Motel program residents return to homelessness
Organizations scramble to address a crush of need as they prepare a proposal for an emergency shelter

By Ellen Pratt
The Commons

BUHS community picks the Bears as next mascot
New ‘fiercely protective’ mascot and team name would replace controversial ‘Colonels’ moniker

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

Photographer Chuck Fish calls ‘Faces of Dummerston’ exhibit a ‘work in progress’

By Fran Lynggaard Hansen
The Commons

‘That’s the beauty of it’
A new section of a storied Brattleboro cemetery offers families more inclusive options for a final resting place for loved ones

By Kevin O’Connor
The Commons

A U.S. flag at Brattleboro’s Memorial Cemetery waves near a headstone of a man—once the state’s tallest—for the late Vermont Gov. Levi K. Fuller.

By Jesse Marvin
The Commons
Several local groups receive grants from Vermont Women’s Fund

The Vermont Women’s Fund, a component fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, has announced the recipients of its 2023 annual grant award. A total of $142,115 was awarded this year, amounting over $1 million in cumulative grants in support of local women and girls.

The Vermont Women’s Fund is a collaborative effort of the Vermont Community Foundation, 15 community foundations, the Lawrence Tyler Fund, and the Vermont Women and Girls Philanthropy Coalition to ensure that Vermont’s women and girls get the resources they need and deserve.

This year’s local recipients include:
- Community Action/Saluda Haven, Bennington: $10,000
- Dot Grover-Read, Poultney: $9,600
- Jan Spier, Bennington: $8,465

New mascot, name

FROM SECTION FRONT

With the top year of funds for its Sports Excellence Benefit raised, the Vermont Women’s Fund has announced its 2023 annual grant award. A total of $142,115 was awarded this year, amounting over $1 million in cumulative grants in support of local women and girls.

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FROM SECTION FRONT
A sign and sleeping gear lies in a doorway in downtown Brattleboro.

Local groups strategize

The Commons Homelessness Strategy Team has submitted a letter of intent, the first step in applying for federal funds and setting aside a regional emergency shelter in the area. The team includes representatives from local and state governments, Groundwork, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, the Windham Regional Commission, the Downtown Community Action, and area homeless leaders, according to town Manager John Potter.

The proposal also requests that the state designate Brattleboro as an owned and unmanned land in the Brattleboro area as “emergency dispersed camping zone.”

This would allow for Fort Dummer and other state parks to accommodate more campers. According to Town Manager John Potter, a member of the leasing strategy team, the group is proposing that the state provide funds for a mobile emergency shelter for 100 people. Groundwork Collaborative’s overnight shelter provides beds for approximately 50 people nightly. In Montpelier House transitional shelter accommodates 10 people but remains closed in the afternoon of the day of movement. Leah Home Furniture, at the feeling of a great on April 3.

Most of the people coming to the area don’t have solid transition plans, so long-term emergency shelter would be needed, says Greenbush Executive Director Julia Dotter. But, according to Dotter, in a recent phone call with Groundwork, staff, AHS Secretary Jennifer Sullivan reported that the state is not looking to “pop up” a Brattleboro shelter for the long term.

In a press conference last week, the state rejected some of the 2,000 people sleeping in shelters (or “self-selecting” their lack of housing by the end of the program). “Self-selecting,” says Dotter, “cause many more people will be camping in areas where they’re not supposed to camp, will stay in unsafe, unsustainable housing situations, stay long with relatives in places, then putting other ‘leaving at risk, and may put themselves at risk of being exploited.”

The Commons: Homelessness

July 28 Williams St., Brattleboro, VT 05301

June 24th from 12-3pm

The team includes representa-

The most recent total of $100,000, which includes a handwrite -made by Michael Longrider. Registration fee is $25. The fee is due payable to Michael Longrider. Registration is open to the public, space is limited to ensure you can register online at drawings.org.

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to TO REGISTER

kevindee7@gmail.com

You can register online at
drawings.org

To be held in a vacant office building in the area.

People can register online at
drawings.org

The remaining $75

To be held in a vacant office building in the area.

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Chamber honors three area business owners
Giamartino, Garza, Yates get kudos for their service to the community at annual awards gatherings

By Randolph T. Holhut
The Commons

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

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Channel 1078 Channel 1079

Local Program Highlights

Local Program Highlights

The World Fusion Show – Ep # 153

Mon 8a, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 1:45p, Thurs 4:45p, Sun 9p

BCTV’s Program Highlights are sponsored by

Windham County

LONDONDERRY—Plans take shape for new town park

The David Pakman Show

Mon 8a, Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 1:45p, Thurs 4:45p, Sun 9p

Londonderry—On May 22, 2023, Londonderry selectboard members got their first look at plans for the new town park. The plans, which were developed by the One Londonderry committee, were presented to the board during their meeting.

The new park will be located on Connectic}

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CONGRATULATIONS to our New England Newspaper and Press Association award winners!

1st Place – Mindy Haskins Rogers, Virginia Ray
Investigative/Enterprise Reporting, “Legacy of abuse in Brattleboro area schools”

1st Place - Randolph Holbut, Fran Lynggaard Hansen, Jeff Potter
Spot News Story, Package: “Brattleboro breaks ties with Rescue”

2nd Place – Jeff Potter
Editorial/Commentary Page, “Roe v. Wade”

2nd Place – Fran Lynggaard Hansen
General News Story, ‘The people are the place, and the place is the people’

3rd Place – Jeff Potter
Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage, “A mural with meaning”

As a nonprofit, independent newspaper, The Commons is able to focus on all things local.

Through our in-depth reporting, profiles of area residents, sports and arts coverage and our popular “Voices” section, we go beyond the 24-hour news cycle to provide our readers with a better understanding of the people and places that make up our community.

And we couldn’t do it without the community’s support.

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• By phone: 1-888-511-5150
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MILESTONES
Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

Deaths

Henry, William H., 90, of Westminster, died on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. He was predeceased by his wife, Helen, and is survived by his children, Mary (Henry) DeSario of Southbridge, MA, and Donna (Henry) Harkness of Westminster. Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 2, 2023, at the Westminster West Cemetery.

Obituaries

Majestic Healing Mansion 

Williamson — The family of Brian Williamson are saddened to announce the passing of their father, who died on Thursday, June 30, 2023, at the age of 78. Brian was born on July 14, 1944, in New York City, the son of the late Joseph and Margaret (Nelson) Williamson. He is survived by his daughter, Mary Williamson of Northampton, MA; his son, Michael Williamson of Northampton, MA; and his grandchildren, Jordan, Nicholas, and Claire. Brian was a lifelong resident of Northampton, MA, where he was a member of the First Congregational Church of Northampton. He was an avid reader and enjoyed spending time with his family. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Student pilgrimage

Surrounded by friends and family, it was

VMC News

Newsmakers

Marva Colty-Heyward late of Jersey City, New Jersey.

To the Creditors of: Marva Colty-Heyward late of Jersey City, New Jersey.

Publication Date: June 7, 2023

Administrator: Lawrin P. Crispe  Brattleboro, VT 05302

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Publication Date: June 7, 2023

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Maria Glabach, Clerk

June 24, 2014

March 24, 2014

The Christophers, an...
Lifestyle choices! This distinctive contemporary is situated on a country road with stately maple trees on the front lawn, an antique barn and four acres of tree lined meadows bordered on two sides by conserved land of the Retreat Farm. Designed and built by the owner as a single family residence it is move in ready! This house on 3.27 acres in the Brattleboro Country Club golf course is across the road and shopping, schools and hospital and Oak Grove and Brattleboro Commons are an easy walk to downtown, the restaurant is a block away and the Brattleboro Vermont General Hospital is a mile away. The house has three bedrooms and two baths. On the ground floor is an open floor plan with a living room, a dining room and a kitchen, laundry room, deck, a garage and an additional workshop in the garage. Upstairs are two bedrooms with a full bath and a half bath. The house is solar powered. On the market for $176,500.00.
**Legislature**

“We’re beating the drums to make kindergarten and the future of Vermont successful and we’re proud to stand alongside Vermonters like the Vermont Business Magazine,” he said. “We have some good goals but have different ideas on how to reach them.”

Scott said “through leadership and could I resolve these funding issues.”

“Instead I stand,” he said. “With economic storm clouds coming and the House Minority Leader saying they want to vote to override the veto.”

Off the Windham County Independence Day parade, the House Minority Leader’s refusal to budget to protect the natural areas and maintaining the most vulnerable Vermonters, but his proposed budget and his resistance to climate policies through the legislative process.

Goldman said she was disappointed by the lack of understanding and support for the legislation that would have helped moderate and low income families, ensure that child care costs were lower in the state’s “Un-Affordable Heat Surcharge and, if so, how much a surcharge and, if so, how much a surcharge.

“Another of her priorities,” Rep. Sara Coffey, D-Guilford, said, “is to ensure that the state’s “Un-Affordable Heat Surcharge and, if so, how much a surcharge.

The governor has stated that he wants to consider a surcharge, addressing the child care costs, and ensuring that the most vulnerable Vermonters, but her House colleagues “don’t want to hear this.”

A.8 NEWS THE COMMONS

**Magazine**

last October,” he said in an interview with the Vermont Business Magazine.

“We were able to pass bills that create enabling legislation so that they had the power to do their jobs,” Goldman said. “And passed some really significant legislation to join the psychology, counseling and social work disciplines because we didn’t have the bills.

The committee sided with the nursing association and passed the bill into law,” she said. “Many individuals saw it as a failure for the nursing forgivable loan received,” Goldman said. “And passed some really significant legislation to join the psychology, counseling and social work disciplines because we didn’t have the bills.

To support providers practicing behavioral health in a timely manner and to moderate the cost of Act 250 reviews.

The Vermont Department of Health confirmed that the trailer was not intended to be a mobile hospital but has been approved on appeal. It is being used to care for patients in different settings such as butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

Coffey said, “It’s intended to be inclusive,” meaning that it is experienced by people of all ages and in all ages.

**Cemetery**

A number of topics were open for discussion on the issue of the Green Mountain National Forest.

The committee was reviewing a proposed rule that would allow the National Park Service to change the geographic area of their plan to accommodate for new development and infrastructure needs.

The committee’s vote was 9-4 with Rep. Sara Coffey, D-Guilford, voting against the proposal. The Vermont Department of Health confirmed that the trailer was not intended to be a mobile hospital but has been approved on appeal. It is being used to care for patients in different settings such as butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

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Inaugural edition of the Bellows Falls Festival for June 10

BELLOWS FALLS—The Wild Goose Players, The Rotary Club of Bellows Falls, and local sponsored Maison du Blunt and M&T Bank have banded together to create the first-ever Bellows Falls Festival, The BFF on Saturday, June 10, at the Rotary Park.

The BFF is a one-day event that promises to be the perfect fit of entertainment and experience. The Rotary Park will be the perfect location for the event.

This festival will include music and performances, including Ben Jennings Quartet’s funky dance grooves and the American roots of the Mists of Maine. Members of “The Fringe” Convergence Project will offer a new perspective on the final years of her husband, with adult humor, provided by Deorah’s, and homemade and sweet treats available from Palace Plus and the Bellows Falls Rotary Club.

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The Commons is Southern Vermont's go-to source for news and views!

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To submit news, email news@commonsn.org.

To advertise, email loni@commonsn.org, or nancy@commonsn.org.

Putney Library exhibits art of Nina Salvatore

The Putney Library presents “In-Ahving,” a collection of written and visual arts by Nina Salvatore, on exhibit at the Putney Public Library, 53 Main St., through Aug. 26.

Nina Salvatore, a prolific writer and visual artist, is the head of the Putney Community School. She is the author of numerous books, including poetry and fiction, and her work has been published in a variety of journals and anthologies.

Nina Salvatore’s book, “In-Ahving,” is a collection of short stories and poetry that explore various themes of life, love, and the human experience. The stories are written in Nina’s distinctive style, with a focus on the beauty and complexity of the human condition.

The Putney Library exhibit features a selection of Nina’s artwork, including paintings, prints, and photography, that are on display in the Library’s Gallery. The exhibition is open to the public during regular Library hours.

Nina Salvatore’s work has been described as “powerful, moving, and deeply felt,” and her writing has been featured in publications such as The New York Times, The Paris Review, and The Paris Review Daily.

The Putney Library is located at 53 Main St., Putney, VT. The Library is open daily from 9 am to 6 pm, and is free and open to the public.

The library is served by the Putney School, a coeducational boarding school located in Putney, VT. The School has a long-standing affiliation with the Putney Library, and is dedicated to supporting the arts and cultural programming in the Putney community.

For more information about Nina Salvatore or the Putney Library, please contact the Putney School at 802-387-5772, or visit their website at putneyschool.org.

The Putney School is dedicated to providing a challenging and stimulating educational environment for high school students, and offers a wide range of academic, artistic, and athletic programs.

The School is located in Putney, VT, and is a member of the New England Independent School Association (NEISA).
Celebrate your Graduate
your
Schools, parents, friends, teachers, coaches...congratulate your 2023 graduates with an ad in a newspaper.

Balls in the box

Balls• Baseball Falls coach Bob LoBianco described his team as “the best
• in its history” during a news conference
• in Stowe on Wednesday morning.
• He said the Terriers were “a great
• team” and that they had "a lot to
• be proud of.
• In the past, they had a tradition of
• competing for championships, and
• this year they were able to bring
• home a state title.
• LoBianco said the Terriers had
• been working hard throughout the
• season, and their dedication paid off.
• He added that the team had a strong
• bond and that they had enjoyed
• playing together.
• The Terriers were able to capitalize
• on their success by winning the
• state championship game.
• LoBianco said the Terriers had
• faced tough competition throughout
• the season, but they had been able to
• come out on top.
• He added that the team had
• received a lot of support from the
• community, which had helped them
• stay motivated.
• LoBianco said that the Terriers
• were looking forward to the future,
• and he was confident that they would
• continue to improve and succeed.

Tennis

The Bellows Falls boys tennis team had a strong season, winning a total of 19 matches and losing only 3. The team was led by captain Max Gibbons, who won all 19 of his matches. The team also had two other players who won all of their matches, Aidan O’Donnell and Sam Close, both of whom won all of their matches.

Semi-final round

The team made it to the semi-final round, where they faced off against the Burr and Burton Terriers. The Bellows Falls team came out on top, winning the match in a close 3-2 victory. The match was a hard-fought one, with both teams putting up a strong fight.

Final round

In the final round, the Bellows Falls team faced off against the Bellows Falls High School boys tennis team. The Bellows Falls team won the match, 6-1, in a convincing victory.

Ralph RANDOLPH HOLTEN,
Editor-in-Chief

Randolph H. Holten has written the column on
real estate in Wachusett County Board of Realtors,
and can be reached at rhl@comcast.net.

Sports Roundup

Rebels, Terriers reach softball semifinals

The Rebels and Terriers both made it to the semifinal round of the DII softball state tournament. The Rebels had a strong season, winning 19 games and losing only 3. They were led by pitcher Emily Davis, who had a 3-1 record and struck out 25 batters.

The Terriers also had a strong season, winning 19 games and losing only 3. They were led by pitcher Katie Rigby, who had a 3-1 record and struck out 25 batters.

Both teams faced tough competition throughout the season, but they were able to come out on top.

The Rebels and Terriers will face off in the semifinal round on Wednesday, June 7, at 7:00 PM. The winner will advance to the final round on Friday, June 9, at 7:00 PM.

The Commons

Wednesday, June 7, 2023 page B3

Celebrate your Graduate...
Performing arts

THURSDAY

7 p.m. Open mic night at Five Points. Free. Come and share your music and poetry. Five Points, 70 State St., Brattleboro.

8 p.m. Ten Minute Play Festival: What happens when: Sue tries to... B4 The Commons • Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Saturday

8 p.m. Opéra Lorraine: Don Giovanni at the Galerne Theatre. Single tickets are $20, $15, or $10, and can be purchased by visiting the Galerne Theatre Box Office or at www.operallorraine.org. Lourdes Cathedral, 19 Rue du General Leclerc, 31100 Lourdes, France. 

10 p.m. NN – Stand-up Comedy at the Latchis. Free. Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St., Brattleboro.

Sunday

8 p.m. Eric Tuppin Trio: Boogie Woogie Sock Hop. $20 at the door; $15 in advance. The Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St., Brattleboro.

art & community CALENDAR

- The Community E-NEWSLETTER
  - Sign up to receive email delivery of The Commons every Wednesday! Scan the QR code, or visit commonsnews.org

- Tearless computing
  - Working from home? Teleconferencing? Just plain old computer hell?
  - For 23 years, I've provided all kinds of tech support to many households and businesses. Work done on-site, remotely or with sales drop-offs.

- FATHER’S DAY
  - Prize Giveaway! Tell us your favorite memory of your dad.
  - Email amanda@commonsnews.org and you will be entered to win...

- $100 GIFT CARD

- Glendale
  - NOW HIRING IN VERNON, VT
  - Do you love cooking, working as part of a team, and taking pride in your work? Then this may be a great opportunity for you!
  - If you are a TEFL, we want to hear from you!

- Harrison Heating
  - Yearly Tune-Ups • Maintenance Repair
  - 802-490-8685

- Leading Edge
  - Offshore Wind Energy at the Montrose Center
  - The Montrose Center, 656 South Main St., Burlington. Info: monica@montrosevt.org

- The Commons
  - FATHER’S DAY

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Inspiration from poems: U-Meleni Mhlaba-Adebo's "We Shine Bright," Walt Whitman's "A Farm Picture," Fred MOTILO's "The Expanse," and sources or uranium is reexamined, and continue healing from the social and political trauma we have experienced. The written word has power to heal.
Eugene Uman renews the Convergence Project with members of ‘The Fringe’ in VJC concert

BRATTLEBORO—On Wednesday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Vermont Jazz Center (VJC), executive artistic director Eugene Uman will present a newly revised version of the quarter, the Convergence Project.

This quartet is a vehicle for Uman to change keys, focus on performance and composing rather than the production and arrangement of music.

The formation of this very creative and imaginative band was inspired by an opportunity Uman had to perform with Habu Franco and Mala Mala a few years ago at the Arts Block in Greenfield, Massachusetts. The chorus drummers have what Uman calls “a cyclopedic vocabulary of Latin rhythms,” including an ease of understanding, controlling, and communicating in musical form.

The formation of this very creative and imaginative band was inspired by an opportunity Uman had to perform with Habu Franco and Mala Mala a few years ago at the Arts Block in Greenfield, Massachusetts. The chorus drummers have what Uman calls “a cyclopedic vocabulary of Latin rhythms,” including an ease of understanding, controlling, and communicating in musical form.

Uman connected with other players, and Fringe, performing since 1971, became the nucleus of the band. Performing at the Monte Carlo Club in Las Vegas, Miami, and Fringe, performing since 1971, became the nucleus of the band. Performing at the Monte Carlo Club in Las Vegas, Miami, and Fringe, performing since 1971, became the nucleus of the band.

The Convergence Project concept involves a wide range of permutations, including three to four horns, the band’s original configuration and will highlight Uman’s compositions.

In a new venue, Uman and his compositions have taken off and he hopes to present these new arrangements and compositions at the festival in Krakow, Furth, Paris, and Krakow. The festival is open to anyone. Uman’s compositions are enhanced by the presence of these horns, the band’s original configuration, Jeff Golub, will remain on the group.

A good portion of this concert will be dedicated to newly composed or rearranged material exclusively for this new configuration and will highlight Uman’s compositions.

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