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EDUCATION
Indonesian exchange student in Brattleboro
Towns » B1

ROAD RACE
Spring into Health 5K May 9 in Townshend
Sports » B2

WILDLIFE
Late spring complicates amphibian migration
Region » A5

Brattleboro Reformer

WEATHER High: 59 Low: 38 PAGE A5

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COMMUNITY

HE AIN'T HEAVY, HE'S THEIR BROTHER

Fundraiser: Supreme Fitness holds event to benefit member battling cancer
Paying it forward: Some money donated to St. Jude, American Cancer Society



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Marta McBean deadlifts weights while Lucia Racine looks on at The Vakaros Challenge at Supreme Fitness in Brattleboro to raise money for Steve Vakaros, a gym member battling cancer.

By Domenic Poli
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BRATTLEBORO » You could say Steve Vakaros had 50 different spotters helping him at Supreme Fitness on April 25.

Vakaros is an exercise buff and has been a client at Supreme Fitness for about five years. His normal workout regimen took a backseat in November 2014, when he was diagnosed with cancer, but members of his favorite gym recently decided to organize a fundraiser to help him pay for his ongoing medical treatment.

The Vakaros Challenge was held from 10 a.m. to noon and consisted of 10-person teams dedicated to tackling physical challenges at Supreme Fitness while generating money for their comrade. WKVT radio personality and *Reformer* columnist Peter "Fish" Case served as

a master of ceremonies of sorts and kept the occasion fun, even taking to a treadmill to register some miles.

Vakaros, 28, told the *Reformer* he has been battling Stage IIIC melanoma since his diagnosis after discovering a swollen lymph node in one of his armpits. He said Supreme Fitness owner Carla McComb and desk staff member Rebecca Sorenson only recently told him of the fundraiser they had been planning for at least a month. He said it was uplifting to see so many community members show their support.

"It's really cool. I didn't know who was going to be here. I just walked in today and ... a lot of these kids I went to high school with and other ones I know from the gym," the Brattleboro resident said, looking at a horde of burly young men bench-pressing hundreds of pounds of weights.

FUNDRAISER » PAGE 3



Steve Vakaros, far right, stands with Temple Peterson, far left, and Nathan Rupard, two of his fellow co-owners of Hazel restaurant in Brattleboro.

"Most of us don't even know each other by name — we know each other by face. This is a really, really awesome event and I'm happy to see the turnout. I didn't think this many people would show up."

— Brattleboro resident Steve Vakaros

VERMONT YANKEE

NRC on the EPZ

Commissions says no significant environmental impacts to Entergy's request

By Robert Audette
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BRATTLEBORO » Following a review on an application from Entergy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has concluded there will be no significant environmental impacts if emergency preparedness at Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon is scaled back.

The boiling water reactor at Yankee ceased operations on Dec. 29, 2014. Less than one month later, Entergy filed with the NRC an exemption request from federal regulations that haven't been updated to address potential emergency scenarios and the differences between an operating power plant and a shuttered plant.

"The presidentially appointed commission that oversees and sets policy for the NRC has tasked the agency's staff with formulating new regulations in the area of nuclear power plant decommissioning," said Neil Sheehan, spokesman for the NRC. "That would be achieved through the rulemaking, or regulation development, process. But because of the many steps involved, including public involvement opportunities, that process can take several years. As such, any changes would not have a bearing on the Vermont Yankee exemption requests currently pending before the NRC."

Sheehan noted that all of the other U.S. nuclear power plants that have permanently ceased operations have been granted exemptions allowing changes to their emergency plans.

ENTERGY » PAGE 3

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Temporary lister wanted in Vernon

By Michael Faher
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@MikeReformer on Twitter

VERNON » A special election has been scheduled to fill several vacancies in town government, but Vernon officials may be looking for a little more help to get them through in the meantime.

There already have been two Vernon residents — Munson Hicks and Steve Skibniowski — appointed to temporarily fill vacancies on the Selectboard until a special election is held June 30.

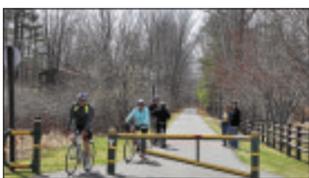
Now, Selectboard members are asking whether anyone wants to temporarily fill a vacancy on the board of listers following the resignation of Phyllis Newton. The board will consider the matter at its May 4 meeting, and anyone interested in the lister spot can send an e-mail over the next several days to vernonsecretary@gmail.com.

LISTER » PAGE 3

OUTDOORS

Fair-weather friends out for a ride

Cyclists ride the Ashwilticook Trail in Cheshire, Mass., as warm weather brought many people outside. **PAGE B6**



OUR OPINION

One small step, one giant leap for humanity

Bruce Jenner brought to the surface an issue that has been willfully ignored by too many people. **PAGE A4**

ANOTHER VIEW

Friendship forged over a fence of differences

Becca Balint reflects on a relationship of mutual respect with her neighbor, a life-long Republican. **PAGE A4**

NATION/WORLD

Watershed moment for gay and lesbian couples

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments over whether same-sex marriage should be the law of the land. **PAGE A6**

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