Wall" features 100 pieces of art generously donated

by area artists, including RGS staff, students, and friends. There are paintings, pastels, mixed media, original prints, photographs, and more.

Donations include work by Mallory Lake, Chris Triebert, Doug Trump, Helen Schmidt, Bob George, Cameron Schmitz, Paul Bowen, Steven Meyer, and so many others. Images and details of artwork and artists are available on the RGS website.

Those who wish to participate can purchase a lottery ticket from RGS and choose a number, then rank their favorites on their personal wishlist. When their number is pulled from the tumbler, they get to pick from the available works still on the wall.

"It gets so exciting. Every time a piece is claimed and taken off the wall, the drama increases. Will I get one of my favorite pieces? The great part is that almost everyone gets one of their top 10 choices!" said Lydia Thomson,

former RGS Artistic Director and one of the originators of the event.

The event offers a wide selection of artwork. Every participant goes home with a ready-to-hang piece of original art.

Zephyr Designs has supported River Gallery School for many years by donating some of the framing. Other major sponsors include Berkley & Veller, Brattleboro Savings & Loan, and 118 Elliot. RGS says it is grateful for "the great generosity of the community of artists who have donated, the participants who play the lottery, all the sponsors, and the many volunteers who make this lively and fun event successful."

Tickets are available through rivergalleryschool.org/otw or by calling 802-257-1577. Proceeds from this event support River Gallery School's mission of creating a fully inclusive art making community in Brattleboro.

Publication of this week's Calendar is underwritten by BERKLEY & VELLER GREENWOOD COUNTRY REALTORS • ((Sectionponsor1 url))



Buyer demand is still soaring!

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

Let Us Help You Reach Your Real Estate Dreams!



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

Spring program

feel a kinesthetic connection to what is happening on stage, making the whole experience felt on a deep and subconscious level,” Struthers says.

“We see bodies moving on stage in patterns, rhythms, and expressions, and we cannot help but feel connected and empathetic to everyone else in the room,” she adds. “That connection can be carried with us outside into the world.”

She hopes that “it makes us all a little bit more graceful and understanding to our fellow human beings, whether they are our neighbors or someone we read about in the news.”

Many of the staff members have worked at BSD for decades. Some former students who have explored professional dance careers have returned, bringing their broadened experience home.

“BSD is a really special dance school because we have a strong community that is 100% committed to the art form,” says Struthers.

“We are not trying to ‘wow’ the audience with tricks and pizzazz,” she says. “We are truly striving to engage with our craft.”

Marlboro Studio School hosts ceramics artist demo

MARLBORO—The Marlboro Studio School presents a unique opportunity to observe ceramic artists Aysha Peltz and Michael McCarthy at work in a wheel throwing demonstration and Q & A in their studio on Saturday, May 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Peltz is a Vermont-based studio potter and educator and has held a faculty appointment at Bennington College since 2006. McCarthy is a studio potter focusing on wheel thrown, wood-fired functional pottery. In addition to his studio practice, he is the ceramics instructor at the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Tickets are available on a sliding scale from \$16.50. More information and tickets to the event can be found at bit.ly/765-wheel.

Artemis

perfect.

Adventurous and improvisational elements of jazz are also embraced and encouraged. Each musician is a master improviser; the open sections in each tune are exciting forays into the unexpected, replete with charismatic interplay, melodicism, and virtuosity.

These players demonstrate an elevated level of energy that is often guided by the propelling rhythms of Miller’s drums. Nonetheless, their displays of expertise are far from gratuitous; every note and gesture is geared toward the service of the music, and each composition is filled with intention and meaning.

ROSNES HAS released a series of 18 albums as a leader, six of which have garnered Juno Awards, the Canadian equivalent of a Grammy. In 2003, she earned Composer of the Year award from SOCAN (Society of Canadian Composers).

Aside from leading her own bands, Rosnes is a member of bassist Ron Carter’s quartet and often performs in a duo project with her husband, another wonderful pianist, Bill Charlap.

She has also toured and recorded in the bands of jazz legends Joe Henderson, J.J. Johnson, Wayne Shorter, Bobby Hutcherson, Buster Williams, and James Moody.

A review that Rosnes shares from *The Boston Globe* sums up her place in the spectrum quite clearly: “Rosnes has carved out for herself a reputation as one of jazz’s new bright lights. She has impressed veterans of the bebop and free jazz wars with a crisp, uncluttered approach to improvisation that respects, but doesn’t genuflect to, the music of the past.”

Jensen has been hailed as one of the most gifted trumpeters of her generation.

“Each choreographer spends countless hours choosing music, developing their theme, thoughtfully running rehearsals so that the dancers can understand and fully realize the vision,” Struthers points out.

It takes a village

According to Struthers, this year’s lineup of choreographers is particularly “eclectic and exciting.”

Choreographers include Patricia Wilson, an accomplished teacher of Dunham Technique, who will use this style in performing a unique piece that will reflect the process of grieving.

In contrast, Struthers will perform a “quirky and otherworldly piece inspired by the mysteries of dreaming.”

Michelle Erard, new to Vermont, brings her extensive training in flamenco dance to the stage for a novel experience.

Sequoyah Stevens-Mills, a longtime BSD student who is now on staff, will stage six *Sleeping Beauty Variations*, where each solo pointe dancer will wear a tutu designed by BSD founder Kathleen Keller, now the school’s costumer.

Holly Johnson, now in her 40th year on staff at BSD, will present a two-part piece of contrasting moods, for a multi-age group of 13 dancers. Johnson serves alongside Struthers as co-artistic director of this show and also directs many rehearsals.

Nan Mann, the instructor of the young students and the director for Brattleboro Centre for Children, will bring her skills of working with multiple ages of children in groups to her piece this year, where 22 dancers of all ages and levels will perform on stage simultaneously.

Rachel Hebert and Sonya Marx each have a new piece to add to their growing repertoire. Both are alumna of the Windham Regional Career Center Performing Arts Dance Program (formerly delivered through BSD).

Stuart Tsubota, a first-time choreographer for BSD last spring, will return with another modern work for a trio of young dancers.

Alison Mott, not represented since 2021, will present a new work, costumed in earthy tones, which enhance her grounded and

FROM SECTION FRONT intricately patterned work.

Redmond will dance ‘Dying Swan,’ present original piece

Genevieve Redmond, 17, of Guilford, is the first senior company member to present a work of choreography for a spring show and will dance a difficult solo.

“She is the perfect choice for this auspicious role, having also been chosen by BSD production staff to dance the solo ‘The Dying Swan,’ a pointe piece requiring such topnotch technique and emotional stamina that it has not been danced at BSD since 1996,” notes Struthers.

It is being staged, taught, and guided by Keller’s expert hands.

“*Dying Swan* is such a beautiful and classic piece of choreography, and I’m so excited to be able to perform it solo — in my last show with BSD,” Redmond says.

“It’s also deceptively difficult, and I’ve had to put a lot of work into fine-tuning the emotions and specific movements of the piece,” she adds.

“I’ve learned so much from working with Kathi Keller,” Redmond continues. “I feel that I’ve grown a lot as a dancer during the rehearsal process.”

Redmond, who will graduate from Brattleboro Union High School this spring, will attend Barnard College next year as a double major in biology and dance.

She will also present her piece, *Mellifluity*, the first piece she’s choreographed, for eight dancers.

“I’ve always wanted to choreograph my own work for the spring show, and it’s been really inspiring to work with the dancers and see the piece come to life,” she says.

The word “mellifluity,” she says, is “a made-up word based on the word ‘mellifluous’ — meaning ‘having a pleasant sound,’” notes Redmond.

“Four of the dancers are my fellow BSD Senior Company members, so it’s been really special to have them in my piece for my senior-year show,” she adds.

Enhancing the feel of each piece

Throughout the process of

Yellow Barn concert features composer Chaya Czernowin

PUTNEY—On Friday, May 17, at 5 p.m., Yellow Barn presents music of and conversation with composer Chaya Czernowin.

Performing Czernowin’s pieces will be a trio featuring Luke Hsu on violin, Rainer Crosett on cello, and Yehuda Inbar on piano. Following this hour-long program, Yellow Barn Artistic Director Seth Knopp will lead a conversation between Czernowin, the performers, and audience members.

Born and educated in Israel, Czernowin continued her studies abroad in Germany and the United States, and lived in Tokyo and Vienna through several fellowships. Her works have been performed by some of the best orchestras and performers of new music in concert halls and music festivals throughout Europe, Japan, Korea, Australia, the U.S., and Canada.

Czernowin was the first

bringing a show like this one from imagination to the stage, “dancers work tirelessly, learning choreography, honing the details of expression, timing, and artistry,” Struthers says. “Costumes are chosen and created to align and enhance the feel of each piece.”

And “when we get into the theater a week before opening night, we meticulously work with lighting designer Francesca Bourgault to fulfill the vision even more — creating much needed texture, shadows, illumination, and mood with the lights,” she adds.

“Finally, the most important ingredient is the audience,” Struthers says. “When performers and audience come together, an event occurs that is sacred and can never be repeated,” she explains. “This experience of live performance is truly one of the greatest experiences in the world.”

Brattleboro School of Dance presents its 48th annual spring show,

woman to be appointed as a composition professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria, and at Harvard University, where she has been the Walter Bigelow Rosen Professor of Music since 2009. She holds positions at several music academies and serves on the board of European Musiktheater Akademie.

She has been composer-in-residence at international festivals and her compositions have received numerous awards, among them the Composer Prize from the Siemens Foundation and a Guggenheim fellowship. Her portrait CD, *The Quiet*, recorded on the contemporary classical music label, Wergo, gained the Quarterly German Record Critics’ Award.

Admission to the concert at “The Big Barn” is free. To reserve seats in advance, call 802-387-6637.

“*Shadows & Glimmers: An Evening of Dance*,” on Friday, May 17, at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 18, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, May 19 at 2 p.m. at the *New England Youth Theatre, 100 Flat St., Brattleboro.*

For more information and to purchase tickets (\$18; for students and seniors, \$15), visit *Brattleboro School of Dance* at brattleboroschoolofdance.com.

NOW PLAYING at the MOVIES

LATCHIS THEATRE	
latchis.com 802.246.1500	
MAY 17 - 23	
IF	PG
FRIDAY	4:15 / 6:40 / 8:45
SATURDAY	2 / 6:40 / 8:45
SUNDAY	2 & 8:45
MON.-THUR.	4:15 & 6:40
KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES	
	PG-13
FRIDAY	4:15 / 6:35 / 9:10
SATURDAY	2:15 / 6:35 / 9:10
SUNDAY	2:15 & 6:35
MON.-THUR.	4:15 & 6:35
THE FALL GUY	
	PG-13
FRIDAY	4:15 / 6:45 / 9:05
SATURDAY	2 / 6:45 / 9:05
SUNDAY	2 & 8:45
MON.-THUR.	4:15 & 6:45
CHALLENGERS	
	R
FRIDAY	4:15 / 6:35 / 9
SATURDAY	1:45 / 6:35 / 9
SUNDAY	1:45 & 6:35
MON.-THUR.	4:15 & 6:35
OFF THE BEATEN PATH SERIES	
ONE LIFE - SAT. & SUN. @ 4PM	

Get FREE EMAIL DELIVERY of The Commons every week...

Visit commonsnews.org to subscribe to our e-newsletters.

REAL relief.

BONE DEEP BODYWORK

Suzan Sutton
Certified Zero Balancer
Certified Mentor

zbliesser@gmail.com
(443)928.1402

1037 Western Avenue, Brattleboro
bonedeepbodywork.com



Artemis Quintet

musician in my book.” She has appeared at significant jazz venues around the world. She leads a trio, quartet, and full jazz orchestra and is the winner of the 2002 BMI Foundation’s Charlie Parker Jazz Composition Prize for her original big band piece “Castle in the North.”

Miller emerged as a serious contender in the New York scene in the late ’90s. She has garnered recognition from the public, including being recognized as a “Rising Star Drummer” from *DownBeat* and “Best Jazz Drummer” from *JazzTimes*. A three-time Jazz Ambassador for the U.S. State Department, she also leads her own inventive groups and has released 10 albums as a leader.

Her most recent project, *Rivers in Our Veins*, with Jennie Scheinman and Carmen Staaf, is an emotionally powerful 12-song cycle inspired

by America’s rivers and watersheds.

Writing in *The New York Times*, Nate Chinen called Miller “one of our most exciting and exhilarating drummers now working in the jazz tradition — as well as a composer who truly understands the assignment.”

IN-PERSON TICKETS for Artemis are offered on a sliding scale from \$25 to \$60 per person. Visit vtjazz.org to purchase. For educational group discounts, email eugene@vtjazz.org.

Reservations can be made by calling the Vermont Jazz Center ticket line at 802-254-9088, ext. 1. Mobility access is available by emailing elsavjc@gmail.com.

This concert will be streamed for free at vtjazz.org and at facebook.com/VermontJazzCenter/live. Donations are welcome.

THE CIRCUS OF FORGOTTEN THINGS

MAY 31ST & JUNE 1ST

INFO
10 Town Crier Drive
Brattleboro, Vermont
CircusSchool.org

NECCA
New England Center for Circus Arts

GraceCottage

FAMILY HEALTH & HOSPITAL

Main Number: 802-365-7357
Emergencies: 911
Hospital: 802-365-7357
Family Health Clinic: 802-365-4331
Billing Questions: 800-270-1298
Diagnostic Imaging: 802-365-3625
Laboratory: 802-365-3639
Mental Health: 802-365-7381
Messenger Valley Pharmacy: 802-365-4117
Outpatient Rehabilitation: 802-365-3637
Resource Advocate: 802-365-3770

185 Grafton Rd, Townshend, VT
gracecottage.org

“We are so fortunate to have Grace Cottage and its excellent care team so nearby.”
~ Greg Underwood, Jamaica, VT

Hello Pollen My Old Friend, It's Time To Wash The Car Again

873 Putney Road, Brattleboro VT
802-257-5191
www.burtoncarwash.com

HOUGHTON SANITARY SERVICE INC.

SEPTIC TANK SERVICE CLEANING

Commercial & Residential Septic Pumping

Portable Toilet Rentals also available

Family Owned for 50 years

Call 802-254-9221

Guilford Ctr. Rd. Guilford, VT

Literary Cocktail Hour spotlights new book on Theodore Roosevelt

BRATTLEBORO—This month's edition of the Brattleboro Literary Festival's Literary Cocktail Hour, on Friday, May 17, at 5 p.m., presents Edward O'Keefe, author of *The Loves of Theodore Roosevelt: The Women Who Created a President* in an online conversation with Michael Cullinane about Theodore Roosevelt and the women in his life.

Theodore Roosevelt wrote in his senior thesis for Harvard in 1880 that women ought to be paid equal to men and have the option of keeping their maiden names upon marriage. It's little surprise he'd be a feminist, given the women he grew up with.

His mother, Martha "Mittie," was witty and decisive, a Southern belle raising four young children in New York while her husband spent long stretches away with the Union Army.

Theodore's college sweetheart and first wife, Alice — so vivacious she was known as Sunshine — steered her beau away from science (he'd roam campus with taxidermy specimens in his pockets) and toward politics.

Older sister, Anna "Bamie," would soon become her brother's key political strategist and advisor; journalists called her Washington, D.C., home "the little White House." Younger sister, Corrine "Conie," served as her brother's press secretary before the role existed, slipping stories of his heroics in Cuba and his rambunctious home life to reporters to create the legend of the

Rough Rider we remember today. And Edith — Theodore's childhood playmate and second wife — would elevate the role of presidential spouse to an American institution, curating both the White House and her husband's legacy.

The Loves of Theodore Roosevelt celebrates five extraordinary yet unsung women who opened the door to the American Century and pushed Theodore Roosevelt through it.

Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th President of the United States (1901-1909). He was vice president when President McKinley was assassinated and was actually in Vermont, attending a dinner of the Vermont Fish and Game League on Isle La Motte, when he was notified of the shooting on Sept. 6, 1901.

With McKinley's death, Roosevelt, not quite 43, became the youngest President in the Nation's history. He brought new excitement and power to the Presidency, as he vigorously led Congress and the American public toward progressive reforms and a strong foreign policy.

On Sept. 1, 1902, Roosevelt also made an appearance in Brattleboro as part of a barnstorming tour through New England. Theodore Roosevelt was married twice (his first wife died at age 22), and he was the father of six children. Sarah Alden Derby was the daughter of one of his children, Ethel Roosevelt. Sarah later went on to marry Vermont State Senator

Robert Gannett and they resided in Brattleboro.

O'Keefe is the CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation. He previously spent two decades in broadcast and digital media, during which time he received a Primetime Emmy Award for his work with Anthony Bourdain, two Webby Awards, the Edward R. Murrow Award, and a George Foster Peabody Award for ABC News coverage of 9/11. A former fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, he graduated with honors from Georgetown University. He was born in North Dakota and lives in New York with his wife, daughter, and son.

Cullinane is a historian of American politics, an award-winning author, and the Lowman Walton Chair of Theodore Roosevelt Studies at Dickinson State University. He also serves as a Public Historian for the Theodore Roosevelt Association and contributes to the design and curation of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, due to open in 2026. He is author of several books and hosts the popular podcast "The Gilded Age and Progressive Era." As always, the Literary Cocktail Hour is presented free of charge by the Brattleboro Literary Festival, but donations are welcome to help continue their monthly virtual programs and support the annual festival. Register at bit.ly/LitCocktail38. Visit brattleborolitefest.org/donate now for more information.



Paul Bowen, left, and Fran Bull.



COURTESY PHOTO

Two artists will exhibit and speak at Mitchell-Giddings Gallery in June

BRATTLEBORO—Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts, 181-183 Main St., presents two solo exhibits opening with a reception for the artists on Saturday, May 18, from 5 to 7 p.m.: "Paul Bowen: Woodlark," with sculpture fashioned from scavenged seaside material, along with his works on paper; and "Space: an odyssey," featuring artist Fran Bull's acrylic paintings inspired by cosmic imagery from the James Webb space telescope.

The exhibit continues through June 30. Artist talks are scheduled 5-7 p.m.; Bull's will be June 8, and Bowen's, June 22.

Bowen has centered his life around the ocean, particularly the beaches of Provincetown. "As an inveterate beachcomber,"

say organizers, "he collects the humble bits and remains of human commerce, led by his curiosity and appreciation for the random objects forgotten, abandoned and washed ashore." The artist combines and balances his weathered items into carefully realized sculpture, often to be mounted on a wall.

Bull painted and sculpted as she advanced her creative life, then majored in music at Bennington College, studying voice and singing opera. Her early paintings were firmly planted in the Photorealist movement, and she enjoyed gallery representation in New York.

"My abstract art has always borne a relationship to photographic images coming to us from

Outer Space," Bull wrote. "The process whereby I make this work is the cause. Something about setting into motion paint of varying viscosities and colors, is aligned with how gasses and stars interact in space."

The artist "sets her paint into motion," adding and painting over, circling, drawing and highlighting until "(sometimes) you'll see very recognizable images because they were somehow there and I coaxed them from nebulous fields of color."

For more information about the gallery and the exhibit, contact them at 802-251-8290 or info@mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com, or visit mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com.

Bowl makers sought to help feed neighbors at Bowlarama

BRATTLEBORO—Almost every spring for 20 years, Brattleboro Clayworks on Putney Road has invited the community to help make bowls to feed the hungry. This year's Bowlarama will be held on Saturday, May 18.

"Volunteers will make hand-built bowls to donate to the annual Brattleboro Empty Bowls

dinner," organizers said in a news release. "They won't need any experience or special skills, since artist-teachers Judith Thomas, Andi Matthews, and Karen Horton will provide basic instruction and gentle support to help shepherd their creations from start to finish." And, they say, it's a lot of fun! There will

be no throwing on the wheels at this event.

While many bowls are donated by professional potters, bowls made by so-called "amateurs" — from the French "amor," for the love of it — are often the first to be chosen.

Clayworks donates instruction, clay, glaze, and firing costs. There is no charge to participate; however, financial donations to Groundworks are welcome.

The Empty Bowls Dinner, held in early October at Landmark College, raises funds for Groundworks Collaborative. Potters contribute bowls, local eateries donate home-cooked soups, and musicians share their talents. For a \$25 donation, participants will enjoy live music and a delicious meal in a handcrafted bowl they then take home.

Space is limited to 15 participants per session. Advance sign-up is required for the morning or afternoon sessions — 10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 3 p.m. — by calling Brattleboro Clayworks at 802-254-9174. Children ages 10 and older are welcome, accompanied by an adult.

The Oyster Bar

**OYSTERS - CLAMS - SHRIMP - FISH
COCKTAILS - WINE - BEER
OPEN WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY • 3PM - 10PM**

34 ELLIOT ST. BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301
802-257-3333



At Brattleboro Hearing Center, your hearing healthcare is our top priority. Our Doctors of audiology keep up with the latest technology and our research-driven practices provide the best possible outcomes in the treatment of hearing loss. We're proud to offer personalized, patient-centered care.

**Brattleboro Office: 802-254-3922
Swansey Office: 603-354-3325 | Greenfield, MA: 413-773-5119**

We look forward to hearing from you!
www.BrattleboroHearing.com

Prices are unpredictable
Lock in your Rate!

Bioheat® Fuel, Propane, and Kerosene

PREPAY AND BUDGET PLANS NOW AVAILABLE. DON'T DELAY, CALL SANDRI TODAY!

- SANDRI PREPAY :** Take advantage of our special Prepay price and buy your fuel in bulk. Prepay for a set number of gallons at today's low prices and know you are protected if prices go up.
- SANDRI PREPAY with Downside Protection :** This offers the same benefits as the Prepay Program, except it protects you if the market price of heating oil falls. For a small fee, you pay the lower of either your Prepay price or the day's posted price.
- SANDRI BUDGET PLAN :** With this program you pay for your fuel in even monthly installments
- SANDRI BUDGET PLAN with Downside Protection:** This offers the same benefits as the Budget Plan, except it protects you if the market price of heating oil falls. For a small fee, you pay the lower of either your locked in price or the day's posted price.

WHEN IT COMES TO HEATING YOUR HOME, COUNT ON

SANDRI.COM • (800) 628-1900
ONE CALL DOES IT ALL
HVAC | Plumbing | Heating Fuels

Saxtons River Art Guild hosts ink and watercolor workshop

SAXTONS RIVER—The Saxtons River Art Guild will offer a workshop on ink and watercolor with Lynn Zimmerman on Saturday, May 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School St.

All materials will be supplied, but artists are invited to bring other supplies, such as watercolor paints, pencils, and crayons, inks, brushes, paper, and so on. "All that is needed is an open mind and a willingness to experiment and have fun," says Zimmerman. This workshop is for experts and novices alike, watercolor painters or not.

Participants will explore new

materials and methods and return to their regular art practice "inspired with fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and energy," organizers wrote in a news release.

Line and color will be discussed as well as how painting and drawing support each other. "Using India ink with a G-nib dip pen and an odd assortment of other tools, artists will create a variety of intriguing marks and to spice up their work with water-based media color."

Zimmerman says she is excited by color and the beauty of natural things, and she combines those in her work in watercolor, oil, acrylic, gouache, colored pencil, and ink painting. She studied

at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art and the Rhode Island School of Design, and has worked as a graphic designer and illustrator for more than 30 years.

Zimmerman offers instruction in a variety of media. "Her emphasis is always on gently supporting each student along his or her creative journey," say organizers.

The workshop fee is \$75 for SRAG members and \$95 for nonmembers. Coffee and tea will be available, and participants should bring a lunch. To register for the workshop, email Carolyn Burling at poohbear@ne.rr.com.

Hanneke Cassel Band, Yann Falquet will perform on May 16 at Next Stage

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present an evening of Scottish, Americana, and Québécois music by The Hanneke Cassel Band featuring Keith Murphy and Jenna Moynihan with Yann Falquet, at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill, on Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m.

"The Hanneke Cassel Band blends originality and innovation with the spirit of Scottish traditional fiddle music to create a cutting-edge acoustic sound," say organizers in a news release.

Cassel's fiddle music fuses influences from the Isle of Skye and Cape Breton with Americana grooves and musical innovations, blending the contemporary and the traditional. She has been a featured performer at Celtic Connections (Scotland),

Milwaukee Irish Fest, Celtic Colours (Cape Breton), and the National Celtic Festival (Australia). Guest appearances include stints with Cherish the Ladies, Matt Glaser and the Wayfaring Strangers, and Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas.

The trio features Jenna Moynihan on 5-string fiddle/vocals and Keith Murphy on guitar/vocals. Berklee College of Music graduate Moynihan performs regularly with Seamus Egan Project.

An accomplished multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, and singer, Newfoundland-born Murphy began absorbing his folk songs, ballads and dance music — at an early age, was a founding member of Vermont-based trio Nightingale, and performs with

the Boston fiddle extravaganza Childsplay.

Perhaps best known as a founder and one third of the Québécois traditional music trio Genticorum, Falquet has developed a personal guitar style for Québec folk music, inspired, he says, by the playing of the accompanists of different cultures (Brittany, Scandinavia, Ireland, North America). As singer and instrumentalist, Yann has collaborated with numerous internationally known folk music artists.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the Door, and \$10 for access to the livestream. Advance tickets are available at nextstagearts.org. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For information, call 802-387-0102.

Harpist-composer creates original score for rare silent version of 'Snow White' at Epsilon Spires

BRATTLEBORO—On Friday, May 17, at 7 p.m., Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St., offers a rare screening of the 1916 silent film treasure, *Snow White*, with an original live score performed on harp and viola by sisters Leslie and Barbara McMichael. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the film begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are by sliding-scale and popcorn and refreshments are included.

Everyone knows Disney's classic animated film *Snow White*, but few are aware that a teenage Walt Disney growing up in Kansas City saw the original silent movie of the fairy tale, and it was this 1916 silent movie that inspired him to blaze a path in filmmaking and make his own version in 1937.

Like all silent films, *Snow White* was made on flammable nitrate film stock, and for many years, it was rumored to have been destroyed in a vault fire. But a single theatrical print was

discovered in the Netherlands in 1992, and a heroic restoration was performed by the George Eastman House film archive.

Now the silent fantasy returns to the silver screen, and film goers can see the long-lost *Snow White* with live musical accompaniment.

Seattle-based harpist-composer Leslie McMichael will perform her original composition on the concert harp for the 63-minute film with her sister Barbara McMichael, who will play viola.

Northwest Film Forum commissioned McMichael to compose a new score for *Snow White* in 2016, and the 100-year-old film and McMichael's live music premiered on opening night of Children's Film Festival Seattle that year. Since then, the old film and live accompaniment have toured across the country.

How did McMichael approach the project of scoring the film? The harpist says that her DVD

remote and digital timer were two modern tools that she relied on to compose a soundtrack that fits the onscreen action.

After watching the film and writing longhand notes about every scene and character, she says she developed musical themes to reflect the moods in the storyline. Certain motifs reappear in her score whenever a character appears — Snow White has specific music, as does the Witch, the Huntsman, the Prince, and, of course, the Seven Dwarves.

"It's thrilling to play live and pair the visuals of film with my music," McMichael said in a news release. "With every performance, we get to use our instruments to underscore the expressive acting so typical of the silent era — very fun!"

For advance tickets, visit epsilonpires.org.

DISPATCH



Maria Buscaglia

COURTESY PHOTO

We **SHOWED**
each other
the **WAY TO DIE**

‘I’ve forgiven everybody, including myself,’ Maria said. ‘I have no regrets. I’m at peace and am ready to die.’ She chose death with dignity, surrounded by a community.

MARIA BUSCAGLIA WAS OUR motivation, community was our foundation, and Spirit was our guide. Together, we created our own experiential, immersive, spiritual death doula training.

West Dummerston

Maria was our dear friend, spiritual sister, and way-shower. A longtime friend to one person in our community, she moved here and joined our group of tight friends who do a lot of practices together regularly such as drumming, dancing, pot-lucks, holidays, hikes, storytelling, retreats, and more.

Maria’s diagnosis of breast cancer landed on top of decades of depression. For two years, she diligently researched and tried a myriad of alternative and traditional treatments.

After nearly a year, the tumor in her right breast was blocking the lymph nodes and nerves nearby, causing swelling and loss of the motor function of her right arm. She carefully held that arm up for months to ease the pain while diligently trying different practices to disable diseased cells and stimulate the lymph so it could return to the bloodstream and support the immune system.

Eventually, Maria’s breast cancer metastasized into her liver and became a terminal illness. There would be no more treatments.

The story that would unfold over the following months — of Maria’s death with dignity on her own terms — is full of the love, care, and competence of our community and her family.

GETTING THE NEWS that her end was inevitable, Maria preferred to use the medicine that would end her life with dignity, made possible by medical aid in dying.

“Medical aid in dying” is a modern term for an ancient idea that evokes the controversial question of who owns a life. Fortunately, it’s legal in Vermont — another reason to love our small but mighty state.

We met with Toni Kaeding, board co-chair and director of Patient Choices Vermont, the organization that educates Vermonters about the option of medical aid in dying brought forth by the Patient Choice at End of Life law (Act 39).

Toni helped us understand how the medicine works and the

LESLIE ZUCKER is a certified professional life coach, a facilitator of a women’s group, and a co-founder of Brattleboro Conscious Dance and ParaLabs, a collaborative experiment in awakening to our individual and collective potential.

Maria Buscaglia, who died Nov. 14, 2023, at age 63, will be honored this month, on her birthday, by her family and friends at a private celebration of life.

“If you’d like to learn more about empowering people at the end of life, visit patientchoices.org and consider making a donation to support the cause,” writes Zucker, who welcomes the opportunity to continue the conversation. Contact her at leslie@lesliezucker.com.

Editor’s note: This piece is among several recently submitted, at least in part, in response to Fran Lynggaard Hansen’s cover story about Dummerston resident Don Hazelton’s final days and his decision to use Vermont’s Patient Choice at End of Life law (Act 39) [“A matter of choice,” News, April 17]. We appreciate the community conversation it has inspired around terminal illness and our own agency over our lives and death with dignity.

most important requirements — that Maria be of sound mind in making the decision to use it, and that she physically drink the medicine herself, without anyone’s help.

Able to meet those two requirements, Maria felt empowered by the option to choose the timing of her own death.

Yet she also considered the feelings of her son, Cristian, and his father, Chris, about this choice.

With respect for their emotions about her decision, she held open the option of dying by fasting. For weeks, when either option was possible, we educated ourselves about the differences in dying by fasting versus taking the medicine, so we could be prepared to support Maria however she would need us.

MARIA’S PERSONAL, spiritual, and professional work exposed her to suffering in many ways. Prior to her diagnosis, she was a caretaker of the dying — a death doula herself, really, although she was too

humble to claim that honorable title.

Her work as a caretaker was an expression of the Bodhisattva vow she had taken when she was 20 years old. The vow in Buddhism is, among many other meanings, a dedication to compassionately help all sentient beings.

Not surprisingly, the aspiration of living up to the vow was a personal and spiritual challenge for Maria, one that weighed heavy on her heart. She knew, firsthand, the depths of suffering as a sentient being. Thanks to her profession, she also knew firsthand the inner work that could be done at the end of a life.

And she embraced it.

ONE NIGHT, Maria told us, “I’ve forgiven everybody, including myself. I have no regrets. I’m at peace and am ready to die.”

This statement affirmed what I’d been witnessing: Maria had been releasing the self-doubt, burdens, and confusion she’d carried for so long.

As her body continued to weaken, finally she was ready to ask for more support. She called six women to gather for her final “Women’s Council” — our group that we formed in 2017.

We knew exactly what to do: set intentions, luxuriate in plenty of silent meditation, share deeply, sing, play instruments, grieve, laugh, massage each other, snuggle, and share meals.

It was the last one we had with Maria.

AFTER THAT Women’s Council, we moved Maria, with only a few belongings, into what is affectionately called “the church,” a former Catholic sanctuary beautifully converted by artists into a sacred gathering space of our community.

The church has a lot of its original vestiges such as the stage, the choir balcony, and the confessional. It is filled with handmade objects and paintings by local artists, and countless memories, surely made by those who used the space well before our time, and most definitely by our community.

Chris and Cristian moved into the church with Maria, carefully managing her increasing pain levels, supporting her needs, and spending precious, tender time together.

Maria invited a few people from her family of origin to visit

■ SEE MARIA, C2

ESSAY

The closeness of neighbors

Small gestures and the day-to-day things build and nurture a community



ILEARNED OF Byron Stookey’s passing on the morning of April 12, just before I opened my pop-up coffee shop at the Hooker-Dunham building, where he and his wife, Lee, have lived for 15 years.

You can read the beautiful obituary that was published in *The Commons* on April 17 to know the kind of life Byron lived. He was an extraordinary man, and I’m honored to have known him over the past few years. I miss him dearly, and I’m sure I’m one of many who feel this way.

As far I can tell, I was one of the first people outside his family to get the news, along with

COREY DIMARIO is a musician and the proprietor of Patio Coffee, at the Hooker-Dunham block, at 139 Main St. in Brattleboro.

one of my work neighbors in the lobby of the Hooker-Dunham Building. We happened to be discussing Byron’s wry wit and sense of humor when one of his daughters came out of the apartment to tell us he had passed away that same morning.

It’s a moment I’ll never forget: one of closeness, of connection, of loss. I felt exposed, vulnerable. I also felt hugely responsible to

the family member who broke the news. To be there to receive word of such a loss.

It’s a rare thing to be present for, and the gravity of the moment still lingers. Since then I’ve thought of Byron almost every day in some capacity.

I STARTED Patio Coffee in the fall of 2019 as a seasonal pop-up on the patio of the Hooker-Dunham building. What began as a fun side hustle to my music career has now blossomed, occupying the patio when it’s warm and the lobby when it’s cold. A permanent pop-up, so to speak.

As my quirky micro-business

■ SEE NEIGHBORS, C2



This lovely Guilford property has classic character and charm with modern updates and upgrades making this a truly comfortable place to call home! There’s the main house with attached garage as well as the accessory in-law suite/apartment/accessory living space for longer term guests to stay that provides privacy from your main home. There’s the nicely sized barn for parking, animals or storage which could be a great base for a mini-farm setup when combined with the upper field fruit trees and potential gardening space. You can relax in the in-ground pool at the end of a long day working and putting around or retreat inside and enjoy the multiple wood stoves depending upon which space you choose to enjoy. There’s also the nice sun room for indoor plants and enjoying your morning beverage watching the sun rise. This is a very convenient location with multiple uses and plenty of options for you to make this your home. Delayed showings until May 18, 2024 with an Open House planned for that same day.

EXCLUSIVE: \$579,000



Ask for AJ

802-257-7979 x1

255 Western Ave, Brattleboro, VT
www.bellvillerealty.com

Neighbors

has developed into a year-round operation, my role in the building has evolved.

My job description now can easily read as part house barista and part concierge, often signing for packages, directing people to the appropriate office, or simply saying hello to the many people who work and live in the building. It's a role that I enjoy and cherish.

Most mornings for the past 4½ years, Byron would come out to buy coffee to bring back to his first-floor apartment to share with Lee. Once or twice a week, Lee would bring me a fresh-baked muffin or some cut flowers.

Occasionally, Byron would help me set up tables and chairs for my customers on the patio. We'd have short conversations about art or politics or our shared affection for the creaky wood floors of Brown & Roberts Hardware across the street.

Once I helped Byron sort out a small computer problem in his apartment, my expertise being my willingness to simply shut it off and turn it back on.

The Stookeys would always let me know when they were headed out of town so I wouldn't worry, and would always want to know about what my son was up to.

These small, neighborly gestures are the kind that make you feel close with someone — not because you've had long

FROM SECTION FRONT

heart-to-heart conversations, but because of the regularity of the mundane day-to-day things.

WHEN I WAS a kid, we would travel to New York City to visit my grandmother, my father's mother, at her home in the Bronx. The neighborhood, a mix of Italian, Jewish, and Puerto Rican, felt foreign and far away from my suburban home in central Massachusetts.

I have many memories of her house: the time our car was stolen from the driveway, trips to the Bronx Zoo, the strange elephant bookends on the mantel made of ebony with real ivory tusks, eating homemade pizzas stored in a Chock Full o' Nuts coffee can.

My grandmother would stand on the front stoop of her home, a duplex typical of the neighborhood, talking to neighbors and passersby. She would speak Italian and they would respond in Spanish, or they would all slip into English, catching up on local gossip and day-to-day happenings.

This is how I picture my grandmother when I think of her: her white hair and slight frame, her glasses, her strong, thin hands gesturing as she talked.

As I SETTLE into middle age, a divorce behind me, a new home in a new neighborhood, a teenage child coming into his own, I find myself reflecting on community.

I think of my grandmother on her stoop getting the neighborhood news, still in her kitchen apron.

I think of my role at the coffee cart and in the building. I think of Byron Stookey returning the cardboard carrying tray I gave him to more easily transport his two coffees with his shaky hands. I think of restarting computers and setting up folding chairs.

I think of these things — these small, simple, neighborly things — that make the place we live feel like home.

Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.

—ROBERT FROST

LETTERS FROM READERS

On wealth, taxes, and the failure of H.829

RE: "A wealth-tax bill roared to victory in the House. Then it died in the Senate. What happened?" [News, May 8]:

Wealth and taxes: two entwined topics that often quickly provoke strong emotions.

It seems we often get stuck in the same patterns talking about them. I wonder what would happen if we approached them differently.

For instance, what if we did not react to having to pay taxes as some kind of punishment and instead saw it as an opportunity to pay for what our communities need? When we hear a fire-truck's sirens, drive on smooth roads, or pass a school, we could think, "I am helping to fund that."

What if we expanded those common needs to housing and did not perceive it as an "option" for some, but rather as a basic need that our society

should provide to all, for the benefit of all?

We could also examine our relationship to wealth. What does it mean to have enough financial resources to live securely? To live comfortably? To live in luxury?

Most people can probably agree that those resources should include a safe shelter, enough food, access to clean water, and adequate clothing. Yet in our community, these basic resources are out of reach for many individuals and families.

For those of us (myself included) who can live comfortably, what does it mean to live in luxury? When is enough wealth enough? How does luxury-level wealth contribute to income inequality?

According to the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, "Nationally, home prices grew by 43 percent between 2019 and 2022, while incomes grew by just seven percent in that same period." Let that sink in.

Neither of these indicators happens in a vacuum. Society cannot withstand a continued widening of this gap. At some point, it will collapse. History shows how violent and tumultuous that can be.

I wouldn't want to live in a society where some rise at the expense of others getting pushed down, even if that could be sustained for a while. I couldn't walk the streets of my town feeling OK.

I was so optimistic about the proposed legislation (H.829) to add a new tax bracket for Vermonters earning at least \$500,000 a year and a higher property transfer tax on houses selling for more than \$750,000. Surely that falls into the luxury range.

The resources that would have been generated from these new revenue streams would have been used to build affordable housing in our state. The new law would have directly addressed people with greater wealth amassing ever more as

people with less wealth live insecurely).

I am grateful to Rep. Emilie Kornheiser for her leadership on H.829 and profoundly disappointed it was not debated in the Senate. I am grateful for the endorsement of this legislation by wealthy residents of our state.

Vermont has been at the leading edge of legislation that moves us and then the country forward. I am hopeful that H.829 has created momentum and that it will be taken up again in the next legislative session — and the next and the next, if necessary.

I look forward to supporting Rep. Kornheiser and others in their campaigns so we build an even stronger Legislature to address these issues with courage and creativity.

We simply cannot afford to let the forces of unchecked capitalism dominate this brave little state.

Jennifer Jacobs
Brattleboro

AMERICAN LEGION
POST #5
32 Linden St. Brattleboro
802-257-1872

MAY 20-24
LUNCH SPECIALS \$9.50
Mon. - Meatball Subs
Tue. - Taco Salad Bowl
Wed. - Cobb Salad
Thur. - Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Fri. - Fish Sandwich

****Burgers, salads, apps
and take out available****

FRIDAY DINNER
SAL Chicken Dinner 5-7pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
www.brattleboropost5.org

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

bc tv LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
May 13-20
CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

Here We Are - Tucker Barrett, Stringed Instrument Designer: Mon 8p, Tues 8:30p, Wed 12:30p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 10a, Sat 12:15p, Sun 5:15p	Community Forum - Public Safety Symposium at SIT 4/50/24: Mon 9a, Tues 6p, Wed 6:30a
The World Fusion Show - Ep 178 - Mac Ritchey: Mon 9p, Tues 6a, Wed 5:30p, Thurs 4p, Fri 6a, Sat 3:30p, Sun 6p	Windham Elementary School District Board Mtg. 5/9/24: Mon 6:30p, Tues 5:30a, Wed 12p
New England Center for Circus Arts - Circus Spectacular 3/4/24: Mon 6a, Tues 8p, Wed 3:30p, Thurs 9a, Fri 4p, Sat 9p, Sun 12:30p	West River Education District Board Mtg. 5/13/24: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 12p
Tulip Trot 5K & Green Street School 100th Anniversary 5/4/24: Mon 11:25a, Tues 6:55p, Wed 9:25a, Fri 6:55p, Sat 6:55a & 6:25p, Sun 7:55p	Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 5/13/24: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2:30p
TecCym Sports - Softball - Bellows Falls vs Burr & Burton 5/2/24: Mon 3p, Tues 9a, Wed 9p, Thurs 4:30p, Fri 6:30a, Sat 2p, Sun 9:30a	Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 5/13/24: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p
Around Town with Maria - What Vermonters Are Doing for Climate Action 4/22/24: Mon 10a, Thurs 1:15p, Fri 12:35p, Sat 5p, Sun 6:30p	VT Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel 5/13/24 Mtg: Thurs 2:15p, Sun 6p
Heart Rose Club presents Norma Dream 4/12/24: Mon 8:35p, Tues 11a, Wed 9a, Thurs 12:35p, Fri 10:35a, Sat 6:30a, Sun 8p	Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 5/14/24: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 2:30p
Sunflower Court - "Peace of Mind" by Painted Jewels: Mon 6:30p, Tues 11:25a, Wed 6:55p, Sat 12:55p, Sun 5:55p	Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 5/14/24: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 1:30p
Perspectives on Trauma - Part 7: Michael L. McGrath: Mon 5:30p, Tues 10:30a, Wed 1:30p, Thurs 6:30a, Sat 6:30p, Sun 2:30p	Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 5/15/24: Fri 6p, Sat 9:30a, Sun 11a
Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p	Putney Selectboard Mtg. 5/15/24: Sat 8:30p, Sun 5:15a
Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p	Brattleboro Charter Revision Commission Mtg. 5/16/24: Sat 6p, Sun 8:30a
News Block: Reformer News Break: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p NEWS-TV News: Mon-Fri 12:15p & 6:35p	Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg. 5/16/24: Sun 9:45p
St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a	Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 5/16/24: Thurs 12:30p
Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p	River Valleys Unified School District Board Mtg. 5/16/24: Thurs 11a
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: Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p, Sat 10p	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.commonnews.org.

Brattleboro Community Television - 257-0888

Maria

from New Jersey so she could say her final goodbyes. Our community invited a gathering at the church for Maria's friends in western Massachusetts — an hour away — where she had lived much of her adult life.

These gatherings allowed many final goodbyes while she was lucid and even upbeat.

We had our weekly Thursday night drum circle, enjoying her company singing, laughing, and tapping the rhythm with us. We continued to visit Maria at the church as she gracefully still managed her own schedule of visitors while winding down and resting more. We paid special attention to keeping her space at the church quiet and sacred, yet we were next door mobilizing our resources and tending to the many practical necessities.

Meanwhile, a beautiful mix of spiritual traditions was underway. We met with a close friend of Maria and Chris to learn about his lineage of Tibetan Buddhism and how we could incorporate best practices from the *Tibetan Book of the Living and Dying*.

He informed us of the ancient medicines and traditions that would provide Maria additional help with a smooth transition through death and the Bardo — the time, as the Tibetan Buddhists believe, between death and rebirth when reviews of life and karma happen.

MARIA'S PAIN continued, and she slept for most of the time, yet she was aware that we were all very close by, poised, and ready.

Ending intense pain, Maria decided she would use the Patient Choice at End of Life law, and she set the date for the following Tuesday morning, just a few days away.

Hearing this, some of us acquired practical materials like ice packs, while others built an arbor of bendable saplings, adorned with cedar branches, dried grasses, flowers, and herbs.

We set up her deathbed in the center of the church with the adorned arbor and a statue of Shiva, one of the principal deities of Hinduism, just behind her.

On Maria's final night, we gathered in the church, welcoming in the four directions, a tradition of Native American tribes. We lit an outdoor fire that would remain lit, through her death and the wake, until she was cremated.

From a deeply weakened state, Maria received our love in the form of prayers, expressions of thanks, music, and song.

TUESDAY MORNING, when we arrived at the church, Maria had already walked herself from her bedroom to her deathbed, beautifully adorned and awaiting her.

Each of us — her son, his wife, his father, and the six women whom she invited to witness her death — had some final one-time with her.

We then sat in a circle around her, holding sacred silence, enhanced only by calming music of our own making. Many others were gathered outside the church around the fire holding sacred space for what was about to transpire.

Maria, feeling ready, asked for the anti-nausea medicine (a precursor to the final medicine) and drank it down. With her functioning hand, as if her son were a newborn, she gently stroked his head that rested on her chest. Sacred silence, tears, and love filled the space.

She asked for her final medicine. Without hesitation, she drank that down, chased the bitter taste with a clementine, and laid back peacefully.

Soon, one graceful cough gave way to her death.

The church bell was rung, signaling to those at the fire outside that the end had come.

THAT END was also a beginning. It marked the start of the next four hours in which we followed the tradition of the Tibetan Buddhists to place two items on Maria's chest. We were to neither touch her body nor begin the grieving process.

A Bhavachakra (wheel of life) was placed on her chest, representing the endless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth, along with a gold leaf, commonly believed to keep the soul and body clean and pure as it passes on.

Rather than grief, scents and sounds filled the space. Sweetgrass, palo santo, frankincense, myrrh, and sage were lit, as they are believed to evoke protection, elevate spiritual connection, and be useful for transitioning.

The Native American flute, said to communicate love, filled the space, followed by the hang drum, an instrument based on the Caribbean steelpan, which offered a quiet, peaceful resonance.

Then the charango, a South American string instrument, paid homage to Maria's native country of Chile.

We also offered our own voices as the instruments. We chanted "Loka samastā sukhino bhavantu," meaning "May all beings be happy and free" in Sanskrit, and "Assalamu alaikum," meaning "May peace be with you" in Arabic.

At the four-hour mark, the women tended to Maria's request of undressing her, cleaning her with rose water, and painting her body with ginkgo leaves, a symbol of strength, hope, and peace. We further adorned her beautifully and peacefully laid body with a white and gold silk sari from India, wings of hawks, bundles of sage, dried flowers, and dustings of cannabis and tobacco.

We created a prayer card and invitation for a viewing and ceremony to honor Maria's life that would begin the following day.

We sent it wide and far to friends from when she lived in Massachusetts, friends of her son and his father, friends and colleagues from her days as a caretaker, friends from the local dance community, former lovers and life partners.

Many of her loved ones came by the church throughout the day, while we served tea and baked goods, holding sacred space and tending to their comforts and emotions.

Some sat next to Maria, some held her hand and caressed her face, some admired her from afar.

Sniffles, tears, and silence mixed with the calming hang drum and the burning of frankincense resin.

AS THE SUN SET and candles were lit on every window sill, altar, and available surface, the crowds who had been touched by Maria arrived for an evening ceremony.

The church was filled with concentric circles of people sitting on cushions with an assortment of drums and rattles in the middle. As is our community's custom, there wasn't a prepared schedule or defined plan for the ceremony, but rather loving intentions held by people practiced at collaborating and allowing Spirit to guide us.

One person opened the ceremony with a deeply heartfelt, beautifully crafted acknowledgment of the truth of who and what was there in that moment.

Some had experienced Maria's long struggle, some had fallen out of touch with her. Some had been intimately involved in Maria's dying process, and some had been unaware it was happening. Some had resolve and closure with Maria, and some did not. Some were comfortable with how Maria had ended her life, and some were not.

Yet, despite our differences, love was in the air.

We drummed, we sang sacred songs, we prayed, we shared memories and gratitude.

Someone asked, "What were her final words?" A few people shared those touching moments, including "see you on the other side," which Maria had said to the eldest in our community.

We passed around handmade ceramic cups of warm cacao, made from Maria's supply, as she always drank cacao in the mornings.

Chris recited the Heart Sutra from memory, which he and Maria recited to their son, Cristian, to calm him down and put him to sleep as a young child. The Heart Sutra is among the classic Buddhist scriptures and conveys the instructions to experience reality permeated by wisdom and compassion.

Finally, clementines were passed around, and we enjoyed them as an honoring of Maria's final taste. Clementines and avocados were always within Maria's reach.

THE NEXT MORNING, Chris and Cristian spent their final hours with Maria's body while listening to favorite songs that filled their home decades before. Once they felt complete, we, the women, prepared her body for cremation.

We covered her in more cedar, sage, cannabis, and tobacco, the clementine peels from the night before, and a few sacred objects that people had placed on her body. We wrapped her up in the sage green flannel sheet she left us specifically for this purpose and tied some twine around her

like a gift. She really was a gift to the other realms.

Once the two people arrived to transport her body, we all carried Maria out of the church chanting, "We love you so much. We love you so much. We love you so much."

We placed her on the stretcher, zipped up the body bag, and watched her be driven away.

MEANWHILE, the outdoor fire was going on day three. We huddled around it, sending our prayers up to the universe, catching a ride on the smoke of the cedar branches.

We laughed about how the signature on her email for many years said, "If you want to change culture, throw a better party."

Indeed, we had thrown her a party of a lifetime.

Maria had changed the experience of death and dying for many, if not all, of us. This is why we call her a way-shower — bold enough to live out her values and serve as an example for the rest of us.

Someone stayed the night outside with the fire to keep it lit until the next morning, when we'd do another ceremony at exactly the hour of Maria's cremation. We were ready, around the fire, watching the sparks and flames dance with the cold wind until eventually it faded out, a symbol of the end — in the ashes.

THAT WAS NOT the end of the ceremonies.

Chris, in his beautifully humble and knowledgeable shamanic ways, held Native American pipe ceremonies every day for the 49 days that Maria passed through the Bardo.

Her ashes were placed in front of him, along with sacred objects he's accumulated over the decades. These ceremonies included praying with a special tobacco pipe given to Chris by the Native American elders who taught him such rituals.

Tobacco is known by Native Americans as the unifying thread of communication between humans and spiritual powers. Our community gathered around Chris for these pipe ceremonies, which allowed many of us to grieve and celebrate the life and death of Maria together, in community.

IN THE FOLLOWING months, as we cleared out Maria's very small, light-filled apartment, I admired how she lived out her value of leaving only a very small footprint on Mother Earth.

Going through her humble belongings, I smiled at well-worn dishware from the '70s and free furniture that she'd collected from neighbors' giveaways.

Maria experienced environmental grief, suffering deep sadness about the loss of our natural world and its creatures. The books about the plight of Mother Earth were soiled by her tears. Her concern for her physical and mental well-being was evident in the shelves lined with obscure vitamins, supplements, tinctures, and medicinal herbs.

Again, Maria was the way-shower, bold enough to live out her values and serve as an example for the rest of us.

As I remember Maria, in all her glorious roles — the ghoster, the trickster, the Gemini — and as I think of the sparkle in her green eyes, I find so much to be thankful for.

I give thanks to the medical professionals who cared for Maria during her battle with cancer and to the pioneers and advocates who made medical aid in dying possible in Vermont. It is with sincere thanks to the medicine that our community benefited from such a healing and unforgettable experience of death — possibly, a transformation in our relationship to death.

This journey showed me the power we have as a community to hold steadily strong and subtly soft energies simultaneously.

It helped us to recognize our abilities to create immense beauty and cultivate immense compassion. We set aside our own needs, and we renewed our patience with one another.

We faced our own fears and stepped up to serve. We shared our love with those closest to us and also those from wide and far.

Some of us prayed that someday, when our turn comes, we may be so blessed. I felt that, if given a terminal diagnosis, I wished to be surrounded by my friends and family and end my life with dignity in the moment of my choosing, just as Maria did.

Gracias, querida Maria, for showing the way.

FROM SECTION FRONT

LETTERS FROM READERS

A gratuitous personal assault

RE: "False equivalency between the occupied and the occupiers" [Letters, May 8]: Kate Casa's response to John Ungerleider's letter concerning local debate about the horrific state of affairs in Gaza definitely crossed the civility line from my perspective.

Instead of simply staying with her defensible points about Israeli occupation and military assault on Palestinians and the intractability of the conflict, she chose to engage in a gratuitous personal assault on John.

Her comments disparaging his entire career, one dedicated to transforming conflict and bringing warring parties together to further peace, were lamentable at best, inexcusable at worst.

Those demeaning and dismissive comments by Ms. Casa have no place in the current discourse that is too often fraught with animosity and vitriol and ad hominem attacks.

A saying I heard recently is: "Debate ideas, not people." I think this ethos would serve us all well in the current climate and allow us to disagree civilly without resorting to vitriolic personal attacks on a highly respected community member.

Bill Conley Dummerston

could be talking about at least 400 souls on board. Or upwards of 800 on an Airbus.

Gaza's Rafah has 1.3 million souls on board, and they are squarely in Netanyahu's sights. These displaced Palestinians are the target of Israel's invasion of Rafah, aided by continued American military intelligence and targeting in this undeclared war.

Only Congress has the power to declare war, not the president, and the War Powers Act of 1973 states that U.S. intelligence sharing constitutes participation in war.

We have been and continue to be complicit in the deaths of these souls.

The rising chorus from members of Congress in opposition to Netanyahu's horror in Gaza should be followed by a Rafah War Powers Resolution. Any member of Congress could introduce this.

President Biden has stated his opposition to the invasion of Rafah, but has not backed that up with sufficient action. Now that Israel has closed the Rafah border crossing and an invasion is imminent, congressional action is even more urgent.

I'm grateful that our Vermont delegation voted against further military aid to Israel and continues to work behind the scenes to aid Gaza.

MaryDiane Baker Brattleboro

Absurd assurance

RE: "We just want a permanent ceasefire, now" [Letters, May 8]:

Thomas Hill tells us that, "like Hamas, the African National Congress (ANC) and Mandela were labeled as terrorists," and assures us that Hamas will lead the Israelis and Palestinians to a peaceful transition.

The absurdity of that speaks for itself.

Steven K-Brooks Brattleboro

Wealthy Vermonters could help locally

On the front page of the May 8 edition of The Commons are two articles. One is about Winston Prouty seeking to build 300 housing units, but finding it difficult to secure financing.

The other is about how wealthy Vermonters like Ben Cohen, Jerry Greenfield, and others favored a tax increase on the wealthiest Vermonters to (allegedly) raise funds for housing.

Here's a thought: Instead of turning that money over to the government, why don't wealthy Vermonters concerned about housing help projects like Winston Prouty directly?

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

Brattleboro Books Since 1988. Temporary home to the area's best USED books. 25,000 USED BOOKS. OPEN MOST Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays 11-5 Sundays 11-4. Call for updates 802-257-7777. 36 Elliot St, Brattleboro brattbooks@gmail.com

Souls on board in Gaza

When I worked at a major airport, I learned to refer to people on airplanes as "souls on board."

If, for example, a 747 was having landing gear problems as they approached the airport, you

Put the money to work instead of advocating for a brand new tax. Help out locally by identifying projects you can put your money into across the state. Problem solved.

Sandy Golden Hinsdale, N.H.

A legal question

Let me begin by saying that I only have great distaste for the large orange guy and that I pray that he doesn't make America groan again. No, that wasn't a typo.

That being said, what I would like to know is why the hush money incident he is currently in court for doesn't also make the adult film star who received the payment qualify for criminal prosecution herself?

After all, Stormy Daniels accepted money to keep quiet about the whole thing, right? Isn't that tantamount to blackmail? If so, shouldn't she have her time in court as well?

Peter Van der Does Brattleboro

Thanks to our lawmakers

As the latest legislative session draws to a close, I'd like to thank all our elected representatives for their hard work toward creating a Vermont that is viable for all.

Particular gratitude goes to Emilie Kornheiser, one of three representatives from Brattleboro and chair of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Kornheiser has shown great wisdom in addressing issues, researching possible solutions, and evaluating how these ideas can work in Vermont.

She has the courage to propose bold ideas and the skill to argue for them persuasively without resorting to the personal attacks or demagoguery so common in the current political climate.

While many state governments continue to rely on antiquated ideologies of Calvinism and the invisible hand of Adam Smith, partisan politics, or just plain greed, Emilie Kornheiser

is providing the leadership Vermonters need to address the dire problems that have been wrought by those same ideologies.

Chris Zappala Guilford

Gratitude for Ukraine aid

RE: "Organizers hope to draw attention to Ukraine war" [News, Jan. 31]:

A heartfelt thank you to those who participated in the recent event marking the two-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, featuring a talk by Vaclovas Salkauskas, consul general of Lithuania.

Together with online donations and a family grant, we raised \$14,500 for the purchase of individual first aid kits for Ukrainian soldiers on the front lines.

Special thanks to the Vermont-based company Darn Tough, which donated 240 pairs of socks; the Windham World Affairs Council, which

co-sponsored the speaker's event; and Christian Stromberg of Saxtons River Distillery, who donated the space and all profits of the evening.

Additional thanks to committee members Julianne Kaplan, Ian Diamondstone, Daria Bimenova, and Ralph Meima, who has also coordinated solidarity marches with Ukraine.

Advocacy for Ukraine is critical now. To stay informed on issues and advocacy opportunities, please sign up for information from the Lithuanian-American Community Public Affairs Council by contacting publicaffairs@javlb.org (publicaffairs@javlb.org target=). The council is a member of the Central & East European Coalition, and welcomes participation from anyone who cares about these issues.

Slava Ukraini.

Kerry Secrest Brattleboro

Kerry Secrest serves as honorary consul of Lithuania to Vermont.

JOON PAKK THE COMMONS CROSSWORD "There's No Comparison" 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 Across 1. Orbital high point 7. Coder's major, briefly 14. Babylonian goddess 20. Au Bon Pain alternative 21. "101 Dalmatians" prequel 22. Torchbearer? 23. Query about which act will perform first at a concert? 25. Pre-Aztec culture of Mexico 26. "Pokémon: Detective ___" 27. Appears to be 28. Israel's Barak 29. They're exposed by flip-flops 31. Cocktail shaken in a laundry machine? 36. Tater 40. English soccer star Williamson 42. "Go ahead!" 43. Universal donor type, briefly 44. "Ode to a Zippo"? 49. Makeshift sled 51. Artless nickname? 52. Let 53. Native to the area 55. Clear plastic 57. Lumberyard purchase 60. The devil 61. Refers 62. Legal helper, informally 64. Helped 66. Hotel capacity 67. Be at ease while counting? 73. Harshly criticize 75. Do a nose job? 76. Abbr. before a summary, online 77. Fangs 80. Roper's rope 83. Japanese for "harbor wave" 88. Prolific English Christmas carol composer John 89. "Wow!" 91. Tag declaration 92. Kingston sch. 93. Periods, essentially 95. Oklahoma farewell? 98. The ___ (park in Boston's Back Bay) 100. The best animal ever? 102. Choir voice 103. Thin and angular 104. Lay it on thick with the judges? 109. Son, in French 111. Eponymous puzzle inventor Rubik 112. What a colon may represent 114. Acts as an intermediary 119. Roman general who defeated Hannibal 122. Choice about whether to order bacon? 124. Crossword neighbor 125. Looked forward to 126. Napoli's nation 127. Some steaks 128. Birds of prey 129. Crowd Down 1. Each 2. Big ___ (David Ortiz) 3. Short fun run distance 4. Actress Rowlands 5. Upright 6. Football helmet feature 7. Hosp. heart ward 8. Mined materials 9. Said thoughtfully 10. First pope 11. Repulsive 12. Not taking customers 13. Actor McKellen 14. "Are you done?" 15. Search thoroughly 16. Maintain, as principles 17. Explosive compound 18. It's worth four high-card points in bridge 19. Suggestion, in brief 24. Not cishet 28. Arab ruler 30. Floppy disk icon 32. Campus military grp. 33. One with privileged access 34. Scored a goal, in hockey or soccer 35. "Hmm, OK" 36. What great songs do 37. Medicine form 38. Word that you can't spell "unsightly" without, aptly 39. Arabian Sea sailboat 41. Egg layers 45. Late lunch hour, maybe 46. Old nutritional abbr. 47. Ignite 48. Envelope icon 50. Actor Brynner 54. Pacers' home, informally 56. 111-Across creation 58. Clumsy sort 59. Rubbish 61. One in the majority? 63. Sleeve filler 65. Tolkien tree creature 67. Watering hole 68. Leave out 69. Semester, e.g. 70. Jennifer Garner spy show 71. Docs, or their degrees 72. Uncle they actually do talk about in "Encanto" 73. Back of the neck 74. Tree sacred to Apollo 78. The Dutch, on Olympic scoreboards 79. Sensitive, in a way 81. Draw 82. Actress Taylor-Joy 84. Gaming greenhorn 85. 8, for oxygen: Abbr. 86. Bearing 87. "Just doing my best" 89. Letters of urgency 90. Activity where it's good to be below par 94. Corrida creature 96. Functional 97. Ask for 99. Trample underfoot Last issue's solution "One Up Front" A T H E N A A D V I L E K G T E S T S L O A V E S R A I M I Y E A H S U R E C O V E R I V E R S O N E N V I S I O N A K A F A N R O K E R N E S T I S P T S D M E T E R J O E Y D U K E P O U N D I C O N J U S T G O T I P A D C O N K S M E D I C L I V S I S M O S B I L G E P I N E T A R C O N A I R W A L L E L A V E E R E A C O R N H E L L O B A L I L A C K M A R T I N I A M S H E R M A N I C A N P I T S E N V Y P U R R S F R O D O E N E M U T E P A R R Y V L A S I C R E D F I R S A O R T A H E R Y A K O L A I D L E S D O L E D S C H O O L I C H O R O U T O F I T M E L A I D D U O S R A N D D V E I L A L L A V O C H E E K O R A T S A P L A N N I N G I W I L L G O F I R S T A T R A N D O M R E N E E M A D A M E T O Y B O A T S T R A Y S E R A S E D PUBLICATION OF THE COMMONS CROSSWORD IS UNDERWRITTEN BY

WINDHAM COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY. Make a friend for life. 916 West River Rd, Brattleboro, VT 802-254-2232 wchs4pets.org. WILL YOU ADOPT ME? Hi, I'm Sophie. I have a sweet, and salty side! I am an older gal who is looking for a forever home to live the rest of my life in. I am not a fan of lots of handling. I would do best as the only animal in the home, as I don't like others. Young kids would be too much for me. If I sound like the best fit for your quiet home, come meet me today! Ad graciously sponsored by Trust Company of Vermont www.tcvermont.com Brattleboro - Burlington - Rutland - Manchester

BRATTLEBORO TIRE. Locally owned for over 46 years! 802-254-5411 558 Putney Rd. TIRES & ALL UNDER CAR SERVICE. WE SELL ALL MAJOR BRANDS OF TIRES ALL TIRES ON SALE Now through May 31! OIL CHANGE \$74.95 FULL SYNTHETIC UP TO 5 QTS. INCLUDES 30 POINT COURTESY CHECK Fluids • Belts • Hoses • Steering • Brakes Lights • Much More Upon Request. *(\$3.00 disposal fee) most cars. Special diesel oil & filter extra. Call for an appointment! VT State Inspections • Courtesy cars or rides available at no cost

COLUMN | Sports Roundup

Terriers softball keeps rolling with wins over Jacks, Bears

More than baseball, high school softball is a game where success is determined by pitching. A softball team with a reliable starting pitcher who can consistently throw strikes will win more games than they lose. Add steady defense and some power at the plate, and you have the makings of a team that can contend for a state title.



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.

Bellows Falls pitcher Izzy Stoodley is the Terriers' hard-throwing intimidator on the mound, and she is equally good with the bat. She sets the tone for her teammates to follow, and when they hit and field at the same level that Stoodley is pitching, the result is a team that nobody wants to face come playoff time.

The Terriers showed that last week with a 23-5 road win in five innings over the Windsor Yellowjackets on May 7 and a 16-4 win in six innings over the Brattleboro Bears in Westminster on May 9.

BF pounded Windsor as the Terriers broke open a close game with 12 runs in the third inning, and picked up four more in the fourth and five runs in the fifth before the game was stopped due to the 12-run mercy rule. Stoodley allowed five runs on four hits with six strikeouts. Only three of the runs were earned.

Emma Thompson went 4-for-4 with a walk, six RBIs, and four runs scored, while Stoodley went 2-for-4 with a walk and four RBIs. Grace Hayes drove in three runs with a hit and walk and scored a run, and Riley Haskell went 2-for-3 with two walks and scored four runs. Emma Spaulding and Jaelyn Fletcher each walked twice and scored three runs.

Against Brattleboro, Stoodley struck out 10 batters as BF took a 5-2 lead in the first inning and had a 14-2 lead after four innings. Fletcher drove in three runs to lead the Terriers and Haskell scored five times.

Bellows Falls ended the week at 7-2 and the No. 2 ranking in Division III, while Brattleboro is now 0-7, as the Bears suffered an 11-4 loss to Burr & Burton on May 6 and a 14-2 loss at Rutland on May 11.

What is the difference between Bellows Falls and Brattleboro this season? BF has an experienced squad with six seniors who were part of the Terriers' run to the Division III semifinals last season, a run that ended with a loss to the eventual state champs, Oxbow. Brattleboro is young and in rebuilding mode. BF has the talent to play for a state title now, while the Bears will have to take their lumps as they gain the experience that may ultimately lead to a winning team.

Baseball

Brattleboro's Jayke Glidden turned in another great pitching performance, but it wasn't quite enough as the Bears lost to the Burr & Burton Bulldogs, 3-1, on May 6 at Tenney Field. The Bulldogs got all their runs in the second inning, the only hiccup in Glidden's outing. Brattleboro got its only run in the sixth on an RBI single by John Satterfield.

Against Rutland on May 11, the Bears were once again victimized by one bad inning as they lost, 8-3. The teams were tied 2-2 going into the fifth inning, but Rutland scored four

runs with two outs in the fifth to take control of the game. Starting pitcher Jackson Emery took the loss as the Bears fell to 2-6 on the season.

Spencer Claussen pitched four strong innings to lead Leland & Gray to a 17-4 win over Poultney on May 6 in Townshend. Claussen also helped his cause by going 4-for-4 from the leadoff spot with an inside-the-park home run and a triple. He scored four runs and had two RBIs. Also joining the Rebels' hit parade were Cody Hescocock, Ryder Butynski, and Lucas Stolpp, who all went 2-for-3. Hescocock doubled, drove in two runs, and scored four runs, while Butynski had a double and three RBIs and Stolpp had four RBIs.

The Rebels lost to White River Valley, 6-4, in Royalton on May 10 but bounced back to beat Green Mountain, 14-6, on May 11 in Townshend to improve to 5-6 on the season.

The Green Mountain game was the annual "Dingers for Dylan" fundraiser in memory of Dylan Landers, a Leland & Gray student-athlete who died in a truck accident in May 2021. The current Rebels honored Landers with an inspired effort against GM, as Claussen had two hits, two RBIs, and scored three runs to support a complete game victory by Hescocock on the mound. Hescocock scattered 11 hits as previously undefeated GM lost their second straight game to fall to 7-2.

Bellows Falls rallied to beat Windsor, 7-4, at Hadley Field on May 7. Trailing 4-3 heading the BF fifth, Cole Moore singled, stole second and third base, and scored on an error to tie the game for BF and spark the Terriers' comeback. BF then lost to Mount Anthony, 9-2, on May 11 to end their week at 5-4.

Winless Twin Valley had a rough week. The Wildcats lost to Mill River, 14-6, on May 6, were beaten by West Rutland, 23-11, in five innings on May 7, and were defeated by Mount St. Joseph, 15-4, in six innings on May 9 to fall to 0-7.

Softball

Leland & Gray finished last week with a 5-4 record. The Rebels lost to Poultney, 16-9, lost on May 6 in Townshend and defeated White River Valley, 11-7, in Royalton on May 10.

Twin Valley had to cancel its May 6 game against Green Mountain. The Wildcats then lost to Long Trail, 31-1, on May 8 in Dorset and suffered another road loss to Woodstock, 17-9, on May 10 to fall to 1-5 on the season.

Boys' tennis

The Brattleboro boys rolled to a 7-0 win over Woodstock on May 6 at the BUHS courts. The Bears won one singles match by forfeit as Dorian Paquette, Malo Renault, Nate Kim, and Mark Richards were not seriously

challenged in their respective matches. The doubles teams of Wyatt Cudworth and Jackson Pals and Eben Wagner and Eli Welsh were also winners.

The Bears followed up with a 7-0 victory over Burr & Burton on May 8 in Manchester. Kim, Renault, Richards, Paquette, and Thomas Hyde were the singles winners, while Pals and Cudworth and Ben Berg and Leo Bodett cruised through their doubles matches. The Bears then finished the week with a 5-0 win over Frontier Regional to improve to 8-0 and the No. 2 ranking in Division I.

Unified basketball

Brattleboro finished the regular season with an undefeated 7-0 record with a 66-54 win over Mount Anthony in Bennington on May 8 and a 35-33 win over Rutland on Senior Day at the BUHS gym on May 10.

Twin Valley picked up its first win of the season in its final regular season game, a 56-50 road victory over Mount Anthony on May 6. The Wildcats finished the regular season with a 1-4-1 record.

Times have not yet been announced for the Southern Division playoffs, but the top-seeded Bears will host the winner of the first-round game between Springfield and Otter Valley in a quarterfinal game at the BUHS gym. Seventh-seeded Twin Valley will host 10th-seeded Mount Anthony in a first-round game. The winner of that game will face No. 2 Burr & Burton in the quarterfinals.

Lacrosse

The Brattleboro boys had a pair of home losses last week to fall to 1-6. On May 8, the Bears fell to Hartford, 8-4. On May 10, the Bears lost to Rutland, 9-3. Rutland led 4-2 at halftime and pulled away in the second half.

The Brattleboro girls defeated Stratton Mountain School, 17-8, and lost to Amherst-Pelham (Mass.) Regional, 15-6, on May 11 to finish the week at 2-4.

Tyler Higley is Castleton's new football coach

Last week, Vernon native and BUHS alum Tyler Higley was named the interim head football coach at Vermont State University-Castleton. Higley, who spent the past two years as Castleton's defensive coordinator under head coach Tony Volpone, was elevated to the top job after Volpone announced on May 9 that he will be stepping down following the conclusion of the current academic year after 10 years of leading the Spartans.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to lead this program that means so much to me," Higley said in a news release. "I want to thank [Castleton athletic director] Tim Barrett and the administration for the chance to guide this program into its next chapter. The program had a strong non-traditional season this spring and I have great confidence in this group as we move forward into the 2024 season."

A member of the BUHS Class of 2013, Higley played quarterback for the Colonels and also played that position at Castleton in his freshman



Bellows Falls pitcher Izzy Stoodley is a big reason why the Terriers are currently ranked No. 2 in Division III softball in Vermont.



Vernon native Tyler Higley is now the interim head football coach at Vermont State University-Castleton.

and sophomore seasons. He switched to defensive back in his junior season where he earned First Team All-Conference honors from the Eastern Collegiate Football Conference (ECFC).

Higley still ranks among Castleton's top five for career interceptions and pass deflections and holds the program's single-season records with seven interceptions and 18 passes defensed. In 2015, he ranked among the nation's top five in interceptions per game and passes defensed per game. He holds a bachelor's degree in sports administration with a minor in coaching and business, as well as a master's degree in athletic leadership from Castleton.

He spent the last two seasons as Castleton's defensive coordinator, recruiting coordinator, and community service coordinator. Under Higley's tutelage, the Spartans allowed the fewest points per game in the ECFC in 2022 and the fewest yards per game in the ECFC in 2023. The Spartans had nine defensive players earn All-ECFC accolades over Higley's two seasons as defensive coordinator, with

seven of those honorees landing First Team recognition.

In addition to the five seasons on staff with the Spartans, he had a stint as defensive backs coach and special teams coordinator at Western New England University. Given his experience playing on both sides of the ball during his college career and his success as a defensive coordinator, there's a good chance that Higley could shed the "interim" from his current job title. Good luck, Tyler, with the new gig.

Madow, Lockerby honored at NFF banquet

The Vermont chapter of the National Football Foundation (NFF) honored the best of the 2023 football season at its 29th annual Vermont Chapter Awards Dinner at Vermont State University-Castleton on May 5.

Sam Madow of Brattleboro was one of six high school seniors selected as the 2023 Vermont High School Football Scholar-Athlete Inductees, honored by the NFF for "outstanding football ability and performance, outstanding academic achievement, and outstanding school leadership and example." Madow will receive a \$500 scholarship.

A first team all-state selection on defense, Madow was consistently named to the honor roll throughout high school. He volunteered as a coach in the Brattleboro youth flag football program and the local Girls on the Run Program along with many other school projects as well as participating on the BUHS Unified basketball team. A two-year starter on offense and defense, Madow was a South captain in the 2023 North-South Senior All-Star Game and has been selected for the 2024 Vermont Shrine Bowl team.

Running back Walker James of Bellows Falls was one of the 22 statewide finalists for the

Scholar-Athlete honors.

The Vermont Football Officials Association also gave its season-long team sportsmanship awards at the dinner. For the second straight year, Bellows Falls head coach Bob Lockerby was presented with the James Howard Trophy as the Southern Vermont honoree.

Senior bowling roundup

Week 2 of the spring/summer season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on May 9 saw Half Normal (10-0) have its second 5-0 week to remain in first place. Spare Change (7-3) moved into sole possession of second place, followed by Slo Movers and High Rollers (both 6-4), Three Musketeers (5-5), Fab Four, Stayin' Alive, and Misguided (all 4-6), and Split Happens (3-7).

Debbie Kolpa had the women's high handicap game (247), while Carol Gloski had the high handicap series (670). Skip Shine had the men's high handicap game (271) and series (704). Spare Change had the high team handicap game (873) and Slo Movers had the high handicap series (2,481).

John Walker had the men's high scratch series (600) with games of 223 and 191, while Chuck Adams had a 588 series with a 215 game, and Milt Sherman had a 576 series with games of 216 and 200. Robert Rigby had a 575 series with games of 213 and 193, while Skip Shine had a 569 series with games of 226 and 215, and Marty Adams and Gary Montgomery both had a 545 series. Montgomery had a 199 game and Warren Corriveau Sr. rolled a 191 game.

Gloski had the women's high scratch series (523), with games of 184 and 170, while Kolpa had the high scratch game (185). Shirley Aiken had a 178 game.



15TH ANNUAL BREWERS FESTIVAL
MAY 25TH • 12:30PM – 4:30PM

Get your tickets now!
Scan or visit brattleborobrewersfestival.com

