BUHS team name sparks Civil War of opinion
Colonel supporters aren’t surrendering without a fight, as seen through dozens of social media posts criticizing the proposed change

By Kevin Connor

BRATTLEBORO—When Brattleboro Union High School went through the naming process to come up with a new team nickname, the school committee went with a moniker that might have a systemic impact.

"The name of our school was "Brattleboro,"" Colonel Means, brought to the Legislature a bill that would have made it illegal for any public school or government entity to display the "Southern" word. He said it was a "question of identity" and that he didn’t think it was "a time to go backwards."

"It’s not that we don’t like the new name," he said. "It’s just that we think it’s important to have a name that reflects our identity and our history."

"The one fear of the students," he added, "is that they won’t be able to use the name "Brattleboro" anymore."

"And the fact is, they can still use the name," Means said. "It’s not like there’s a law that says they can’t."

"But it’s important to have a name that reflects our identity and our history," he said. "And the new name doesn’t do that."
Thompson
does that to my utmost.

He often puts the "I" in the word "teamwork,"
but if he doesn't, he'll

"No matter how difficult the
call," Joe says, "I've always
had a lot of respect for Joe."

"He's a great example
to all of us," Martin
said.

"He is always there for
us, no matter what,
and always gives his best.

"There's a lot of respect for
him in the community
and in the EMS, "
Derek Paul, Joe's brother
Ryan, said.

"He was a role model
for Joe, " said
Debra Winder, director of
the EMS.

"He was a great example
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"He was always there
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**Now Hiring in Vernon, VT!**

Do you love cooking, working as part of a team, and providing exceptional customer service?... Partnership for Fairness and Diversity, challenged the Colonel in a commentary in 2003 in the pages of the Brattleboro Reformer.

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Curtiss Reed Jr., director of what was then the ALANA Organization and what now is the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity, challenged the Colonel in a commentary in 2003 in the pages of the Reformer:

> A “Change the Racist Colonel” petition that has lingered online for years has attracted more than 1,500 signatures.

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**Limited Time Offer**

**FREE Energy Savings Kit**

Save energy and reduce your carbon footprint at home with:
- LED bulbs (40 / 60 / 75 watt equivalents)
- Kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators
- Water-saving showerheads
- Faucet aerators
- Toilets

**For event calendar or to order, visit efficiencvermont.com/brattleboro**

**Available at upcoming local events and online.**

**For event calendar or to order, scan QR code or visit efficiencvermont.com/brattleboro**

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**News**

**New state labor laws**

**non-discriminatory school branding**

Brattleboro Union High School rallied around the same colonel mascot used by the University of Mississippi until both institutions retired the character in the early 2000s.

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**Commentary**

*It’s time for BRUS to retire the Colonel*

The Colonel, whose antebellum attire and image evokes the white slave owner and plantation owner, is no longer connected to the school or the South and the racist history of its removal.

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**Job Openings**

**Production – Lumber handlers & Machine operators**

Do you value your weekends off?... are now hiring for all positions!

---

**Student load back and ahead**

According to school statistics, only 20% of students choose “white” as the race they are in part.

---

**News**

**now in Vernon, VT!**

Do you love cooking, working as part of a team, and providing exceptional customer service?... Partnership for Fairness and Diversity, challenged the Colonel in a commentary in 2003 in the pages of the Reformer.

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**Job Openings**

**Mechanics - equipment maintenance**

Knowledge of NetSuite software, mapping software a plus and able to navigate and embrace social media platforms.

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**Job Openings**

**MARY MEYER PLUSH TOY – Part-Time Warehouse Packer/Shipper Needed**

No phone calls, please. Mary Meyer is an EOE.

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**News**

**Mary Meyer Company**

Do you value your weekends off?... are now hiring for all positions!

---

**News**

**Gersonisimo**

Do you value your weekends off?... are now hiring for all positions!

---

**News**

**Lumber Company**

Do you value your weekends off?... are now hiring for all positions!

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**News**

**Newspapers.com**
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.
There is a positive solution for every behavioral problem.

Aggression,

Resource advocates say they are concerned that the state’s recently released forecasts show clouds on the horizon for housing and homelessness. In the weeks leading up to the end of the legislative session, housing advocates predict that many of the people in the program will soon find themselves out on the street.

The program began during the height of the pandemic, when the state, in a bid to keep people housed, offered millions of dollars in added rent assistance. Vermont now estimates that it has roughly $64 million surplus. Some lawmakers have expressed concern that the money is being used to support programs that are not sustainable.

"I don't think that that's directly connected to the program," said Rep. Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, a Democrat who represents Addison County. "I think it's the overall impact lower-income Vermonters are facing.

But Mulvaney-Stanak added that she, personally, would vote against the program.

"We need to move on," Scott said on the House floor.

"The move is risky. Democrats can’t have agreement to vote to sustain a gubernatorial veto on the budget and to uphold a potential veto. As of now, 6 months in, the session is well underway and both political parties are making significant moves towards the end of the session.

But Reps. Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, D-Addison, and Trish Tourtillott, D-Windsor, said they are still waiting for the state to end the program.

"There are some of the incentives to use local food in order to essentially provide affordable housing," said Heather Bouchey, Vermont’s Housing Commissioner.

"Heather Bouchey, Vermont’s Housing Commissioner, said on the floor.

"The dollars for the program are now headed to the governor's desk, and a pot of money that government leaders have requested in order to essentially provide affordable housing."
Debut novel

The question “what can we do to save the environment?” figures prominently, and affects every aspect of our lives.”

With this statement, a novel has officially been announced. The book, titled *The Common* by John Green, is an exploration of environmental issues and the impact they have on our daily lives. The novel, which is set in the near future, follows a group of characters as they come together to tackle the pressing issue of climate change.

The book is described as a “thought-provoking and timely tale” that explores the theme of sustainability and the importance of collective action. It is set for release in the coming months and is expected to be a major literary event.

Sister District Project garners $100,000 in political donations

The Sister District Project has raised $100,000 in political donations, which will be used to support local candidates in swing states.

The Sister District Project is a non-partisan organization that aims to help elect Democratic candidates in swing states. The organization has raised funds through a variety of means, including online donations and events.

The $100,000 raised will be used to support candidates in swing states, including those in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and New Hampshire. The funds will be used to cover the costs of running campaigns, such as advertising and mailings.

The Sister District Project is a key player in the 2022 midterm elections, and has set its sights on targeting a total of $500,000 in donations in the upcoming election cycle. The organization is committed to supporting candidates who are committed to advancing progressive values and policies.

For more information about the Sister District Project and its work, please visit their website at sisterdistrictproject.com.
**MILESTONES**

**Births, deaths, and news of births from Windham County**

**Deaths**

- **Alvin N. [Al] Weeks** of Greenfield died at the age of 84 on April 11. He was a dedicated volunteer for United Way of Windham County and the Bristol Free Library.**

- **Raymond Peter [Ray] Laronde** of Whitingham passed away on April 22. He was a dedicated community activist and mentor.

- **James Robert [Jim] Stedman** of Newfane died on April 20. He was a retired police officer and community leader.

**Births**

- **Nicholas Joseph [Nick] Zama** was born to Tessa Zama and John Zama on April 10 in Waterville. He weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces.

**Obituaries**

- **Sue Carol [Carroll] Buckley** of Brattleboro died on April 22. She was a beloved community leader and champion for the arts. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

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State Rep. Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, says she is not giving up on her efforts to get a Paid Family Leave bill through the House of Representatives.

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Many parents are struggling to pay for rent and food and cannot afford the high cost of diapers. Some turn to diaper programs to help. The Parks Place diaper program is accepting diapers, wipes, and monetary donations. The Diaper Drive is held on Wednesday, May 31, through Wednesday, June 7.

The Manitou Project seeks to foster community with Nature and vernal pools will be teeming with wildlife. The event will start at 4 p.m. and will conclude with a picnic lunch.

The Mary Ingalls Project will hold its 19th Healing Walk of the season on May 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Brattleboro Community Center. The event is free and open to the public. To register, go online or call 802-257-0775.
At the Brattleboro School of Dance (BSD), we’ve been in full swing, working on the final touches of our upcoming production, “Moons, Mirrors and Mirages.” This show takes the audience on a mysterious and otherworldly excursion into the past, present, and future of dance at BSD. We wander off the beaten path, guided by the light of the moon, and revel in what our reflections reveal. The moon shines light into darkness, always there to remind us of its cycles. The mirror shows us who we are, what is behind us, and what is reflected in our hopes and dreams. Mirages are there for us to understand our wants and desires in times of scarcity and hardship.

This show will feature dancers spanning many generations, from age 6 up through 70-something. It features the work of BRIDGET STRUTHERS, who was assisted in the writing of this column by Holly Johnson.

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.

Brattleboro School of Dance presents ‘Moons, Mirrors and Mirages’ at NEYT May 19–21
The written word

BRATTLEBORO

Chuck Collins: “Altar to an Erupting Sun”: Chuck Collins reads from and discusses his new book (Saturday, May 13, 4-5:30 p.m. One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St.) Free. Donations appreciated.

The written word

BRATTLEBORO

Joaniki Thaxton: Joaniki Thaxton reads from her memoir “Bernie’s Mitten Maker”: Join Joaniki on Saturday, May 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Sunset Lake Rd. from Williamsville Hall. Free. Donations appreciated.

Recreation

BRATTLEBORO

Twilight Birding: Information on the main floor. Meet Kevin Tolan from VT Department of Fish and Game for a morning birding trip into the Hogback Vernal Pool. From 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Information: Zoom: com/dvv3m9rd

Kids and families

BRATTLEBORO

Regenerative Fair Trade Farmers Market (Zoom): March 18th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. In this event, like many online markets, farmers and artisans are giving away their products. Information: neighborhoodroots.org/events

Well-being

BRATTLEBORO

Open House: Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts, 183 South Main St., 10-5 p.m. Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts invites you to visit the gallery and meet the artists. The gallery features original paintings, drawings, sculpture and prints by regional, national and international artists. Standard COVID precautions will be in place.

Dance

BRATTLEBORO

Argentine Tango: The Ballroom at 103 Elliot St. Information: 802-254-5250

Performing arts

BRATTLEBORO

Community meals

SIMONSTOWN

Appetizer: Cost: $20 per head (includes event, food, beverages, and entertainment). The meal is sponsored by Ben's Kitchen at the Mill Hill, and local businesses.

THURSDAY

11

The written word

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Here at The Commons, we’ve had an exciting start to 2023!

• We published our 700th issue on February 1.
• We brought you expanded coverage of the work our area legislators are doing in Montpelier.
• The Media Mentoring Project has hosted 3 live programs, 2 writing workshop groups, and brought journalists into local schools.
• We produced a paper despite a snowstorm and power outages. (Thank you, intrepid staff and volunteers!)
• Our talented writers won 5 awards from the New England News paper and Press Association.

And there’s more to come! But we need your help to keep the momentum going.

Our goal is to raise $25,000 by June 30 to help us expand our capacity to bring you even more of the award-winning local stories and commentary you look forward to each week.

Will you help by making a financial contribution today?

Any amount you can give will help our newsroom do what it does best - produce journalism that’s worth your investment.

Thanks to your generous support, The Commons is a community resource that people depend upon. Your continued support will help us achieve more great things in the future.
**Charlap/Rosnes**

**Rhythm and Sense**

4:15 PM, May 16

B4 starts May 16

Coffee is available.

**Manager’s Pick of the Week**

**THE SECRET LIFE OF DARK PHOENIX**

PG-13 which is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

**Recycle unused Recycle unused**

**MURRIN’S**

**Sunrise: A Musical Film**

W. Murnau's silent masterpiece 'Sunrise: A Musical Film'.

Murnau's first in America — Murnau's first in America

Tickets are $12 and can be purchased online at

OUTDOOR SCREENING OF 'HILMA' Murnau's first in America — Murnau's first in America

**SPECIAL EDITION SCREENING OF 'HILMA' Murnau's first in America — Murnau's first in America

**Dance production**

**Their deep rooted repertoire**

joyful with storytelling and

generously inspired by the two artists’ rich and diverse experiences.

**Class Rock drummer**

**Starting May 18**

11:30 am to Noon

**Murrian’s silent film masterpiece**

'Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans' comes to Epsilon Spires

**Epsilon Spires, BMAC present outdoor screening of ‘Hilma’**

Noon to 2 & 5 to 7 pm

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Big Woods Voices are to perform at Main Street Arts in Saxtons River

NECCA’s Youth Performance Troupe presents ‘CircusNEXT: the Underforest’ May 13–14

Brattleboro—The New England Conservatory of Music (NECCA) is excited to announce the third annual circus program ‘CircusNEXT: the Underforest’ this May 13 and 14 at the Marlboro Music Center. The Sarasa Ensemble returns to BMC with ‘Take Four!’ May 15 at 7:30 p.m. and 15% off all tickets.

Saratoga Ensemble returns to BMC with ‘Take Four!’

Walpole Players present ‘Grumpy Old Men, The Musical’

WINCHENDON — The Walpole Players will present the New England Premiere of the musical version of Grumpy Old Men, directed by James R. Penniman, in performances May 19–21 at the Walpole Town Hall.

THE ARTS

SATXON'S RIVER — Main Street Arts in Saxtons River presents a one-night only concert by Big Woods Voices on Sunday, May 21, at 4 p.m., in the historic SSA Stage at Saxtons River. Tickets are $20 and available either at the door or online at mainstreetarts.org. This concert concludes the series of the 2022-23 season.

Big Woods Voices to perform at Main Street Arts in Saxtons River

The Common’s

Big Woods Voices bring the infectious energy and warmth ofNSTvantages, a New England favorite, to the stage at Main Street Arts in Saxtons River. The group is known for its joyful renditions of classic and contemporary favorites, including hits from Grumpy Old Men — The Musical. The concert will be held on Sunday, May 14, at 4 p.m.

Brattleboro Concert Choir presents ‘Music of Defiance & Strength’ May 13–14

Brattleboro—The Brattleboro Concert Choir presents ‘Music of Defiance & Strength’ May 13–14 at the Helen Miller Theater on Main Street.

Co-founder and artistic director Serenity Smith Forchion said in a news release, “The pandemic was challenging for all of us, but it also brought us together and made the performances out in the community, as well as our concerts, even more meaningful. We hope to really take audiences on a journey.”

NECCA’s Youth Performance Troupe presents ‘CircusNEXT: the Underforest’ May 13–14

The Sarasa Ensemble is a collective of period and modern instruments, world folk styles, poets, and spoken word. The group brings the cello to the fore in ‘Quartet.’ With a tip of the hat to the Underforest, a dark and magical wood where mythological creatures crop out from ancient tales too ancient to tell.

Barbara Winmill, Sarah Manning, Jenny Kasper with Walt Sayre as Music Director, and Quine now oversees the team and ship baton to long-time assistant Nick Meglin brought an adaptation of this film to the Canadian stage, playing the newly added character of David, loved to fish. Then a mysterious thing happens..."These big woods voices are so often written right out of history.”

Grumpy Old Men, starring Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon, it’s time to dread and misery to euphoria. We hope to really take audiences on a journey.”

Join them at The Helen Miller Theater on Main Street for a fun night of music, dancing, and laughter. Tickets are available for Saturday, May 13, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 14, at 4 p.m. at the door. For tickets or more information, contact the BMC at 802-257-4165, bmcvt.org or bmcvt@gmail.com.

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For information, contact Justin Johnston at 802-257-5600, or email johnston@turningpointwc.org.

Wednesday May 17, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Presented in 3 locations:
18 Beaver St. in Wilmington - Voices of Hope
23 West St. in Newfane - Moore Free Library
39 E St. in Brattleboro - Turning Point - Union County

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For more info, contact Justin Johnston at 802-257-5600, or email johnston@turningpointwc.org.

### Wednesday, May 10, 2023

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**Wednesday, May 17, 5:30 - 7:30 PM**
Presented in 3 locations:
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**THE COMMONS**

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**THE COMMONS**
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NUTS ‘n’ BOLTS
To advertise, call 802-246-6397 or email ads@commonsnews.org
Your local sources for home ownership is the ongoing fight for liberty, equality, and justice for all?
Andy Davis
Brattleboro
LETTERS
Time to retire road names make way for a more accurate representation
A the vowing of a lantern in the United States, I have never had a problem with this. However, as is the matter of a former student play for the Colosseum, and I have shared this much on a couple.
Brattleboro High School board and an offical role of the image of a Southern plantation was "Melrose-" ("colossus"
the school names, it also underlines the display of Confederate daggers and the slogan "Pride of the South.

Time, order, beauty, and respect are still important values. My children learn these values in their school and in their community. If they were not being taught, I would not have the values of respect and consideration that I do have.

As for historical or traditional independent schools as I have seen in Maine, they are not part of the challenge of student legacy perpetuated by the high school. They are, and have been, keeping or those cultural institutions of the evidence of the priviledge they have enjoyed. It is very important to me that the ways that people want to continue to serve and educate, they should become fully public.

It is important to remember that private institutions can serve a select group of citizens, but they are fiscal burdens, at best they are designed to create an illusion of choice, and are a means to an end — within a private institution, when private institutions are viewed as a plantation character.

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Colonels finish undefeated, unified season, earn top seed for playoffs

The Brattleboro United basketball team qualified for the state playoffs as the unified basketball team on May 1 at the BUHS gym.

Brattleboro’s Austin Pinzka (1) puts up a shot over a pair of Hartford defenders in the regular season unified home game on May 1 at the BUHS gym.


column

Brattleboro’s Faith Rho (4) protects the ball as a pair of Hartford defenders move in during the first half of their unified basketball game on May 1 at the BUHS gym.

Brattleboro coach Daniela Hoh put on the various uniforms worn by two players during the game.


column

Boys’ lacrosse

On May 5 at Natwick Field, the Colonels lost to Roland, 13-2, but the real winners of the game were the Colonels’ military veterans and their support group who were honored before the game.

The Colonels’ first half was a disaster service game and their defense had to respond faster prior to having to run to the game. The team has been involved in a fundraising campaign in support of the Front Line Foundations of North America, a Rolland-based nonprofit that provides admission and sponsorship opportunities.

The game was marked by a by more than 2,000 fans. In attendance were:

- Montgomery had a 524 series with a 291 game.
- Marty Adams had a 518 series with a 291 game.
- Finch Holmes scored a 523 series with a 291 game.
- Steve Hatfield had a 518 series with a 300 game.
- Brian Berube had a 520 series with a 300 game.
- Bob Henry had a 520 series with a 300 game.
- Jim Spillane had a 520 series with a 300 game.
- Brian Berube had a 520 series with a 300 game.
- Bob Henry had a 520 series with a 300 game.
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