How will the ‘Flood of 2023’ rank in history — and does it fortell the future?

The storm was no match for Vermont’s “Great Flood of 927,” a 36-hour deluge that would have damanged $4 billion in property today. But the last rainfall could be a sign of things to come.

By Kevin O’Connor

This good news: This month’s state-record rainfall was nowhere near the deluge that raged across Vermont’s central region in July 1992. That natural disaster affected a larger area and remains a benchmark for Vermont’s worst weather event.

But this ominous news: Although officials are still calculating the impact of the most recent deluge, the discovery cost could rival 2015’s Tropical Storm Irwin — and be a sign things to come, according to researchers who study the long-term impact of extreme rainfall and flooding.

The study found that communities were more expensive to repair than the initial damage, and that some homes were still undergoing repairs in 2015. It also found that the storm had a lasting impact on the local economy, with businesses in the affected areas seeing a 10% decrease in sales in the following months.

The study was conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), with support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the University of California, Berkeley. It is the first study to examine the full economic impact of a single flood event.

The results show that the storm caused $1.5 billion in damage, with the majority of that damage occurring in the first six months after the event. The study also found that the storm had a significant impact on the local economy, with businesses in the affected areas seeing a 10% decrease in sales in the following months.

The study highlights the importance of preparing for and planning for future storms, particularly in areas that are vulnerable to flooding. It also underscores the need for continued investment in flood preparedness and response efforts.

The study is part of a larger initiative by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to better understand the full economic impact of floods and other natural disasters.

By Virginia Ray

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This event aims to provide a platform for various organizations, businesses, and the public to gather, exchange ideas, and sell products. Community concerns to foster a safer society.

Four Seasons OBGY, Milkweed, and BMH Birthing Center

Open House!

• Tuesday, August 15th from 4:00:15 pm
• Meet our providers and nurses.
• Tour the offices of Four Seasons OBGY and Milkweed OBGY and BMH Birthing Center.
• Registration encouraged or not required.

To pre-register, use the QR code below, or visit bmhvt.org/15-open-house

The Commons • Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Greg Colburn

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The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association is hiring a part-time Administrative Assistant.

The administrative coordinator will be responsible for maintaining the administrative systems and processes of the organization. The position will involve a variety of tasks including but not limited to, managing the organization's email system, coordinating meetings and events, handling human resources and financial matters, and supporting the organization's fundraising efforts. The administrative coordinator will work closely with the organization's executive director and other staff members to ensure smooth operations and efficient management.

Ideal candidates will possess strong organizational skills and effective communication abilities. They will have experience in office management and be proficient in Microsoft Office applications. A Bachelor's degree in a related field is preferred.

If you are interested in this position, please submit your resume and a cover letter to info@windmillhillpinnacle.org by August 4, 2023. The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association is an equal opportunity employer.
**State rep. selected for fellowship in government leadership development**

The Council of State Governments (CSG) has announced that Tristan Roberts, a Democrat who represents Windham County, has been selected to participate in the Toll Fellowship Program for the second year in a row. Toll Fellowships are a national leadership development program open to state government officials, bringing together a group of up to 20 leaders of the states and U.S. territories who are at a critical stage in their careers. Roberts attended the program’s annual retreat in 2023, where the program’s vision, goals, and strategies were communicated, and its vision and values were reinforced.

Roberts was named to the Toll Fellowship Program in 2022. At the conclusion of the program in 2023, Roberts stated, “The Toll Fellowship is an incredible opportunity for state leaders to come together and build a shared understanding of how state government operates, and to learn from each other about how we can be more effective leaders.”

Roberts is a writer and homebuilder in Saxtons River, Vermont. He is the son of Richard and Beverly Coleman, and the grandson of Richard and Lorraine (McClary) Alexander. She spent the first 16 years of her life in Geraldine, Montana, and the last 39 years of her life in Cabins, Montana. Diane was a lifelong member of the American Legion Post 37 in Brattleboro; a daughter, Marilyn; three sons, Ken, David, and Jeffrey; and a brother, Robert.

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The family has requested that donations be made to a charity of one’s choice. For further information, please contact the toll fellowship program at (802) 257-7475 or email info@tollproject.org.

**Obituaries**

**Diane L. Brownell**

Diane L. Brownell, a resident of Grafton, Vermont, passed away on July 30, 2023. She was 78 years old. She was the beloved wife of Richard Brownell, with whom she shared 55 years together. She was born on June 5, 1945, in Woodstock, Vermont, the daughter of Richard and Lorraine (McClary) Alexander.

Diane was a lifelong member of Trinity Episcopal Church, with burial at Bingham Cemetery in Vernon, Vermont. She was a member of the American Legion Post 37 in Brattleboro; a daughter, Marilyn; three sons, Ken, David, and Jeffrey; and a brother, Robert. She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Beverly; her mother-in-law, Dorothy; and one brother, Robert.

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**Richard Henry “Dick” Friesen**

**Richard Henry “Dick” Friesen**

Richard Henry “Dick” Friesen, 78, of Saxtons River, Vermont, passed away unexpectedly on July 7, 2023. He was born on November 11, 1944, in Grafton, Vermont, the son of Richard and Beverly Coleman, and the grandson of Richard and Lorraine (McClary) Alexander.

Dick was a lifelong member of Trinity Episcopal Church, with burial at Bingham Cemetery in Vernon, Vermont. He was a member of the American Legion Post 37 in Brattleboro; a daughter, Marilyn; three sons, Ken, David, and Jeffrey; and a brother, Robert. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Beverly; his mother-in-law, Dorothy; and one brother, Robert.

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**Millie Brownell**

Millie Brownell, a resident of Grafton, Vermont, passed away on July 30, 2023. She was 78 years old. She was the beloved wife of Richard Brownell, with whom she shared 55 years together. She was born on June 5, 1945, in Woodstock, Vermont, the daughter of Richard and Lorraine (McClary) Alexander.

Millie was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, with burial at Bingham Cemetery in Vernon, Vermont. She was a member of the American Legion Post 37 in Brattleboro; a daughter, Marilyn; three sons, Ken, David, and Jeffrey; and a brother, Robert. She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Beverly; her mother-in-law, Dorothy; and one brother, Robert. She was a member of the American Legion Post 37 in Brattleboro; a daughter, Marilyn; three sons, Ken, David, and Jeffrey; and a brother, Robert. She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Beverly; her mother-in-law, Dorothy; and one brother, Robert.

The family has requested that donations be made to a charity of one’s choice. For further information, please contact the toll fellowship program at (802) 257-7475 or email info@tollproject.org.
**Gravestones as Touchstones** is the theme for Rockingham Meeting House’s annual pilgrimage

*The Rockingham Meeting House*

**CCV announces half-price tuition**

MONTEYER — With reprieve from Governor Phil Scott and_introduction of__ Vermonters seeking education and training at Vermont colleges this fall__ will receive a 50% tuition discount_.

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**NEWS**

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Food Connects in home stretch of capital campaign to expand its regional distribution network

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Forestry announced the expansion of Food Connects, its regional food distribution network. The campaign aims to support the expansion of the regional food distribution network and related early childhood programs.

Food Connects initiated the campaign in 2021 to build 10,000 square feet of dry storage on the east side of Brattleboro’s First Street Foundation, the foundation’s former space. The new facility will include space for processing and packing, as well as a warehouse for distributing food.

With the ability to store and distribute more food, Food Connects says it will “contribute to our community’s food security, promoting healthier eating habits and reducing food insecurity.”

Food Connects is working with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Forestry to expand its reach. The agency has committed $2.6 million federal funds as part of a comprehensive plan to improve Vermont’s food system.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Forestry has also launched a capital campaign to raise $1 million. The campaign aims to support the expansion of the regional food distribution network and related programs.

The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Forestry has received $200,000 from USDA Rural Development, as well as $300,000 through foundation and corporate gifts. A generous individual donor has also contributed $200,000 to the campaign.

The summer fundraiser is part of a comprehensive plan to improve Vermont’s food system. The plan includes projects to improve the state’s supply chain, reduce food waste, and increase access to healthy food.

The campaign aims to support the expansion of the regional food distribution network and related programs. It will fund the expansion of Food Connects’ regional food distribution network, as well as the development of new partnerships to reach more Vermonters.

For more information or to donate, please visit foodconnects.org/campaign.

About Food Connects Food Connects is the regional food distribution network of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. The agency receives funding from the USDA Rural Development, as well as foundation and corporate gifts.

Food Connects is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The agency serves as a hub for Vermont’s regional food distribution network, connecting Vermonters with fresh, healthy, and affordable food.

Food Connects is working to improve Vermont’s food system by expanding its regional food distribution network, reducing food waste, and increasing access to healthy food. The agency is committed to improving Vermont’s food system for all Vermonters.

The agency is working to increase access to healthy food for all Vermonters. It is committed to improving Vermont’s food system for all Vermonters, regardless of income or location.

For more information or to donate, please visit foodconnects.org/campaign.
Rive Jam Romp’s music camps bring together people who love to play, dance, and listen to traditional music from all over the world.

In its second year, the music camp, born in a ‘post-pandemic surge of creative energy,’ moves to Marlboro in September.

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Extra visible and surprisingly affordable

Get your business in front of readers who value the arts, and who will love your business!
RiverJam Romp
FROM SECTION FRONT

and directed by Rose Friedman, his wife, Bettie.

The Actors Theatre Playhouse is located at the corner of Lebanon and Circular Streets. All tickets are $15 for general seating and $20 for seats in the balcony and orchestra. www.atplayhouse.org

For more information, call 802-295-7270 or visit marlboromusic.org

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SATURDAY & SUNDAY @ 4PM

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

SAT. & SUN.                 1:45 / 7:20 / 9:15

FRIDAY               3:45 / 6:40 / 9:00

GREEN KNIGHT
6:40 & 9 PM – NIGHTLY

REMINISCENCE
PG-13
6:40 & 9:00 nightly

CARMEN/
PG-13
6:50 & 8:50 PM – NIGHTLY

RESPECT
PG
6:45 nightly

Visit latchis.com

To learn all the latest showtimes, visit latchis.com or call 802-246-1500.

Screening information:

THURSDAY 6/13

CARMEN/
PG-13
6:40 & 9 PM – NIGHTLY

REMINISCENCE
PG-13
6:50 & 8:50 PM – NIGHTLY

RESPECT
PG
6:45 nightly

SCREENINGS

CARMEN/
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REMINISCENCE
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The Commons - Wednesday, August 2, 2023

The Nutcracker opens with a scene from George Balanchine and Peter Martins’ ballet, “The Nutcracker.”

The story of the Nutcracker is told through the eyes of a young girl named Marie.

The Nutcracker is a classic ballet that tells the story of a young girl named Marie.

She receives a magical gift from her uncle, a wooden nutcracker, who comes to life and leads her on a magical journey.

As they dance together, the music and the choreography create a sense of wonder and magic.

The Nutcracker is a beloved holiday tradition and is performed by many ballet companies around the world.

It is a heartwarming story that has been enjoyed by generations and is often accompanied by Tchaikovsky’s beautiful music.

The Nutcracker is performed during the holiday season, which is a time of year when people look forward to spending time with family and friends.

The Nutcracker is a tradition that has been celebrated for many years and continues to be a favorite for audiences of all ages.

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**Tape Art returns to Brattleboro with new mural at BMAC**

**BRATTLEBORO—No, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) is not coming apart at the seams. The ribbon of colored tapes that will soon be affixed to the front of the museum building is not a sign of disrepair. More specifically, tape art---the hallmark of Michael Townsend of Tape Art returns to Brattleboro with new mural at BMAC---has arrived Townsend and Smith to return to Brattleboro in August, this time to create a large mural across the front of the museum building. And the artists are hoping Brattleboro residents and visitors will help them with the monumental task at hand.

The making of the mural will be a week-long installation that will feature extensive research and planning, as well as assistance from the public.

Based on the enthusiastic response to Tape Art, BMAC has invited Townsend and Smith to return to Brattleboro in August, this time to create a large mural across the front of the museum building. And the artists are hoping Brattleboro residents and visitors will help them with the monumental task at hand.

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***BRATTLEBORO---Bread and butter of the troupe's production that blends contemporary and traditional circus arts, the extraordinary rollerskating duo and "Tape Art" will return to Brattleboro in August, we have further details.***

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**The Commons • Wednesday, August 2, 2023**

**THE ARTS**

**Stars Above, an all-American open-air circus, comes to town**

**THE ARTS**

**Sculptor Lela Jaacks with her sculpture outside of the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center.**

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**ART AROUND BOOKS Summer Exhibitions and Bookstore Grand Opening!**

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---

**Michael Townsend of Tape Art.**
Pikes Falls festival returns to Jamaica after pandemic hiatus

Community invited to three concerts and a garden party featuring musicians from Vermont and afar

JAMAICA—Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival is re-
turning to celebrate 2023 summer season with a nu-
musical-first concert series, Wednesday, August 2, at 7 p.m. in the Jamaica School parking lot.

The summer festival com-
posing music and visuals that began in 2002, founded by Jamaica residents, is among the nation’s execute-
ers of its programs.

Since then, PFCM has per-
formed 51 concerts in 10 states, with 13 world premières, and hosted 56 different artists. As described in a news re-
note, the festival’s schedule includes three new concerts with a range of iconic venues and city.

The festival highlights musicians from the Grammy-nominated Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, CMC Washington, D.C., as well as local community members.

As in PFCM’s tradit-
io, a piece by the famous

June 26 – Aug 11

CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL. The festival is noted for its emphasis on regional musicians from the Berkshir-
e Valley and beyond, including Radivoje Sekulic, Patrick Dyer, Douglas Keeve, and Jennifer Koh.

Both concerts will be at PFCM’s Chamber Music Festival on Friday, Aug. 4, at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

B6 THE ARTS THE COMMONS  • W ednesday, August 2, 2023

Artists perform at a previous year’s Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival.

Rock Voices presents a summer concert

CROWELL GALLERY presents works by Ragouzeos

NEWFANE—During the month of August, The Crowell Gallery presents works by Greek-born, Vermont-based artist Nikos Ragouzeos.

Ragouzeos first began painting in 2005, Ragouzeos began as a pre-
formers as they are a con-
hich includes three works: "Busts of Greek Warriors," "Busts of Greek Warriors," and "Busts of Greek Warriors." Ragouzeos said, "The drawings are a part of my interest in representing the human body, especially in its movement and posture."

Ragouzeos works in a variety of mediums, including charcoal, ink, and watercolor. He often uses the medium of charcoal to create expressive, abstract line drawings that depict the human form.

In addition to his work as a painter, Ragouzeos also teaches art at the Boston University School of the Arts.

Ragouzeos’ works can be seen at the Crowell Gallery in Newfane, Vermont, and at the artist’s website, www.nikosragouzeos.com.

35 resident artists perform from Green Mountain to Pondicherry

CROWELL GALLERY presents works by Ragouzeos

NEWFANE—During the month of August, The Crowell Gallery presents works by Greek-born, Vermont-based artist Nikos Ragouzeos.

Ragouzeos first began painting in 2005, Ragouzeos began as a pre-
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hich includes three works: "Busts of Greek Warriors," "Busts of Greek Warriors," and "Busts of Greek Warriors." Ragouzeos said, "The drawings are a part of my interest in representing the human body, especially in its movement and posture."

Ragouzeos works in a variety of mediums, including charcoal, ink, and watercolor. He often uses the medium of charcoal to create expressive, abstract line drawings that depict the human form.

In addition to his work as a painter, Ragouzeos also teaches art at the Boston University School of the Arts.

Ragouzeos’ works can be seen at the Crowell Gallery in Newfane, Vermont, and at the artist’s website, www.nikosragouzeos.com.

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Great opportunity for starting or expanding your investment portfolio. Good rental income and affordable property.

When the raccoons grow in numbers and form a gang of marauders, they become a formidable force. And an arrogant one.

VIEWPOINT

Big changes and new protections — for workers in Vt.

But I never thought I would be having some sort of gang mentality. I kept up the attitude, opened the door, and refused to be pushed around.

TOM BUCHANAN/SPECIAL TO THE COMMONS

RICHARD DAVIS, a retired registered nurse and tireless advocate for access to health care, is a former Brattleboro Reformer columnist. He continues to post his writing weekly on his Facebook profile (R.Davis.1953.evans).
Gang of raccoons

The next day, I took two bungee cords and secured a few knots. I was in the barrel a number of times before I finally had to give up and go get some other furniture. Then I had a new idea. I started looking for recom- mended practices for managing raccoons, and there are very few. Having a few rods in the area, I thought, I might be able to find them there. I envision that people who engage in this kind of activity will try to do it quietly and be mindful of the raccoons. After a few nights, it did. The next day, I took two bungee cords and secured a few knots. I was in the barrel a number of times before I finally had to give up and go get some other furniture. Then I had a new idea. I started looking for recom- mended practices for managing raccoons, and there are very few. Having a few rods in the area, I thought, I might be able to find them there. I envision that people who engage in this kind of activity will try to do it quietly and be mindful of the raccoons. After a few nights, it did. The next day, I took two bungee cords and secured a few knots. I was in the barrel a number of times before I finally had to give up and go get some other furniture. Then I had a new idea. I started looking for recom- mended practices for managing raccoons, and there are very few. Having a few rods in the area, I thought, I might be able to find them there. I envision that people who engage in this kind of activity will try to do it quietly and be mindful of the raccoons. After a few nights, it did. The next day, I took two bungee cords and secured a few knots. I was in the barrel a number of times before I finally had to give up and go get some other furniture. Then I had a new idea. I started looking for recom- mended practices for managing raccoons, and there are very few. Having a few rods in the area, I thought, I might be able to find them there. I envision that people who engage in this kind of activity will try to do it quietly and be mindful of the raccoons. After a few nights, it did. The next day, I took two bungee cords and secured a few knots. I was in the barrel a number of times before I finally had to give up and go get some other furniture. Then I had a new idea. I started looking for recom- mended practices for managing raccoons, and there are very few. Having a few rods in the area, I thought, I might be able to find them there. I envision that people who engage in this kind of activity will try to do it quietly and be mindful of the raccoons. After a few nights, it did. The next day, I took two bungee cords and secured a few knots. I was in the barrel a number of times before I finally had to give up and go get some other furniture. Then I had a new idea. I started looking for recom- mended practices for managing raccoons, and there are very few. Having a few rods in the area, I thought, I might be able to find them there. I envision that people who engage in this kind of activity will try to do it quietly and be mindful of the raccoons. After a few nights, it did. The next day, I took two bungee cords and secured a few knots. I was in the barrel a number of times before I finally had to give up and go get some other furniture. Then I had a new idea. I started looking for recom-
they were. Grateful to be back. I think they were in a hurry as the hot weather was rolling in.

Robert R. Norton

Brattleboro's El Centro was shortchanged, but the community is banding together to compensate for bureaucratic error.

In the past year, El Centro’s downtown location has been the site of a food pantry, a free clinic, and other essential services amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the center is facing a bureaucratic hurdle: a shortfall of $14,000 in state funding for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

The money, which was supposed to be allocated to the center through the Department of Health and Human Services, hasn’t been transferred as of this week. El Centro Executive Director Jessica Lussier said the center has been working to secure the money in the meantime.

For a recent article in the Brattleboro Reformer, the center switched over from Ben & Jerry’s money to Ben & Jerry’s.

For more details, please refer to the full article on the Brattleboro Reformer’s website.

Who would be the one to be happy and the one to be sad?

This image contains text that is not relevant to the main content of the article.

No other discounts apply.

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By Rachel Flood

Post 91 had a solid week this year with plenty of good pitching, a steady defense, and standout hitting. That made the team a threat in the American Legion Baseball tournament, and they did not let the pressure get to them.

Unfortunately, Post 91 also possesses all those ingredients and once again found itself in the position of being in the championship game of Tournament of Champions for a third consecutive year.

Post 1 had its best, but Essex would be dealt a painful blow as Main Street Field lost its championship to the Blue Knights.

The Battle between the best two teams in the state went to extra innings, but Essex could not hold its lead in the 10th inning.

The Blue Knights left three runners on base, and with the winning run on base, Essex pitcher Alex Bingham was called for a balk, allowing the winning run to score and giving Essex a 16-15 loss.

This was the second straight year that Essex had been knocked out of the state tournament in the championship game, and while the team can be proud of its accomplishments this season, there is little doubt that Battle would be the team to watch for.

Little League roundup

This week, Little League baseball was back in full swing as the teams continued to compete for the state championship.

In Montpelier, the Champs of the 12-U state tournament schedule will have Battle of the Brutes and a chance to win the championship on Saturday, July 30.

Battenfield's Gavin Carpenter was 4-for-4 with a double and 4 RBIs and 3 runs scored in the first game for a 12-2 win over Racing in the state Little League 10-U Tournament on Essex.

The Battle Little League 12-U All-Stars congratulate the 10-U team as they took their victory lap after winning the 10-U championship on July 1 at South Main Street Field. All three of Brattleboro's All-Star teams played in state tournaments this season.

Post 5, Little League All-Stars fall short

After giving up three runs in the second inning, Essex Post 91 was unable to score in the bottom of the inning and were defeated by Post 5 in the double-elimination tournament.

Post 91 won their third straight game of the tournament and advanced to the post-season.

Unfortunately, those two games were not enough for Essex Post 91 to advance to the championship, as they were defeated by Post 5, 10-7.

The game started slow for Essex on July 29, and Essex Post 91 could not find the right formula to win the game.

However, Essex Post 91 was not going to be stopped and continued to put up runs, but Post 5 was too much for Essex in the end.

In the third inning of the tournament, Essex Post 91 was down 2-1, but they were able to come back and tie the game in the fourth inning.

Essex Post 91 then went on to win the championship by a 12-2 score.

For more information about the game and to watch your team, visit baseball.weekly.com.

High water cancels Riverfest

The Windham and Connecticut rivers are at particularly high levels, and while high water and high water levels can pose issues for local businesses, the town of Brattleboro has taken steps to ensure safety.

The town is still closed to boats, as both high water and high water levels can create issues for boaters, as both high water and high water levels can create issues for boaters.

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Post 5, Little League All-Stars fall short in their respective states for title state.