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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-alifetime 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.

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 60day period to submit comments and interventions for the projects was extended to the May date.

FERC requires that hydropower 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 The two Massachusetts hydro 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



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

RATTLEBORO— Carolyn Pieciak can tell you how she made peanut butter, jelly, and Fluff sandwiches for her son, long before he sank his teeth She spread the news one day this

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 living on Social Security, and are 165 degrees," she began a restruggling." in 1970 and was head of the peace and justice committee of cent 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 retir-State Treasurer Mike Pieciak, ing as the lunch spot's director. 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

Pieciak's peers statewide have reported a similar shift in

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

St. Michael's Catholic Church when the pastor noted a growing number of visitors request-

"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

RATTLEBORO-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,

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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.'







TERWILLIGER); RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/COMM 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.

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.

SANDALS

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"Between a Black person and For example, take those little non-invasive pulse-oximeter devises 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-re-Jones, a dermatologist in private ple and other people of color, the

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 sponse beam," said Dr. Rebecca services at BMH. In Black peo-

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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

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■ Hydro license renewal

FROM SECTION FRONT

general.

GRH has already agreed to change river flow to a more natural "run-of-the-river, inflow equaling outflow" rate, which will minimize peaking.

Kathy Urffer, director of policy and advocacy and Vermont river steward at the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC), said the flow decision is "a great outcome, and we're really pleased with it."

The CRC has been advocating for the health of the Connecticut River and the communities in its watershed since 1952 and participates in the relicensing of hydroelectric facilities. A recent release from the organization stated: "These facilities use a public trust resource — your river — to produce power.

Comments and concerns

Marina Garland of Perkinsville spoke for many in commenting that Great River Hydro is "a company that will be profiting hugely from this public resource over a long period of time."

Like many commenters on the relicensing, Garland wants to see continued improvements in recreation infrastructure; restoration of the eroding riverbanks; protection of wildlife and river ecology; improvements for fish passage; and more research, data collection, and reporting on how operation of the dams affects river ecology.

"It is insufficient to hope that going run-of-the-river will be good enough on its own, without continuous and thorough data collection," Garland wrote. "Another 40 years is too long to just hope for the best.'

Chris Parsons of Hadley, Massachusetts, wrote that his family has farmed the Northampton Meadows for 13 generations. He expressed particular concern over variations in river flow.

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farmed along the river," he wrote, "it has never come up as fast as it does today after a rainstorm."

He added that he recognizes the need for the dam operator to "maintain a flow of water for their purposes," but added, "they need to consider others that have interests along the Connecticut River.

He was especially concerned about the crop damage farmers experienced following the July 2023 flooding.

"I can assure you," Parsons wrote, "that if this happens again, many farmers won't be able to take the financial losses the flooding caused."

The town of Dummerston noted that it occupies a unique position on the river, affected by both the Vernon Dam, 10 miles to its south, and the Bellows Falls Dam, 15 miles north.

The town's comment urged "that FERC require, and GRH commit to, allocating funds and creating an action plan to monitor and address any erosion issues as they occur (or already exist)."

Dummerston also requested that GRH hold regular public meetings as it works with towns within the Connecticut River watershed to develop an ongoing Recreation Management Plan "that provides recreational opportunities that are regionally beneficial, equitably distributed throughout the project area, and financially supported over the entire life of the license.'

The return of spawning shortnose sturgeon to the Connecticut River is also a factor in the relicensing and operation of the dams. The species has been verified as far north as the Turners Falls Dam.

Micah Kieffer, a research fishery biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, specializes in sturgeon and has been studying the species in the Connecticut and other rivers for decades. He "In all the years we have was one of the scientists who

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The Bellows Falls hydroelectric facility.

ROBERT F. SMITH/THE COMMONS

wrote the 1998 "Final Recovery Plan for the Shortnose Sturgeon, produced by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries.

Kieffer leads a group working to establish just how far up the Connecticut River spawning shortnose sturgeon have made it. As to whether they've made it as far as the Bellows Falls dam, Kieffer said, "There is enough compelling evidence right now to indicate the need for further investigation by experts.'

FERC will consider all of these factors in the relicensing process.

River conservation advocates consider community response especially urgent, given that the consequences of this decision will very likely stretch at least 40 years into the future.

Urffer called it "literally a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to shape how the hydroelectric facilities mitigate for their impact on the river for future generations."

Hydropower relicensing information, as well as a FERC Comment Guide, can be found at ctriver.org/ our-work/hydropower.

> t is only in appearance that time is a river. It is rather a vast landscape and it is the eye of the beholder that moves.

-Thornton

■ St. Brigid's Kitchen

FROM SECTION FRONT

ordering and obtaining ingredients, and creating space at the church's former convent to prepare and serve food.

Then came the hard part. "We had to name the kitchen - and had our biggest fight," Pieciak said. "Someone wanted St. Francis House of Bread. Someone else wanted Martha's Kitchen, because Martha got a bad rap.'

(Martha, according to the Bible, worriedly made a meal for Jesus, only to be told to stop and instead marinate in his teachings — but that's an-

other story.)
Amid the debate, someone thought of St. Brigid, a patron saint of Ireland who is celebrated for her compassion and charity.

"Everybody loved it," Pieciak said.

'We thought this was a temporary fix'

The newly named soup kitchen opened on St. Patrick's Day 1982, and it was soon serving an average of two dozen people a day, including the local coal shoveler, who always arrived with ashen hands.

We thought this was a temporary fix — we never thought it would last," Pieciak said. 'Things were not good then, but they're horrible today."

St. Brigid's now feeds more than 200 people each lunch hour on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, with approximately 100 volunteers preparing an annual total of 45,000 meals.

"It's like catering a big wedding four days a week," Pieciak said.

The local influx of older patrons mirrors the situation statewide. According to a report on senior hunger by Feeding America, a national hunger relief organization, an estimated 8% of Vermont elders are considered food

insecure. "We know that inflation and the increase in food prices have hit people on fixed incomes hard," said John Sayles, CEO of the Vermont Foodbank. "It's not just older Vermonters, but also working families.

'God was right here doing most of the work'

Pieciak credits the food bank for help with provisions and funds to purchase kitchen equipment. That said, she believes St. Brigid's benefits most from something else.

"I couldn't have remained if I didn't have strong faith that God was right here doing most of the work," Pieciak said. "Sometimes we shouldn't have succeeded — we did something wrong, we agonized about what was going to happen — and it would just get solved."

Take the building's recent \$250,000 renovation. Or when volunteers, following COVID-19 safety protocols, kept the kitchen open for takeout meals during the pandemic.

Pieciak remembers the calls from her three grown children urging her to close.

"This went on for weeks and weeks," she recalled, "and so one time I yelled at Michael and said, 'St. Brigid has been watching over us for years and she certainly isn't going to stop now.

That's why I think we were absolutely blessed," she continued. "I don't think we could have lasted as long or as well without that. Her son had only good

words for his mother when he spoke at a recent local panel on poverty in his capacity as state treasurer.

"Thank you for all the work you've done for the Brattleboro community," he said as the audience offered her a round of applause.

Pieciak will continue to volunteer periodically when she's not devoting time to her husband, children, grandchildren, or "one needy German Shepherd." For their part, the three people required to take over her position keep asking for a list of everything it entails.

"You just have to have kindness and empathy for the people that show up," she replies.
"If there's anything we need now, it's those two things.'

Athens hosts annual plant sale

ATHENS—The Athens Brick Meetinghouse Committee, in conjunction with the Athens Historic Preservation Society, will hold its seventh annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to noon at the 1817 Brick Meetinghouse in Athens. Visitors will find a variety of

perennials, annuals and vegetable seedlings on the Meetinghouse lawn, as well as garden-related raffle prizes. Experienced gardeners will be there to answer questions and offer gardening advice. The Athens Brick

Meetinghouse is historically significant to the Windham County region of Vermont, and

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particularly the 12 surrounding towns which comprised the "Old Athens Circuit" in the 19th century — Grafton, Rockingham, Townshend, Londonderry, Weston, Chester, Acton, Springfield, Landgrove, Windham, Putney, and Mt. Holly. Circuit preachers from Athens

traveled to these towns to perform religious services. Quarterly camp meetings with the Methodist congregants from these towns often lasted two days at the Athens Meetinghouse, which was known as the "Mother Church."

This national historic landmark, located at 2 Meetinghouse Rd. just off Route 35, will be open for viewing the Meetinghouse sanctuary and vestibule during this event. All proceeds go to support ongoing efforts to preserve this unique historic gem. Donations made to the Athens Historic Preservation Society are fully tax deductible and will support the preservation of the Meetinghouse.

For more information or to make plant or other donations, contact Sherry Maher at 802-275-2835 or follow Athens Meetinghouse on Facebook.



■ Race and medicine

Committee.

The group is studying the way racism innocently inhabits medicine

algorithms.

"Algorithms are shortcuts, formulas to help doctors make medical decisions," the subcommittee said in a recent letter to the public. "Yet 'race' has no biological significance — it has no biological basis below skin color and is not a proxy for genetic variability — but still it has been used to make important and sometimes life-and-death

decisions for patients. "Doing so has resulted in the directing of attention and resources away from Black and other minority groups and toward white patients," the group writes.

The committee began its work during the pandemic, when it saw data from Covid testing. Black people accounted for 25% of the people who tested positive and 39% of the COVID-19 related deaths, while only making up just 15% of the general population.

This data largely pointed to environmental, economic, and political factors — not race.

"And from that work, we realized that there were racial inequities here in Vermont," Drakes said. "And we need to start thinking about ways to make sure that the Covid data is not something that is emblematic of our system.

But in many ways, it is.

Correlation and causation

It has been generally and widely accepted that African people of color, especially Black American people have a genetic disposition to sickle cell anemia. That perception turns out to be wrong.

"It is a genetically passeddown condition that is completely unrelated to color of skin," Jones said. "And so anyone who happens to have that gene can have it.

'Now, the gene probably developed from evolution in areas A new calculation incorporating

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subcommittee of the Windham where malaria was plentiful, be-County NAACP Health Justice cause it's a response to malaria," she said — which could account for the disease's disparity in the Black population.

'But as we know, people had Mainly, it's through sex with each other from all kinds of backgrounds," Jones continued. "And so there are plenty of people who share genetics who look different from each other.

Or take the GFR (glomerular filtration rate) test, which is used for diagnosing kidney problems. Until doctors realized that the algorithms they depended on for diagnosis might be wrong, the medical establishment assumed that Black people have higher creatinine, a waste product that is normally filtered by one's kidneys. Its presence in the blood is considered a proxy for kidney disease.

"The glomerular filtration rate is used to indicate whether someone is likely to be having kidney damage or kidney disease," Drakes said. "And what was happening for more than two decades is that we had one GFR [interpretation] for people who are Black and one GFR for everybody else.'

The cutoff GFR value for deciding whether someone was likely to have kidney disease

"Because of the GFR calculation for Black people, it meant they would [be considered healthy with] a number like

65 or 68," Drakes said. Despite the fact that white people with those same values would be considered in need of treatment, she said, "it meant that the [Black] person was healthy and not in need of care."

"And for many decades, many people, were actually very sick, she continued. "And it was noted that many more of these people were in end-stage renal disease. It was delaying care for people who have kidney disease.

In 2020, an important paper in The New England Journal of Medicine acknowledged that the kidney disease factor gives the wrong result for people of color.

into effect for all people, regardless of race.

Re-examining preconceived notions

The Anti-Racism in Medicine committee began studying what else would be needed to change inadvertantly racist hospital practices.

In one odd discovery, they realized that spirometers, which measure lung function, have a correction factor that was established in the 1700s by none other than Thomas Jefferson. He assumed Black patients had inherently weaker lung function than whites, and his assumptions were the foundation of medical practice for the next three centuries.

"Pollution exposure connected with poverty and environmental injustice means racism rather than race is to blame for lung disease," the committee wrote.

It is far more likely that the experience of being Black in America, rather than being Black itself, causes these unfair disparities in care.
"What's dangerous about

an algorithm is that it's taking something subjective and making it sound objective because you're putting a number on it,"

Jones said. Think about all of the white supremacy cultural/patriarchal ideas we have," she continued. "Think about all the algorithms around women's care versus men's care. We know that women get much less care than men. Women are often overlooked when it comes to heart disease and so on. These preconceived notions are dangerous."

'It's caused unintended harm with when you start throwing race in it'

The committee has been working with BMH and Grace Cottage to change some of these harmful practices.

"BMH continues to demonstrate commitment: in 2018

FROM SECTION FRONT

the use of another metric came BMH stopped using an algorithm that considers Black women more at risk for vaginal birth after C-section," the committee wrote.

> The hospital "also eliminated the race-based correction for kidney function ahead of the National Kidney Foundation. The birthing center stopped using correction of anemia in Black prenatal mothers [and] the emergency room has for years used the Masimo brand pulse oximeter to measure blood oxygen, which typically gives better readings for all skin tones."

> Grace Cottage is also changing over its pulse-ox devises. And, like BMH, it is working to root out and eliminate other medical fallacies.

"Medicine has discovered that some of these well-intentioned algorithms for individualized care are wrong," Terwilliger

"What those efforts were saying was, 'Oh, well, let's look at race and age and gender, and see if people differ on risk factors and such.' They thought they were doing everyone a favor by discriminating based on age, race, and gender. And it turned out it was a good idea for age and gender, but it's caused unintended harm when you start throwing race in it.'

Race is more of a social construct than a biological one, Terwilliger said.

"So these algorithms did introduce social factors and political factors into medical care. which we found out is a bad idea," he said.
"I think it was well-inten-

tioned, but also I think most medical providers have decided that we really don't want to do this anymore," Terwilliger said.

"I don't think there's been any resistance from anyone I've talked to. I don't think that the medical organizations like the AMA or American College of Physicians have put up any resistance.

They just want to make sure we're doing it right," he said. "Don't do something stupid. Be careful. That's all.

BIPOC Vermonters invited to survey

BURLINGTON—The Vermont Professionals of Color Network (VT PoC) has announced the launch of its BIPOC Community Survey, aimed at gathering insights and experiences from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) living in Vermont.

Launched on May 1, the survey offers BIPOC individuals an opportunity to share their perspectives to enhance economic opportunities and community building across the state.

The survey, designed to take approximately 15 minutes to complete, is open to all individuals who identify as BIPOC and reside in Vermont, regardless of whether they were born inside or outside the United States. Participants are encouraged to provide feedback on their experiences in Vermont, usage of existing resources within the state, perceptions of VT PoC, and preferences for community engagement.
"We hope that the survey re-

sults will illuminate the many intersections of the BIPOC community in Vermont; why Vermont is our home, what our hopes for the state are, and what we need to be successful," VT PoC Executive Director and Co-founder Weiwei Wang said in a news release. "All of this will help VT PoC to create programming and new opportunities for the community.

Participants completing the survey can enter a prize drawing, including a chance to win a \$100 gift card to a BIPOC-owned business, further supporting local BIPOC entrepreneurs and businesses.

The BIPOC Community Survey will be accepting responses until July 31. BIPOC individuals interested in contributing their insights are encouraged to access the survey at bit.ly/vtpocsurvey. For inquiries or further information about the Vermont Professionals of Color Network or the BIPOC Community Survey, contact TheFam@vtpoc.net.



===AMERICAN EGION 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

The Town of Brattleboro Fire Department is seeking proposals to replace its bucket truck.

Proposals are due no later than June 18, 2024, at 4:00 PM.

Proposals may be mailed or hand-delivered to; The Office of the Town Manager,

Brattleboro, VT 230 Main Street Brattleboro, VT 05301, No faxed, e-mailed, or late proposals will be accepted.

All inquiries, questions, and clarifications must be directed to Superintendent Joseph Newton Jnewton@brattleboro.gov (802) 254-4831.

Notice of Bid

The Town of Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Department is accepting sealed bids for electrical upgrades at the Nelson Withington Skating Facility. The Nelson Withington Skating Facility is a multi-use facility in Brattleboro, VT. The facility is a pre-engineered metal building with an entry canopy and locker room addition. The objectives of this project are to replace and add additional light fixtures throughout the facility, upgrade the electrical system to meet current safety standards, and enhance the life safety features such as fire alarms and emergency lighting.

There will be a Walk-Thru on Thursday May 16 at 12:30 AM at the Nelson Withington Skating Facility 61 Memorial Park Drive Brattleboro, VT 05301

For more information regarding this project, please contact the Recreation & Parks

Sealed bids should be sent to the Town Manager's Office, 230 Main Street, Suite 208, Brattleboro, VT 05301, and must be received by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday,

The Town of Brattleboro reserves the right to refuse any and all bids and accept the bid that best serves the interest of the Town.

The Town of Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Department is accepting sealed bids for upgrades to the Kiwanis Shelter Parking at Living Memorial Park. The objective of this project is to improve and expand the existing parking area of the Kiwanis Center, located within the Living Memorial Park, Memorial Park Upper Loop Trail, Brattleboro, VT. The purpose of this improvement is to enhance the accessibility and convenience for visitors to the Kiwanis Shelter.

There will be a Walk-Thru on Thursday May 23 at 1:00 PM at the Kiwanis Shelter, Memorial Park Drive Brattleboro, VT 05301

For more information regarding this project, please contact the Recreation &Parks Department Office at 802-254-5808.

Sealed bids should be sent to the Town Manager's Office, 230 Main Street, Suite 208, Brattleboro, VT 05301, and must be received by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday,

The Town of Brattleboro reserves the right to refuse any and all bids and accept the bid that best serves the interest of the Town.

Notice of Bid

The Living Memorial Park is located in Brattleboro, Vermont, and consists of several buildings and recreational areas. These areas include a pool facility, a multiuse skating facility, a baseball field, a softball field, an outdoor skate park, a ski lift, and the Kiwanis Shelter. The park has a maintenance facility comprising two buildings - a woodshed built in 1954 and a masonry block building constructed in 1972. The woodshed holds all the incoming electrical panels and devices that come in from Guilford Street. The power is then distributed throughout the park. The masonry block building is used to store equipment used within the park.

The objective of this project is to remove the existing maintenance and electrical buildings and construct a new maintenance facility in their place.

There will be a Walk-Thru on Thursday May 23 at 11:30 AM at the Maintenance Building 34 Memorial Park Drive Brattleboro, VT 05301

For more information regarding this project, please contact the Recreation & Parks Department Office at 802-254-5808.

Sealed bids should be sent to the Town Manager's Office, 230 Main Street, Suite 208, Brattleboro, VT 05301, and must be received by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday,

The Town of Brattleboro reserves the right to refuse any and all bids and accept the bid that best serves the interest of the Town.

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The Town of Hinsdale seeks a **Program and Welfare Director**

The worker's responsibilities to include the day-to-day development, implementation, and administration of programs on a town-wide basis. Directly responsible for the supervision of programs both athletic and general at the Summer Camp; Municipal Pool; Heritage Park & Prentiss Taylor Field; and the Community Center. Oversees the day-to-day activities of the Welfare Office.

Starting salary range is \$19.60 to \$25.00 based on experience and offers an excellent benefit package. Program and Welfare Director will work Monday - Friday and some weekends, 36 hours weekly.

Submit resume with a minimum of 3 references to Kathryn Lynch, Town Administrator, Town of Hinsdale, PO Box 13, 11 Main Street, Hinsdale, NH 03451. Resumes can be dropped off at Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall. Deadline: Until position is filled. EOE. townadmin@hinsdalenh.org.



The Putney School

BUILDING & GROUNDS TECHNICIAN THE PUTNEY SCHOOL in Putney, VT, is seeking an experienced Building & Grounds Technician to perform a variety of work in the maintenance of their 600 acre campus. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a valid driver's license, work authorization in the U.S., and be able to pass a background check (will be working directly with teenagers). Full time position with benefits including health insurance, paid vacation, and retirement plan contributions.

> For more information, please visit www.putneyschool.org/employment.

To apply, email your resume or application to employment@putneyschool.org.

Garden Path Elder Living

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We provide a sign-on bonus for staff, and paid training in a supportive, caring environment.

> To learn more, please visit our website at www.gardenpathelderliving.org.



The Brattleboro office of HireAbility (formerly Vocational Rehabilitation) has a part-time opening for a Career Training and Education Coach to join our Team.

The CTE Coach will provide time-limited on-site support for participants with disabilities in two settings: education/training settings and/or on the job site. This position may provide support prior to, during and/or after a participant's work schedule. This position may provide tutoring or coaching at workshops, training programs or classes to help the participant become independent and successful.

To apply for this position, please go to the State of Vermont Dept. of Human Resources website at www.humanresources.vermont.gov. For further information about the position please contact Alicia White, Regional Manager, Alicia.L.White@vermont.gov. Application deadline date: 5/28/24.

MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

College news

• Hana L.S. Aleshnic, daughter of Barry Aleshnick 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. With a focus on removing health inequities in our healthcare system, she will start a fellowship in the fall at Erie Healthcare Centers in Chicago.

• Amy Nelson of Putney was named to the President's List for the 2023 winter Practical Nursing term at Vermont State University. The President's List designation is reserved for the students who maintain full-time status and a term grade point average of 4.0.

· Jonathan Griffin, a business administration major from West Townshend, was named to the spring 2024 President's List at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina.

• Ella Bursky of Westminster was named to the spring 2024 Dean's List at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Milestones



 Elizabeth "Lisa" Blake West o f Dummerston died on Nov. 28, 2023 on her way to her morning routine at the

Colonial Pool. She spoke often of the next life, which she firmly believed in, and how much she wished to connect with the souls in her family who had passed before her. She was born in Boston to Mary Rhoades Hartmann and Eric Hartmann, along with two elder siblings, William and Erica Hartmann. She was predeceased by her eldest son, Marshall Atwater Blake, and her husband of 47 years, James Marchbank Blake. She is survived by her children, Alex Blakeson and Natalie Blake, and three grandchildren, Bjorn Eloy, Magda Carmel, and Kata Nur Blakeson. Lisa attended Milton Academy as a faculty "brat" (as she loved to say) and studied voice at Bennington College. She was a homesteader in Norwell, Massachusetts, with her three children and husband for seven years, following in the footsteps of her German father and Bostonian mother who raised ducks and chickens and grew and canned much of their own food on the same homestead that her parents established. She became a Baha'i in 1972 while living in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she spent a lot of time observing, and lifelong friends in Chicago to struck by a spiritual radiance in thinking and writing about life.

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. Jim and Lisa spent the next 10 years as active Baha'i "pioneers," contributing their skills to the Baha'i community on the island. Her younger children made their way back to the States for school while Lisa taught music in Vincentian schools for several years, driving all over the island, even to the most remote villages along the rugged coasts. Lisa was an artist; she often would exclaim "Color! I love color!" with a zest in her voice characteristic of her vivacious energy. She loved making things with her hands, which she found later in life, through her beautiful pottery which she made avidly for seven years, traveling all around the East Coast with Jim in their RV selling at craft shows. For the last 10 years of her life, her "infamous" scarves, thousands of which she knit, were received by homeless shelters, schools, community centers, and her friends, all throughout New England. She was a prolific poet, writing about her reflections on this life as a way to piece together her upbringing, her place in her family, her thoughts on faith, spirituality, politics, social complexity, music, art, and many other topics. She struggled with depression and repressed trauma for years in Norwell, and often spoke of this time outwardly, not wanting this to be hidden from the realness of her life, and of life for many like her. In those days, there was little attention given to mental well-being, of which she often made note, and was grateful that the subject was being addressed in her later years. She lost her eldest son Marshall to suicide when he was 22. Lisa was a strong advocate of racial equality, equality of men and women, and world unity. She held firmly to her faith, even though it was not widely recognized. She was part of the Brattleboro and surrounding Baha'i communities up until her death. She loved music, writing, and talking about anything deep. She despised small talk and was willing to talk about death, life, trauma, depression, anxiety, and 'the birds and bees" with anyone. She was an avid reader and would exclaim about the many wonderful writers she was reading at any time, mostly books checked out from her beloved Lydia Taft library. She read to Natalie's business staff while they made art, for a few years. She attended writing groups and loved "prompt" writing. She was spontaneous and full

of surprises. She had a true mind

of her own. In her later years,

She always loved listening to her favorite music — Bach, Mozart, spirituals, Peter Paul and Mary, and Bob Marley. MEMORIAL IN-FORMATION: She will be celebrated at the Lydia Taft Library Geranium Festival on Saturday, May 18, which is dedicated this year to her and Susan Kern. Her pottery can be purchased at Fire Arts Gallery on Route 30 and proceeds will go to the Jim and Lisa Blake memorial fund for learning through the craft arts at Fire Arts Vermont. Lisa's Celebration of Life on May 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., is open to anyone who knew her and would like to come hear her poems, have some fun stories, and hear the incredible music of John Hughes (African Kora) and Stephen Katz (Cello). It will be held at Natalie's orange church in West Dummerston, 156 West St. Donations can be made in her name to the Lydia Taft Library.



"Booie" Fagelson was born on a Thursday in 1936 in Chicago, and died on May 7, 2024, at her home in Brattleboro, with

• Arden

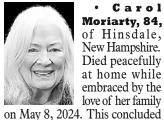
her family by her side. Booie was the middle of Billy and Joan Friedman's three daughters. She graduated from Nicholas Senn High School in Chicago in 1954, attended the University of Illinois for two years, and completed her B.S. in Education at Northwestern University in 1958. Booie was a fifth-grade teacher at the Thomas Edison School in Morton Grove, Illinois, for eight years. She met her husband, Bob, in an elevator at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. Within two weeks they were engaged, and within three months they were married at the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago. Booie and Bob lived with their three children in the Chicago area until 1975, when they moved to Brattleboro. As a resident of Brattleboro for nearly 50 years, Booie was highly engaged in the community, as a Brattleboro Union High School board member, member of the Brattleboro Sunrise Rotary, and the founder and moving force behind the Secret Santa Program. Booie always took care of people, whether that meant looking out for her younger sister at sleepaway camp, taking care of her young nephew when her older sister moved in with her family, helping patients as the office manager of her husband Bob's medical practice, or initiating and running the Secret Santa program. Booie was also adventurous. She traveled extensively as a single young woman to Europe and Israel. She moved away from family make a new start in Vermont. She also once impressed her extended family by doing a memorable belly flop into the Salmon River in Idaho at the age of 65. Anyone who knew Booie knows that she was always looking for things to do, and she picked up many hobbies along the way. At different points in her life she painted, practiced calligraphy, sewed, did needlepoint, collected postcards, enjoyed downhill and cross country skiing, picked wild berries, jogged, played bridge regularly, and golfed. Booie also believed that nothing was worth doing if it wasn't done right. As a result, she often took the lead or did things herself. That said, it seems she could never imagine her children or grandchildren could do anything wrong. Booie is survived by her husband, Robert Fagelson of Brattleboro; children Margee Fagelson of Brattleboro, William Fagelson and Jennie Burger of Austin, Texas, and Adam Fagelson of Brattleboro; grandchildren Madeline Fagelson, Emily Fagelson, and Nathaniel Fagelson; and sister Janie Isackson. She was predeceased by her parents and by her sister, Merle Foster. Her loved ones are confident that Booie sat on the couch before leav-

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. Thelma graduated from Lamoille Central Academy in Hyde Park, Vermont, in 1952. She then attended the Frederico Beauty Institute in Sacramento, California. Thelma married the love of her life, the late Bruce Mason, on Oct. 17, 1952, in Phoenix, Arizona. Thelma worked at JCPenney's for more than 20 years. When not working, Thelma enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and puzzles. She also enjoyed traveling. Thelma was a faithful congregant of Cavalry Chapel Church. In addition to her husband and parents, Thelma was predeceased by her older sister Eleanor Mauthe. Thelma is survived and will be missed by her two sons, Paul and Scott Mason, her grandson Dominick, her sister Linda and her husband Peter, and many nieces and nephews. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Calling hours for Thelma will be held on Friday, May 17, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Cremation Society of New Hampshire, 57 High St., Brattleboro, VT 05301. A burial will take place at Jebediah Hyde Cemetery in Hyde Park later this spring. To send condolences, visit csnh.com.



· Carol Moriarty, 84, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Died peacefully at home while embraced by the love of her family

an extended period of declining health. During that period, however, Carol was blessed to attend the marriage of her only granddaughter and was sustained by the iov and love of the great-grandchildren, now ages six and three, from that beautiful union. Carol was born on April 11, 1940, to Anthony V. and Ozella (VanNess) Mincolla in Binghamton, New York. As the second generation to immigrants from Sicily, Carol grew up absorbing their wisdom, life skills, love of family, cooking, gardening, and the appreciation of art, music and the simple pleasures of life. She graduated from Binghamton Central High School in 1958 and attended the University of Miami until January 1960, when she transferred to Syracuse University. After completing her sophomore year at Syracuse, Carol attended secretarial school in Binghamton and worked at her father's wholesale beverage business. Before heading off to college in 1958, Carol and former high school classmate, Fred Moriarty, began dating. This courtship blossomed into their engagement in 1960. At that time Fred was attending Ithaca College, which was opening a new campus in Ithaca, New York, in the fall of 1961. Carol applied and was hired to be secretary to the Dean of Men at the new campus. She and Fred were married on Sept. 2, 1961, classes began on the 6th, and the couple shared their different roles on campus until Fred's graduation in 1963, which led to a move to Springfield, Massachusetts. Carol continued to work as a secretary in Springfield until 1966, when their daughter, Kelly, was born. Fred's career took the family to Kansas City, New York City, Binghamton and, ultimately, to Brattleboro, as treasurer of the Holstein Association. Kelly graduated from Hinsdale High School in 1984. In 1993, following the birth of their granddaughter, Erin, Carol and Fred opened Creative Woods Unfinished Furniture as a family business, drawing on Carol's

enjoyment of interior decorating

and tole painting and on Fred's

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. In 1981, Carol and Fred acquired an historic farmstead and barn in Hinsdale and have continually worked to restore and improve the property which now includes several perennial gardens designed, planted and nurtured by Carol. The barn stabled three horses and a goat, along with four ducks and a bunny, while the house has been the residence for a continuous sequence of dogs and cats and a parrot, all endowed with membership status in the family. The farm has become the central gathering place for the extended and growing branches of the family tree where three more generations have learned from "Auntie Carol" about wisdom, life skills, love of family, cooking, gardening and the appreciation of art, music, and the simple pleasures of life. Carol was predeceased by her parents, her brother Anthony Jr., and her nephew Michael Phalen. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, her sister Rhonda Diniz (Americo), brother Mark Mincolla, daughter Kelly Fletcher (Stephen), granddaughter Erin Rafus Astley (Ryan), grandson Galen Fletcher, great-grandson Luca Astley, great-granddaughter Sofia Astley, numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews (including her beloved godson Kevin Moriarty), and by her special "adopted" daughter Darlene Klaski and family. MEMORIAL IN-FORMATION: A funeral Mass will be conducted at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Brattleboro on Friday, May 17, at noon. The family will be available to receive friends prior to the Mass in the church garden next to the church entrance from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Burial will take place following the Mass in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Hinsdale. Donations to the Hinsdale Education Foundation, P.O. Box 837, Hinsdale, NH 03451.

To offer condolences to Carol's family, visit atamaniuk.com. · David E. Robarge, 74, of Saxtons River. Died peacefully, with his family by his side, on April 28, 2024, after complications from pulmonary disease. David was born Oct. 24, 1949, in Bellows Falls. He was the oldest of six children to Richard and Rita (DeMag) Robarge. He graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1967. After high school, he started working with his father as an apprentice plumber and eventually took over the family business. In December 1967, he met the love of his life Maureen Robarge (Waryas) and they married three years later on Dec. 31, 1970, at St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls. Together they had four children, Becky Bryant (David Jr.) of Springfield, Vermont, Joel Robarge (Shana) of Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, Melissa Benson (Adam) of Bellows Falls, and Joshua Robarge (Nicole) of Alstead, New Hampshire. He enjoyed spending time with his eight grandchildren, teaching them how to "fix" whatever was broken and passing on "words of wisdom" whether or not it was elicited. He could be counted on for his wit and keeping you on your toes. He enjoyed watching birds, feeding his fish, and tinkering. He was predeceased by his parents, and brothers Richard "Ricky" Thomas, Lawrence, and Jaime, and a brother-in-law, James Waryas. He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren (David and Branden Bryant, Levi and Eden Robarge, Logan and Elizabeth Benson, and Bryce and Addisyn Robarge), and a brother, Clifford Robarge of Windham. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass was held on May 6 at St. Charles Church, with a private interment to be held at the family cemetery at a later date. Donations to the American Lung Association, 372 Hurricane Lane, Williston,

• Susan Stebbins, 66, of Saxtons River. Died April 27, 2024, at Springfield Hospital. She was born in Philadelphia on March 30, 1958, to her adoptive parents Grant and Katherine Frazer. Susan worked many years waitressing at Rita's Coffee Stop in Bellows Falls and drove trucks for St. Pierre Trucking. Susan loved nature, flower gardening, and all animals. Susan was a history enthusiast, especially local and Vermont-related development. She loved collecting and dealing with antiques, if only for the story behind the items. Her rebellious wit and humor were legendary to all she encountered, and she easily struck up a conversation wherever she went. Susan loved architecture and construction design and, as such, building was her passion. Susan is survived by her children, Dr. Rachel Stebbins-Navy, Amy Vandergriff, and Caleb Stebbins. She is also survived by her five grandchildren, Jasmine Auclair, Noah Auclair, Hope Navy, Amon Bingham, and Lucas Perrigo. She also leaves many friends. Susan was predeceased by her parents and son-in-law. MEMORIAL INFORMA-TION: None provided.

Services

• A graveside service for Julian Mitchell "Mickey" **Jackson** will be held on Saturday, May 18, at noon, at Friedsan Cemetary in Chesterfield, New Hampshire. A reception will follow at Dummerston Congregational Church. Mr. Mitchell, 86, of West Chesterfield, died on Jan. 14, 2024.

• Come share your stories to celebrate the life of Jane **Southworth** on Saturday, May 18, from 2 to 4:30 p.m., at The Marina Restaurant on Putney Road in Brattleboro. A longtime, beloved, and hearty Brattleboro resident, Jane died Sept. 2, 2023, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, of complications from pneumonia.

 Committal services and burial for Pamela G. Chickering will be conducted Sunday, May 19, at 11 a.m., in Chesterfield West Cemetery on Poor Road. Mrs. Chickering, 82, of West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, died March 27, 2024, in the comfort of her home following a lengthy and courageous battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. To view her full obituary and offer condolences to Pamela's family, visit atamaniuk.com.

• A Celebration of Life for Cathy Hallock will be held on Saturday, June 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Grafton Chapel. All are welcome. Mrs. Hallock, 71, of Grafton, died on Dec. 19, 2023.

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," an insightful night of education and discussion on harm reduction and overdose prevention.

The event is free and will be held at the Vermont EMS Academy (VEMSA), 1096 VT Route 30, next to the Lodge at West River.

This training, presented by Vermont Cares, will delve into harm reduction philosophy and strategies, breaking down stigma, understanding overdose prevention, recognizing signs of an overdose, and how to respond. Participants will gain a compassionate, informed, and practical approach to harm reduction and will be equipped to positively affect their communities and offer nonjudgmental support to those in need.

Attendants are given the option to take home a naloxone kit, empowering them to potentially save lives in their community.

CSUR is a collaborative effort that includes Voices of Hope, Turning Point of Windham County, the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, Building a Positive Community, West River Valley Thrives, Grace Cottage Hospital, Meetinghouse Solutions, and others in the community working together throughout the continuum of care to ensure that substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services reach our rural communities in

Windham County. Snacks will be provided. For more information: email 802CSURVT@gmail.com or call 802-275-7232. This event is free and all are welcome.



Milestones are published as community news at no cost to families, thanks

to financial support of our members and advertisers. Send them to news@

commonsnews.org. Though we ask that content for this column be sent by

Friday at 5 p.m., we will do our best to include late obituaries. Please alert

the newsroom at 802-246-6397 for post-deadline urgent submissions. We

will always do our best to accommodate contributors in their time of grief.

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- 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.

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

AROUND THE TOWNS

Volunteers needed for tree planting

LONDONDERRY — The Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District will be planting a streamside buffer in Londonderry on Friday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are calling for volunteers to help plant native trees, improving water quality and wildlife habitat along the West River.

No prior experience necessary! They recommend wearing comfortable shoes and clothes that can get muddy. Shovels, water, and snacks will be provided.

Volunteers are welcome to join for however long they can join. To sign up for details on this planting, go to bit.ly/765-plant. For more information and questions, email sullivan.wcnrcd@gmail.com.

Fellowship hosts spring sale

WESTMINSTER — On Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Westminster First Congregational Church Women's Fellowship will hold their Spring Sale on the church lawn, 3470 US Route 5. There will be all kinds of plants for sale: annuals, perennials, bushes, and garden starts. Also for sale will be baked goods and garden crafts.

Buy a ticket for the chance raffle which will be drawn at the end of the day. There will be local gift

certificates "and other cool donated items." The cookout lunch for takeout or eat-in the outdoor cafe will include hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage with peppers and onions, and chili.

Windham County **Genealogy Interest** Group to meet

BRATTLEBORO — The next meeting of the Windham County Genealogy Interest Group will focus on the topics "Researching a Grandparent" and "Strategies for Finding Problem Ancestors" on Saturday, May 18, from 11 a.m.to 1 p.m. The online meeting via Zoom is free and open to all.

Register before the meeting at bit.ly/765-WCGIG to receive a Zoom link . Pose any questions for the presenters at the time of

Hinsdale Area Farmers Market opens

HINSDALE, N.H. — The Hinsdale Area Farmers Market, which operates on Main Street at the Millstream Riverfront Park each Saturday from May through October, announces the opening of the 2024 season on May 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring farmers, crafters, and food and flea market vendors.

The market continues to accept new vendors. Applications are for full season, monthly,

bi-weekly, or weekly vendors and can be obtained by contacting the market manager at farmersmarketofhinsdalenh@ gmail.com.

Vintage Camper BBQ Party benefits WDVFD

DUMMERSTON — The West Dummerston Volunteer Fire Department will hold their second annual Vintage Camper BBQ Party, featuring barbecued chicken and pulled pork for the main course with fixings such as cornbread and coleslaw. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Brattleboro North KOA on Route 5.

Visitors may check out all the fantastic vintage campers that will be on display throughout the campground. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$8 for children (cash or check).

Windham **Philharmonic** performs at Latchis

BRATTLEBORO — The Windham Philharmonic, led by Music Director Hugh Keelan, performs Monday, May 20, at the Latchis Theatre. On the program are W. A. Mozart's Symphony No. 36 in C ("Linz") composed in four days during a stopover in that Austrian town— and Maurice Ravel's

"Rapsodie espagnole," his first orchestral work.

Ravel, whose mother grew up in Madrid, draws on his familiarity with Spanish music and traditions for his musical imagery.

The third movement, "Habanera," began as a piece for two pianos and was orchestrated later that year, adding three other movements. The fourth movement, Feria, which means "festival," concludes this work with a flourish.

The concert is at 7 p.m., and lasts approximately one hour. Admission is by donation; baked goods will be available for

Guilford Cares sponsors West River Trail senior walk

GUILFORD — On Tuesday, May 21, at 10:30 a.m., Guilford Cares invites area seniors to gather at the West River Trail in Brattleboro for a guided tour with forester Lynn Levine.

Levine has been a consulting forester, environmental educator and naturalist. She was the first woman forester in the Northeast. The one-hour guided walk will give trekkers an inside look at this historic trail, which began its life more than 130 year ago as the right-of-way for the West River Railroad. Levine will be pointing out the wide spectrum of plants, trees, rocks, and wildflowers

along the trail.

The guided walk may have uneven terrain and variable ground conditions, with easy hiking. Unless there are hazardous conditions, this program will occur rain or shine. Access the trail 400 yards down from the Marina Restaurant at the kiosk next to the parking lot.

Contact Guilford Cares **Executive Director Leah Gessner** for more information at 802-579-1350 or guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com.

Free produce distribution

PUTNEY — The Vermont Foodbank and the Putney Foodshelf co-sponsor a monthly food drop of free produce and some nonperishables on the fourth Thursday of every month, from 9 to 9:45 a.m., on Alice Holway drive (in front of Putney Meadows, the white building across from the Putney Co-op and the Putney Fire Station).

All are welcome. This is a drive-up service; bags provided. The next monthly food drop is Thursday, May 23, 9 to 9:45 a.m.

Applications sought for Senior Farm **Share Program**

RICHMOND — The Senior Farm Share Program helps limited-income seniors living in participating housing sites to access fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables from their local farmer. Each week, a Senior Farm Share member receives a portion of the harvest from the farm.

In addition to receiving vegetables, seniors are given the opportunity to connect with other seniors within their residence through food distribution and preparation, learn ways to cook and preserve their produce, meet other community members who are associated with the farm, and develop a relationship with the farmer who grows the food they eat each week.

In 2023, there were nearly 1,000 Senior Farm Share members throughout Vermont. Local participants included Butterfield Common in West Dover, Valley Cares Independent Living in Townshend, and Westgate Housing Inc., in Brattleboro.

The 2024 application period is open through May 31. If you are a resident at a housing site that does not yet participate in the Senior Farm Share Program, and you think you may be eligible, and for more information about the program, email johanna@nofavt.org.



Swords to Plowshares/ Vermont hosts first public event on May 18

BRATTLEBORO— Following a successful introductory Swords-to-Plowshares event at Brattleboro's Retreat Farm in April 2023, several area citizens have formed Swords to Plowshares, Vermont Inc., (StPVt) which will hold its first official public event on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to noon, at The Putney School on Houghton Brook Road.

The new local group is modeled after a Connecticut organization of the same name, founded in 2017 (s2pnortheast. org), which has focused on reducing gun violence in its communities. That group's purpose, according to its website, is founded on the fact that with 40,000 gun deaths per year in our country, we need to act. "The strategy we apply to this problem is to convert weapons of death into tools of life, and then use those tools to the betterment of the community.

Dedicated to community education aimed at reducing gun violence, StPVt is a Windham County creation closely related to the Connecticut organization. According to its founder, the Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely, StPVt is collaborating with the Windham County Sheriff's department and the Brattleboro Police Department to take unwanted firearms that

can be destroyed, and then convert the usable parts into garden tools and works of art.

StPVt is currently working with Brian Quarrier, art teacher at The Putney School, whose students will create items out of the recycled

At the May 18 event, attendees will hear a presentation on StPVt's mission and its connection with local law enforcement, then witness a demonstration by Putney School students of the transformational process by which unwanted firearms are turned into garden tools and works of art. Attendees will also have a chance to take part in the transformational process themselves, wielding a blacksmith's

People planning to attend this event should arrive between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. at the main parking area of The Putney School, "as there is a bit of a walk to the art center from the parking area," says Ely. "We would like to start the program on time at 10 Those who need accessible parking at the art center will be redirected, so please arrive with enough time to do so.

For more information, email swordstoplowsharesvt@gmail. com or call 802-233-5729 or 802-254-9019.

Project Feed receives \$10,000 donation

The Richards Group has officially awarded a \$10,000 donation to Project Feed the Thousands, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing food and personal care items for thousands of people in and around seven communities across southeastern Vermont and southwestern New

According to a news release, the \$10,000 donation that will help the nonprofit directly support nine food shelves in the greater Brattleboro area and allow them to bulk purchase food in more expensive categories, such as canned meats and proteins, that families need.

The Richards Group originally received a \$5,000 donation for

BRATTLEBORO—Thanks Project Feed, thanks to a submisto the communities' support, sion process with Liberty Mutual and Safeco Insurance through their 2024 Make More Happen Awards. The Richards Group then had the opportunity to raise an additional \$5,000 by conducting a local awareness campaign for the nonprofit.

Together with the community, the goal was met by the end of April, increasing the total donation to \$10,000 for Project Feed.

Last year, Project Feed the Thousands $({\bf project feed the thousand s.org})$ collected 431,856 meals and personal care items for thousands of people in and around six communities across southeastern Vermont and southwestern New Hampshire. The organization also raised \$214,747 to help buy even more food for neighbors who would otherwise go hungry.

"Project Feed the Thousands has had a significant impact in the Brattleboro area, and we are thrilled to double the donation with community support," said Tracey John, Retirement Plan Consultant at The Richards

The Richards Group has supported Project Feed the Thousands since it launched 30 years ago. It all started when John, who is also a board member of Project Feed the Thousands, reached out to staff for support. Without hesitation, the agency donated and offered additional support. They also learned that a staff member had grandchildren who were directly affected

by the nonprofit, receiving food

donations.

To this day, The Richards Group continues to host potluck lunches in exchange for donations and keeps a big red bucket the symbol of Project Feed to donate nonperishable food from staff and customers to local food pantries throughout the giving season.

Throughout 2024, Liberty Mutual and Safeco say they will select up to 37 independent insurance agents nationwide for a Make More Happen Award, donating up to \$370,000 to the nonprofits they support. Agencies became eligible for the award by submitting an application and photos that demonstrate their commitment to a specific nonprofit.

Museum plans botany hike series, invasive plant workshop

GRAFTON—Nature enthu- and deepen understanding and one, two, or all three hikes, with removal techniques tailored to siasts are invited to explore the forest landscape in the upcoming Botany Hike Series led by botanical expert Tom Groves and hosted by The Nature Museum at the Molly Beattie State Park in Grafton. Three Saturday outings comprise the series: May 18, June 29, and August 17, from 9 a.m. to noon.

became the sixth state to des-

ignate a state mushroom on

May 7. Christopher Denette,

a Williamsville naturalist, for-

ager, and mushroom cultivator,

along with state Rep. Michelle

Bos-Lun, D-Westminster, who

introduced the bill, are offer-

ing a guided mushroom walk on

Monday, May 20, to celebrate and

learn about Vermont mushrooms.

(mushroom photography)

"Foraging, mycography

During these hands-on excursions, participants can learn to identify rare, native, and invasive plant species; gain insights into invasive plant control options;

appreciation of our native flora.

Each hike will explore aspects of botany, focusing on topics such as invasive plant control techniques in sensitive wetland habitats and conducting flora inventory in the state park and the neighboring beaver wetland/ meadow habitats. Throughout the series, participants will contribute to compiling a botanical inventory across the growing season, offering valuable insights into the region's biodiversity.

Individuals can choose to join

in Vermont's rural areas are

ways Vermonters and visitors to

Vermont can enjoy being active

in our natural worlds," said Bos-

Students from the Compass

School and Windham Elementary

School chose the bear's head tooth

mushroom (Hericium america-

num) to nominate as an official

Vermont symbol, joining the

state tree: sugar maple, state rep-

tile: painted turtle, and 23 other

Lun in a news release.

WESTMINSTER—Vermont and mushroom identification

registration priced at \$20 per hike. Advance registration is required to secure a spot.

In addition to the Botany Hike Series, The Nature Museum will host a hands-on workshop on the management of non-native invasive plants on Saturday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to noon, led by local forest management professionals from Long View Forest.

Attendees will learn the importance of removing invasive plants to enhance ecosystem function, as well as the best

different species and seasons. The workshop will include practical demonstrations and active management activities on the Nature Museum property, focusing on species such as Japanese knotweed, oriental bittersweet, Japanese barberry, glossy and common buckthorn, and burn-

For more information and to register for the Botany Hike Series and the Invasive Plant Management workshop, visit nature-museum.org.

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State Mushroom celebration walk planned in Westminster

Students from second through eighth grade along with numerous experts testified in the Statehouse about their choice. After review by both the House and Senate in the Vermont Legislature and approval by the governor, bear's head tooth became the state's mushroom.

Bear's head tooth is most abundant in the later summer and early fall, so the May state mushroom celebration walk will be seeking one of the earliest mushrooms that emerge in local woods, the morel mushroom.

Denette, a certified wild mushroom expert, will guide walkers through Bald Hill Reserve, seeking morels and educating foragers about how and where other types of mushroom can be found as the foraging season emerges. Denette

offers guided mushroom walks throughout New England in the summer and fall and testified in support of the State Mushroom in the Vermont House committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

The State Mushroom Celebration walks will be offered at no cost.

Another State Mushroom Celebration hike will be offered on Saturday, Oct. 5, when bear's head tooth and other Hericium mushrooms are most common.

For more information, contact Bos-Lun at michelleforvt@ gmail.com or 802-289-2495. Walks will happen rain or shine. The group will meet at the entrance gate to Bald Hill Reserve in Westminster by Covered Bridge Road/Henwood Hill entrance.

dvice is like mushrooms. The wrong kind can —CHARLES E. MCKENZIE

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CALENDARB2

The And Rail CR.

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 page B1

COLUMN | Deeper Dive

Natural chemistry

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

BrattleboroN 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

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

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

RATTLEBORO—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 lifestyle, or to experience the bonds that come 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 tiful," Struthers adds. four decades of dance education and performance offerings to the community," she says.

Students of all ages attend BSD for preprofessional training, to build a healthy 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 beau-

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



BRATTLEBORO—River by area artists, including RGS former RGS Artistic Director 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 inperson may take part remotely. A complete show of the diverse and beautiful artwork can also be seen, by arrangement, at 118

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

'Off the Wall" features 100 pieces of art generously donated staff, students, and friends. There are paintings, pastels, mixed media, original prints, photographs,

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, 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 • ((Sectionsponsor1 url))



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Sullivan holds 'Form and Flora' show at MSA gallery

SAXTONS RIVER—Join local artist Stephanie Sullivan at an artist reception for a new gallery show, "Form and Flora," at Main Street Arts (MSA), 35 Main St., on Saturday, May 18, from 2

to 4 p.m.
"Form and Flora" will feature several paintings by Sullivan. The show will run from May 17 to June 23. Gallery hours will be on Saturdays and Sundays, from 1 to 4 p.m. The paintings will be available for purchase through MSA.

Sullivan's lifelong connection to nature provided respite from life's challenges and influenced her art. "As early as I can remember, art and nature have always provided me with moments of rest and rejuvenation," she said in a news release. "The time and space for my dyslexic mind to play, free from the complexities of modern life ... I use my creativity as a bridge towards a greater understanding and connection to our larger liv-

ing planet."
The forest led Sullivan to her

new pieces of art. "This is part of a new body of work. These pieces invite you along on a forest wander sharing expressions of the ferns, moss, lichen, and other organisms that inspire my work,' she said. "Combining leaf print, brushstrokes, drips, and splatters I create playful and dynamic little landscapes that convey my admiration for the humbling complexity of the forest ecosystem.

After working within the arts community in western Massachusetts for many years, Sullivan relocated to Vermont in 2018. Since then she has focused on her own artistic work, supporting the local community, and managing habitat stewardship projects on the 54 acres of forest she calls home. Visit sullivanart. net for more about her work and current projects.

For more information about the show or artist reception, visit mainstreetarts.org or email gallery@mainstreetarts.org.

Fourth Corner Foundation in Windham offers tour

WINDHAM—Nestled in the hills of Windham is the Fourth Corner Foundation, the brainchild of the late architect and artist Robert Foote Shannon.

Shannon's work focused on balancing human-made designs with the natural environment. His former home, which includes striking buildings and structures as well as several acres of gardens, is open to the public.

One of the first tours of the campus with the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Shannon was also an inventor and writer. He was dedicated to sustainable living and innovative, unconventional design. He established the Fourth Corner Foundation in Windham in 1995 with the goal of exploring ideas, creating design projects, and building objects that considered the relationship between nature and human needs and desires. Shannon later developed a second campus in Santa



The Fourth Corner Foundation in Windham.

Fe, New Mexico.

During the tour, the executive director of the Fourth Corner Foundation, Matthew Brader, will guide visitors through the three sustainably-designed buildings and interconnecting gardens as well as an exhibition of Shannon's artwork. Visitors will also have an opportunity

own. Refreshments will be provided.

Admission to the in-person tour is \$10 and free for BMAC members. Space is limited, so advance registration is required. Visit brattleboromuseum.org or call 802-257-0124 x101. Directions to the Fourth Corner

to explore the campus on their Foundation campus will be provided after registration. For accessibility questions and requests, email office@ brattleboromuseum.org or call 802-257-0124, ext. 101. For more information, visit thefourthcornerfoundation.org.

arts & community CALENDAR

SATURDAY CONT.

THURSDAY

PUTNEY Hanneke Cassel Band present Scottish, Americana, Quebecois Music (In-Person/Livestream): Featuring Keith

- Falguet. ► 7 p.m. Next Stage provides beer, wine, cocktail cash bar.
- Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at door, \$10 livestream.
- Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: Advance tickets: nextstagearts.org. Information: 802-387-0102, nextstagearts.org.

Community building BRATTLEBORO Meetup for Women,

Small Business Owners, Leaders, Solopreneurs: Come be seen and supported n community. We'll meet once a month around town and in the surrounding area This meetup is supported by VT Women-preneurs and the Downtown Brattleboro

- 9:30 10:30 a.m. No one will be turned away/everyone is welcome. By 'women' +' the organizer means: "women and those who identify as women/female and those that are non-binary." Many business oriented networking groups are cis-male dominated and we wanted to provide a space for those that do not identify this
- Free. ➤ Fire Arts Cafe / Fire Arts Vermont, 485 West River Rd. Information: luella@facilit atingemergentrealitiesnow.com.

FRIDAY

Kids and families

W. BRATTLEBORO Theatre Adventure presents "Alice in Wonderland" (In Person / Livestreamed): Theatre Adventure is a non-profit performing arts organization for people with disabilities. "Our mission is to provide a caring and creative community for artists with disabilities to claim the stage with distinction. 'Alice in Wonderland' features Theatre Adventure's Wednesday Troupe - a diverse group of multi-talented youth and adults with disabilities."

10.30 a m. All our shows are family friendly, suitable for all ages, engaging for young children. Performances are sensory-friendly for audience members with sensory needs. American Sian Lanauage interpretation provided for all Theatre Adventure performances. Site is wheelchair accessible - contact our disability specialist: info@ theatreadventure.org or call/text 802-380-0458.



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FRIDAY CONT.

▶ \$15 and up. Visit www.theatreadventure.org/tickets. School groups invited to purchase tickets at group rates.

► West Village Meeting House, 29 South St. Information: More information: Laura Lawson Tucker: laura@ theatreadventure.org, theatreadventure. org, 802-387-0765.

Visual arts and shows

- BRATTLEBORO CX Silver Gallery presents Cai Xi exhibition "Then and Now"
 - 1979-80: China landscapes juxtaposed w/
- recent abstract work.

 Opening Reception: Saturday, 5/18,
- 1-3 p.m. ► Through Monday, August 26.
- CX Silver Gallery, 814 Western Ave. Open hours are Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. cxsilvergallery.com, 802-257-7898 x 1.

Ideas and education

BRATTLEBORO Vegan Vanilla Protein **Powder Tasting:** Find your new favorite protein powder! Try four organic, high-quality brands side-by-side without spending a penny. Featuring Four Sigmatic, Sunwarrior, Truvani, and Garden of Life.

- 11:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m. Tasting. Brattleboro Food Co-op, 2 Main St Information: 802-257-0236: brattleborofoodcoop.coop.

Celebrations and festivals

BRATTLEBORO The Friends of Brooks Memorial Library invite you to an After **Hours Spring Party:** "Join us for a special after hours spring party. guests will enjoy a grand selection of sweet and savory treats and refreshments. We will give away seeds to celebrate the season! Enjoy free tarot and oracle mini-readings by Patti Newton."

- 6:30 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Admission is by donation. Brooks Memorial Library, 224
- nformation: 802 brookslibraryvt.org.

SATURDAY

Music

GREENFIELD Greenfield Community College: Annual spring concert of vocal

and choral music presented by the Recital Chorus: Chorus made up of college, community singers presenting folk songs for the season, rounds, madrigals, and other works from Renaissance through 20th century. Composers include John Dowland, Robert Jones, George Gershwin, Aaron Copland, Alessandro Scarlatti, Johannes Brahms, W. A. Mozart, Benjamin Britten, Wil liam Schulman, Elliot Z. Levine, Music sung in several languages, unison songs, pieces for women's chorus and for mixed voices.

- Soloists and small groups perform.
- 7:30 p.m. in Sloan Theater. Free admission. (Donations cash or check received at door defray concert expenses and benefit GCC Food Pantry). Greenfield Community College, 1 College Dr. Information: 413-775-1000; gcc mass.edu.

BRATTLEBORO The Octoped Quartet returns to Latchis Pub: Band features

Don Anderson on trumpet, Dan DeWalt on piano/ trombone, Wes brow on bass, Tim Gilmore on drums. All four musicians have been playing for decades and are veterans of numerous bands and musical styles. They'll play compositions from DeWalt's latest recording, Time to Face the Music, as well as tunes by Horace Sliver and Bobby Hutcherson

- 7:30 10 p.m. No cover.
- Latchis Pub & Latchis Underground, 6

Flat St. Information: 802-246-0487.

Fundraising and awareness events **WEST DUMMERSTON** Fundraiser for **Dummerston's Lydia Taft Pratt Library:** Story Hour, Music, Geranium Festival, Silent Auction, Book Sale

▶ 10 a.m.: Story Hour. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Live music by Hazelnuts Duo. Refreshments.

▶ Dummerston Community Center, 166

West St. Information: 802-254-2703.

HINSDALE Hinsdale Area Farmers Market: "Hinsdale Market operates on Main Street at the Millstream Riverfront Park on Saturdays through 10/19/2024. It seeks to promote locally grown food and crafts while making fresh food available to our residents: Come visit our farmers, crafters.

- food, flea market vendors."

 9 a.m. 1 p.m. Hinsdale Farmers Market has been operating since 2014 and seeks to promote locally grown food and crafts while making fresh food available to our residents. The market continues to accept new vendors. Questions and/or applications for full season, monthly, bi-weekly, or weekly vendors, email market manager: farmersmarketofhinsdalenh@gmail.com
- Through Saturday, October 19. Hinsdale Farmers Market, Millstream Riverfront Park on Main St. Information: farmersmarketofhinsdalenh@gmail.

Local history

BRATTLEBORO Estey Organ Museum: The Engine House of the historic Estey **Organ Company factory:** Currently housing an impressive collection of pipe, electronic and especially reed organs manufactured by Estey between 1850 and 1960. Estev dominated the reed organ narket largely due to the company's innovations in both design and marketing. The Museum showcases early Estey melodeons, ornately carved organs for the home and chapel, diminutive children's organs, and

- folding travel organs. ▶ 2-4 p.m. Open Saturdays only! Allow 30 minutes for your visit. Walk through a pipe organ, watch the orientation video, view new exhibit of stencils used by company workers, play your favorite tunes on instruments that retain their heavenly tone years
- after their creation. Through Saturday, October 19.
- \$5 donation requested for nonnbers (no charge for children). Estev Oraan Museum, 108 Birae St. Information: info@esteyorganmuseum.

Community building SO. NEWFANE Medicinal Herb Garden

Days 2024: Grow your knowledge and be in Herbal Community!: All friends of Old Ways Herbal are welcome to join. Online students and apprentices are particularly encouraged to come in order to contextual ize developing skills. Connect with nature in community: Tend the herb school gardens, harvest medicinal herbs, ask your herbgrowing wild-crafting questions in a casual, small group setting, Guests often take home divisions of plants, seeds, or stay late to do some wild-crafting on their own, depending

- on the season. 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Join one or all of these days but RSVP is required. Additional dates are: 6/15, 7/20, 8/13, 9/14, 10/26.
- Old Ways Herbal School of Plant Medicine, 569 Dover Rd. Information: Sign up as spaces are limited to keep the group small: tinyurl.com/mtzkdc82.

PUTNEY Swords to Plowshares/Vermont Hosts First Public Event: Swords to Plowshares, Vermont, Inc. holds its first official public event today - with presentation on StPVt's mission and its connection with local law enforcement. The new local group, (https://www.s2pnortheast.org/) modeled after CT organization same name - has focused on reducing gun violence in its communities. Then, witness a demo by Putnev School students of the transformational process by which unwanted firearms are turned into garden tools/works of art.

- ▶ 10 a.m.-12 noon. Arrive between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. at main parking area. Those needing accessible parking at Art Center will be redirected - arrive with enough time

Putney Co-op).

ARTEMIS, DOWNBEAT MAGAZINE'S

2023 "JAZZ GROUP OF THE YEAR"

World-class jazz, original compositions and highly

Ingrid Jensen (trumpet), Nicole Glover (saxophone),

arranged jazz standards Renee Rosnes (piano),

Performing Saturday, May 18th

Noriko Ueda (bass), Allison Miller (drums).

► Putney School, 418 Houghton Brook Rd. Information: More informa tion: 802-233-5729, 802-254-9019, swordstoplowsharesvt@gmail.com.

PUTNEY Putney Community Garden Open House: Prospective Putney Commu

nity Gardeners gardeners are invited to tour the garden, learn about membership, and consider joining this friendly group. Novice and experienced gardeners who live in the 05346 zip code area are welcome to choose a plot and sign-up today.

▶ 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (across from

2024/p/ceramics-demo.

from Quebec.

► Evening Star Grange, 1008 East-West Rd. Information: 802-254-1138.

Community meals

BRATTLEBORO Caregiver & Me Cooking Class: Muffins: in preparation for all the yummy fruit that will be rolling through your kitchen in June, July, and August. Learn how to make muffins, and then you can make your family strawberry muffins, raspberry muffins, blueberry muffins, peach muffins, apple muffins, you get the picture!

Tag sales, auctions, bazaars

WESTMINSTER WEST 2024 Westminster Community Plant Sale and Bake Sale: This year we have a variety of carefully potted beauties for your gardens. All our plants are carefully sourced to be pest-free. They are field-grown, hardy, weed-free

- ies, hosta, phlox, echinacea, rudbeckia (black-eyed susan), shasta daisy, creeping geranium, jacob's ladder, ground phlox, false solomon seal, lupine, lamb's ear, col umbine, goat's beard, dutchman's breech es, rhubarb, wild ginger, forget-me-nots, iris, sedum, lady mantle, coreopsis, lily of the valley, astilbe, creeping ranunculus, allium, catmint, monk's hood, anemone windflower, many specialties. Plus a few veggies, potted dahlia (tender tuber-not
- 3409 Westminster West Rd. Information. 802-387-4682; westminsterwestlibrary@

WESTMINSTER Spring Sale at Westminster First Congregational Church Women's Fellowship: All kinds of plants

will be for sale: annuals, perennials, bushes, garden starts. Plus baked goods and garden crafts. Buy a ticket for the chance raffle which will be drawn at end of the day. Plus local gift certificates and other cool donated items. The cookout lunch includes hotdogs, hamburgers, sausage, peppers, onions, chili. Take it to-go or sit and visit in our outside cafe.

Free admission

Visual arts and shows

of Art (RGS) features Local Artists at "Off The Wall" Fundraiser (the art

lottery where EVERYONE wins): Off the Wall features 100 pieces of art generously donated by area artists, including RGS staff, students, friends. Pastels, paintings, mixed media, original photographs, prints, more. Donations include work by Mallory Lake, Chris Triebert, Doug Trump, Helen Schmidt, Bob George, Cameron Schmitz, Paul Bowen, Steven Meyer, many others. Images/details of artwork/artists available on the RGS website: rivergalleyschool.org.

Then rank your favorites on your personal wish list. When your number is pulled from the tumbler, you get to pick from the available works still on the wall. If you can't join us, take part remotely. The diverse artwork can also be seen by arrangement. RGS is grateful for the great generosity of the community of artists who have donated,

the sponsors and the many volunteers who make this lively/fun event successful.

Putney Community Garden, across from Putney General Store (4 Kimball Hill). Information: 802-387-2144.

Arts and crafts

MARLBORO Ceramics Artist Demo with Aysha Peltz and Michael McCarthy at the Marlboro Studio School: This is a unique opportunity to observe ceramic artists Aysha Peltz and Michael McCarthy at work in wheel throwing demo and Q&A in intimate studio setting. Peltz is a VT-based studio potter/educator and has held a faculty appointment at Bennington College since 2006. McCarthy is a studio potter focusing on wheel thrown, woodfired functional pottery. In addition to his studio practice, he is ceramics instructor at Austen Riggs Center

- (Stockbridge, MA). ▶ 9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. Tickets available on sliding scale from
- Marlboro Studio School, 2582 South Rd. Information: More information / tickets: marlborostudioschool.org/spring-

Dance

DUMMERSTON Dance Workshop, Pot**luck, Dancing:** 1. Traditional dance music workshop with Claude and Dana. 2. Guest musicians for this dance are Claude Methe on fiddle and Dana Whittle on guitar. Andy Davis will be calling to this pair of musicians

trom Quebec.

▶ 3 p.m.-5 p.m.: Traditional dance music workshop with Claude and Dana. 5:30 p.m.: Potluck supper. 6:30-9:30 p.m.: Dancing.

▶ Dance: adults \$10, children \$8, families \$25. Workshop alone: \$20. Workshop &

10:30-11:45 a.m. or 1:30-2:45 p.m. ► Brattleboro Food Co-op Community Room, 7 Canal St. Information: Registration required: BFC.coop/events.

specimens, potted with love and care Come early for the best selection AND get

- wonderful homemade baked goodies!
 ► 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Perennials: peony, daylil herbs and shrubs. Other specials: assorted
- perennial), nasturtium, sunflowers. ► Most pots range from \$5 to \$15 each-discount for volume. Bring cash or check. ► Westminster West Public Library,

- 9 a.m. 2 p.m.
- Westminster First Congregational Church, 40 Main St. Information: 802-722-4148; nanc10@comcast.net.

BRATTLEBORO River Gallery School

► 5-8 p.m. To participate, purchase a lot-tery ticket from RGS and choose a number. the participants who play the lottery, all

► Tickets available through www.river-galleryschool.org/otw or call 802-257-1577. One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Proceeds support River Gallery School''s mission of creating a fully inclusive art-making community in Brattleboro.; 118elliot.com.

Ideas and education Genealogy Interest Group: "Researching a Grandparent" & "Strategies for Finding Problem Ancestors" (both are Zoom

only): You can pose questions you may have for the presenters when you register for this meeting. The Windham County (Vt.) Genealogy Interest Group is an informal organization whose members are dedicated to genealogy education, research, best practices.

- ▶ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Meetings held every oth er month on Zoom. Many of these sessions were recorded and available on WCGIG You Tube Channel, https://bit.ly/WCGIGVIDEO, covering topics like: Improving your search results in FamilySearch.org and Ancestry. com; using family tree software; Navigating the crowd sourced cemetery database, Find A Grave; using land records for genealogy research; using AmericanAncestors.org, the database of the New England Historic Genealogical Society; finding people in
- Free and open to all. Zoom. Zoom link sent before the meeting. Register at this link: https:// forms.ale/ianUvsG1cEaaPGwB9 Wavne Blanchard and Jerry Carbone, Windham County Genealogy Interest Group: windhamcountygig@gmail.com

SUNDAY

newly released 1950 U.S. Census.

Well-being **BRATTLEBORO** Senior Solutions hosts

as Ludlow, Wilmington, Chester. Cafes are a welcoming place for caregivers and their loved ones who are challenged with dementia, other cognitive disorders or de-bilitating conditions. People in early stages of Alzheimer's are welcome. Socialize, listen to music, enjoy other activities. Cafés provide mutual caregiver support and allow

- - American Legion Hall (Post 5), 32

Music **BELLOWS FALLS Rupert Wates with**

Tom Pirozzoli: Stage 33 Live welcomes the return of London-born, Oxford-educated Rupert Wates and his thoroughly American acoustic folk steeped in deep wells of cabaret and jazz. With the lyricism of Gordon Lightfoot and the attention to craft of Richard Thompson, Rupert's highly developed songwriting is by turns vulnerable and

- bold, featuring intricate lyrics/ memorable melodies, exceptional guitar skills, and a smooth, expressive voice.

 ▶ 7 p.m. Admission limited to 40. Event recorded and filmed. Rupert's 11 acclaimed solo albums won dozens of songwriting awards. His work has been covered by artists in the UK, Canada, U.S., including two tribute albums to his material. Doors to large venues/big festivals are open to him, but he prefers intimate, up-close audiences in small listening rooms where emphasis is on the music. Recognition that regular people are what make the world extraor
- dinary reflects in his vivid, sophisticated songwriting.
 ► Advance tickets \$15 through stage
- 33live.com or \$20 at door. 100% of ticket sales support performers.

➤ Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge St. Information: 802-289-0148; stage33live.com.

Community building **GUILFORD** Guilford Conservation Commission: Old Orchard Walk: This is the first of a series of walks on lands that Patti Smith highlights in our 2023 Natural Resources Inventory. In this walk on the western side of Guilford, we'll walk up a quiet back road that rich with spring ephemerals and through an 11-acre abandoned orchard now home to many kinds of wildlife. Walk is about 1.5 miles in length, begins with steady uphill climb on a Class IV road, and

- continues through the old orchard now gradually returning to forest 10 a.m. We'll meet at the Green River Covered Bridge. From there we carpool to the start of the walk.
- Free. Green River, Green River Road/Jacksonville Stage Road.

Arts and crafts BELLOWS FALLS "Ink & Watercolor

- Workshop with Lynn Zimmerman: ▶ 9:30 a.m. 3 p.m. \$70 member, \$90 non-members.
- Saxtons River Art Guild, United Church, 8 School St. Information: Register with Carolyn at poohbear@ne.rr.com. **MONDAY**

BRATTLEBORO Rock Voices: Comlate Jimmy Buffett and Robbie Robertson! You'll also hear music by Crosby Stills & Nash, Boston, Patti Griffin, Fleetwood Mac,

Selena Gomez, Foo Fighters, The Monkees, Kacey Musgraves, and more. Rock Voices is backed up by a full, professional rock band. Add to that the harmonies of Tony Lechner's arrangements sung by a 50-voice choir and you are in for a real treat. Directed by Bob Thies.

* "We'll als

MONDAY CONT.

"We'll also be holding a raffle to raise money for New England Youth Theater. Support this organization while enjoying fantastic choral rock music! Rock Voices represents everything that is wonderful about the greater Brattleboro grea: sense of community, love of music, a desire to

share that joy with others.".

► \$20 Adult (plus \$3.18 fee), \$15 Senior (plus \$2.85 fee), Student \$10 (plus \$2.51 fee). Tickets also available at door.

► Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, #222. Information: 802-254-9088; vtjazz.org.

Memory Cafes: Senior Solutions hosts

Memory Cafés throughout our area such for the exchange of helpful information and resources. Snacks provided.

- 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

TUESDAY

Recreation RRATTLEBORO Guilford Cares Sponsors a West River Trail Senior Walk: Lynn Levine has been a consulting forester, environmental educator. naturalist and was the first woman forester in the Northeast. The guided walk will give you an inside look at

this historic West River Trail, Over 130 years

- ago, a railway traveled this path between Black Mountain and the West River. Lynn will be pointing out the wide spectrum of plants, trees, rocks, wildflowers along trail. ▶ 10:30-11:30 a.m. Guided walk may have uneven/unlevel terrain and variable around conditions, with easy hiking. Barring hazardous conditions, program happens rain
- or shine. Access trail 400 yards down from Marina Restaurant at kiosk next to parking lot starting the trail. ► Marina Restaurant, 28 Spring Tree Rd. Information: Questions: Leah Gessner,

Guilford Cares Exec. Dir.: 802-579-1350 or guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com.

co-insurance.

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

Clark Ave. Information: 802-251-8484; brattleborowalkinclinic.com. **WEDNESDAY**

5 - 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic, 191

.....

Performing arts WILLIAMSVILLE Open Mic Night at Williamsville Hall: Spoken word, dance, original and covered music.

6 p.m. doors open. 6:30-8:30 p.m. per-mances. Every 2nd and last Wednesday of the month. Hall is ADA compliant. Williamsville Hall, Dover Rd, Information: williamsvillehall@gmail.com,

To submit your

event: calendar@

commonsnews.org Deadline:

5 p.m. Friday

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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

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

We are not trying to 'wow' the audience with tricks and pizazz," 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.

"Each choreographer spends intricately patterned work. 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

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

FROM SECTION FRONT

Redmond will dance 'Dying Swan,' present

original pieceGenevieve 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

"She is the perfect choice for having also 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

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,"

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

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

Czernowin was the first

bringing a show like this one from imagination to the stage, "danc-

ers work tirelessly, learning cho-

reography, honing the details of

expression, timing, and artistry,'

Struthers says. "Costumes are

chosen and created to align and

And "when we get into the the-

ater a week before opening night,

we meticulously work with light-

ing designer Francesca Bourgault

to fulfill the vision even more –

with the lights," she adds.

Struthers says.

ences in the world.

enhance the feel of each piece.'

PUTNEY—On Friday, May 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 composerin-residence at international festivals and her compositions have received numerous awards, among them the Composer Prize from the Siemans 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.

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MAY 17 - 23 IF

FRIDAY 4:15 / 6:40 / 8:45 2 / 6:40 / 8:45 2 & 8:45 4:15 & 6:40 SATURDAY SUNDAY MON.-THUR.

PLANET OF THE **APES** 4:15 / 6:35 / 9:10 SATURDAY 2:15 / 6:35 / 9:10

KINGDOM OF THE

SUNDAY MON.-THUR. 2:15 & 6:35 4:15 & 6:35

THE FALL GUY 15 / 6:45 / 9:05 FRIDAY SATURDAY 2 / 6:45 / 9:05 2 & 6:45 4:15 & 6:45

SUNDAY MON.-THUR.

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Artemis

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.

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FROM SECTION FRONT

After graduating from Berklee College of Music in 1989, she went on to record three highly acclaimed CDs for the Enja record label and then settled in New York City, where she joined the jazz orchestras of Maria Schneider (1994- $2012)\, and \, Darcy \, James \, Argue$ (2002–present).

More recently, Jensen has performed on Grammywinning Terri Lyne Carrington's album The Mosaic Project and Helen Sung's Sung With Words: A Collaboration with Dana Gioia. She is a featured soloist on the Christine Jensen Jazz Orchestra's Junoaward-winning album Treelines (2010) and its successor, Habitat

Jensen leads her own quintet, quartet, and organ trio and has recorded 10 albums as a leader. She was chosen as the 2019 recipient of the Jazz Journalists Association award for trumpeter of the year.

Glover has established herself as a rising star and a musician in great demand. Her most recent recording as a leader is "Strange Lands" (Savant, 2021), with the venerable pianist George Cables.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Glover moved east to attend William Paterson University. She is a member of a quintet led by bassist Christian McBride, and she performs often with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

In 2023, she toured Australia with JLCO, performing Marsalis's symphonic work All Rise with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Ueda studied jazz composition at Berklee College of Music on a scholarship before relocating to New York City.
Bass legend Rufus Reid has

stated, "Noriko Ueda stands tall as a contemporary world class

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EBRU YILDIZ **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 exacting 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.



Grace Cottage

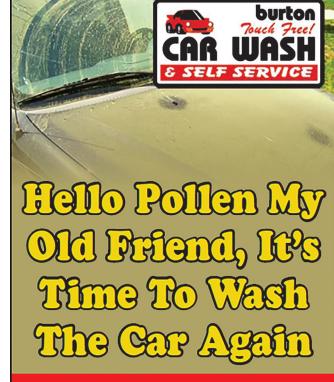
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Literary Cocktail Hour spotlights new book on Theodore Roosevelt

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 **now** for more information.

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 awardwinning 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 brattleborolitfest.org/donate-



Paul Bowen, left, and Fran Bull.

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

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.

mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com.

Bowl makers sought to help feed neighbors at Bowlarama

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 handbuilt bowls to donate to the annual Brattleboro Empty Bowls

BRATTLEBORO—Almost 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 in-

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

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.

by an adult.

Saxtons River Art Guild hosts ink and watercolor workshop

The Empty Bowls Dinner, held in early October at

Space is limited to 15 participants per session. Advance signup 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



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SAXTONS RIVER—The materials and methods and restruction and gentle support to love of it — are often the first to help shepherd their creations from start to finish." And, they Saxtons River Art Guild will ofbe chosen. turn to their regular art practice Clayworks donates instrucfer a workshop on ink and wa-"inspired with fresh ideas, enthusay, it's a lot of fun! There will tion, clay, glaze, and firing costs. tercolor with Lynn Zimmerman siasm, and energy," organizers on Saturday, May 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the United There is no charge to participate; wrote in a news release. Line and color will be dishowever, financial donations to Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School cussed as well as how painting Groundworks are welcome. 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 paint-

Participants will explore new cil, and ink painting. She studied

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 waterbased 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 pen-

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 Burgland at poohbear@ne.rr.com.

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

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.

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

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 The Hanneke Cassel Band 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 native musical languages — folk songs, ballads and dance music — at an early age, was a founding been a featured performer at member of Vermont-based trio Celtic Connections (Scotland), Nightingale, and performs with

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts Milwaukee Irish Fest, Celtic 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 interna-

tionally 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.

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

BRATTLEBORO—On on discovered in the Netherlands in remote and digital timer were 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

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

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 epsilonspires.org.

DISPATCH

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

'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. We SHOWED each other the WAY TO DIE COURTESY PHOTO Maria Buscaglia

West Dummerston ARIA BUSCAGLIA was our motivation, community was our foundation, and Spirit was our guide. Together, we created our own experiential, immersive, spiritual death doula training.

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, potlucks, 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

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@

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

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

page C1

ESSAY

The closeness of neighbors

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



LEARNED 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

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 the of the first people outside his

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. family to get the news, along with 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 popup, 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 puttering 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**

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■ 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

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

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

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CHANNEL 1078

Here We Are - Tucker Barrett, Stringed Instrument Designer: Mon 8p, Tues 3:15p, Wed 12:30p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 10a, Sat 12:15p, Sun

The World Fusion Show - Ep 178 -

Mac Ritchey: Mon 9p, Tues 6a, Wed 5:30p, Thurs 4p, Fri 6a, Sat 3:30p, Sun 6p

New England Center for Circus Arts - Circus Spectacular 3/4/24: Mon 6a, Tues 8p, Wed 3:30p, Thurs 9a, Fri 4p, Sat 8p, Sun 12:30p

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

TecGym 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

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

Heart Rose Club presents Norma

6:30a, Sun 8p

Thurs 11a, Sat 7p

Dream 4/12/24: Mon 8:35p, Tues 11a, Wed 9a, Thurs 12:35p, Fri 10:35a, Sat

Sunflower Court - "Peace of Mind" by Painted Jewels: Mon 6:30p, Tues 11:25a, Wed 6:55p, Sat 12:55p, Sun 5:55p

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

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

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

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

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 pizzelles 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

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.

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

PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

Symposium at SIT 4/30 9a, Tues 6p, Wed 6:30a

CHANNEL 1079

Community Forum - Public Safety Symposium at SIT 4/30/24: Mon

Windham Elementary School District Board Mtg. 5/9/24: Mon 6:30p, Tues 5:30a, Wed 12p

West River Education District Board Mtg. 5/13/24: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 12p

Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 5/13/24: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2:30p

Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 5/13/24: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p

VT Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel 5/13/24 Mtg: Thurs 2:15p, Sun 6p

Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 5/14/24: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat

Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 5/14/24: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 1:30p

Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 5/15/24: Fri 6p, Sat 9:30a, Sun 11a

Putney Selectboard Mtg. 5/15/24: Sat 8:30p, Sun 5:15a

Brattleboro Charter Revision

Commission Mtg. 5/16/24: Sat 6p, Sun 8:30a

Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg. 5/6/24: Sun 9:45p

Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 5/6/24: Thurs 12:30p

River Valleys Unified School District Board Mtg. 5/6/24: Thurs

-Robert Frost

LETTERS FROM READERS

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

E: "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 en-

twined 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 firetruck'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

realms.

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

> Jennifer Jacobs Brattleboro

FROM SECTION FRONT

■ 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.

Enduring 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-

on-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 antinausea medicine (a precursor to the fi-

nal 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

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

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 in-

struments. We chanted "Lokā 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

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 windowsill, 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 acknowledgement 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

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

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

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.

Grácias, querida Maria, for showing the way.

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Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly

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

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LETTERS FROM READERS

A gratuitous personal assault

E: "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.

Dummerston

Bill Conley

creative work **R**E: "False equivalency between the occupied and the occupiers" [Letters, May 8]:

Letter disparages

transformative,

In 1991, my husband, Dr. John Ungerleider, took me to Gaza on our honeymoon. We went with an Israeli human rights delegation to take the testimony of Palestinians.

This was the first of many instances when I had a front-row seat to John's life work, devoting himself to bringing together people from conflict zones to learn to trust one another.

Most of this work happened right here in Brattleboro, at the School for International Training, where he founded the Youth Peacebuilding and Leadership Programs, bringing more than 12,000 young leaders for dialogue about the conflicts they inherited, in places including Northern Ireland, Iraq, Cyprus, Uganda, Turkey, and Israel/Palestine.

This letter disparaged John's work, specifically in regard to his work with Israelis and Palestinians, dismissing his unwavering commitment to conflict transformation. The writer states that John's perspective is that this very complicated conflict "would somehow evolve into peace if everyone could just sit in a circle, play guitars, and talk."

Funny enough, John has used the universal language of music countless times to bring people together, and I have witnessed this in my own living room as people who have experienced conflict and trauma joyously sing and dance together.

It has been one of the great privileges of my life to witness the transformative and creative work John has done with other passionate people who believe in positive change. There is no way to measure the impact of his contribution to a more peaceful world

> Elizabeth Ungerleider Brattleboro

Souls on board in Gaza

Then 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 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

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

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

R: "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

n 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?

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Sandy Golden Hinsdale, N.H.

A legal question

et 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

s the latest legislative ses-Asion 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

23

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

E: "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 Šalkauskas, 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

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 public.affairs@javlb.org (public.affairs@ 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 PAHK

THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

"There's No Comparison"

Across

- 1. Orbital high point
- 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
- They're exposed by flip-flops
- 31. Cocktail shaken in a laundry machine?
- 40. English soccer star Williamson

36. Tater

- 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
- Helped 66. Hotel capacity
- 67. Be at ease while counting? 73. Harshly criticize
- 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
- "Wow!"
- 91. Tag declaration 92. Kingston sch.
- 93. Periods, essentially 95. Oklahoma farewell? 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?
- 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)

'til HOT

WEATHER!

- 3. Short fun run distance 4. Actress Rowlands
- Upright

- 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 highcard 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
- Scored a goal, in hockey or soccer
- "Hmm, OK" 35.
- 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

Last issue's solution

"One Up Front" A T H E N A A D V I L L O A V E S R A I M I YEAHSURE 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 P O U N D I C O N J U S T G O T I P A D CONKS MEDIC LIV 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 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 REDFIRS AORTA HER YAK 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 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

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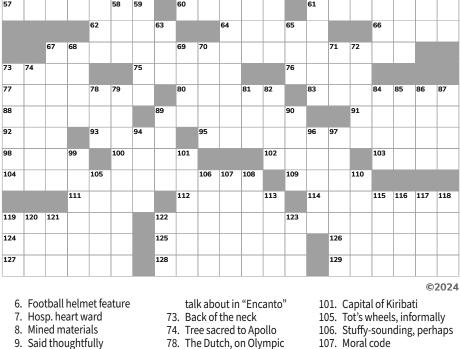
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78. The Dutch, on Olympic

108. Intentionally deceive

110. "Thus __ the Lord..."

113. __ Ishii (assassin

in "Kill Bill")

117. Irish author Colfer

120. Rookie reporter

121. Vow words

119. Retired fast jet: Abbr.

123. Orthodontist's deg.

122. Battle of Britain fliers: Abbr.

115. Munich's river

116. Farm tower

118. Hitch

- 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

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 page C4

COLUMN | Sports Roundup

Terriers softball keeps rolling with wins over Jacks, Bears

ore than baseball, high school softball is a game where sucby 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

Bellows Falls pitcher Izzy Stoodley is the Terriers' hardthrowing 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



at news@commonsnews.

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 runs and a triple. He scored four runs and had two RBIs. Also joining the Rebels' hit parade were Cody Hescock, Ryder Butynski, and Lucas Stolpp, who all went 2-for-3. Hescock 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 to 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 Hescock on the mound. Hescock 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

• 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 topseeded Bears will host the winner of the first-round game between Springfield and Otter Valley in a quarterfinal game at the BUHS gym. Seventhseeded 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.

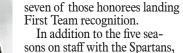
• The Brattleboro girls defeated Stratton Mountain School, 17-8, and lost to Amherst-Pelham (Mass.) Regional, 15-6, on May 11 to finish the week at 2-4.

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



ranked No. 2 in Division III softball in Vermont.

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.

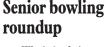
Sam Madow of Brattleboro was one of six high school seniors selected as the 2023 Vermont High School Football Scholar-Athlete Inductees, honored by the NFF for "outstanding football ability and performance, outstanding academic achievement, and outstanding school leadership and example." Madow will receive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

A first team all-state selection on defense, Madow was consistently named to the honor roll throughout high school. He

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

Running back Walker James of Bellows Falls was one of 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.



 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



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS Bellows Falls pitcher Izzy Stoodley is a big reason why the Terriers are currently



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 hon-

ors 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 defended. In 2015, he ranked among the nation's top five in interceptions per game and passes defended 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 ath-

letic 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

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.

22 statewide finalists for the

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