



Courtesy Team Photo  
*Domenica Gagliardi, a Cobra gymnast, competed at the State Championships in Rutland, March 16-17.*

**LOCAL GYMNASTS BRING HOME TITLES**  
40 titles, in fact, a new record! Plus two team championships.

Page 3



**HAPPY SPRING!**

Tuesday, March 19, marked the Spring Equinox — the astronomical start to spring. It's when the sun is exactly above the Equator and day and night are of equal length.



**GRAB YOUR RETRO SKI GEAR AND HEAD TO KILLINGTON**

Saturday it's 1986 on the slopes of Killington! Come celebrate with cover bands, retro costumes (got Dayglo?) and gear. Group photo is noon Saturday at K-1.

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## Rutland scrambled to setup an emergency shelter for homeless transitioning out of hotels

### Shelters, in Rutland and statewide, see minimal use

By Katy Savage and Polly Mikula

A sudden and unexpected state decision to move up to 100 homeless people staying in hotels to a temporary shelter in downtown Rutland caused chaos in the city and resulted in a lawsuit from Vermont Legal Aid.

But after all the consternation about unsheltered people having a high impact on the downtown area, only four individuals showed up at the shelter over the weekend.

But the state's abrupt mandates left a bitter aftertaste in the city.

The state's abrupt decision left a bitter aftertaste in the city.

"They set a firestorm in places that didn't need to be there," Alderman Bob Gillam, Jr. said at a Board of Aldermen meeting Monday, March 18.

It all started Wednesday, March 13, when Rutland Mayor Mike Doenges received a call from the state notifying him that the state required a location in Rutland to accommodate 100 beds for an

overnight emergency shelter as the hotel general assistance program was ending Friday, March 15. In other words, the people who received a voucher to stay at hotels needed to prove they had a qualifying vulnerability in order to hang onto their rooms for a few more months, or leave.

Rutland was to be one of four temporary shelters across the state set up to serve the nearly 500 people the state said would no longer be eligible for the hotel vouchers. Doenges said projections

Shelter → 9

## GE Aerospace to invest nearly \$25 million in Rutland facility

By Babette Stolk/VTDigger

The aircraft engine manufacturer GE Aerospace announced Tuesday, March 12, that it plans to invest \$24.9 million in its Rutland facility, which specializes in military and commercial hardware.

The funding will go to new equipment, machines and tooling to support the company's production of aircraft, military and fighter jet engines, according to Patricia Minichiello, a spokesperson for the Rutland site.

"These investments expand Rutland's capacity to produce critical parts used on nearly every military or commercial engine," Juan Milian, the plant leader for GE Aerospace Rutland, said in a written statement, adding that the money would help the company "build a strong future in the state."

The investment is part of a \$650 million plan to boost production capacity nationwide as GE Aerospace's parent company, General Electric, completes a lengthy restructuring that will result in three separate entities focused on aviation,

GE Aerospace → 2

## KMS student named finalist in UVM entrepreneurship competition

### Pippa Scott is the sole Vermonter to make cut; winner receives full-tuition scholarship

By Polly Mikula

Pippa Scott, a student at Killington Mountain School in Killington, has been named one of five finalists in the University of Vermont's inaugural Vermont Pitch Challenge, a new entrepreneurial-focused competition that gives high school sophomores, juniors and seniors from across the world a chance to win a full-tuition scholarship to UVM by pitching innovative business plans that create a positive impact.

Scott's submission, "Ride for Mental Health," would provide an outlet of support through action sports for kids struggling with mental health issues.

"I'm so excited for the opportunity to pitch Ride for Mental Health in front of the Vermont pitch judges and for Ride for Mental Health to reach a bigger audience," Scott wrote in an email to the Mountain Times.

Nearly 150 students or teams of students from seven countries and 27 states submitted their business plans for consideration. Only

KMS entrepreneur → 5



Submitted

Pippa Scott

## Dick McCormack to retire after 3-decade Senate career

By Sarah Mearhoff/VTDigger

After more than three decades representing Windsor County in the Vermont Senate, Dick McCormack plans to retire next January at the conclusion of his term.

The veteran Democrat disclosed his decision to constituents on Town Meeting Day, March 5, and explained his thinking to VTDigger in an interview Monday, March 11. On the one hand, McCormack said, he

will be 77 years old at the end of this term, 12 years past what he called the "traditional retirement age" of 65. On the other, he still feels energetic and sharp — though not as much as he once did, he concedes — and wants to go out on a high note.

"That's the good time to retire," he said. "You want to leave while at least some people will be sorry to see you go."

McCormack was first appointed to the Senate in 1989 and served until 2003, four of those years as majority leader. He then left office ("I needed to straighten out the finances in my non-Senate life") before returning in 2007, and there he has remained.

He's departing a chamber that has historically valued seniority and institutional knowledge. It has also in recent years seen a wave of generational

change. Ahead of the 2022 election, roughly one-third of the 30-member Senate opted to retire, and a new class rose to fill the open seats.

One of those new senators was McCormack's district-mate, Sen. Becca White, D-Windsor, who moved from the House to the Senate in 2022, filling the seat of former state Sen. Alice Nitka, D-Windsor.

McCormack → 8

OBITUARIES

# Patricia Ann Job (McGrath), age 63

Sept. 22, 1960 - March 12, 2024

Patty Ann Job (McGrath) was born in Rutland on Sept. 22, 1960 the youngest of Frederick R. and Patricia E. Job's six children and the only born and bred Vermonter. She died Monday, March 12 at the Rutland Regional Medical Center of ovarian cancer. She was 63 years young.

Vermont was in Patty's heart and soul. When she graduated from Middlebury College in 1981, with degrees in biology and art, she could have gone anywhere and been an asset. But Patty loved Vermont, and Vermont completed Patty. She taught at Mount St. Joseph Academy where she had attended high school and coached its girls' varsity soccer and co-ed ski teams for many years. Some skiers at Pico riding up the chair lift might have been confused by the sight of Patty leading her downhill ski team uphill under the chair lift to train. But there was no confusion when they brought home the state titles.

She married Kyran Murray McGrath in 1985, became the mother of two sons, Connor and Brogan McGrath, and together with Murray, assumed the ownership and management of the Inn at Long Trail in Killington from his parents, Kyran and Rosemary McGrath, in 1994.

Patty became a community leader, served as a Killington town Selectperson for nine years and was a superb athlete as a skier, mountain biker, soccer player and competitive golfer



Submitted

*Patty McGrath*

in the Vermont State Women's Golf Association as a perennial member of Vermont's Tri-State Team.

One need only walk into any room at the Inn to see her creativity and artistic talent expressed in its wall designs and décor — and, of course, in her beautiful gardens!

Even as her illness progressed, one of her great joys was to hike her beloved mountains and trails accompanied by her family, her husband, her friends and always with Nala and Baloo, her dogs, and Mufasa, her Maine Coon

cat, as her companions.

While Patty was a Vermonter through and through, she never lost her interest in and curiosity about the wide world. Be prepared to know your facts if you had a discussion with Patty! The great educator Booker T. Washington said: "Success in life is founded on the small things in life rather than the larger things. To everyday things nearest us rather than the things that are remote."

Patty McGrath tended to her part of the universe exceedingly well. Her friends, her Job and McGrath families and her community will miss her wisdom, humanity, and loving care enormously.

Patty is survived by K. Murray McGrath, K. Connor McGrath, Brogan P. McGrath, Karen McGrath, and Rosemary McGrath, her beloved husband, sons, daughter-in-law and mother-in-law; and her siblings Mary Job, Bob Job, Carol Wood and Kat Job Zilboorg.

She is pre-deceased by her parents, Frederick R. and Patricia E. Job, and her brother Fred.

A wake will be held at The Inn at Long Trail 709 Route 4 Killington on Wednesday, March 20 starting at 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Foley Center at Rutland Regional Medical Center and/or Cancer Research Institute.

A wake will be held at The Inn at Long Trail Wednesday, March 20 starting at 4 p.m.

# Obituary: Erica Jean (Carbonneau) Hurd, age 55

April 18, 1968 - March 6, 2024

It is with great sadness we share the passing of Erica Hurd at home with family at her side. Erica bravely fought the most aggressive type of breast cancer for three years. Her participation in research studies brings hope for a better future.



Submitted

*Erica Hurd*

Erica was born in Nashua, New Hampshire, where she attended school.

She graduated and played softball at Nashua High School. Erica earned a cosmetology license. This began more than 30 years as a hair stylist. She worked at several salons in Nashua. Through her love of skiing, a mutual friend introduced Erica to her husband and after a leap year marriage at Parker's Maple Barn in New Hampshire on Feb. 29 1996, they moved to Pittsfield, Vermont.

Once relocated, her Vermont career had humble beginnings in small space at Mother Shapiro's restaurant. This was used as a cigar room at night and presto change-o became Mother Cuts by day. It had excellent ventilation and neither salon customers or the cigar smokers knew the other purpose. Today, you can order sushi in that same space.

Always one to exemplify efficiency and expediency, Erica lobbied the state licensing board and had a pointless "salon manager license" eliminated from bureaucratic requirements. Later, at The Woods her salon became Mountain Cuts and she teamed up with partner Stephanie Pike to relocate to the present Liquid Art building. Erica taught many stylists in New England as an educator for an international hair color brand. Eventually, the Route 4 location became the Mountain Cuts home.

Through the years, Erica enjoyed a wide range of activities. She taught skiing at Killington's Mini Stars, was a live on-air snow, trails and weather personality on Killington TV and did curling at Rutland Rocks. Her love of softball continued after high school and she played in several women's and coed leagues and tournaments in the Nashua area. Erica was usually at second base in the Killington softball league. Occasionally she'd turn double plays, with her husband at short stop, if he didn't bobble the ball before tossing it over.

Erica's community involvement and service was lifelong. She was a dynamic fundraiser for Jimmie Heuga Multiple Sclerosis, the Pittsfield recreation department and the Roger Clark Memorial Library. As library committee chair, she established policies, procedures and the hiring of a librarian for the first time. Erica was a town auditor and even helped out cutting the grass in the cemetery. She also recently saved a life: Hearing screams for help, witnesses say Erica "took off like a rocket" across Route 4 and gave chest compressions to an overdose victim until paramedics arrived.

A true Aries, Erica was feisty, persistent, caring, spiritual, loyal and loving. She loved camping, hiking and

Hurd → 14

## ← GE Aerospace: from page 1

health care and energy.

"As GE Aerospace prepares to become a stand-alone company this spring, we are making significant investments in the future of flight and in the dozens of communities and supplier partners helping us build it," said H. Lawrence Culp Jr., chairman and CEO of General Electric and CEO of GE Aerospace, in a press release.

According to the company's website, more than 1,200 employees work on two sites about four miles apart in Rutland, making it the second-largest private employer in the area, according to Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR).

There are currently 21 job openings.

In February, GE Aero-



The GE Aerospace Rutland facility on Windcrest Road in North Clarendon.

Courtesy of GE Aerospace Rutland

space reached an agreement with the U.S. Dept. of Labor to resolve allegations that its Rutland facility discriminated against women in the hiring process, according to the dept.

The company is set to pay \$443,000 in back wages

to 116 unsuccessful job applicants affected between the summer of 2018 and the beginning of 2020. It also agreed to extend 14 opportunities to female applicants at the Rutland facility, the release said.

Other large aerospace

companies also have plants in Vermont, such as Collins Aerospace in Vergennes. According to ThinkVermont, an initiative by the Vermont Dept. of Economic Development, aerospace makes up 2.2% of Vermont's gross domestic product.



Courtesy Team Photo

Cobra's 16-member Xcel Bronze team (age 7-11) won a team title along with the 11-member Xcel Gold team (age 10-14) in the Vermont State Championship meet held in Rutland March 16-17. Local gymnasts celebrated 40 individual titles, too.

## Cobra gymnasts win a record breaking 40 individual titles, plus two team titles

The Cobra Gymnastics team of Rutland captured two team titles and a record breaking 40 individual titles this weekend at the 2024 Vermont State Championships, March 16-17.

The Rutland Recreation Dept. hosted the championships for the second time in its history — 378 athletes from ten Vermont gymnastics schools competed. The event is run by USA Gymnastics and hosts two competitive tracks: Xcel (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Diamond) and Developmental programs (Levels 3-10).

Cobra gymnasts compete exclusively in the Xcel program with one exception, Karena Kuehl of Rutland. Kuehl was Cobra's highlighted senior athlete in the Developmental program this season, joining the Level 8 competition floor for her final state meet in her 11 year career. Kuehl swept the po-

"They lit up the gym with their joy for performing. It was one of the most enjoyable meets of my career; watching these girls believe in themselves and each other," said head coach and owner Shelby Barsalou.

dium in her age group (8.50 vault, 8.45 bars, 9.175 beam, 9.275 floor, 35.40 AA) and grabbed a spot on the Regional All-star team in April.

"Gymnastics has taught me so many invaluable life lessons that I'll carry with me for the rest of my life," Kuehl commented. "I've been given amazing opportunities and meet the best people through this sport — I'm so grateful."

The Xcel Gold team, consisting of 11 girls ages 10-14, set a Cobra record by winning the championship title

with a 114.05 team points. In a field of seven teams, the group presented their talents and delivered the win over long standing rival team, Regal Gymnastics Academy, by a scant 0.125. Teammates Amelia Gibbs of Brandon, Lacy Carmack of Danby, Olivia Gibbs of Brandon, Hazel Mabey of Wallingford and Eda

Mae Fioretti of Middletown Springs all qualified for the Regional competition to be held in May in Massachusetts.

"We showed up prepared — mentally, emotionally and physically. Our first athlete on floor came out blazing and the rest of the team followed suit; they lit up the gym with their joy for performing. It was one of the most enjoyable meets of my career; watching these girls believe in themselves and each other," said head coach and owner Shelby Barsalou.

Cobra titles → 37

## Courcelle SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now available to all Rutland County High School Seniors

Application Deadline is April 29, 2024



pegtv.com  
802-747-0151

Applications can be found at your school guidance counselors office, or online at: pegtvtv.com

.... APPLY TODAY!



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Courtesy Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce

## Okemo Valley celebrates the re-opening of Mojo Cafe in a new location

The Mojo Cafe, a beloved locally owned modern Mex-Orleans restaurant in Ludlow, recently celebrated its grand re-opening. The rebuilding after the 2023 flood required them to find a new location, and they have now opened their doors at 145 Main St., Ludlow. The team has been working diligently to be able to return. Mojo Cafe offers a flavorful fusion of Mexican and New Orleans cuisine. At the ribbon cutting, owners John and Jodi Seward celebrated with their long-standing team members, Jake Mailhiot and Richard Kachmar. Okemo Valley Chamber Executive Director Carol Lighthall held the ribbon (left) with Assistant Chamber Director Leah Kriebel (right).

## Hartland: Major renovations to Damon Hall and Rec Center will be done in steps, begin this year

By Curt Peterson

Phil Hobbie, Tom Kennedy and Jim Riley were elected as Hartland Select Board chair, vice-chair and clerk, respectively, and began a discussion about long-planned renovations of Damon Hall and the Rec Center in Hartland Three Corners. A motion to move forward on drainage issues for both sites was approved.

Town Manager John Broker-Campbell will obtain designs or drawings required for an engineering firm to create requests for proposals (RFP) for drainage renovations. Kennedy hopes the separate RFP for each site can be sent out by the end of April, and the work can start in 2024.

In reference was a 14-page report by Jonathan A. Soccoccio Architectural Workshop PLLC (JASW) of Brattleboro, detailing problems, solutions and cost estimates for both sites.

All of the JASW recommendations would cost \$943,500. The board decided to do the project in "steps," starting with drainage. Cost estimates were provided by an unnamed "professional cost estimator" engaged by JASW.

Selectman Clyde Jenne warned against investing too much money [in the Rec Center] and being disappointed with the final product.

"Like with cars in the old days, it might make sense to jack up the radiator cap and drive a new car under it," Jenne said.

Tom Kennedy said the drainage work is the important first and affordable step that could begin this year "provided we move ahead tonight and don't put any decision off another month," he said, adding that the drainage issues are causing ongoing damage, degradation and cost issues.

For Damon Hall, recommendations include modifying the main basement entry

roof and trenching in a pipeline to carry water to the parking area, with an additional catch basin. The timber retaining wall from the building to the sidewalk is leaning due to poor drainage. JASW recommends replacing the timbers with "cast-in-place" concrete and improving the drainage situation.

The Damon Hall roof run-off splashes backwards, "deteriorating the masonry and windows."

JASW recommends installing new stone and fabric for receiving run-off, and a perforated pipe around the building perimeter to carry the water away from the structure. The basement windows at least need new flashing, but the report suggests replacement. These five drainage remedies are estimated to cost \$46,000.

Rec Center drainage requires more extensive modification, according to JASW. "Water flows from Route 12 down slope directly to the ... building," the report reads. "Basement level windows facing Route 12 are [thus] deteriorated. Water run-off also contributes to the degradation." Water captured by a catch basin adjacent to the highway is meant to be piped to the parking area, but piping is crushed and clogged.

The report recommends installing new piping that would carry water around the building, rather than against it. The existing parking lot water conduit would ideally be extended to discharge past the parking area.

Rec Hall drainage and sitework is estimated to cost \$144,200.

Chair Phil Hobbie said he's pleased the board chose to act. "Like most organizations, we are good at doing studies, but not very good at acting on them," he remarked.

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# The Dorset Equine Rescue expands to 178-acre 'Forever Farm'

It's a pivotal moment in the history of The Dorset Equine Rescue. For nearly 12 years the organization has been saving abused and neglected horses, interrupting the slaughter pipeline, supporting horse owners in crisis and partnering with law enforcement on animal welfare investigations and seizures throughout Vermont and beyond.

After over 400 saved lives, operating on just 5 acres of leased land (and foster placements), it has purchased land to develop a forever farm of its own.

In January, The Dorset Equine Rescue closed on 178 acres of safe, secluded land which will sustain growth, outcomes and legacy for generations to come.

A few factors aligned in a small window of time to make this marvel possible. First, the organization received a substantial gift from a private trust, designated to spearhead this goal. Within a year a chance connection was made for the off-market purchase of this property. Lastly — in response to this wild momentum — a small number of key and long-time supporters came forward with enough added funding to get it to the finish line on time!

"Our deepest, heart-

felt gratitude goes out to our generous land campaign donors, not just for your fiscal support, but for your unwavering faith in our mission and vision. Your backing in this miracle moment has changed our work forever," Jen Straub, founder and executive director of The Dorset Equine Rescue Inc. stated in a press release Feb. 25. "We're still dazzled by this dream come true. At the same time, we're grounded in the extensive work of planning and devel-

opment that lies ahead."

Over the next several months organizers will be fine-tuning a plan for the next big frontier: The Dorset Equine Rescue's Forever Farm Development. It will unveil the complete plan and launch a capital campaign later this year.

"We are eager, already hard at work planning and we cannot wait to share the whole picture with you," the Straub continued.

For more info, visit: [dorsetequinerescue.org/legacy](http://dorsetequinerescue.org/legacy).



Courtesy of The Dorset Equine Rescue  
*Sundance and Copper, two new rescue horses at the Dorset Equine Rescue who just arrived mid-February.*



Courtesy of The Dorset Equine Rescue  
*Venita, a Dorset Equine Rescue horse who arrived in 2023 through a law enforcement seizure is now fully rehabilitated and was just adopted into a loving forever home.*

## Killington Women's Club scholarship deadline is April 15

The Greater Killington Women's Club (formerly known as the Sherburne Women's Club) sponsors two annual \$1,000 awards which are given to graduating high school seniors from the towns of Killington or Pittsfield. The application deadline for the Community Service Award is Friday, April 15.

The Pat Zack Community Service Award is named in honor of the club member who originally started this award program. It is given to the Killington or Pittsfield high school senior (who attended for at least the last two years of high school) who has demonstrated the most sincere dedication to community service and volunteerism within our local community. The applicant will be selected based on volunteer work, community service, extracurricular activities, and dedication to others.

Applicants for this award do not necessarily need to be pursuing higher education post-graduation. Those entering the military or the workforce are also eligible to apply. Instructions and an application for the 2024 Community Service Award can be downloaded from the club's website: [gkwcvt.org/scholarship](http://gkwcvt.org/scholarship). Completed applications must be

postmarked no later than Friday, April 15.

A volunteer committee of the club blindly reviews all applications and selects a winner.

The second award is the Sherburne Academic Scholarship, which is presented to the Woodstock Union High School (WUHS) graduating senior from either Killington or Pittsfield (who attended for at least the last two years of high school in Woodstock) who has

demonstrated the highest weighted grade point average (GPA). This award is determined by the school guidance counselor and helps to fund this student's pursuit of higher education.

New club members are always welcome! If women in the community are interested in joining and supporting the club, a membership application can also be found at: [gkwcvt.org/membership-1](http://gkwcvt.org/membership-1).

The GKWC is a civic organization founded in Killington over 60 years ago. In more than a half century of service to the Killington community, the club has given away over \$120,000 to local charitable organizations, non-profits, schools and student scholarship awards.

The club has given away over \$120,000 to local charitable organizations, non-profits, schools and student scholarship awards.

## ← KMS entrepreneur: ..... from page 1

the five finalists, however, will have the chance to pitch their plans April 4 in-person to the panel of judges at UVM. Finalists will be ranked first to fifth. The full scholarship to UVM is the grand prize with second and third place will receiving \$5,000 checks and fourth and fifth receiving \$1,000 checks.

Scott will be competing against four other finalists for the grand prize. They include:

1. Competitor Sebastian Tan from Sewickly, Pennsylvania, with the business "OutsideConnection," which helps formerly incarcerated individuals find employment opportunities.
2. Competitors Pierson Jones and Parker Jones from Lutz, Florida, with the business "DiscGuard," which improves patient outcomes by preventing re-injury after spinal surgery.
3. Competitor Eliza Strum from Ticonderoga, New York, with the business "EcoCharge," which reduces electric and plastic waste through eco-friendly charging.
4. Competitor Danny Phillip from Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, with the business "Agri-Equip Incorporation," which catalyzes agricultural development in the vibrant landscapes of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## Need for, and use of, Narcan explained to Ludlow Rotary members

The impact of drug addiction and its related overdose problem was the subject of a recent Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC). Alastair Huntley, AmeriCorps alumnus and a harm reduction advocate, spoke to the members of the LRC about the purpose of Narcan, technically known as naloxone, a drug for restoring breathing to an overdosed person.

Huntley, introduced by Melanie Gulde, a LRC Rotarian and program director of Divided Sky located in Ludlow, addressed the key questions of identifying someone suffering from an overdose, how to prepare the person for Narcan, and the need for quick contact to 9-1-1. He outlined the important sequence to ensure that the Narcan was delivered:

1. Check to see that it was an overdose
2. Immediately contact 9-1-1
3. Administer the Narcan
4. Position the victim properly
5. Support the victim until 9-1-1 arrives

He noted that there were a variety of overdose signs to check for, chief among them being the inability to breathe. This will result in the lack of blood being pumped through the body. One quick way to see this was via the fingernails which, when blood is slowed, will turn blue.

Huntley stressed the importance of contacting 9-1-1 to get medical assistance as quickly as possible.

The Narcan is a very simple matter to administer. It is contained in a small pump which is pressed into the nostrils of the victim. Immediately after administering the Narcan the victim should be placed on his/her side to help breathing return to normal. The final step is important to ensure the victim remains in the correct position until 9-1-1 arrives.

Narcan is available from many health and drug avoidance programs. Huntley distributed Narcan kits to the LRC members. Information is available by calling a national help line at 1-800-662-4357 or [Healthvermont.gov/emergency/injury-prevention/opioid-overdose-prevention](https://www.healthvermont.gov/emergency/injury-prevention/opioid-overdose-prevention).

During the meeting, Melanie Gulde was presented the Paul Harris Fellow award for her service to Rotary and efforts aiding addiction problems and recovery.



By Melanie Gulde

Alastair Huntley with cases of Narcan that he distributed to Ludlow Rotary club members.

## Kids pitch bear's head tooth as Vermont's state mushroom

By Holly Sullivan, Community News Service

*Editor's note: The Community News Service is a program in which University of Vermont students work with professional editors to provide content for local news outlets at no cost.*

Feeling cooped up after incessant Zoom meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic, Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun, D-Westminster, started going on woodland walks with her dog. The more time she spent outside, the more she noticed an evolving cast of characters on her route: mushrooms.

"There would be all these different amazing mushrooms emerging, and the change was really quick and really dramatic," Bos-Lun said in an interview. "There were so many different colors and styles: some of them edible, some of them poisonous and literally some that had gold sparkles on them," she added.

Bos-Lun regularly visits public schools to teach students about the legislative system. In the past, she simulated the process by having kids vote for a Vermont state ice cream.

"I remember thinking when it was done, 'You know what? I wish that I

"Bear's head tooth is known as a 'brain food.' It is also very nutritious," Duprey explained. "Bear's head tooth are effective against memory loss, depression, anxiety, dementia, neurological disorders and cancer.

could actually generate some ideas with the kids and let them see the next part of the process," Bos-Lun said. "And so the first thing that came to mind, because I happen to love mushrooms, is: 'Do we have a state mushroom?' And I actually didn't know. When I looked it up and realized that we didn't, that five other states do, that four other states have them pending, I was like, 'That's it.'"

H.664, introduced by Bos-Lun in the House agriculture committee and sponsored by a dozen other lawmakers, nominates *Hericium americanum* as Vermont's state mushroom. The spindly *Hericium americanum* was handpicked by the state's toughest critics: kids.

Students from two schools: Windham Elementary School and Compass Middle School, were tasked with selecting the perfect mushroom. After much debate, they landed on *Hericium americanum*, commonly called bear's head tooth.

"We think the bear's head tooth mushroom should be the state mush-



By Meg Madden

The bear's head tooth mushroom is being proposed as the Vt. state mushroom.

room because it can be used as medicine, it can be found locally, it is in the mushroom family *Hericium americanum* which means 'hedgehog of the Americas,' Charlie Pelton, Windham Elementary student, told committee

with each other," he said.

One of Duprey's classmates, Zinth Mae Holder, said the mushroom's white, spiky appearance makes it a wonderful candidate for another reason.

"[The mushroom] represents the icicles and waterfalls we have here," they said, explaining that its spiky hanging clusters mimic Vermont's winter landscape.

The kids picked an excellent nominee — so say mushroom experts.

Meg Madden, a Vermont-based photographer and myco-educator who runs a popular mushroom-focused Instagram, thinks bear's head tooth is a great representative for the state. She explained the "native Vermonter" is always the showstopper on hikes she guides.

"When I find it and show people, their minds are blown," she told Community News Service. "They can't believe that, first of all, it's a mushroom because it breaks the preconceived notion of what a mushroom looks

like — it doesn't have a cap, it doesn't have a stem, it doesn't have gills ... It looks kind of like a pom-pom having a crazy hair day."

Madden said the mushroom is not only a beautiful fungus to look

at but also one that can be cultivated, cooked and sold locally. She said there's great economic potential to create and sell local products with the state's mushroom. And she can

State mushroom → 13

It looks kind of like a pom-pom having a crazy hair day," Madden said.

members Mar. 12. His brother, George, sat beside him, controlling a set of presentation slides.

Nicholas Duprey, a 7th-grade student at Compass Middle School, further explained the medicinal qualities of the fungus during his testimony.

"Bear's head tooth is known as a 'brain food.' It is also very nutritious," Duprey explained. "Bear's head tooth are effective against memory loss, depression, anxiety, dementia, neurological disorders and cancer. As

stated above, it also has wound-healing properties. Usually, they are taken as a tincture, which are like eye drops, or a powder."

Duprey assured committee members bear's head tooth have no poisonous doppelgängers. Even if a Vermonter foraged the wrong fungus, they wouldn't be in danger.

"Although this mushroom looks similar to some others, none in this group are toxic if you mistake them

## Many bills make the 'crossover'

By now many of you have heard that our Legislative colleague, Senator Dick McCormack has decided to retire. He made



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

that announcement, March 5. I want to thank him for his decades of impressive public service. He has been a terrific and much appreciated teammate in the Senate. Whether you have agreed or disagreed with Sen. McCormack's positions — he has held

his values and principles high and served all of us thoughtfully. He has put his values into action with vote after vote on environment protections, human rights, health care and personal freedoms, issues of equity and education. We will miss his institutional memory, his constitutional knowledge, his passion for history, his music, and his stories. I wish him good luck on his next adventure and, on behalf of the people of Windsor County, we say "thank you."

The Ides of March, Friday, March 15, was a big day in the State House.

It marked the day all policy committees had to pass out bills if they want them to become law this year. As you know, to become law, all bills must pass both chambers — the House and the Senate. So, mid-way through the Session, the "cross over" deadline ensures that all bills get on track to make it to the other chamber for consideration. If bills have an appropriation or fee in them, they then get referred to a "money" committee. Those four committees have an extra week to weigh the fiscal impact of those bills and make their recommendations.

As a result, the next two weeks will entail lengthy floor sessions as we debate the merits of the many bills making their way across chambers. Once a bill reaches the other chamber, it is subject to review and revision as that committee of jurisdiction agrees is appropriate. Often a Senate bill will come back to us looking quite different. If we are unable to reconcile those differences, a committee of conference is established, and our differences are usually worked out.

In the Senate we have many bills to consider. Here is a sampler of some of those bills.

- We'll be debating a proposal on how to update our open meeting laws (S.55) post the sunset of the special session → 14

## March is here!

During announcements on the House floor two weeks ago, I got up and simply said "March is here." Undoubtedly my colleagues



By Rep. Jim Harrison

knew that I was simply reminding them that the annual State House March Madness friendly basketball competition was coming up soon. While it may not have been my intent to draw attention to another March madness of sorts, but there is

another annual ritual at the State House right now. It's referred to as 'crossover.'

Crossover is the deadline Legislative leaders set each year when bills in one chamber must pass out of committees to be considered by the other chamber. This year the policy committee deadline was last Friday, March 15, and the deadline for money committees is this coming Friday, March 22. Priority bills of various committees were being fine-tuned and amended at a frantic pace. At one point it was estimated there were over 70 bills on the verge of getting advanced.

Keeping track of all the issues moving through the House or Senate can be maddening. However, without the discipline of crossover deadlines every March, the session would likely get extended to take up various new Legislative initiatives that committees keep advancing. At some point, you need to say we don't have time for that new bill and maybe take it up next year.

Several of the bills advanced this past week require funding, which means they will need to be reviewed by the House or Senate appropriations committees. Those funding requests far exceed existing revenues, which means they will be scaled back, put on the back burner or taxes will need to be raised. The governor will surely oppose new taxes, especially considering already increasing property taxes due to hikes in school spending statewide.

Meanwhile a war of words and finger pointing has erupted between Legislative leaders and the Scott administration over the changes in the hotel voucher program. The Legislature extended the program until June 30, but allowed the more generous winter rules to expire as scheduled in March. This took effect once the governor signed into law the annual Budget Adjustment Act (BAA), H.839. Once the winter rules end, the hotel program is limited to priority populations, including elderly, disabled and families with children. Transitional shelters were set up last week so that state officials could qualify some of those in the hotel program. Legislative leaders were quick to criticize the use of temporary shelters and said the people should have remained at the hotels.

While the governor did sign the BAA

last week, he did take the opportunity to criticize the extra \$15 million in spending, which has now caused a hole in the FY25 budget. The House Appropriations Committee is aware of the budget hole and is looking at various expenditures to see what may be trimmed. The committee is scheduled to wrap up its budget discussions by this Friday.

Unlike our March Madness basketball competition, it is not going to be fun!

### Other issues of note:

- The House Ways & Means Committee is considering extending the sales tax to online software and a new 10% surcharge on short-term rentals as potential new revenue sources to mitigate a portion of the expected double-digit hike in education property taxes.
- S.258, which changes the makeup of the Fish & Wildlife board to give the Legislature control of most appointees to the board and bans the hunting of coyotes with dogs, was advanced by the Senate Natural Resources and Appropriations Committees. The measure is opposed by many in the hunting and fishing community.
- The full House will take up a major new renewable energy standard bill, H.289, which is expected to add between \$150 million and \$450 million in new costs to ratepayers over the next 10 years according to the Legislature's fiscal office. Meanwhile, the Public Service Dept. estimates \$517 million to \$853 million in additional costs to ratepayers, depending on whether you include the extra investments for transmission lines to accommodate additional local solar and wind generation needed in the legislation.
- Legislation to appropriate over \$150 million for housing related initiatives, H.829, is not likely to pass as proposed unless new taxes are raised to fund the measures.
- The House Commerce & Economic Development Committee approved an 81-page consumer privacy bill on Friday with an 11-0 vote. The legislation aims to create protections for certain categories of consumer data.
- A bill to ban most uses of neonicotinoid pesticides in Vermont agriculture is expected to advance to the full House for a vote this week. Neonicotinoids are widely used because they effectively control challenging soil pests, however, also are believed to negatively impact bees. The ban on the treated seeds would take effect in 2029, the same year as the New York ban is slated to go into effect. New York is the only other

Harrison → 14

## State aims to reunite Vermont nonprofits with unclaimed property

The pilot program will return over \$150,000 to over 250 nonprofit organizations in Vermont

State Treasurer Mike Pieciak and Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas announced a pilot partnership to reunite Vermont nonprofit organizations with their unclaimed property. Using the Secretary of State's database to verify current addresses, checks will be sent to over 250 Vermont nonprofits with unclaimed property, totaling over \$150,000 returned. Any nonprofit verified through the Secretary of State database should receive a certified letter from the Treasurer alerting them to expect a check any day now.

"We are thrilled to be working in partnership with Treasurer Pieciak to help identify Vermont nonprofits that have unclaimed property," said Secretary Copeland Hanzas. "All across the state Vermont nonprofits are doing critical work for our communities. I'm proud to be working with Treasurer Pieciak to return funds to these organizations so they can use it to support their mission."

The announcement was initially made in connection with National Unclaimed Property Day, Feb. 1. Unclaimed property includes uncashed checks, forgotten security deposits, investments, and other property. While the Treasurer's Office typically processes over 17,000 claims annually, the amount of unclaimed property held by the state continues to grow.

The Treasurer's Office typically raises awareness about unclaimed property through media campaigns and outreach events, but Treasurer Pieciak is adopting a proactive approach to address the state's growing amount of unclaimed property, currently totaling nearly \$120 million.

"Returning these funds will support organizations who are the fabric of our communities and often support Vermont's most vulnerable," said Treasurer Pieciak. "As many nonprofit organizations face financial challenges from inflation to workforce shortages and this summer's flood, I'm excited we can return these dollars that will make a difference in Vermonters' lives."

In October 2023, the Treasurer's Office partnered with the Dept. of Taxes to send unclaimed property checks ranging from \$200 to \$225 (totaling over \$70,000) to 340 Vermonters. That pilot program has proven successful and the Treasurer's Office is looking for opportunities to expand the pilot and establish additional partnerships.

Vermonters are encouraged to visit [missingmoney.com](http://missingmoney.com) to check for unclaimed property. For inquiries regarding a claim or assistance with the claims process, individuals may contact the Unclaimed Property Division at (802) 828-2407 or at [unclaimed.property@vermont.gov](mailto:unclaimed.property@vermont.gov).

## Financial literacy course offered free to Vermont educators

Middle and high school educators in Vermont interested in honing their personal finance teaching skills, or newcomers to the field, can attend a free, online, asynchronous course offered by the Center for Financial Literacy at Champlain College.

This graduate-level course, which has been recognized by the White House, will give Vermont educators who complete it the skills and curricular tools to bring personal finance into their classrooms, said John Pelletier, director of the Champlain Center.

Vermont earned a C grade in the updated 2023 National Report Card on State Efforts to Improve Financial Literacy in High Schools, issued by the Champlain Center. It is one of 13 states that earned a C grade in the new report, and it is one of six states that are projected to remain at a C through 2028. But seven of the 13 states will move up to an A or B within five years, due to approved policy changes. Seven states earned an A grade in 2023.

There are 20 full scholarships currently available for this online asynchronous graduate course for educators. The course runs from May 6 through June 28, 2024. Scholarships will be awarded on a rolling admissions basis and the final application deadline is April 25.

The course runs from May 6 through June 28, 2024...[it] awards participants three graduate-level credits.

This course, which awards participants three graduate-level credits, is a continuation of the Champlain College's nationally recognized financial literacy educator training program that has trained nearly 400 educators in New England and New York State since 2011. A generous grant from the Rauch Foundation has allowed the Center to offer these scholarship. The Rauch Foundation supports and promotes financial preparedness of rising generations of students by supporting schools in the delivery of financial literacy programs.

Pelletier noted that the course was recognized not only by the White House, but also the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the FDIC, the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury and by President Obama's Advisory Council on Financial Capability.

He noted also that the graduate course has been the subject of two studies showing the impact of the instruction (see most recent study "Prepped for Success").

Champlain College is a small, private, not-for-profit institution located in Burlington.

Champlain College has also been a leader in online education for over 30 years, providing a high-quality academic experience through acclaimed associate, bachelor's, master's, and certificate programs and a key partner for the Center for Financial Literacy. Financial Literacy education has been an integral piece of the Champlain College experience and the school is one of the few colleges in America that requires students to learn personal finance. Champlain College's Center for Financial Literacy is nationally known and respected for its work to increase the financial capability of our nation through its research, advocacy and financial literacy educator training programs.

Founded in 2010, the Center for Financial Literacy has also developed two innovative, nationally recognized training programs to support educators in improving financial education in their classroom, helping our youth to be equipped to handle the complexities and intricacies of today's financial world. *For more info visit: [Tinyurl.com/FreeFinanceVT](https://tinyurl.com/FreeFinanceVT).*

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By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Sen. Dick McCormack, D-Windsor, spoke on the floor of the Senate at the Statehouse Feb. 20.

### ← McCormack: from page 1

McCormack pointed to White as an example of the Senate's future.

"There's never actually a good time to leave. Whenever you leave, you're going to be leaving unfinished work, and it's egotistical to think that I'm the only one who can do it," he said. "You have to, at some point, trust. I look at my former student, Becca White, and I say, 'Okay, she's smart. She's full of energy. I'm leaving things in good hands'"

McCormack's retirement will leave an opening in a three-member district that includes much of Windsor County, along with some neighboring towns. Along with McCormack and White, Sen. Alison Clarkson, D-Windsor, also represents the district. Major party candidates for the seat must file by the end of May — ahead of the August primary and November general election.

Asked about his unfinished business, the longtime member of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy quickly responded: "Global warming, for one."

"It's not like we're doing nothing on global warming, but we are not fully treating it even now. We're not rising to the occasion," he said. "This really is an emergency and ... I think we're treating it as though it's sort of an option, doing something about global warming"

Also generating intense discussion in Montpelier in recent years has been Act 250, Vermont's half-a-century-old land conservation law. Housing and economic development advocates point to its strict building guidelines as a barrier to solving the state's housing crisis, while conservationists say the law protects Vermont's environment.

One of Act 250's staunchest proponents in the Statehouse, McCormack will conclude his tenure as the Legislature and Gov. Phil Scott's administration debate whether to roll back elements of Act 250.

"I came into the Senate in the first place as a defender of Act 250. I have always been a defender of Act 250, and sadly, I may be going out watching Act 250 be seriously weakened," McCormack said. "But I will have remained

true to that cause. I'm proud of that."

McCormack's departure also coincides with a fierce debate over the state's education funding structure. On Town Meeting Day, roughly one-third of school districts' budgets were voted down, largely in response to expected property tax hikes.

It's an issue McCormack has focused on for decades. A crowning achievement of his legislative career, he said, was helping to shepherd into law Act 60, the 1997 statute that sought to bring equity to school funding.

"[Act 60] did away with, or at least minimized, lessened, the advantage that property-rich towns had over property-poor towns," McCormack said. "Now this year, we are also seeing that our school funding system is a mess. And it happened on my party's watch, and there's no getting away from that."

"There's no easy way out of this," he continued. "But I am not leaving now because I can see the problems coming. There has never been a time that there weren't problems during my Senate career."

Also among McCormack's proudest accomplishments, he said, was his work as vice chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee when Vermont legalized civil unions for same-sex couples in 2000. The law wasn't perfect, he said, referring to it as "separate but equal," but he said it "was the best we could do at the time."

Now, McCormack has aspirations outside of the State House, and he said he wants to retire with enough energy to cross them off his list. They include spending more time with his grandkids, picking up his folk music again and seeing all of the 48 contiguous states. Failing to hike the Appalachian Trail before his arthritic knees ruled out the possibility taught him a lesson, he said.

"When a colleague of mine decided to retire, she said, 'Dick, there comes a moment when you know it's time,'" McCormack said. "And I realized that's not my personality. That moment will never come. But I've seen people, I think, people who stayed too long"

# After pushback from education orgs, Senate edits literacy screening bill

By Holly Sullivan, Community News Service

*Editor's note: The Community News Service is a program in which University of Vermont students work with professional editors to provide content for local news outlets at no cost.*

The Senate Committee on Education is revising a bill that aims to improve Vermont's literacy rate — a number that's been steadily declining for years.

The changes address problems prompted by education officials who said the bill's language is too limiting and would present problems for schools required to implement them.

"I think the reasoning was just that, [with] this bill, we're hoping to capture all students that have any kind of learning deficiency or just struggling readers," Sen. Martine Gulick,

"There was a time when we were second in the nation for literacy, and now we are in the middle of the pack," Gulick said.

D-Chittenden Central said.

Jay Nichols, executive director of the Vermont Principals' Association said to committee members Jan. 10 that he agrees with S.204's goals, but he takes issue with some of its phrasing.

Committee members walked through some potential changes during a Feb. 9. meeting, including getting rid of specific language about follow-ups to literacy screenings,

removing language that would require the Agency of Education to approve literacy screeners and altering the state's definition of an inadequate literacy test.

Children advocacy groups, The Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance VT, Let's Grow Kids' and Voices for VT Kids, declined requests for comment from Community News Service.

If screenings revealed a potential reading deficiency in a student, S.204 would require all public and approved independent schools to provide literacy screenings and interventions approved by the Agency of Education. The bill is an attempt to support struggling readers early in their education, Gulick said.

Literacy → 13

## ← Shelter: from page 1

indicated that Rutland should expect 86 people to utilize its temporary shelter, which would be open from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. for no more than seven days.

"These shelters open tonight to give people more time to seek alternate housing or shelter, and for state and community partners to connect with those looking for additional services," Nya Pike, a public information officer at the Dept. of Children and Families (DCF), said in a press release Friday.

Pike said National Guard members, medical professionals and security personnel would staff each shelter.

DCF identified the Asa Bloomer Building on Merchants Row as the most viable location, despite Doenges' suggestions for alternatives, which included the state use the former Diamond Run Mall, FEMA support trailers, the Howe Center or the Vermont State Fairgrounds.

Doenges also tried to buy time by requiring the state obtain a zoning permit.

City Zoning Administrator Andrew Strniste said Monday afternoon that he was still waiting to hear from the state about the permit.

"The state essentially on Friday said that they were going to get back to me and I have not heard since," Strniste said.

"Downtown's a tough location," Doenges said. "For the safety and security of the people that would be staying here, it's not designed to house people at all."

Doenges also said a fire inspector looked at the Asa Bloomer Building on Friday night and found the building could only house up to 46 people.

"While I acknowledge that the state has control over this property, I have voiced my concerns that this solution is not suitable for our community," wrote Doenges on Instagram, March 14. "The state has asserted its right to use this space as they see fit under Vermont law, leaving the city with limited options... In response to this situation and recognizing the need for swift action, the City of Rutland is gearing up for this transition and stands ready to offer support where possible.

Our assistance will extend beyond those leaving the hotels; we aim to support our citizens, downtown property and business owners, and the community as a whole. To this end, I have instructed Rutland City Police Department to be prepared for the demand... Our priority is to maintain clear and safe downtown sidewalks and ensure accessibility to all patrons."

The scramble, however, was met with limited need. On Friday, the Asa Bloomer building hosted just a few individuals, with two staying overnight Friday and Saturday, and three on Sunday night. And a similar lack of need was seen statewide with only a tiny fraction of the beds set up put to use. At the shelter in Brattleboro, not a single person showed up and in Berlin just one person did on Saturday. Burlington saw the most use with 10 people Sunday night, seven on Saturday, and three on Friday.

Doenges said Monday he was still looking for an alternate location, despite the low number of unsheltered people.

It's unclear exactly if the temporary state shelters will remain open the full seven days, given their limited use.

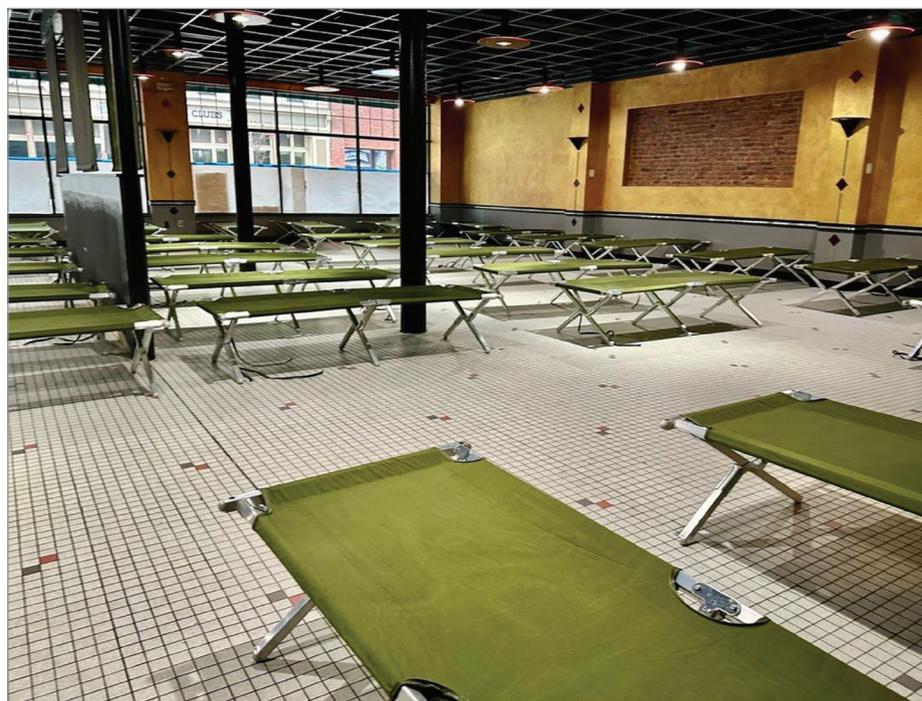
Many service providers, organizations and advocates helped smooth the transition for vulnerable Vermonters in the motel program in the weeks leading up to the March 15 deadline. Some helped them fill out new disability waivers that could merit them a longer stay.

End Homelessness Vermont helped 110 people across the state on Friday, according to Brenda Siegel, head of the organization.

"Some hotel owners extended shelter without vouchers," Doenges added. They did that "for two primary reasons: to allow more time for individuals to explore additional eligibility for disability qualification, and to offer temporary accommodation while individuals seek alternative shelter options. As we gather more data, we'll gain a clearer picture of shelter utilization in the coming days," he said.

The low numbers at the shelters, however, could also mean an unknown number of people are now sleeping outside.

Vermont Legal Aid filed a lawsuit against



Courtesy City of Rutland

The Asa Bloomer building in downtown Rutland was one of four emergency shelters designated by the state to accommodate unhoused Vermonters who no longer qualified to remain in hotels after Friday, March 15. The shelter was only utilized by a few.

the state asking a court to stop the state from making people leave the hotels.

Rebecca Plummer, an attorney from Vermont Legal Aid, sent Chris Winters, DCF commissioner, an email March 14, asking him to extend the deadline to April 15.

"To pretend that March 15 is a hard and fast deadline requiring massive disruption and Vermont Emergency Management and National Guard intervention is to manufacture a crisis and cause an inhumane, traumatic displacement that does not need to occur," Plummer wrote.

While some advocates are promoting unsheltered people staying at hotels, Tom Donahue, the CEO at BROCC Community Action, doesn't see that as a long-term solution.

"It's not a solution to homelessness, because it's not just about putting a roof over their head," he said. "It's not even meeting a respectable standard. It's not what we should be condoning, and paying for."

Donahue said his staff arrived at the Asa Bloomer Building at 6:30 a.m. Saturday to

assist people with paperwork. He said there were just two homeless people on Friday night and two people on Saturday night.

Donahue agreed that the low numbers locally were in part due to advocates who helped people who remained qualified — including people with disabilities, older people and people with children — to stay at the hotels.

He added that many homeless people prefer to spend the summer outside this time of year.

"It's a transitional thing they do every year at this time," he said.

Some may have also been deterred by law enforcement.

"They avoid structures where there are a lot of rules and regulations," Donahue said. "They would be less inclined to go to a state office building with National Guard and law enforcement."

With cold weather in the forecast, however, Donahue said more people could want to be back inside.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Space for rivers to move

S.213 helps proactively protect our communities before the next flood

By Kathy Urffer

*Editor's note: Kathy Urffer, of Brattleboro, is the river steward for Connecticut River Conservancy in Vermont.*

As river steward for Connecticut River Conservancy, I can't stop thinking about rivers. Since the 2011 Tropical Storm Irene, as an organization we have been racing to get projects done to protect communities before the next big flood. Projects like berm removals that allow our rivers to access floodplains so they can slow down and dissipate the energy of flood waters; projects like the removal of deadbeat dams — all of which are no longer in use and have been blocking our rivers for years — that will lower the flood stage when they are out of the way; and projects like planting trees along rivers to help slow the energy of floodwaters and provide a healthy forested buffer for flood waters to infiltrate.

We all know that in July and then again in December many of our communities got hammered by floods. We still have neighbors that are waiting for help to “build back better” and we are being schooled about the expense of being reactive instead of proactive.

Fortunately, the Legislature started this session with a healthy dose of urgency and is poised to pass some important climate resiliency legislation. Senate bill 213 (S.213) will implement multiple changes that will help us proactively protect our communities before the next flood.

These changes include moving the regulation of development in the areas along riverbanks from municipalities to the state Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The volunteers who run most of our municipalities have been burdened with this responsibility — unfortunately, partly because it puts them at odds with their neighbors it has not been done comprehensively, if at all. Water advocates agree that the state is the more appropriate entity to have responsibility to regulate flood hazard areas and our river corridors to provide space for our rivers to move, reduce flood energy, and store water in their floodplains. The DEC has expertise and experience dealing with accurately identifying river corridors.

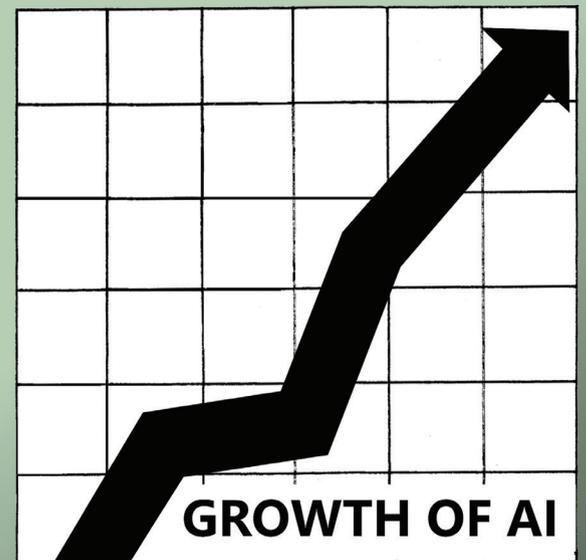
There is also a strong focus on protecting and restoring our wetlands. Wetlands enable the storage of huge volumes of water while simultaneously purifying it. According to some estimates, we have lost over 30% of our wetlands and we desperately need that storage capacity back.

How our wetlands are managed cannot be at the whim of a specific administration. We need comprehensive mapping to understand where our valuable wetlands are to protect them, and we need to codify in law the intention that the Agency of Natural Resources will structure its work around wetlands to achieve a net gain over time.

Some privately owned dams, that no longer have any beneficial use, often fall apart and continue to deteriorate or breach during flooding events. In Vermont and nationally, our dam infrastructure is old and decaying. S.213 would make changes to the existing state's dam revolving loan

Wetlands enable the storage of huge volumes of water while simultaneously purifying it.

Flood resiliency → 12



Balancing the future by Arcadio Esquivel, Costa Rica

## LETTERS

### March 25 is a day to remember Vermont's Medal of Honor recipients

Dear Editor,

As a veteran when I hear the words “Medal of Honor” I think of those military men and women who have gone far beyond their expectations of duty, many giving their lives to save their fellow comrades or shipmates. Vermont has had a number of Medal of Honor recipients, 66 to be exact, that were born or enlisted in Vermont, with Vermont being the state so honored.

Dating from the Civil War were the youngest recipient Willie Johnston, only 13 years of age from Salem, now part of Derby, Vermont, and remains the youngest to receive the Medal of Honor; to Henry Breault, the first submariner and only enlisted member of the submarine service to receive the award, which was presented by Calvin Medal of Honor → 12

### Thank you to all for supporting drive-thru lasagna dinner

Dear Editor,

Thank you to our Killington community for supporting the drive-thru lasagna dinner on March 4 at the Killington Public Safety Building sponsored by the Sherburne United Church of Christ, Killington's “Little White Church.”

A special thanks: to our chef, Rob Merrill, who prepared and cooked the lasagna, to the Killington Resort who donated the bread, lettuce, and brownies. To the Killington Firemen who set the cones to direct traffic. To the many — “behind the scenes” — volunteers who prepared, assembled, and delivered the meals to our customers.

It is our pleasure to be part of such a caring community.

Thank you.

*Nan Salamon,  
Killington  
Sherburne United  
Church of Christ*

### Smoke and mirrors on school spending

Dear Editor,

We have come to an even more unusual place than, well, usual, with public schools taking it squarely on the jaw as the purported challenge to Vermonters being able to remain Vermonters.

I am compelled to try to

Education is the only public service defined as necessary in our constitution.

cut through the smoke and mirrors:

1. Our public schools have not had the benefit of state aid for maintenance/construction needs since a moratorium enacted because of the financial meltdown of 2008. Last I knew, Vermont is the only New England state that has not rescinded that

School spending → 12

### Give bees a chance

Dear Editor,

Pollinators are vitally important to our food supply and are considered a keystone species in the biological web of life, of which humans are a part. Currently, 40% of pollinator species are at risk of extinction due to habitat loss, pesticides, pathogens and global warming.

Habitat loss is due in a major part to the 40 million acres of monoculture lawns that have become an accepted part of the American landscape for more than 100 years. In the old countries of Europe, walls and hedges delineated garden space and the common person's property lines. This tradition was rejected in America, with so much newly acquired and cleared land.

The culture of close-cropped expansive lawns came about in the late 1800s as landscape designers such as Frederick Law Olmsted (the Central Park designer) set out to develop early

Bees → 12

## CAPITOL QUOTES

While U.S. consumers bought 1.19 million all-electric vehicles last year, up 46% from the prior year, the future of electric vehicles in 2024 has elicited strong opinions from leaders locally and across the country this week...

**“We’re going to put a 100% tariff on every single car that comes across the line, and you’re not going to be able to sell those cars if I get elected... Now, if I don’t get elected, it’s going to be a blood bath for the country. That’ll be the least of it.”**

Said former president **Donald Trump**, at a rally in Ohio on Saturday. He has long claimed electric cars will “kill” America’s auto industry and called them an “assassination” of jobs.

**“If we’re going to deal with the climate crisis, electric vehicles are a crucial part of the task... because America was laid out in the postwar years with private automobiles in mind, E.V.s are going to play a large role in the transition as transportation accounts for almost a third of U.S. carbon emissions, and cars and trucks make up the bulk of that... Elon Musk recognized the need to build a network of electric car chargers, and did a good job of it, but now there are many others coming up behind him doing it for more moderately priced cars and offering even greater efficiency.”**

said **Bill McKibben**, speaking at North Chapel in Woodstock, Saturday, March 16.

**“Since the President took office, EV sales have more than quadrupled, with more than four and a half million EVs on the road. EV ownership is more affordable than ever before, with prices down over 20% from one year ago. The number of publicly available charging ports has also grown by over 70%, with 170,000 publicly available EV chargers across the country, putting us on track to deploy 500,000 chargers by 2026 – achieving the President’s goal four years early.”**

According to a fact sheet produced by the **Biden-Harris Administration**.

**“EV sales are increasing faster than any other segment in the industry,”**

said **Michelle Krebs**, executive auto analyst for Cox Automotive, who gathered automotive forecasts from multiple companies that showed growth projections for EV sales ranging from about 20%-30% in 2024.

## COMMENTARY

# Boys, men, and missed opportunity

By Dan Smith

*Editor’s note: Dan Smith is the president & CEO of the Vermont Community Foundation.*

What if young men in America and Vermont attended college or continued their training at the same rate as the state’s young women? What if boys and men did not commit suicide or die from overdose at rates that are significantly higher than those of girls and women?

And what if, by fostering more public discussion about systemic trends in Vermont and the U.S., solutions emerged that benefited everyone, including women and girls? Solutions that continued to acknowledge and embrace action on the corrosive gender discrimination that women and girls continue to face.

This spring—along with the Richard E. & Deborah L. Tarrant Foundation, the University of Vermont, the University of Vermont Foundation, Community College of Vermont, J. Warren and Lois McClure Foundation, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation and the Curtis Fund—the Vermont Community Foundation is co-hosting an event at the UVM Davis Center that will explore these issues and feature Richard Reeves, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C.

Reeves is the nationally known author whose latest book, “Of Boys and Men,” chronicles the economic and social changes in recent decades that have resulted in declining educational, social, and economic engagement for American men and boys. He was the keynote speaker at the Vermont Community Foundation’s 2018 annual meeting and also wrote the book “Dream Hoarders,” which helped inform the opportunity gap framework that is central to our work at the Foundation.

His talk at UVM will take place on April 4. About the upcoming Reeves event, it is fair to ask: Why this event? Why now??

We at the Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) approach the idea of closing the opportunity gap with three considerations in mind.

First, we know that a community in which people feel the absence of opportunity and hope is a breeding ground for disengagement and discord. We also believe that disengagement has shared economic, social, and civic consequences, which have played out over the last decade in the rise of opioid and suicide deaths, increasing extremism, and chronic workforce challenges. Further, we recognize that one of our key roles in the state is to periodically offer a perspective that might otherwise go unstat-

ed or unnoticed, because when philanthropy, public policy-making bodies, and educational institutions disregard shared and common experiences, we make a statement of indifference which compounds disengagement and hastens declining faith in the very institutions that are supposed to help our communities.

In our role, it is also important to embrace complexity: multiple things can be true. Gender discrimination remains stubbornly abundant in the experience of women and girls in our communities. Look no further than the findings of “Change the Story” and “This Way UP” spotlighted by the Vermont Women’s Fund, or gender gaps in corporate offices and the Legisla-

Nationally, there are roughly three women for every two men enrolled in college.

ture to see that. And it is also true that educational performance, labor force participation, college enrollment, and other types of educational continuation among young men have dramatically declined. This is both a national and a

Vermont condition.

Nationally, there are roughly three women for every two men enrolled in college. At UVM, there are currently 3,200 fewer undergraduate men than undergraduate women enrolled, in a student body of 11,600. At the Community College of Vermont, serving a very different student body with an average age of 28, enrollment is 72% female. Among Curtis Fund scholarship awardees, the gender split is roughly 70-30, female to male.

This condition exists amid the ongoing work of the VCF and the McClure Foundation with VSAC and the Community College of Vermont to expand access to education for all. Statistically, we know that continuing education after high school is a pre-condition for economic security. But it’s clear this message does not resonate with everyone. Boys are less likely to pursue education or training, especially if they come from low-income households or identify as a person of color. According to the Common Data Project the VCF funded with other New England community foundations, Vermont’s college continuation rate among boys is 38.5%, the lowest in New England.

The labor force participation rate of Vermont men ages 16 to 24 dropped over 10% during the pandemic and is several points lower than women of the same age. This statistic, taken with the college enrollment data, shows young men increasingly disengaged from school and work relative to the past and when compared to young women. This, at a time when Vermont anticipates the need for 7,000 new teachers in the K-12

**CARTOON**

News Item: Joe Biden continues to push for free Pre-K



Free Pre-K Push by Gary McCoy, Shiloh, IL

**Bees:** from page 10

suburban landscapes. In his first community, fences, walls and hedges were forbidden and lawns spread unbroken from one property to the next. Other designers took up the call; books such as Frank J. Scott's "The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds" installed the lawn in the American psyche as an essential institution for the newly emerging middle class. Additionally, Scott's ideas of responsibility to maintain an immaculate lawn that matched the neighbor's lawn took hold, and the term "collective landscape" referred to that image. (This is a particularly strange concept to have foisted on America, given our radical national propensity to individuality).

Fast forward 125 years or so, and now there is no avoiding the reality that we are at a tipping point for saving the biodiversity that comprises our living planet.

Before you begin your spring property clean up, reconsider your ideas about your lawn, and consider some of the ways that you can assist in the recovery of native pollinator species.

No Mow May is a concept that was started in the U.K.

that is gaining ground in the U.S. Emerging bees, 70% of which are ground nesters, need the nectar from early blooming flowers to begin new life cycles. Did you know that the vilification of dandelions came about with the prevalence of lawns? For centuries prior to this, dandelions have been coveted for their medicinal properties. Letting the lawn grow for the month of May helps pollinators get a head start. Thereafter, mowing less frequently and raising the blade helps throughout the season. No Mow May is a gateway to a more in-depth conversation about your lawn. How much lawn do you need and what is its purpose? Think about shifting from an all encompassing mowed space to a natural space with patches of lawn for walkways or play spaces. Your lawn can be an accent piece, not

Before you begin your spring property clean up, reconsider your ideas about your lawn.

the whole palette. Are there areas where you can be less meticulous, leaving leaf and twig debris for habitat?

Native species support native pollinators.

Locally, some nurseries

specialize in supplying native trees, shrubs, and flowers. Local organizations such as Pollinator Pathways and Audubon Society are resources for starting a healthy evolution of your property. Homegrown National Park is an organization with the goal of converting half of the green lawns in the U.S. to native plants in hopes that patchworks of ecological networks in communities across the country will be enough to stop the pollinator extinction process now underway. The beauty of this enterprise is that all of us can participate, even apartment dwellers.

The current landscape of uninterrupted lawns was just some guy's idea of an aesthetic that became a cultural norm. Cultural norms can be changed by understanding the problem (extinction), identifying the behaviors

that need to change (lawn culture), and by recognizing what matters about the change (we need insects).

It is very encouraging that some states are banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. That's the job of the Legislature.

Now do yours.

*Candy Jones, Rutland*

**Flood resiliency:** from page 10

Fund to provide an easier pathway to access funds to remove dangerous or breached dams instead of using state funds only to repair them. We need additional support for our dam safety staff to increase inspections and provide additional funding to get unused and unsafe dams out of our rivers. Additionally, we need to move the oversight of the few hydro facilities in Vermont that are not regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from the Public Utilities Commission to the VT DEC Dam Safety Program—who has the expertise and engineers needed to properly inspect dams and protect public safety.

Flood resilience costs money up front, so we need to expand the flexibility of our clean water funding to increase implementation of natural resource projects for flood resiliency all over the state. While we support the Agency of Natural Resources work to address the excess amount of phosphorus affecting Lake Champlain, we also need increased support for projects all over the state that will protect our communities from the excessive and expensive flooding that we know will be coming our way, year after year from now on.

**Medal of Honor:** from page 10

Coolidge, of course from Vermont!

Of the remaining Vermont recipients, time slowly washes away their heroic feats from memory in the public consciousness. In 1991 public law was signed by President Bush to establish March 25 as Medal of Honor Day. On March 25, 1863, the first Medal of Honor was awarded. Now the date of March 25 is to remind us of the importance

of the valor, bravery, and unshakable courage displayed while in harm's way at the risk of the recipient's very life.

Over 40 million men and women have served in the U.S. military, just over 3,500 have been awarded the Medal of Honor. Though all the Vermonters and their home town of birth or enlistment that received the Medal of Honor is too long to list here, I encourage you

to visit these websites to learn more about those fellow veterans and Vermonters and give a moment of pause to honor their service to our state and country: [cmohs.org/recipients](http://cmohs.org/recipients) or [mohhsus.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Vermont.pdf](http://mohhsus.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Vermont.pdf).

*Bill Mattoon, Springfield Vermont Green Mountain Base, U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc (USSVI)*

**School spending:** from page 10

moratorium.

2. More and more tax dollars are being siphoned away from our public schools to support independent schools, which are neither required to employ licensed teachers nor show taxpayers how their dollars are spent. Now on religious schools, some that openly resist any laws prohibiting discrimination against accepting students or hiring staff.

3. Property taxes — both those intended for things like fire, police and medical first responders, as well as those intended for educating our children — are being used for infrastructure improvements that may or may not entice developers to engage in projects that may or may not come to fruition and return those monies to local coffers decades down the road. Maybe. But property owners still foot the bill for the multimillion-dollar bonds either way.

4. The system to make adjustments to property values based upon recent

Let's look to ensure our tax dollars are not diverted away from the best hope we all have for a bright future.

sales is out of step with reality. With Covid-19 and dramatic climate events driving people of means to seek a safe haven in Vermont, those who have been here for generations see their property values — and the associated taxes — skyrocket though no fault of their own.

5. Finally, anytime I see the word "cap" used in the context of being the salvation of taxpayers, it raises a huge red flag for me. Years ago a governor of Vermont (Jim Douglas) and a future governor of Vermont (then Sen. Peter Shumlin) worked behind closed doors to come to an agreement about capping property taxes, which was, of course, a classic example of the above-mentioned smoke and mirrors. One size does not fit all. The most recent attempt — and I think it was a sincere attempt — to make

education funding more equitable was flawed because of the use of a cap.

Politicians can spin tales until the cows come home, but here is one thing that has always been a constant in our state: Education is the only public service defined as necessary in our constitution.

Let me say that again: Education is the only public service spoken to in the Vermont Constitution. There is nothing about roads, nothing about utilities, nothing about anything beyond recognizing the need to educate our children. And rightly so.

So please take the latest call to reel in school spending with an appropriately sized grain of salt. Wrest decisions about funding education away from voters? Nope. Instead, let's look to ensure our tax dollars are not diverted away from the best hope we all have for a bright future — supporting our children.

*Ken Fredette, Wallingford*

← **State mushroom:**

from page 6

confirm its deliciousness.

“My favorite thing to do with it is to make bear’s head tooth crab cakes,” she said. “It’s so much like crab meat, texture-wise and flavor-wise. I think if you served them to someone and they didn’t know it was mushrooms, then they wouldn’t even know.”

Lydia Joy Dutton, a 5th-grader from Windham Elementary, is also excited about growing a state mushroom. Feeling shy in front of committee members, Dutton had Bos-Lun read parts of her testimony for her. In her presentation, Dutton wrote that a state mushroom would be a fun horticultural opportunity for her family.

“My family have farmed in Vermont since the late 1700s,” the student wrote. “We have farm stands in Manchester, Newfane and Brattleboro. We sometimes sell mushrooms. I hope we sell bear’s head tooth one day.”

← **Literacy:**

from page 6

“It really focuses on Kindergarten to Grade 3,” she said. “And why Kindergarten to Grade 3 is important is because that’s when you’re learning to read, and after grade three, you’re actually using reading to learn. And so if by that point you haven’t learned how to read, it’s really going to start setting you back.”

Nichols said the language in the bill is too restrictive, specifically when it refers to “reading specialists,” who would teach the students, in that some literacy teachers could be deemed unqualified under that language.

Nichols also noted S.204’s language regarding literacy screeners themselves could result in ineffective and/or corrupt programs under the bill’s guidelines.

“Let’s be very careful about prescribing anything that would be considered curriculum or requiring a certain program to be used,” he told committee members, adding after, “There are a ton of commercial for-profit groups out there that sell screening programs, curriculum packages, make billions of dollars, who claim to be able to produce better reading results and often develop their own paid-for research that supports their product.”

Other education specialists representing the Vermont Superintendent Association, Vermont Agency of Education and The Union Of Vermont Educators made suggested changes to the bill’s language, arguing they’re too strict.

Most of the concern boils down to how the new guidelines could harm schools that are currently using their own screenings and intervention methods, because it would force them to rework their systems if they don’t align with the bill’s language, Gwen Carmoli, chair of the Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association, said to committee members on Jan. 5.

Cynthia Gardner-Morse, a private literacy tutor in Vermont, expressed her support for the bill at the meeting Jan. 5. Citing a study from the National Assessment of Educational Progress that measured Vermont students reading levels on a numbered scale, Gardner-Morse told lawmakers just 9% of students in Vermont classified as advanced and 66% were below proficient.

The study’s numerical scale ranges from

0-500 and, based on the student’s score, categorizes them into three groups: below proficient, basic and advanced. Each level comes with an outline of what the student’s reading capabilities should be to meet the mark.

“This reading crisis is not the fault of teachers,” Gardner-Morse told committee members. “It’s the fault of the entire system.”

S.204 says, ‘We see your struggle. We’re going to teach you to read and write at grade level and invest in the future you deserve,’” according to Dorfman.

Dorinne Dorfman, principal at Champlain Elementary School, wants the state to take action — and she thinks S.204 is a solid first step.

Dorfman told committee members at the same meeting that reading struggles are more prevalent than ever. Literacy tests are accurate, and implementing them will make positive change, she said.

“I urge you to go into any school and experience what most of our teachers are enduring every day. Come in and watch children try to write a complete sentence, try to spell a multisyllabic word,” Dorfman told committee members, adding later, “You will feel the urgency for change that I’m talking about.”

Most students with reading deficiencies have struggled since preschool or Kindergarten, and some don’t receive appropriate literacy screenings until they are seniors in high school, Dorfman said. She applauded the bill’s efforts to help students of all ages improve their reading skills.

“We can’t ignore [older] kids,” she said. “We should never say, ‘Sorry, you’re too old to get help.’ Instead, S.204 says, ‘We see your struggle. We’re going to teach you to read and write at grade level and invest in the future you deserve.’”

S.204 continues to be discussed and amended in committee. If passed, the bill would take effect July 1, 2024. Gulick made the level of urgency clear when she introduced the bill to Senate education committee members Jan. 5.

“There was a time when we were second in the nation for literacy, and now we are in the middle of the pack,” Gulick said.

**CARTOON**



Honest Don by Rick McKee, CagleCartoons



**TOWN OF  
KILLINGTON  
VERMONT**

**Request for Qualifications  
for Construction Services  
Town of Killington – Town Hall Renovation  
Killington, Vermont**

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The Town of Killington (“Owner”) is seeking qualified Commercial General Contractor (“CGC”) firms for remodeling the New Town Hall (“Project”) in Killington, Vermont.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Project will be to renovate the interior of an existing office building and install a vault for the New Town Hall in Killington, Vermont. Nehring & Associates Architectural and DeWolf Engineering Associates were hired in 2023 to examine the needs and have produced architectural and structural plans.

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Construction Manager shall provide the following items and in the following order:

- Cover letter
- Similar project experience
- Completed bid form.
- Other information, qualifications and/or exceptions as each Construction Manager may consider appropriate to the selection process
- No more than 3 pages front and back

Submit proposals in PDF format to:  
townmanager@killingtontown.com (Michael Ramsey, Town Manager)

Cover letters addressed to:  
Michael Ramsey  
Town Manager  
Town of Killington  
2706 River Road  
Killington, VT 05751

**Proposals must be received via email no later than 4:00 PM on April 5, 2024.  
The full RFQ can be found at [www.killingtontown.com](http://www.killingtontown.com) under bid opportunity.**

*Request posted: March 13, 2024*

# Slow down for frogs and salamanders

Vermont Fish & Wildlife is asking drivers to slow down and be cautious when traveling at night in early spring or to take alternate routes to avoid driving roads near wetlands and ponds that salamanders and frogs cross during their breeding season.

Every year, typically in early spring, many of Vermont's amphibians leave their overwintering sites and migrate to the wetlands and ponds where they will breed and lay eggs. The timing of this annual event, termed "Big Night(s)", coincides with melting snowpack, thawing soils, relatively warm evening temperatures, and rainfall. Due to this year's mild winter, these conditions are expected to align and trigger spring amphibian migration earlier than usual.

"One of the benefits of checking out amphibian road crossings," said Fish & Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff, "is that you can see many individuals and species in a short period and small area, and some species may not be seen the rest of the year."

The spotted and blue-spotted salamanders, for example, belong to a group called the "mole salamanders," because after breeding, they retreat underground or under logs or stumps, and are rarely seen until the next spring.

Groff is encouraging Vermonters to explore the roads near their home and report amphibian road crossings to the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas ([vtherpatlas.org/sighting-submission-form](http://vtherpatlas.org/sighting-submission-form)).

If it is safe to take pictures of the migrating amphibians, please include them in your

The timing of this annual event, termed "Big Night(s)", coincides with melting snowpack, thawing soils ... these conditions are expected to align and trigger spring amphibian migration earlier than usual.

report. This information is used by Fish & Wildlife, the Agency of Transportation and other conservation partners to assess the need for wildlife passages and barriers that allow all wildlife, not just frogs and salamanders, to more safely cross roadways.

Vermonters who wish to contribute to the Fish & Wildlife Dept.'s work to conserve frog and salamander populations can donate to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on their state income tax form or on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife website: [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com).



By Luke Groff, VTF&W

Vermont Fish & Wildlife is asking drivers to slow down and be cautious when traveling at night in early spring or to take alternate routes to avoid driving near ponds and wetlands where salamanders and frogs breed.

## ← Harrison:

from page 7

state with a ban, although neonic treated seeds are currently banned in neighboring Quebec.

- The House passed S.18, which bans the sale of flavored tobacco products, such as menthol cigarettes, as it is believed underaged youth are attracted to them. The bill is estimated to reduce state revenues by as much as \$14 million annually, although industry members say the lost revenue will be higher.
- A potentially controversial Act 250 reform bill, H.687, was approved by the House Environment and Energy Committee. Governor Scott has been critical of the measure as he believes the bill remains too restrictive for new housing development.
- A proposal by Treasurer Mike Pieciak to establish a new Baby Bond program for newborn children on Medicaid, was advanced by the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee, but reduced to a study on the source and amount of the funds that would be needed.
- A bill to continue funding to keep the Salisbury Fish Hatchery open was advanced by the Senate Institutions Committee. The hatchery was slated for closure as a money saving measure.
- The Senate Judiciary Committee advanced S.58, which increases the penalties to persons providing illegal drugs with death resulting.
- The House Health Care Committee advanced H.721, which expands the Dr. Dynasaur program (Medicaid) to age 21 as well as some other coverage expansions. It is unclear of the total taxpayer costs of the new benefits will be, so its implementation is delayed for another year.

Jim Harrison is the state representative for Chittenden, Killington, Mendon and Pittsfield. He can be reached at [JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us) or [harrisonforvermont.com](http://harrisonforvermont.com).

## ← Clarkson:

from page 7

cial Covid pandemic rules, which enabled all public bodies to meet fully remotely.

- The Flood Safety Act, S.213, addresses mitigating future flooding disasters by creating watershed scale solutions to increase public safety and reduce future damage.
- Several pilot programs are also being offered: S.184 proposes to pilot a program of automated traffic law enforcement — speed cameras in construction areas, and S. 231 proposes a pilot for a community nursing program to serve aging Vermonters.
- The "make big oil pay" bill, S.259, is designed to have those oil companies that profited from the pollution of our state, help pay to mitigate the damage to our environment.
- To address some of the challenges we face with young people's mental health and cell phone habits, S.289, known as the "kid's code bill" proposes prohibiting certain code designs that increase use and addictions to certain apps and kids' phones.
- S.258, the Fish & Wildlife bill, proposes to reconfigure the board and make permanent a prohibition on hunting coyotes with dogs. In addition, S.312, proposes to save the Salisbury Fish Hatchery, which the governor had slated for closure.
- S.206 designates "Juneteenth," June 19, as a legal holiday.

There are so many more bills being debated in both chambers. If interested, I encourage you to look at the House and Senate calendars for the next week. It is all online at: [legislature.vermont.gov](http://legislature.vermont.gov). This will give you a notion of the volume of work passing from the House to the Senate and vice versa.

Sen. Clarkson appreciates hearing from you. She can be reached by email: [aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us) or by phone at the Statehouse (Tues-Fri) 802-828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) 802-457-4627.

## ← Hurd:

from page 2

backpacking from childhood on ranging from the White and Green Mountains of New England to the famed Kalalau Trail of Kauai and many places in between. Her love of animals included the uncanny ability to calm the most nervous and even aggressive dogs. She literally touched the lives of hundreds of people through her Level 2 Reiki and as a cosmetologist, sometimes known as a "shrink with a sink." This gathering and sharing of information and advice was a benefit to so many and to her.

Nothing compared to the love and joy Erica felt about being a mother to her daughter Amelia. Erica burst with pride watching her play softball or soccer or hearing her make music. She wanted Amelia to have a life full of friends, interests, and all the opportunities she had in her own life, and more. Erica would often say how lucky she and her husband Christopher were to have their dream come true miracle baby and growing to be such a great kid. She loved that she raised such a good human being and though heartbroken, Erica tried to prepare Amelia for a future without her. She appreciated Amelia for her own unique self, but also loved when reports from others noticed that her daughter shared many of the qualities of her mom. Erica treasured being part of Amelia's unfolding life, and held great faith in Amelia's future.

Erica is survived by her daughter Amelia and husband Christopher of Pittsfield, her father, Rick Carbonneau of Nashua, New Hampshire, sister Kris Feinberg (Stu) of Ocala, Florida, nieces and nephews Brennan and Jayden and Roger and Keely, and many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and their families.

The Hurd family would like to thank so many for the kindness and help you have given Erica through her cancer fight and for the hundreds of remembrances on her Facebook page. For several years, Erica organized the "Pittsfield Picnic," celebrating community togetherness and spirit. In tribute, a celebration of Erica's life will be held on the Pittsfield Green — in the picnic style — on Sunday, Aug. 11, 2024.



## THURSDAY

3/21

ADVANCED  
LINE DANCE

MARCH 21, 7 PM

## WEDNESDAY

3/20

## Rutland Free Library Book Club

1-3 p.m. Monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Contact the facilitator, Al Wilkin at [alwilkin@comcast.net](mailto:alwilkin@comcast.net).

## Killington Active Seniors Lunch

11:30. Lookout Tavern, 2910 Killington Road, Killington. \$5 donation towards the meal, tip is covered by local donors. For more info, call 908-783-1050.

## Cribbage for Adults

3-5 p.m. Weekly. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. [hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/](http://hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/) or 802-436-2473

## Bone Builders

3:30-4:30 p.m. Weekly. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Improve balance and enhance energy and wellbeing. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org) or 802-775-0356

## Silent Reading Group

4-5 p.m. Weekly. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join us for an hour of silent reading in front of the fireplace. Foster your reading habit in a structured environment. Optional post-reading discussion. Tea, coffee, and cookies provided. [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org), 802-457-2295

## Intro to Mosaics: Birdhouses, Day 1

5-8 p.m. 3-session workshop. The Glass Shop, The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. Member, \$100; nonmember, \$125. Preparing the birdhouse substrate, creating the design, selecting tesserae and adhesive. Suitable for all ages; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. [rutlandmint.org](http://rutlandmint.org)

## Art at the Chaffee: Figure Drawing with Live Model

5-7 p.m. Monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$20 per class; \$60 for 4 weeks. Bring own supplies. Signup: [chaffeeartcenter.square.site/or](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site/or) 802-775-0356

## Chaffee Book Group

5:30-6:30 p.m. Monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free but RSVP. The book is "Without Warning: Casualties of a Caribbean Vacation," by Stephanie Schaffer, who lost both legs in a tour boat explosion. The Chaffee partners with Phoenix Books to provide a discount. 802-775-0356

## JAM Equipment Orientation

5:30-6:15 p.m. Recurring. JAM – Junction Arts & Media, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. This is a prerequisite to borrowing any form of production equipment. RSVP with one week advance request to [uvjam.org/event/jam-equipment-orientation/2024-03-20](http://uvjam.org/event/jam-equipment-orientation/2024-03-20)

## Wallingford: Extra Stout Band at Town Hall

7-9 p.m. Wallingford Town Hall, School St., Wallingford. Just in time for St. Paddy's Day! Irish, country, folk, rock 'n' roll since 2000. Suggested donation \$15 to pay the band.

## Bone Builders

9 a.m. Gilbert Hart Library, 14 S. Main St., Wallingford.

## Senior Bone Builders

10 a.m. Weekly. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. [sherburnelibrary.org](http://sherburnelibrary.org) or 802-422-4323

## Advanced Line Dance

9:30-10:30 a.m. Weekly. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. [rutlandrec.com/godnick](http://rutlandrec.com/godnick) or 802-773-1853

## Survivors' Support Group

10 a.m.-Noon. Weekly. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Flyers available at the Godnick Center or call 802-775-3232. [rutlandrec.com/godnick](http://rutlandrec.com/godnick) or 802-773-1853

## Art at the Chaffee: Artery

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Weekly. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$10 if you bring your own supplies, up to \$20 if supplies provided. Painting in all mediums welcome. No set topic or instructor. Preregister, at [chaffeeartcenter.square.site/](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site/)

## Community Lunch

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thursdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Over 60, suggested donation is \$3.50; under 59, \$6 fee. Extra donations welcomed. Made possible by Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels. Make new friends, connect with pals. If interested, call 802-773-1853 and leave a message with your name and phone number, the Monday before. [rutlandrec.com/godnick](http://rutlandrec.com/godnick)

## Ukulele Group

Noon-1 p.m. Weekly. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Ages 12+. Pre-register by the Wednesday before at 802-775-0356 or at [chaffeeartcenter.square.site](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site)

## Play Bridge!

2-4 p.m. Weekly. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org), 802-457-2295

## S.T.E.A.M.

3-4 p.m. Weekly. Hartland Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Join us for S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) craft activities. Something different every week! [kids@hartlandlibraryvt.org/](mailto:kids@hartlandlibraryvt.org) [calendar/](http://calendar/) or 802-436-2473

## Yoga with Kellie

3:45-4:45 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. 802-773-1860

## Ballroom Dance with Patti Panebianco

Thursdays. 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney. Sponsored by Stone Valley Arts Center, Poultney.  
5-5:50 p.m. Tango & cha-cha for kids  
6-6:50 p.m. Foxtrot for adults  
7-7:50 p.m. Salsa for adults  
For details and cost, contact Patti Panebianco at 516-909-1686 or email [pattidance@gmail.com](mailto:pattidance@gmail.com)

## Green Drinks: Pollinator-Friendly Gardens

5:30 p.m. Woodstock Union High School, 100 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Free. Dr. Desiree Narango offers tips to foster pollinators and the science behind them. Co-sponsored by Sustainable Woodstock and the Woodstock Union High School & Middle School Craft program. Register at [sustainablewoodstock.eventive.org/schedule/65664fba426669002662cb73](http://sustainablewoodstock.eventive.org/schedule/65664fba426669002662cb73)

## Rumney Music Session

5:30-9 p.m. Thursdays. Rumney Barn, Fable Fermentory, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. Free. Jeremiah McLane. Firepit, woodfired pizza, soup, wine, beer, cider. [info@fablefarmfermentory.com](mailto:info@fablefarmfermentory.com) or call 802-234-5288

## Story Jam

6-7:30 p.m. Bimonthly. JAM – Junction Arts & Media, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. Free. This month's theme is Crossed wires: stories about miscommunications, misunderstandings, and confusion. Come share a 5-minute, unrehearsed story about something that happened to you and listen to other people's stories. Email [storyjam@uvjam.org](mailto:storyjam@uvjam.org)

## Art at the Chaffee: Sip 'N' Dip

6-8 p.m. Monthly, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$35/person, includes all supplies. Perfect for a night out with friends! Theme: mushroom. Follow along with instructor Sally Hogan, leave with a finished painting. Registration required. [chaffeeartcenter.org/adult-classes-coming-soon/](http://chaffeeartcenter.org/adult-classes-coming-soon/) or call 802-775-0356

## 'After Hours' Jazz Jam Session

6:30-9:30. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org), 802-457-2295

## Open Mic Night

7-9 p.m. Alternate Thursdays. ArtisTree, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. [artistreevt.org/artistree-events](http://artistreevt.org/artistree-events) or 802-457-3500

## FRIDAY

3/22

## Story Time at the Library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Weekly. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. [sherburnelibrary.org](http://sherburnelibrary.org), 802-422-9765 or 802-422-4251.

## Bone Builders

11 a.m.-Noon. Weekly. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. 802-775-0356

## MSM: Friday Night Piano

5-10 p.m. Weekly. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. Free. Snacks & good company around the firepit to the music produced by piano rolls from the 1900s through the present – and from ABBA to Led Zeppelin. [mainstreetmuseum.org](http://mainstreetmuseum.org) or 802-356-2776

## National Audubon Society Photograph Contest

## Exhibit

5:30-7:30 p.m. Castleton Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row, Rutland. Free. Large-format images of the 2022 contest winners selected from over 12,000 photographs and videos. Refreshments will be served. Regular gallery hours: Thursday-Friday-Saturday, noon-6 p.m. Ends April 27, 2024.

## Opera Action Figures Installation

Open M-F 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Ends March 19. JAM – Junction Arts & Media, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. Free. Theford-based twin sisters Amy and Terry Lawrence film costumed artists' wooden mannequins with stop-action to interpret musical pieces. On display are the various sets and figures. [uvjam.org](http://uvjam.org)

## Stone Valley Arts Literary Open Mic

7 p.m. Withey Hall, "The Buttery," Green Mountain School Campus, Poultney. Free.

## SATURDAY

3/23

## Maplefest Activities

8 a.m.-9 p.m. Poultney, East Poultney. Help celebrate this Vermont's cultural heritage and living tradition. Lots going on from a pancake breakfast and sugar house tours to kids' activities, bike ride and race, food, huge book sale, food, live music, firepit, food. For details, contact the Maple Master at [poultneymaplefest@gmail.com](mailto:poultneymaplefest@gmail.com)

## 1-DAY-UNIVERSITY

MARCH 23, 9 AM



**1-Day University**

9 a.m.-4 p.m. VTSU Castleton Campus, Castleton. Free. Inaugural launch of a pop-up university with the goal of enlightening, entertaining and inspiring. Presenters will share their passions and expertise from fiber arts, biking tips and 3D scanning to public speaking, international folk dancing, yoga and living off the grid. Sessions are 50 minutes long, sign up for as many sessions as you like. To register and see the offerings, go to [bit.ly/Castleton1DayU](http://bit.ly/Castleton1DayU)

**Lego Club**

10-11 a.m. Weekly, Saturdays. Gilbert Hart Library, 14 S. Main St., Wallingford. 802-446-2685

**Cosmic Countdown to the Eclipse**

10:30-11:30. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Rob Hanson and Scott Griswold from the Horizons Observatory will join librarian Adrian Tans for a presentation highlighting the geometry and science of total eclipses, what to expect, how to best prepare and, most importantly, how to safely view it. Special eclipse viewing glasses will be distributed. Then, do some "sun gazing" with a solar telescope and binoculars with solar filters if the sky is clear! [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org), 802-457-2295

**The Vermont Winter Farmers' Market**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Weekly. Howe Center, Suite 92, 1 Scale Ave. (off Strongs Avenue), Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest farmers' markets in the state and the first to operate year round. Find seasonal harvest, winter veggies, handcrafted gifts and more. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org)

**Maple Open House Weekend at Baird Farm**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Baird Farm, 65 West Road, No. Chittenden. Free. Join the 4<sup>th</sup> generation Baird sugarmakers for sap boiling, maple tasting, goodies and maple beer. Grass-fed beef raffle. At 1 p.m. we will tap trees. Today only: outdoor maple themed activities for kids and adults with Come Alive Outside. [bairdfarm.com](http://bairdfarm.com) or 802-558-8443

**Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Weekly. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. Free. Maintained by the Rutland Railway Association, Inc., the historic depot is now a museum that houses an operating HO scale model railroad setup and displays hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and memorabilia saved from an earlier time, including the former Rutland Railroad Caboose #45. [rutlandrailway.org](http://rutlandrailway.org)

**Art at the Chaffee: Pour Painting**

11 a.m. Monthly, 4th Saturday. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$30. All ages. Instructor: Lorie Amerio Maniery. Follow along with an instructor and leave with a finished painting. Preregister at: [chaffeeartcenter.square.site/](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site/) or 802-775-0356

**Art at the Chaffee: Drop 'N' Paint**

Noon-2 p.m. Weekly. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25 per person, instructor help optional for a fee. All ages. Supplies and images to paint are provided. Must pre-register by Friday noon at: [chaffeeartcenter.square.site/](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site/) or 802-775-0356

**Maple Open House Weekend**

Smith Maple Crest Farm, 2450 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury. Free. 802-492-2151

8 a.m.-Noon. Pancake breakfast at the Shrewsbury church, then hayride to the farm.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sugar-on-snow, maple tasting, learn about maple production. Afternoon boiling (conditions permitting). Don't forget your camera!

**Maple Open House Weekend**

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Green Mountain Sugar House, 820 Route 100 North, Ludlow. Syrup on creemees, maple treats, boiling (conditions permitting). 802-228-7151

**Maple Open House Weekend**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Papa John's Sugar Shack, 221 Healdville Road, Mount Holly. Free. Tap a tree, tour the sugar house, stock up on maple treats. 802-259-7800

**Dungeons and Dragons' for Tweens**

Noon-4 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Ages 10 to 13. All are welcome, no registration required. [rutlandfree.org/calendar-events/](http://rutlandfree.org/calendar-events/) or call 802-773-1860

**Green Drinks: Home Electrification Workshop**

1-3 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Come and explore the hands-on science, technology and advantages behind Home Electrification with VEPP (Vermont Energy Education Program). Register at [sustainablewoodstock.eventive.org/schedule/6581f887869579007b096385](http://sustainablewoodstock.eventive.org/schedule/6581f887869579007b096385)

**Maplefest Ham Dinner**

4:30-6:30. Young at Heart Senior Center, 206 Furnace St., Poultney. \$10; 12+ under, \$5. Maple-glazed ham, mashed sweet potatoes, veggies, dessert, beverages. Takeout available by calling 802-287-9200.

**'F Words' standup comedy**

7 p.m. Grange Theater, ArtisTree, 65 Stage Road, So. Pomfret. \$25. F stands for Funny. Females. Some of the country's funniest and edgiest female comics, competition winners Vicki Ferentinos, Sharon Spell and Maddie Cross. Tix and available seating: [artistreevt.org/artistree-events](http://artistreevt.org/artistree-events) or 802-457-3500

**SUNDAY**  
3/24**Maple Open House Weekend**

Smith Maple Crest Farm, 2450 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury. Free. 802-492-2151

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Maple tasting, tours of the sugar house. Relax, take in the hillside views of Shrewsbury. Don't forget your camera!

**Maple Open House Weekend at Baird Farm**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Baird Farm, 65 West Road, No. Chittenden. Free. Join the 4<sup>th</sup> generation Baird sugarmakers for sap boiling, maple tasting, goodies and maple beer. Take in the sweeping view of unspoiled Vermont. Don't forget your camera! At 1 p.m. we will tap trees. [bairdfarm.com](http://bairdfarm.com) or 802-558-8443

**Maple Open House Weekend**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Papa John's Sugar Shack, 221 Healdville Road, Mount Holly. Free. Tap a tree, tour the sugar house, stock up on maple treats. 802-259-7800

**Maple Open House Weekend**

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Green Mountain Sugar House, 820 Route 100 North, Ludlow. Syrup on creemees, maple treats, boiling (conditions permitting). 802-228-7151

**Barnarts: Auditions for 'MacBeth'**

2-5 p.m. or by appointment. First Universalist Church & Society of Barnard, 6211 VT-12, Barnard. Free. Shakespeare's tale of grand ambition and defeat is directed by Killian White.

All genders & experience levels over 15 years old are welcome.

Interested? Fill out the online audition form: [forms.gle/pw2G5YPc2DSGpspeA](http://forms.gle/pw2G5YPc2DSGpspeA)

**MONDAY**  
3/25**Senior Bone Builders**

10 a.m. Weekly. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. [sherburnelibrary.org](http://sherburnelibrary.org) or 802-422-4323

**Community Lunch**

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mondays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Over 60, \$3.50; under 59, \$6. Donations welcome. In partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, the Godnick Center hosts congregational meals. Make new friends, connect with pals. Call 773-1853, and leave a message with your name and phone number, the Thursday before. See [rutlandrec.com/godnick](http://rutlandrec.com/godnick) for the menu.

**Monday Movie**

1 p.m. Weekly. The Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. "Jules." [sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday/](http://sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday/) 802-422-9765

**Gathering for Songwriters**

5-6:30 p.m. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow. Free. This is a session for folks interested in giving or receiving feedback on original acoustic music, hosted by Plymouth-based Max Cassano, songwriter-performer. Stop by to listen or join in. [fmlnews.org](http://fmlnews.org) or 802-228-8921

**JAM Scriptwriters' Group**

5:30-7 p.m. Every other Monday. JAM - Junction Arts & Media, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. Free. Meet talented local writers, learn new script writing techniques, and receive peer feedback. To register: [uvjam.org/scriptwritersgroup/](http://uvjam.org/scriptwritersgroup/)

**Cindy Pierce: 'Wrangling the Drift'**

7-9 p.m. Briggs Opera House, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. \$25. From high comedy to profound loss, Cindy relates her experiences as caregiver for her mother. Benefit for Walk to End Alzheimer's. Tix at [eventbrite.com/e/wrangling-the-drift-laughter-and-love-on-my-mothers-dementia-journey-tickets-848835799727](http://eventbrite.com/e/wrangling-the-drift-laughter-and-love-on-my-mothers-dementia-journey-tickets-848835799727)

**Master Gardener's Presentation**

6-8 p.m. Monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. [rutlandrec.com/godnick](http://rutlandrec.com/godnick)

**Full moon snowshoe hike at Okemo**

6 p.m. Okemo Mountain Resort, Jackson Gore Road, Ludlow. Free. Local expert, Joe Karl will lead the adventure which begins at the Ice House parking lot at Jackson Gore. For more information, visit: [okemo.com](http://okemo.com)

**TUESDAY**  
3/26**Bone Builders**

9 a.m. Gilbert Hart Library, 14 S. Main St., Wallingford. 802-446-2685

**Line Dance for Beginners**

9-9:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Line dance basics plus practice taught by Sharon McKee. No partner or experience needed. 90-minute session follows, learn old and new dances. Call 802-773-1853 for cost and to sign up. [rutlandrec.com/godnick](http://rutlandrec.com/godnick)

**Bridge Club - NEW**

2-4 p.m. Weekly. Hartland Public Library, 150 US-5, Hartland. Free. Bridge with Toni and Edith. Players of all levels are welcome. Want to learn how to play? Contact Toni at 802-436-2943 or email [tonidave@vermontel.net](mailto:tonidave@vermontel.net).

**Play Chess & Backgammon!**

5 p.m. Weekly. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join us for chess and/or backgammon on Tuesday evenings. All skill levels are welcome, and coaching is available. Bring your own set or use one of ours. [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org) or 802-457-2295

**Birding for Beginners**

5:30-6:30. Virtual. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Nature's Way, Quechee. 802-359-5000 or [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org)

**Read Between the Lines Fiction Group**

6 p.m. Hybrid. Monthly, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. The book for March 26 is 'The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession' by Michael Finkel. [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org) or 802-457-2295

**Swing Dance Class**

6:30-8 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland.

**Barnarts: Auditions for 'MacBeth'**

6-9 p.m. or by appointment. First Universalist Church & Society of Barnard, 6211 VT-12, Barnard. Free. Shakespeare's tale of grand ambition and defeat is directed by Killian White.

All genders & experience levels over 15 years old are welcome.

Interested? Fill out the online audition form: [forms.gle/pw2G5YPc2DSGpspeA](http://forms.gle/pw2G5YPc2DSGpspeA)

**Ballroom Dance for Adults with Patti Panebianco**

Tuesdays through June. Wallingford Town Hall, School St., Wallingford.

**6 p.m. Tango for adults**

7 p.m. Salsa for adults  
New students, 1<sup>st</sup> class is free. Individual classes or back-to-back. Regular tuition varies by number of classes attended, so check out [wallingfordvt.com/community-events/](http://wallingfordvt.com/community-events/) or contact Patti Panebianco at 516-909-1686 or email [pattipdance@gmail.com](mailto:pattipdance@gmail.com)

# Journey through Vermont's Maple Open House Weekend

On Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 24, over 103 locations across Vermont will open their doors to the public, offering an inside look into the process of maple syrup production. During this sugaring season, visitors can explore the intricate techniques used by maple sugarmakers, from tapping trees to bottling the final product. Activities include pancake breakfasts, sugar-on-snow tastings, guided tours of suga houses, and opportunities to sample maple products. For map and detailed information, visit: [vermontmaple.org/mohw](http://vermontmaple.org/mohw)



## Local Sugar Houses

### Baird Farm

65 West Road, N. Chittenden

### Choice Maple

185 Equestrian Way, White River Junction

### Cuttin' It Sweet

4556 Monument Hill Road,  
Hubbardton

### Elm Grove Farm

3655 Cloudland Road,  
Pomfret

### Foxglove Farm

777 Delorm Road, Leicester

### Green Mt Sugar House

820 Route 100 North,  
Ludlow

### Green's Sugarhouse

1846 Finel Hollow Road, Poultney

### Liberty Hill Farm

511 Liberty Hill Road, Rochester

### Mahar Maple Farm

9 Mountain Road, Middletown Springs

### Papa John's Sugar Shack LLC

221 Healdville Road, Mt. Holly

### Poultney MapleFest 2024

188 Main Street, Poultney

### Republic Of Vermont

234 Cape Lookoff Road, Goshen

### Rocky Ridge Sugarworks

2219 Frazier Hill Road, Benson

### Silver Lake Syrups

5613 Stage Road, Barnard

### Silloway Maple

1303 Boudro Road, Randolph Center

### Smith Maple Crest Farm LLC

2450 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury

### Sugarbush Farm Inc

591 Sugarbush Farm Road, Woodstock

### Thrall Road Maple

Thrall Road, Maple 552 Thrall Road, Poultney

### Woods VT Syrup Co.

780 Hebard Hill Road, Randolph

For a detailed map and more information about Vermont Maple Open House weekend, visit: [vermontmaple.org/mohw](http://vermontmaple.org/mohw)



# [MUSIC Scene]

By DJ Dave Hoffenberg  
Have a music scene coming up? Email [djdavehoff@gmail.com](mailto:djdavehoff@gmail.com)

## WED 3/20

### KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

6 p.m. Rivershed – Sammy B

7 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Tee Boneicus Jones

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Nick Bredece

### LUDLOW

6 p.m. Off the Rails – Learn to Line Dance

### QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Kim Wilcox

## THUR 3/21

### RUTLAND

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Full PA/Backline Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave

### BARNARD

5:30 Fable Farm – Rumney Barn Sessions with Julia Wright & Will Wright

### BRANDON

5:30 p.m. Red Clover Ale Company – Open Mic hosted by Emily Nelson

### BRIDGEWATER

### CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Sammy B

### KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Grateful Gary

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jenny & Friends

### LONDONDERRY

7 p.m. New American Grill – Open Mic Night hosted by DJ Jazzy Joel & Catnip John

### LUDLOW

6:30 p.m. The Killarney – Irish Sessions with Gypsy Reel

### QUECHEE

6:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Trivia with Questionable Company

### RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic hosted by Krishna Guthrie

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T

## FRI 3/22

### CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Krishna Guthrie

### KILLINGTON

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Nick Bredece & Rhys Chalmers

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Daniel Brown

4 p.m. The Foundry – Jamie's Junk Show

6 p.m. Rivershed – Live Music

7 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nick Bredece

7 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – 80's Night with M80

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jamie's Junk Show

9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Last Chair Band

### QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Bobby Sheehan

## SAT 3/23

### BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Headliner Matt Vita

### KILLINGTON

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Nick Bredece

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Daniel Brown

5 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Jamie's Junk Show

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Rivershed – Sammy B

6 p.m. O'Dwyer's Public House – County Down

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Liz Reedy

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

8 p.m. Northstar Lodge Lounge – Ryan Fuller

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – 80's Night with M80

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet Band

10 p.m. Pickle Barrel Crows Nest – Jamie's Junk Show

### LONDONDERRY

6 p.m. New American Grill – Nick Bredece

### LUDLOW

9 a.m. Okemo's Sunburst Six Bubble – Lift Line Party with DJ Dave

2 p.m. Apres Afternoon at Jackson Gore – Cooei's Trio

8 p.m. The Killarney – Acoustik Ruckus

### QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – James Joel

### RANDOLPH

7 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Mega March Birthday Bash w/ Suburban Samurai, Better Things and Vallyory Falls

### SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Grange Theatre – F Words: Funny Females Comedy Night

### STOCKBRIDGE

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington & Tuff Luv

## SUN 3/24

### KILLINGTON

12 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Nick Bredece

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch Psylas

1 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Duane Carleton

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Rhys Chalmers

5 p.m. The Foundry – Jazz Night with the Summit Pond Quartet

5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – Daniel Brown

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Open Mic Night with Indigenous Entertainment

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jenny Porter

### STOCKBRIDGE

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington's Looping Mayhem

## MON 3/25

### KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Chris Pallutto

5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n

6 p.m. Rivershed – Mandatory Mondays with Name That Tune Bingo by DJ Dave

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Sammy B

### LUDLOW

8:30 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic Night with Indigenous Entertainment

## TUE 3/26

### KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

5 :30 p.m. Mary Lou's – Bow Thayer & Krishna Guthrie

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Bredece

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb

### LONDONDERRY

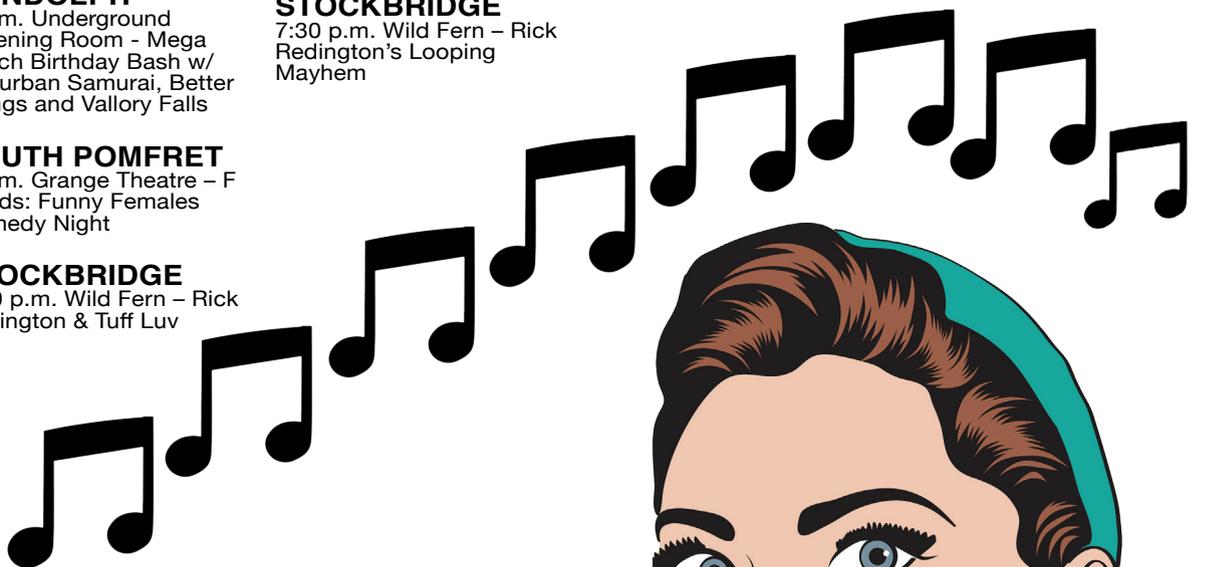
6:30 p.m. New American Grill – Trivia hosted by Zach Yakaitis

### LUDLOW

6 p.m. The Killarney – Trivia with Rick Davis

### QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager



EAT  
DRINK

SHOP

Local

# Gnarly, homeslice!

## Retro ski weekend comes to Killington, March 23-24

By Sarah Calvin

Saturday, March 23—KILLINGTON—Sno-Search Ski & Snowboard Tours will host a weekend in the time warp as they bring 1986 back to Killington for the third year running. Hosted by the self-described “king of theme parties,” avid ‘80s fan Arik Colbath, weekend highlights include an ‘80s cover band rocking at the Pickle Barrel and a group run down Superstar resplendent with skiing onesies and dayglo.

The idea of an ‘80s ski weekend first came to fruition 12 years ago when Colbath and 20 friends decided to ski in dayglo at Stowe Mountain Resort. Encouraged by the positive feedback from the group, Colbath decided to promote the event on social media with the hopes of making an ‘80s

ski weekend an annual gathering. He returned the following winter with a group of 100 skiers and continued to ski at Stowe until the proprietor of the Pickle Barrel reached out to Colbath with a question: could an ‘80s ski weekend come to Killington?

“Why isn’t Killington doing an ‘80s weekend?” Colbath asked. “This is the mountain that has the history and the culture to do this sort of retro-themed weekend. Let’s turn back time, get the music, and get all the staff dressed up. I know you have the old, straight skis. I know you have those onesies. Break ‘em out! Let’s see all that old stuff and celebrate the history of skiing in the most ostentatious decade

ever.”

The Pickle Barrel will host ‘80s cover band M80 on Friday and Saturday nights of Colbath’s ‘80s weekend. Attendees are encouraged to dress in the fashion of the decade. On Saturday at noon, there will be a group picture taken in front of the K-1 Base Lodge. Immediately following, anyone who feels inspired is invited to meet Colbath at the top of Superstar for a filmed group run-in-dayglo, of course.

“I’m all for the locals to come hang out on the mountain,” said Colbath. “[Come] be part of the group run, the group picture, and let’s just celebrate this decade of dayglo.



Courtesy Sno-Search Ski & Snowboard Tours  
Transport Killington back to 1986 on March 23. By night ‘80s cover bands will rock the stage at the Pickle Barrel; by day join the group descending down Superstar clad in skiing onesies and Dayglo attire.

# Full moon snowshoe hike at Okemo

Monday, March 25 at 6 p.m.—LUDLOW—There will be a guided full moon snowshoe hike at Okemo Mountain Resort, Jackson Gore Road, Ludlow on March 25, 6-8 p.m.

Local expert Joe Karl will lead the adventure which begins at the Ice House parking lot at Jackson Gore. This free guided snowshoe hike invites attendees to explore the trails of Okemo Mountain in a safe guided group atmosphere.

This is a bring-your-own-snowshoes event. However, for those in need of snowshoes, rentals are available in downtown Ludlow, ensuring that everyone can partake in this unforgettable experience.

For more information, visit [okemo.com](http://okemo.com).



Submitted

# Green Drinks: Home electrification workshop held on Saturday

Saturday, March 23 at 1 p.m.—WOOD-STOCK—Norman Williams Public Library will host a workshop exploring home electrification. Topics will include a discussion on how electrifying your home is better for your finances as well as the environment, areas of the home that can be electrified, what can be gained through electrifying the home, and more. The workshop coverage of hands-on science, technology and advantages behind home electrification with VEEP (Vermont Energy Education Program), will benefit all in attendance.

For registration visit [sustainablewoodstock.eventive.org/schedule/6581f887869579007b096385](http://sustainablewoodstock.eventive.org/schedule/6581f887869579007b096385)



## SAVE BIG at Rutland Co-op

**coop deals**

relax and decompress  
Watershed's cooler, another great all opportunity to snack, stay hydrated and keep your cool. Heat up some water and enjoy your meal. Tea for a mindful moment.

5/\$5 Brewery Cow Green Tea 12.5oz 12.5oz	5/\$5 Four Seasons Organic Four Seasons Organic	3.99 Silver Hills Strawberry Yogurt 5.3oz	4.29 Sagefield Organics Baby Carrots 1.5lb
2/\$7 Hope Foods Organic Kale 12.5oz	2/\$7 C10 Columbus Water 12.5oz	4.49 Nancy's Organic Yogurt 5.3oz	2/\$9 Nancy's Organic Yogurt 5.3oz
2/\$8 Hope Foods Organic Kale 12.5oz	11.99 Columbus Water 12.5oz	5.49 Berkley Farms Pineapple 1.5lb	3/\$4 Forager Probiotic Yogurt 5.3oz

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## Need paper?

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killington **ATM** **LOTTERY**  
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MEATS, PRODUCE & SEAFOOD  
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*Holy Week*

AT MISSION FARM  
(Church of our Saviour - Episcopal)

Palm Sunday	March 24 9:30 AM
Good Friday	March 29 12:00 PM
Easter Sunday	March 31 9:30 AM

316 Mission Farm Road, Killington  
www.missionfarmVT.org

**MOUNTAIN TOP  
RESORT**

SUNDAY  
MARCH 31, 2024

*Easter Brunch*  
at Mountain Top

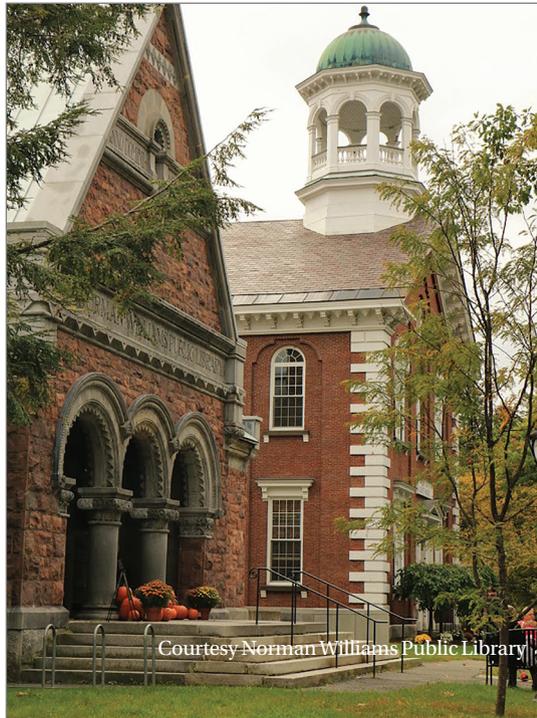
BUFFET MENU  
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\$48/ADULT - \$21/CHILD  
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED  
ALCOHOL / TAX / GRATUITY NOT INCLUDED

Join us for our annual Easter Brunch in the Event Barn with one of Vermont's best views!

802.483.2311 | mountaintopresort.com

# Interplay Jazz Jam Session - A "Library After Hours" Event



Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m.—WOODSTOCK—Founded by local musicians Fred Haas and Sabrina Brown, Interplay Jazz & Arts has been inspiring musicians of all ages from around the world for nearly three decades. In March, their monthly jam session will be held at Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock.

This is a special "Library After Hours" event on the mezzanine with its great acoustics and baby grand piano. These jam sessions are social gatherings and communal practice sessions that are free and open to everyone to participate - or just listen and enjoy.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., instrumentalists participate in a free-flow session to develop new musical material and play together. The instrumental jam may be based upon existing songs or forms, may be inspired by a participant's suggestion, or may be wholly improvisational.

Continuing at 7:30 p.m., vocalists are encouraged to bring well-known jazz standards, popular songs, or an original tune in their key to play with the instrumentalists, creating arrangements and improvisation in real time.

For more information, visit [normanwilliams.org/mezzanine-gallery-exhibit-main-page/](http://normanwilliams.org/mezzanine-gallery-exhibit-main-page/)

# Songwriting Gathering at Fletcher Memorial Library in Ludlow

Monday, March 25 at 5 p.m.—LUDLOW—Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow, announces a songwriting gathering at the library on Monday from 5-6:30 p.m. This is an acoustic session for anyone interested in giving or receiving feedback on original music.

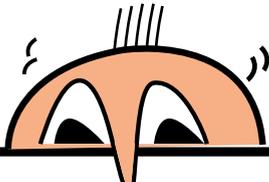
Host of the songwriting gathering, Max Cassano, hails from Plymouth and is a seasoned musician whose love for music began in childhood. Despite privately honing his craft for years, Max came onto the local scene two years ago. He frequents open mics, showcasing his talent and captivating audiences with his original compositions. When not on stage, Max channels his creativity into writing and recording songs in studios, where his passion for music truly shines.

This program is free and open to the public.

For more information, call the library at 802-228-8236 or Max Cassano at 802-558-3121, or visit [fmlnews.org](http://fmlnews.org).



Fletcher Memorial Library



**GOT NEWS?**  
we want to know!  
Email us at  
[editor@mountaintimes.info](mailto:editor@mountaintimes.info)

## Experience the Sweetness of Maple at Baird Farm's Open House Weekend

Saturday, March 23 - Sunday, March 24 at 10 a.m.—WOODSTOCK— Baird Farm's Maple Open House Weekend will showcase the rich tradition of maple sugaring from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a day filled with maple festivities and family-friendly fun.

Located at 65 West Road in North Chittenden, Baird Farm invites visitors to indulge in the delights of maple syrup production with a variety of activities and attractions:

- Free sugarhouse and sugarbush tours: Explore the inner workings of the sugarhouse and learn about the maple sugaring process firsthand.
- Boiling (weather permitting): Witness the magic of turning sap into syrup with live boiling demonstrations.
- Maple tastings: Sample the sweet flavors of Vermont with delicious maple tastings.
- Free rosemary waffles: Enjoy complimentary rosemary waffles infused with Baird Farm's finest maple syrup.
- Maple giveaways: Enter for a chance to win maple-themed giveaways and prizes.
- 1 p.m. Tree tapping (both days): Experience the time-honored tradition of tapping maple trees, a symbol of the arrival of spring.
- Red Clover Ale - Maple Beer!: Quench your thirst with a special maple-infused brew, available on Saturday, March 23, and Sunday (TBD).
- Come Alive Outside: Engage in outdoor maple-themed activities for both kids and adults, available on Saturday, March 23 only.
- Grass fed beef raffle with Hamilton Cattle Co.: Enter to win premium grass-fed beef from Hamilton Cattle Co.

For more information visit [bairdfarm.com](http://bairdfarm.com).



### Killington Sherburne United Church of Christ An Open & Affirming Congregation

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28 AT 6 P.M.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31 AT 9 A.M.

*Killington Little White Church  
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### Grace Congregational UCC

8 Court St., Rutland, VT • 802-775-4301 • [gracechurchvt.org](http://gracechurchvt.org)

**Palm Sunday**  
March 24 at 10 am  
with Brass and Timpani

**Easter Sunrise Gathering**  
March 31 at 6:30 am Ashcroft-Billings farm,  
731 Creek Rd, Rutland Town

**Maundy Thursday Tenebrae**  
March 28 at 7 pm

**Easter Celebration**  
March 31 at 10 am with Festival Brass,  
Timpani and Handbells



## CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

66 South Main St. • Rutland, VT • Msgr. Bernard W. Bourgeois • 802-773-6820

**Holy Thursday** March 28 6:30 p.m.  
**Good Friday** March 29 3 p.m.

**Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
**Commemoration of the Lord's Passion**  
**Stations of the Cross**

**Holy Saturday** March 30 7:30 p.m.  
**Easter Sunday** March 31 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

**Mass of the Easter Vigil**  
**Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord**



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[www.godnicksfurniture.com](http://www.godnicksfurniture.com)

## Got an event share?

If it's open to the public and located in Rutland or Windsor County, we want to know about it!

**Email:**

**Events@MountainTimes.info**

# Food *Indulge your taste buds* MATTERS

Killington offers a diverse culinary scene with local pubs serving wings, burgers, sushi, seafood, and steakhouses, catering to all palates and preferences.

## RUTLAND CO-OP

### Rutland CO-OP

The Rutland Area Food Co-op is a community-owned grocery and wellness market situated in downtown Rutland. As a food cooperative, we are owned by a membership base of around 2,000 members. We aim to provide affordable access to high-quality, local, organic and sustainable foods and goods. At the same time, as a mission-driven, community-oriented business, we proudly strengthen our region by carrying products of more than 180 local businesses. 77 Wale St. Rutland. rutlandcoop.com 802-773-0737



### Inn at Long Trail

Looking for something a little different? Hit up McGrath's Irish Pub for a perfectly poured pint of Guinness, live music on the weekends and delicious food. Casual dining at Rosemary's Restaurant. Visit innatlongtrail.com, 802-775-7181.



### Liquid Art

Relax in the warm atmosphere at Liquid Art. Look for artfully served lattes from their La Marzocco espresso machine, or if you want something stronger, try their signature cocktails. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, they focus on healthy fare and provide you with a delicious meal different than anything else on the mountain. liquidartvt.com, (802) 422-2787.

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MTWTF: 7-12 | Sat, Sun: 7-1

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### Back Country Café

The Back Country Café is a hot spot for delicious breakfast foods. Choose from farm fresh eggs, multiple kinds of pancakes and waffles, omelets or daily specials to make your breakfast one of a kind. Just the right heat Bloody Marys, Mimosas, Bellini, VT Craft Brews, Coffee and hot chocolate drinks. Maple Syrup and VT products for sale. Check Facebook for daily specials. 802-422-4411.

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Whether staying overnight or visiting for the day, Mountain Top's Dining Room & Tavern serve delicious cuisine amidst one of Vermont's best views. A mix of locally inspired and International cuisine – including salads, seafood, poultry and a new steakhouse menu - your taste buds are sure to be satisfied. Choose from 12 Vermont craft brews on tap. Warm up by the terrace fire pit after dinner! A short drive from Killington. mountaintopinn.com, 802-483-2311.



### Killington Market

Take breakfast, lunch or dinner on the go at Killington Market, Killington's on-mountain grocery store for the last 30 years. Choose from breakfast sandwiches, hand carved dinners, pizza, daily fresh hot panini, roast chicken, salad and specialty sandwiches. Vermont products, maple syrup, fresh meat and produce along with wine and beer are also for sale. killingtonmarket.com 802-422-7736 or 802-422-7594.

**KILLINGTON FOOD SHELF**

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Sherburne UCC "Little White Church," Killington, VT

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**Southside STEAKHOUSE**  
RESTAURANT WEEK BEGINS APRIL 24!

**SouthSide SteakHouse**

Southside provides a modern approach to a classic American steakhouse. Join us for an inviting, upbeat atmosphere featuring thoughtfully crafted food made with the highest quality steaks & chops, fresh seafood, and seasonal produce. We offer dinner and drink service in our dining room, bar & lounge, and on our seasonal patio, weather permitting. (802) 772-7556 [southsidesteakhouse.com](http://southsidesteakhouse.com)

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802-422-4030  
ChoicesRestaurant.com

**Choices Restaurant & Rotisserie**

Choices Restaurant and Rotisserie was named 2012 "Ski" magazine's favorite restaurant. Choices may be the name of the restaurant but it is also what you get. Soup of the day, shrimp cocktail, steak, hamburgers, a variety of salads and pastas, scallops, monkfish, lamb and more await you. An extensive wine list and in house made desserts are also available. [choicesrestaurantkillington.com](http://choicesrestaurantkillington.com) (802) 422-4030.

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**Moguls**

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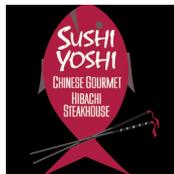
Free shuttle and take away and delivery options are available. [mogulssportspub.com](http://mogulssportspub.com) 802-422-4777.



**Mary Lou's**

"Mary Lou's is your perfect place to warm up and enjoy wood fired pizza, drinks and live music. Sit by the fireplace by the lower bar! Please check our updates by hitting the Update tab. See you here!" (802) 422-9885.

[maryloukillington.com](http://maryloukillington.com)



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[southsidesteakhouse.com](http://southsidesteakhouse.com)  
(802) 772-7556  
170 S Main Street, Rutland, VT

**Solutions** From page 15

**Crossword**

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**Sudoku**

7	2	6	1	5	4	8	3	9
9	5	4	7	8	3	1	2	6
3	1	8	6	9	2	5	4	7
5	6	3	8	2	9	7	1	4
8	7	9	4	6	1	2	5	3
2	4	1	5	3	7	9	6	8
4	9	5	2	7	6	3	8	1
1	3	2	9	4	8	6	7	5
6	8	7	3	1	5	4	9	2

## Student art displayed at Vermont Welcome Centers

Vermont's Youth Art Month Celebrations are taking to the road in 2024 and bringing student art to all corners of our state in Vermont Welcome Center displays. This "artistic journey" begins in art classrooms and students' imaginations and ends with public exhibits from Georgia to Guilford in places that are familiar and accessible to all Vermonters.

This series of exhibits is a collaboration between the Vermont Art Educators Association and Vermont's Information Centers Division of the Vermont Dept. of Buildings and General Services (BGS) to support art education in our schools and the artistic endeavors of our students.

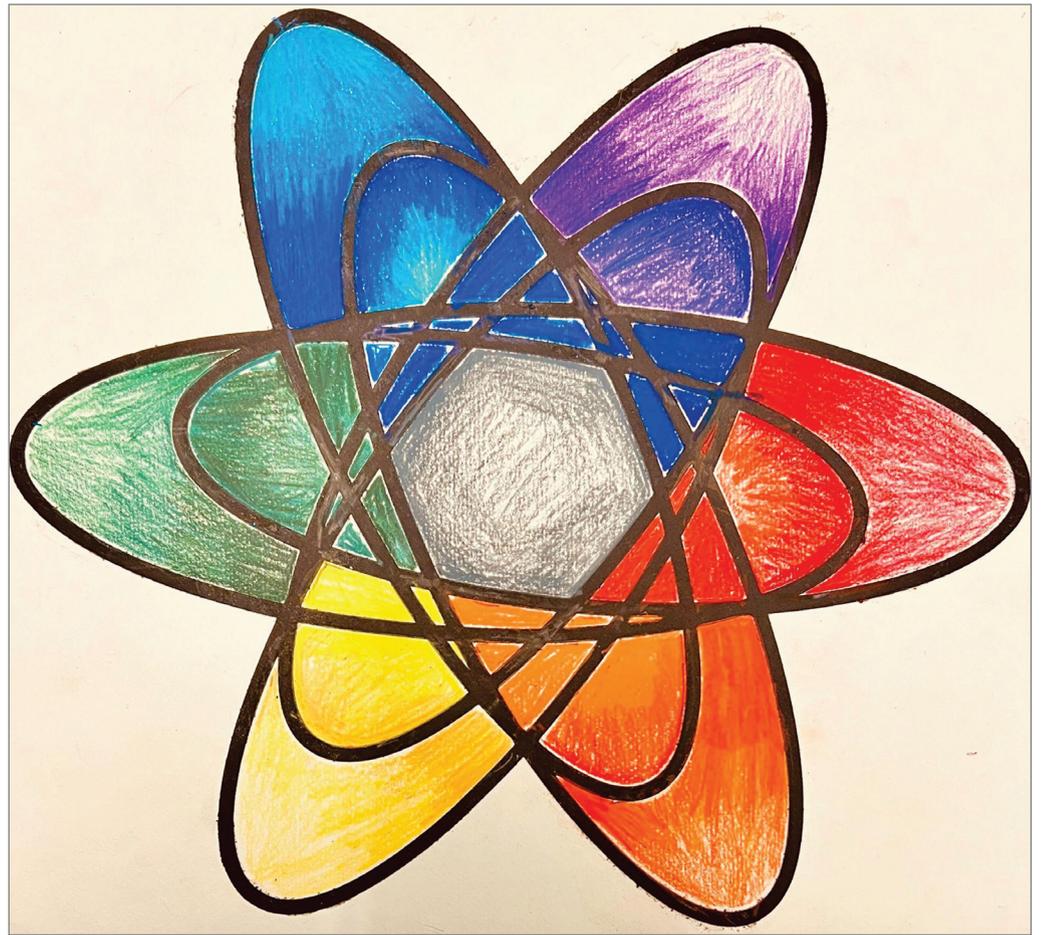
"BGS is proud to support our young artists with this program," said Jennifer Fitch, BGD commissioner. "In addition to promoting Vermont's rich cultural landscape, these displays offer our youth the opportunity to see their work presented in a public setting."

The imaginative and engaging pieces on display in March and April exemplify the strengths of students who are learning to explore art as a means to communicate and express their own artistic journeys while they are making sense of our increasingly visual age. According to a new report from the World Economic Forum, creativity at work is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills in the next five years.

Visual literacy is an essential part of education since up to 90% of information transmitted to the brain is visual. Art classes are where students learn the skills to communicate their knowledge and express their opinions visually. The arts challenge us with different points of view, compel us to empathize with others, and give us the opportunity to reflect on the human condition.

The exhibits are part of the nationwide celebration of Youth Art Month (YAM) designed to highlight the artistic achievements of students and to advocate for arts education programs in schools. Student art will also be on display at Chandler Gallery in Randolph and U.S. Rep. Becca Balint's office in Burlington.

Student work is on display at area Welcome Centers in Hartford, Sharon, Randolph, and Fair Haven as well as in Bennington, Guilford, Williston (North and South), Georgia (North and South), Bradford and Lyndonville.



Submitted

2024 Vermont's Youth Art Month Celebrations showcases student art like this piece by Mio in Vermont Welcome Center displays, promoting art education.



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**TAKE  
OUT**

## Vermont author writes rocking romance

To many rock fans, the British bands of the 1970s set the genre's standards. For Rutland author Dora Campbell, the decade and its musicians inspired a romance novel, which is now available at Phoenix Books in Rutland, according to a March 11 press release.

"Elsie and the Lynx" takes place in Manchester, England in 1973. Elsie, an American graduate student, meets Alec, a well-known guitarist, during what was supposed to be a quiet night out with a friend. At first, Elsie rebuffs Alec's advances, assuming his intentions are dishonorable. But Alec's charm wears her down, they go out, and she gets to know the man behind the riffs.

Trouble ensues when Alec's band goes on tour, and rumors of his womanizing reach Elsie. She must decide whether she can confront Alec about the rumors—and whether loving a rock star is worth the heartache.

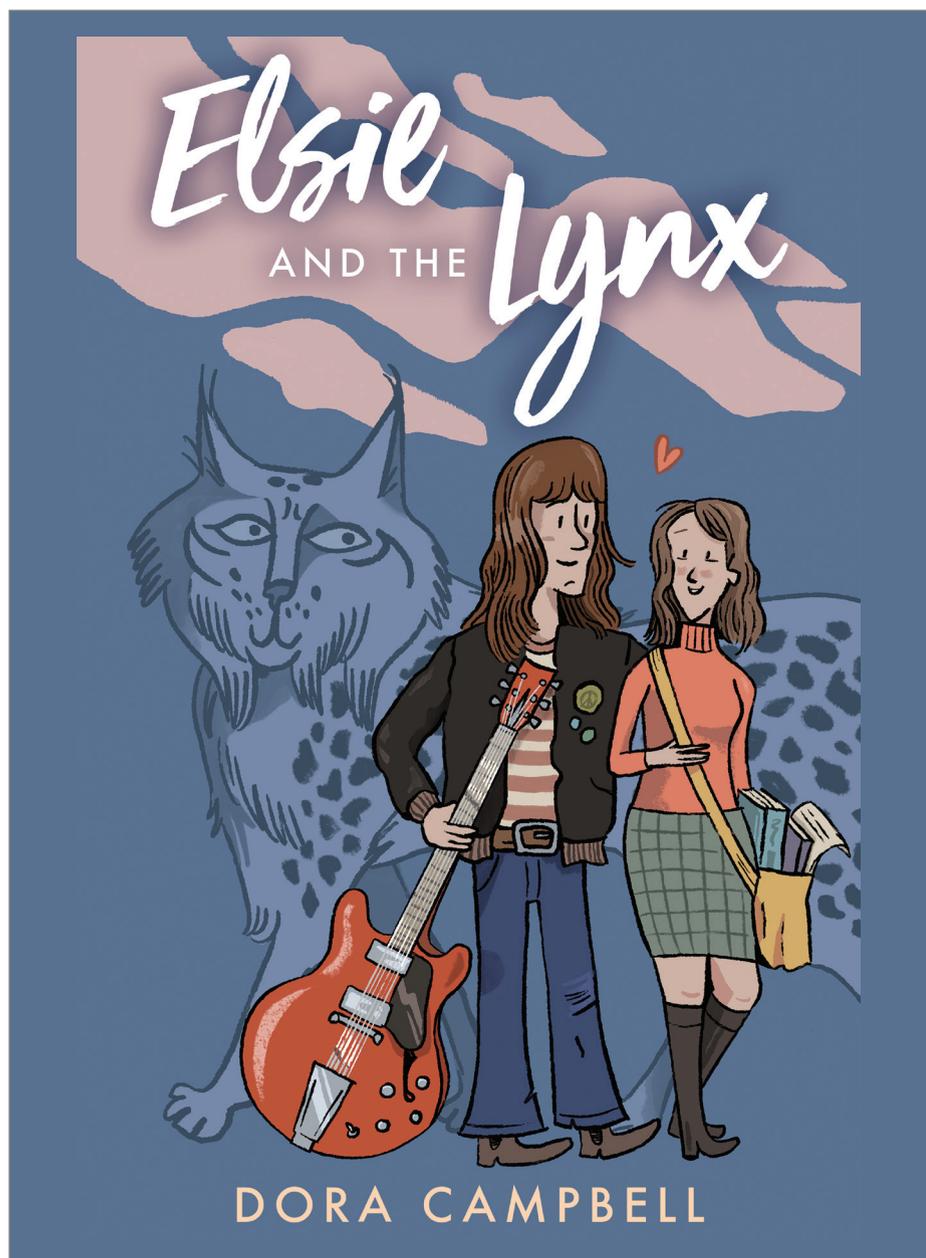
Campbell admits that her own love of '70s rock sparked her story. "During the pandemic, I spent time listening to my favorite bands," she said. "Idly, I looked at photos of them online, not just the stage or publicity shots, but photos with their fam-

ilies. I became fascinated with their wives, many of whom were pretty, but ordinary British girls. I wondered about how they met their rock star spouses and how they coped with their infidelity or, at least, the threat of it. They had to have known these guys were surrounded by groupies and smitten fans. Just being on the road for weeks and months at a time offered lots of opportunity for cheating."

But anyone looking for raunchiness in "Elsie and the Lynx" will be disappointed. "This is not Pam and Tommy Lee," said Campbell with a laugh. "It's what's known as a behind-closed-doors romance: there is sensuality, but there are no sex scenes."

In fact, according to Campbell, "Elsie and the Lynx" is not a typical romance novel. "The tone is light and wry, the characters are quirky, and I don't tie everything up with a neat bow," she explained. "My website refers to imperfect, but perfectly satisfying happily-ever-afters, and I think that encapsulates 'Elsie and the Lynx.'"

Dora Campbell writes romance in a Vermont farmhouse with a squeaky tortie cat. Visit her at [doracampbell.ink](http://doracampbell.ink) or follow her on Facebook.



Cover illustration by Simon Heath Reid

Elsie and the Lynx was written and published by Dora Campbell.

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[vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org/onlinemarket](http://vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org/onlinemarket)



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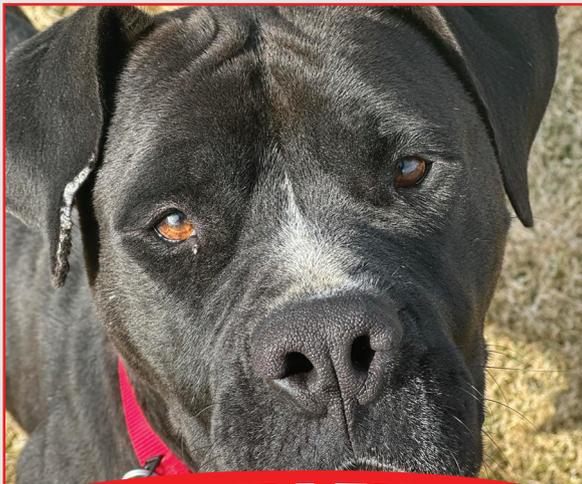
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Rooms & Suites available



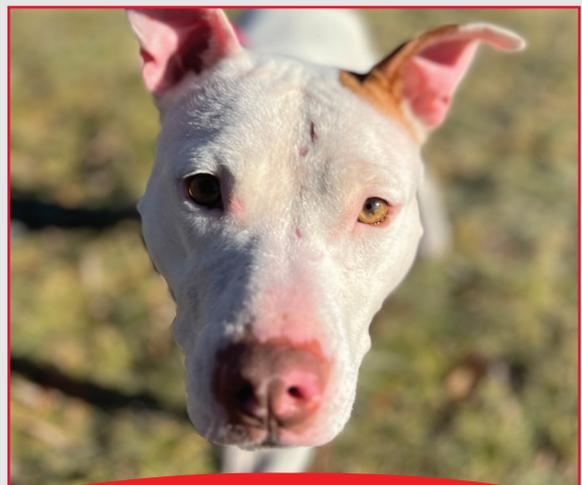
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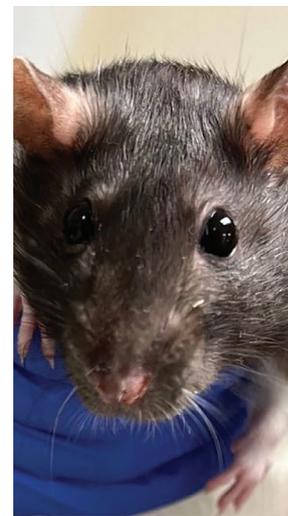
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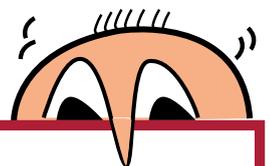
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# Cosmic Catalogue



## Aries

March 21 - April 20

If you've been giving to get something, you could be running a fool's errand. You might need to ask yourself the question — why? Separate yourself from your source of stress or concern this week, where possible. Time spent alone in reflection will answer all of your questions. Bright ideas will likely arrive if you can let go of distractions. Be prepared to lose something in order to win something else.



## Leo

July 21 - August 20

Life is about to feel so much better for you this week. Any stress, fears or concerns will start to alleviate. This isn't to say that everything is going to be peachy but, the level of light you have access to, literally and symbolically will begin to improve. As you begin, to see the path forward again, it will be easier for you to keep moving ahead. Trust your instincts and do what's right for you!



## Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

There's a lot of cosmic action in your home life right now. Some of it is lovely. Some of it is fraught with challenges and obstacles. Right now, you're seeking stability and it's not easy to come by. This could be your living situation or your family dynamics. Things might feel worse before they get better. In the meantime, don't forget to have some fun or spend time with children, either yours or someone else's.



## Taurus

April 21 - May 20

When it comes to your friendships or your group and community connections, things have been looking pretty sweet! That being said though, you're going to have to lay down a few ground rules this week. Be honest with yourself about how you feel. It may feel a little tricky at first. However, if you can overcome these obstacles, things will only get better for you. Don't just play along to get along.



## Virgo

August 21 - September 20

Life is going to get trickier for you — in terms of relationships at least. You're going to learn more about yourself, what you're willing to put up with and what you're not. Trying to be everything to everyone leaves you being nothing to anyone. How about this novel idea: How about you start thinking *you* and what *you* need first! When you do, others will then step up for you. Don't be a doormat.



## Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

This could be a tricky week in terms of saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. It could actually be the right thing, just at the wrong time or that someone just doesn't want to hear it! Sometimes no matter what you say, or don't say, it will still get taken the wrong way. You might be better off just to listen. Give no advice. Give no opinions. People have a way of revealing themselves.



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

There's a lot of energy in your professional and life direction zone right now. You've been working so hard that you may not have noticed the shifting dynamics within a friendship or a romantic situation. Don't worry about that too much as all will be revealed soon enough. Just focus on what you need to do. Someone powerful and potent may make your acquaintance this week too, setting up a new chapter of excitement.



## Libra

September 21 - October 20

Life is about to set a punishing pace over the next several weeks. This means you may have less time and energy to focus on what other people need and want from you. This could also be a great opportunity for you to figure out how to put your own needs first for a while. Let go of any bad habits, especially if they involve relationships feeling imbalanced or unfair in terms of what you give and what you get.



## Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

It's time to get your head out of the clouds regarding a money situation. Now that action planet Mars, is in your cash zone, this is your once in every two-year chance to take charge of matters. Whether you ignore the situation or face it, the reality won't change. You're better off with dealing what you have to deal with and move on. When you do, you'll feel so much better about yourself.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 20

You're about to get everything you've ever wanted in terms of your professional life and career. Now that it's about to arrive, you could be second guessing your own desires. That's a normal part of the process. What you should avoid, though is apologizing to anyone for what you do or don't want. One door closes and another opens and that cycle will continue for a while. Taking a risk or not taking one, is still a risk.



## Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

You have quite nice stars this week. Topics involving love, romance and relationships are really heating up. You may have a few obstacles to surmount but this doesn't have to be a big issue unless you choose to ignore it hoping it will go away. Just remember that conflict avoided is conflict multiplied. Be sure to nip any issues in the bud even if that means having to take an approach you'd normally not take.



## Pisces

February 21 - March 20

Life is going to feel tough for a little while. You're stronger than you used to be, but you're going to be tested nonetheless. Taking the good with the bad will be the best attitude to adopt to get you through. While life may feel hard and heavy, do recognize and reward yourself for the progress you're making. Celebrate the wins, no matter how small. You've both earned and deserve it.

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Cassandra has studied astrology for about 20 years. She is an international teacher of astrology who has been published all over the globe.

## Sometimes, refuse to agree

There appears to be quite a lot of confusion about what is balanced or about what is fair. What is fair to one person is unfair to the next. What seemed like a fair deal to you once upon a time doesn't to you now, and vice versa. Who is someone to dictate to you what is fair in the first place? Though dictate, they do!

This week, you're invited to consider what an acceptable level of balance looks like for you. It doesn't have to be 50/50. Maybe it's 70/30 now and 30/70 some other time. The point is that it's

YOU who have to be happy with the deal. If someone else is trying to dictate the terms of what you should accept, tolerate, or even think or say, give yourself permission to say enough is enough.



Cosmic Catalogue  
By Cassandra Tyndall

If you compromise on your sovereignty and freedom now, you'll likely not get them back. Sometimes, the best way to reach an agreement is to refuse to agree. Stand your ground. Speak your mind. Gain respect. Let the pendulum go further than you'd like it to go in order for it to eventually find its own equilibrium.

## Rainbows

So many colors,  
Fading together in a big arc,  
ROY-G-BIV,  
Red,  
Orange,  
Yellow,  
Green,  
Blue,  
Indigo,  
Violet.  
Twinkling in the sky,  
Shimmering and shining.  
So beautiful,  
After the rain,  
Like a big crystal in the sky.  
A rainbow,  
A gift to you.



Poetry Is Power  
By Bree Sarandrea

## Maple

The snow crunches as we walk to tap our trees. The sap had been filling the buckets all night. We couldn't wait for the sweet sensation of maple syrup on our tongues. I felt the bitter cold biting away at my fingertips and toes. My face stung from the dry cold.

As we walked down the trail with full buckets, I fantasized about how nice it would be to step inside. My fantasizing soon came true as the warmth wrapped me in an embrace. With the smell of smoke and sugar in the air, we all knew what was cooking.



Green Mountain Tales  
By Izzy Gieder



## For white-throated sparrows, opposites attract

In the wild, finding a suitable mate is no simple matter — and it's an extra complicated affair for one familiar resident of the woods and underbrush.

With its chunky build, boldly striped head, and namesake white throat, the white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) is among the most common and recognizable birds of the northern forest. During the spring breeding season, one doesn't need to go far to hear its "Old Sam Peabody-Peabody-Peabody" call, or to spot a group of these birds noisily raking for seeds in the leaf litter.

Close observers will notice these sparrows come in two distinct color varieties. Approximately half of white-throated sparrows have black and white stripes on their heads, while the other half show a duller tan-and-brown coloration. It's not unusual for a bird species to have more than one color morph. The Eastern screech owl, for example, comes in shades of either red or gray. But for white-throated sparrows, there's a more complex story to this variation.

In almost every case, a white-throated sparrow of either color variation will end up with a mate that has the opposite coloring: white-striped males pair with tan-striped females, and vice versa. Canadian ornithologist James Lowther, studying populations across Canada in the early 1960s, was the first to publish findings that white-throated sparrows will almost exclusively choose a mate of the opposite morph.

Lowther and researcher J. Bruce Falls of the University of Toronto together noticed something even more fascinating: color type seemed to be an exceptionally accurate predictor of an individual bird's behavior. They noticed that white-striped sparrows of both sexes almost always seemed to show more aggressive behaviors than their tan counterparts. Both white-striped males and females sing more than tan-striped birds, and males defend their territories more rigorously and invade the territories of their neighbors more often. White-striped males are also more likely than tan-striped males to mate with other females

in addition to their nesting partners, a behavior scientists refer to as extra-pair copulation.

Tan-striped birds of both sexes, in comparison, tend to be more nurturing, spending much of their time finding food and looking attentively after their partner and nestlings. However, the time they spend away from the nest sometimes leaves their mate and territory vulnerable to incursions from threats, including rival white-striped males.

This mixed bag of traits creates quite the genetic love rectangle. A 1993 study by Falls and Jeffrey

G. Kopachena found that females of both colors find attentive, tan-striped males most desirable. But the white-striped females, more confrontational than their tan counterparts, snap up tan-striped males almost immediately, leaving the tan-striped females to pair off with the remaining white-striped males.

In the era of DNA analysis, scientists such as the late behavioral geneticist Elaina Tuttle have found that these characteristics are determined by a chromosomal "supergene," tied not only to coloration but also to a wide range of behavioral traits. This unique genetic quirk means that the white-throated sparrow, as a species, effectively has four separate sexes. Individual birds need to select a mate from an eligible quarter of the population, rather than the half of the "other sex" available in other bird species.

But what happens when two same-color birds pair up? These types of pairings have rarely been observed, but as naturalist Kenn Kaufman theorized in a 2017 Audubon article on this topic, they probably make for unsuccessful parents. Tan-striped couples might fail at defending their territory and protecting their young. Kaufman wrote, while white-striped couples might fail to bring home enough food to keep their hatchlings alive and healthy.

By settling in with a partner of the opposite coloring, white-throated sparrows can have the best of both worlds: one parent who will fiercely defend and another who will tirelessly provide. So far, this unusual



The Outside Story  
By Jackie Bussjaeger



# You've got a friend

In life, inevitably, you will accumulate a group of people who traverse major milestones with you. You may not necessarily pick these people as much as haphazard circumstances bring you together.

This certainly has been the case for me.

After college, I moved back to my hometown; my college sweetheart followed soon after. We found an apartment, secured our first jobs, and began building our lives.

Everything was new so we had to figure out how to navigate adulthood. Would we combine our bills? Who would cook? How would we handle emergencies? School taught us subjects like math and creative writing, but no one taught us how to handle the daily grind of existence. Our families helped, but many of the greatest lessons came from the close friends who were navigating life alongside us.

I already had many friends since I grew up in the area, but my girlfriend knew no one. I'm not sure that it was forefront in my mind, but I knew part of our success as a couple would be her assimilation into a social group.

Luckily, I played men's league basketball and softball and during those outings, inevitably friends and girlfriends would show up to watch. And that's how she struck up her first alliances.

The local girls pulled my girlfriend into their friend group, adopting her as one of their own. Soon, she was playing softball, going to concerts, and getting us invited to parties. The more laughs we had, the stronger the group connections became.

As time passed, some of the relationships strengthened, and some fell away, but the deep bond of the group always remained.

Soon, the first marriage occurred. You grow up going to weddings, but when one of your friends marries, it has a unique effect. Over the next few years, almost everyone in the group got married, including us.

And then came the first house purchases. We joked about going into debt and the commitment of home ownership. The parties moved from the apartments and nightclubs to our backyards and living rooms where they took on a new, unique flavor.

Soon after, the babies began to arrive one by one, and each of our family dynamics changed as the little ones were added. Our kids played and fought together. And the parties kept happening, but the kids became an integral part, changing the flavor once again.

The kids grew up and got involved in sports and many of us dads took on the role of coach while the moms played head cheerleader. Together we went from cele-

brating our own milestones to those of our children.

And then, without warning or preparation, came the first death. We were all shocked several years ago when the first member of our extended group died. It was sudden and shocking. We gathered in camaraderie and disbelief, all of us quietly pondering this final defining moment of life.

I'm writing about these passages of time because our group lost another member this past week. It was, once again, sudden and shocking, pushing our friend group into a makeshift triage for his family.

I "knew of" Butchie Goulette before I knew Butchie. He had a personality that preceded him. He arrived early in the formation of our group, having taken a liking to our friend Mary Ann. It didn't take long to realize that Butchie and Mary Ann were going to be inseparable.

They eventually married, had two boys, and built a beautiful home where we were neighbors. Their home became the focal point for many of the aforementioned house parties. Butchie loved to host, moving gracefully from the kitchen prep to the basement for an impromptu card game. And inevitably, before the night was over, he'd set ablaze a massive bonfire in the backyard.

Butchie was an athlete and eventually found his way onto my men's league basketball team. While not a prolific scorer, he was a rebounding force and could be counted on to body-up the toughest guy on the opposing team (which led to an ejection or two that we would always laugh about later). He was the player you wanted to play with, but not against.

Butchie could move from gregarious to soft-spoken within seconds. But his defining characteristic was his laugh, which at a moment's notice, could fill any room he was in.

However, to me, Butchie's most endearing quality was his ability to be present when you talked to him. You knew by his demeanor that he was listening to every word. Eventually, life separated us geographically, but when we reconnected, he was always interested in me and my family. I loved that about him.

So, our group now gathers again to say goodbye to another member and to traverse another difficult milestone together.

Life is hard, but thankfully we have our friends to travel it with.

*Got a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at [moviediary@att.net](mailto:moviediary@att.net).*

*Editor's note: Wilbur E. Goulette, Jr. "Butch" 53, of Rutland died unexpectedly Thursday, March 14, at his home. Funeral services will be held Wednesday March 20, 2024 at 1 p.m. at Christ the King Church in Rutland.*



The Movie Diary  
By Dom Cioffi

# Women's History Month: let's bring more ladies along!

I know Vermont loves to trick us with the weather, but come on! This week has been absolutely ridiculous! I don't know if it was the viral stomach infection I got messing with my mind or what, but I think Sunday had about five seasons all rolled into one 12-hour period. Between the pouring rain, sunshine, hail, sunshine again, high winds and then back to another flurry, every time I looked out the window it felt like it was an entirely different day.



Living the Dream  
By Merisa Sherman

Today, [Tuesday, March 19] it is a right proper winter snowfall. The snow brushed off my car easily, it provided good traction driving and I have this itching feeling that it will ski fairly well this afternoon when I've finished all my appointments and have some free time to play in my secret woods spots that bring me happiness no matter how crowded the mountain is.

Because life in Killington is all about creating your own relationship with the mountain. Each of our relationships with the mountain are as unique as we are. Some of us are out there, racing up the Killington Road to get the perfect parking spot and making breakfast in the lift line (and stacking up those Gnar Points) while other of us are members of the Two O'Clock Club that show up at 3 p.m. Still others are there for the Annual Lift and Bar Tour, which is obviously a commitment given how many of those there are at the resort or spend all day hiking the one feature that they're mastering in Dream.

Except that our level of diversity isn't changing. In 2015-2016, NSAA reported that women make up 40% of the industry. Today, that statistic is still the same. What the hell? In the past half decade, women have made their own movies, taken over social media and created all kinds of programs to support other women in skiing. So many fathers have taught their daughters to ski and passed on their love of the sport, so why aren't we skiing? Why aren't we choosing this industry as a career?

Damn if I know. I am obsessed with skiing, and therefore, set an unrealistic standard of what a woman has to be to be a skier. I feel kind of guilty about that. A decade ago I wrote a column about not letting your boyfriend or husband carry your skis and had a girlfriend of mine chastise me for it. She was no less or more of a skier than I am because her husband likes to be a gentleman. Maybe that says something more about my spouse

Livin' the Dream → 33

In 2015-2016, NSAA reported that women make up 40% of the industry.

# Friends sharing memories

Chatting with friends during our weekly breakfast often results in a few "looking back" thoughts for my column. After all, looking back is what our age group does best!

One subject we reminisced about was old TV shows. Back in the 1950s, there were not a lot of channels available, which meant very limited viewing choices. There was usually just one television in a house, so whatever our parents watched, we watched also.

Most likely, the TV was located in the living room, unless your house had a den. If it did, that was usually the preferred spot.

Saturday and Sunday nights found most families gathered around the TV.

Everyone at the breakfast table remembered watching "The Lawrence Welk Show" on Saturday nights at 9 p.m. Lawrence was the big-band leader. He had regular performers on his show each week, and viewers looked forward to seeing them. My parents, who are both of Irish descent, eagerly awaited hearing the voice of Irish

tenor Joe Feeney. Lively piano pieces by Jo Ann Castle, the Queen of Ragtime Piano, put a spark in our evening. I looked forward to seeing the Lennon Sisters. When they started on the show, their ages ranged from 8 to 16.

Their song choices appealed to the younger audience.

We also had fond memories of watching "The Ed Sullivan Show" on Sunday nights from 8 to 9 p.m. I did some research to learn who the most popular guests were on that show. The biggest name would probably be Elvis Presley! He was just beginning his career when he appeared on the show for the first time, and 60 million viewers tuned in to watch

him. One of the most frequent guests was singer Connie Francis, who was on 26 times. Husband and wife comics Stiller and Meara appeared 36 times. Ventriloquist Rickie Layne was on 39 times. There was something for everyone on Ed Sullivan's show.

Our breakfast gang also discussed how our parents enjoyed watching re-runs of

Looking Back → 33



Looking Back  
By Mary Ellen Shaw



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# The grand unveiling, midnight surprise and floor show

## Building our Killington dream lodge, part 6

When the power company man climbed a tree to connect wires to our basement ski lodge, Mom planned a party to celebrate the grand occasion for which we'd been waiting.

Mom selected a rectangular table with two benches she'd stashed in our house in Montclair, New Jersey. We squeezed them into our Country Squire, surrounded by other stuff for up north.

We'd been dining at the round oak table in our makeshift Vermont back room kitchen, but with a new "dining

room," we covered the table with a colorful cloth and added a candle to top it off.

The sunset glowed through the picture windows as our two dinner guests arrived. The sun slowly set behind Pico Peak in its stunning pink and gold radiance. We "oohed and aahed" as we nibbled on celery sticks and crunchy carrots with Lipton onion soup dip that Mom made with cottage cheese

blended with the onion soup mix.

As darkness fell, Mom lit the candle. Dad turned on the Coleman lantern.

We fetched the cheeseburgers and baked beans that came in a can, but we doctored them up with mustard, maple, and garlic powder.

Mom turned around and announced, "Voilà!" All of a sudden, a string of lights brilliantly lit up the entire front room. We applauded. Mom smiled and bowed. What a luxury to see what we wolfed down.

"Please step outside," Mom said next, so we put on our jackets and stepped into the darkness. Mom called out, "Ta-da!" In a flash, the path in the woods lit up with a string of yellow, red, green, and blue Christmas lights. They sparkled all the way to the outhouse.

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**Mountain Meditation**  
By Marguerite Jill Dye

### ← Looking Back: from page 31

their favorite shows long after many of the people in them were no longer living. As the years moved forward, the number of shows viewers had access to increased dramatically. So why not watch the new shows where everyone on them is among the living? Well, now that we are "seniors" ourselves, we can admit to the joy we find these days in watching our own favorite shows from the past, in spite of some cast members being deceased. Seeing the old shows keeps our fun memories from yesteryear alive.

Another topic of conversation among us was how we are turning into our parents as we age. We considered some of their interests to be pretty silly when we were younger. For instance, a couple of us remember our parents checking out the various birds in their yards. I know my father loved to sit outside and see the different types of birds that paid us a visit. When we were younger, we had no interest in sitting still long enough to watch birds. But now I love to sit outside by our bird feeder and watch the antics of my fine feathered friends. I even sit out there on a nice winter day. Spending time in nature is relaxing, and getting fresh air is always a good thing. That is probably exactly why our parents did it.

Our "looking back" conversation moved on to the fact that vinyl records are making a comeback. It seems that

young people like the sound quality that comes from vinyl 78s and 45s. Most of us have gotten rid of ours, so we will have to stick with modern ways of listening to music. But you know what "they" say: "What goes round... comes round." Apparently, that is happening when it comes to the best way to listen to music.

By the time we left the table, even dollar bills had entered our conversation. Four of us have handled money in our jobs, and when bank deposits were prepared, the dollar bills all had to go in exactly the same direction—no "upside down heads!" These days, money from bank tellers and ATMs are every-which-way! I can't resist the urge to fix that when I get home.

All of us like our dollar bills to be in either ascending or descending order in our wallets. I don't take time to arrange them when I am handed change at a cash register because I don't want to be the "old lady" who annoys the people behind her! I remember wanting to hurry those people along when I was young, and they were in front of me organizing their money.

If you are too young to have these memories, you now have a peek at what life was like in yesteryear. You will be looking back yourself some day, and I hope it will be as much fun for you as it is for us.

### ← Living the Dream: from page 31

than her as a skier?

All the imagery coming out of skiing has been strong women putting themselves above others, living unattainable lives while at the same time claiming that women can do anything. Sure, we can, but does it have to be jumping off a cliff after breastfeeding their children? Because that is absolutely not something the average woman skier even wants.

In many ways, I feel like we are making these films to prove our space with men rather than bringing more women into the industry.

And we are losing women. Statistics show that while women are extremely active in snow sports in their youth, they back down as they get older, with women making up

only 30% of skiers in retirement.

According to former Snowsports Industries America's (SIA) Director of Research Kelly Davis (the current one is, of course, a white male), women back away from skiing for four distinct reasons: intimidation because they feel that they don't have adequate skills, lack of confidence due to not having or knowing how to choose the right gear, uncertainty about planning a ski trip and price sensitivity because they think it's too expensive.

We can — and we must — change this. I am certainly not against white males. In fact, my favorite ski buddy happens to be one, as are most of my ski buddies. But I would really, really, like more girlfriends to ski with.

I know here at Killington it feels

like there are a lot more women than the average, but there are still not enough of us and we need to do better to encourage and support our sisters to ski.

How can we do this? I think the answers have to come from all of us, or maybe we all just have to make a commitment to ski one more day and bring one more girlfriend out skiing. As an industry, we still have a lot of work to do to make skiing and snowboarding a safe space for all women.

This Women's History Month, let us pledge to do just that. Even if we have to help carry their skis.

*Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, local real estate agent, KMS coach, town lister and member of the Development Review Board and female ski bum.*

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## The proprietors of La Brocherie: 'one of the best meals we had ever had'

*Editor's note: Bruce Bouchard, former executive director of The Paramount Theatre, and his partner Maureen McKenna Padula have traveled from Rutland to the Riviera Maya for the past three years. This series covers adventures, food, and testimonials from Vermont to the tropics.*



Tales:  
Riviera Maya  
By Bruce Bouchard

If, as most of us know, "Boots on the Ground" is the measure of success for a restaurant. By that metric, this married couple (chefs, owners, or operators) is a sterling silver example in Mexico or anywhere.

I sat with Fabian Jankill Setrouk for a lively conversation in a wide open storefront *brocherie* that he owns with his wife Teresita (Tere') Medina Corrales on a bustling avenue in Playa. He is an excitable, passionate Frenchman, born in Paris to

a couple who owned a number of restaurants. He grew up in and around the hurlyburly kitchen culture of France, led by volatile chefs and submissive staff.

He told me that "while as only a teenager, his passions ranged from cooking to wildlife management."

"Wait, Fabian... What is wildlife management?" I asked.

"Wildlife management is the art and science of reaching goals by manipulating and/or maintaining wildlife populations," he explained.

He spent some time in this space, but luckily, his primary passion returned to helping to maintain human populations by cooking brilliant food. With the mission of helping to correctly diagnose problems with French wild animals coming to an end, he turned his laser focus to owning and operating a restaurant and opened his first at the age of 22, "La vie Parisienne," in Paris.

At the same time, his future wife, Tere Corrales, was living in Spain and developed a passion for European food. Ten

years later, she opened her first catering business in Buenos Aires, where she blended her love of Italian food with the delicious flavors of her Mexican ancestry in Monterrey.

Setrouk moved to New York City and was involved with a restaurant for 10 years. The specialty of the house was food from Gascony, in the southwest of France. As irony and fate would have it, both Setrouk and Corrales happened to be vacationing in Playa del Carmen and staying at the same hotel. Two loves bloomed during that time: one for each other and the other for Playa. They quickly hatched a plan to open a restaurant and set about changing their lives — Corrales back to her original culture (she was born and raised in Monterrey) and Fabian to a wholly new culture.

"I knew nothing of Mexico; I did not speak Spanish, and my energy was completely opposite to this calm, laid-back ethos," he said, adding, "Tere took care of that in a hurry."

They settled in 2014 in a perfect location in the center of Playa. In the beginning, they started as a takeout spot. The response to the gastronomy of two cultures was immediate, and people began to press the couple for the ability to come there to sit down and eat. At first, they added a couple of plastic tables, then a few more, and expanded over time to the distinctive red checked tablecloths, square wooden tables, and sturdy white wooden chairs that immediately identify La Brocherie!

"What was the measure of your success?" I asked.

"Tere and I agreed immediately that we would become the area specialists of *one thing*—the perfect roasted chicken French style," he explained.

And that they did. Today you can experience the flavors of France in their "*specialite de la maison*," delicious roasted chicken! Their chicken is marinated in pineapple for many hours, then slow-roasted with herbs from Provence and served with *salsa picante* — a fusion of the spices of Mexico and the delicacy of France. (And, dear reader, should you choose to investigate their reviews online — I

stopped at 50 — you will note that people from all over the world have verified that their product is "the very best roasted chicken to be found...anywhere.")

While chicken is their staple (full, half, and quarter roasted with cordon bleu, and other variants available), they branch out with daily specials, including moules marinières, salmon carpaccio, and beef bourguignon, to name just a few. A full complement of homemade desserts will finish perfectly: crème brûles, chocolate mousse, chocolate volcano, and panacotta of vanilla with strawberry and lemon tart.

When Maureen and I first came to Playa, we found it and responded immediately as one of the best meals we had ever had. The French always offer the very best salads to be found, rice that came directly from heaven, and they have a secret: they (the French half) always find the best butter you will ever taste, and they guard that secret with their lives. Their pricing (which has not changed since our first visit three years ago) is stunning: two cocktails each, two full meals, and a shared dessert came to \$60 with a tip!

Setrouk takes pride in the family culture he and Corrales have created for their staff. "I was taught by Tere to soften my style with the staff (yelling and screaming is central to the culture of the French kitchen; chefs rule with fists of iron) and to build families with a velvet touch and always positive reinforcement," he said.

On any given evening, you can see this philosophy in action. Setrouk is anywhere, everywhere, all at once, managing the always hectic demand for seating, taking orders, delivering orders, cashing out, and handling the patrons with adroit authenticity. He knows the names of all his regulars; hugs and kisses start and end any visit. He is a class act with none of the pretensions and airs of the traditional French chef (other than excitability, which is mostly contained in his elaborate descriptions of the food to patrons). His utter authenticity shimmers at every moment.

By Bruce Bouchard

Fabian Jankill Setrouk and Teresita Medina Corrales, owners of La Brocherie, (pictured bottom left with daughter Sharon) opened a restaurant in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, focusing on French cuisine. Setrouk, a chef from Paris, and Tere, from Buenos Aires, blend their cultures in their cuisine at La Brocherie.



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# Ludlow Farmers Market makes changes for summer operation

Emma Wright, the new director of the Ludlow Farmers Market (LFM), recently spoke to the Ludlow Rotary Club discussing the changes made to the market's location, date of operation, and organization.

Wright, formerly of Idaho where she was involved in farmer's markets, indicated that the return of the LFM will feature a new location, new date of operation, and reduced rates for vendors for the entire season.

Previously, the market had been located on the lawn in front of Okemo Mountain School. Wright felt that this was not the best location, believing it was not in the center of the village. A new site is now being considered, which may require the approval of the Ludlow Board of Trustees. But she indicated that the location would be in the center of the village to make it available to more walk-in customers.

As for the date and time of the market, which previously was on a Friday afternoon, Wright said the new market will operate on Sunday morning to allow greater foot traffic access to it.

The cost of vendors to participate for the market season will be lowered from that previously charged. Previous vendor charges were in the \$400-450 range; the new rates will not exceed \$150.



By Kevin Barnes  
*Emma Wright, director of the Ludlow Farmers Market, spoke to the Ludlow Rotary Club.*

A new policy will be implemented requiring all products sold at the market to be Vermont-grown or Vermont-made.

Wright indicated that the new directors for LFM has been extremely supportive of all these changes. She added that, as the new director, she would be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the market. Previously, board members frequently had to serve this function due to the lack of a manager.

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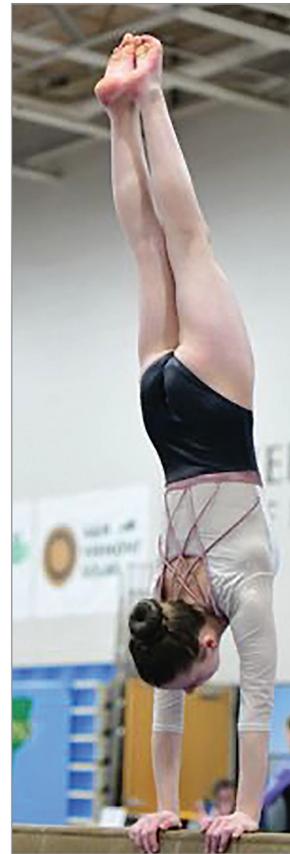
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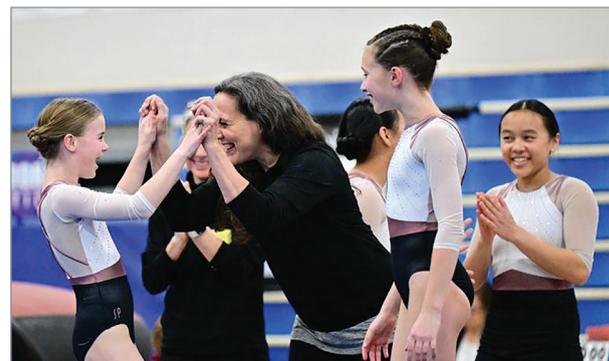
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Courtesy of Team Photo

Cobra Gymnastics Center's team compete at the State Championships in Rutland last weekend, March 16-17. Karena Kuehl and Mia Harrinton (top left) smile with flowers after the meet. The Xcel Gold Team (bottom left) won their team title, and (above 1-r) Hazel Mabey, Madelyn McPhee, and Emory Mishoe demonstrated amazing athleticism and agility.



Courtesy of Team Photo

Catherine Welch (left) and Izzy Skuro (right) preform on beam. Gymnast Hazel Mabey celebrates with Coach Shelby Barsalou (right) after an event at the State Championship in Rutland.

**Cobra titles:**  
from page 3

Individual Xcel Gold event titles include: A. Gibbs - vault (9.55), bars (9.70), beam (9.75), all-around (38.325), Carmack - bars (9.725) all-around (37.175), Mabey - vault (8.85), bars (9.425), beam (9.475), all-around (36.80) and Bay Sparks of Rutland Town - beam (9.60).

The 16-member Xcel Bronze team, ages 7-11, also captured a team win in a field of seven, with a score of 114.825. Cobra's youngest competitors showed great passion for the sport and beautifully executed their routines with grace and power.

Individual Xcel Bronze event titles include Izzy Skuro of Woodstock - bars (9.65), beam (9.70), floor (9.475), all-around (38.375), Bailey Wilbur of Whiting - beam (9.75), all-around (38.2), Emilia Ribeiro of Poultney - beam (9.55), all-around (37.8), Julia McGuire of Ludlow - floor (9.275), Eliza Sharrow of Shrewsbury - vault (9.725).

The 19-member Xcel Silver team won a second place team award with a team total of 114.50. Teammates Sophia Gieder of Killington and Charli Fahoury of Wallingford will represent Vermont at the Regional competition in Massachusetts.

When asked what gymnastics means to Gieder, she shared, "Cobra is like my second family."

Individual Xcel Silver event titles include Gieder - vault (9.65), bars (9.70), floor (9.50) all-around (38.15), Fahoury - vault (9.60), bars (9.65), beam (9.30), floor (9.50), all-around (37.975), Emory Mishoe of Orwell - bars (9.575), Catherine Welch of Poultney - beam (9.525), Madelyn McPhee of Wallingford - vault (9.625) and Maddison Larson of West Rutland - vault (9.55).

Mia Harrington of Danby, Cobra's shining Diamond athlete, tumbled her way to a spot on the Vermont Regional team in addition to tying for a first place finish on beam (9.30).

This is Cobra Gymnastics Center's 12th year with a competitive team. Coaches on the floor included Barsalou, Kymi Fahoury, Topsy King and Karena Kuehl.

**Silver Medalists include:**

Xcel Gold: Carmack (9.475 Floor), London Febbie (9.400-tie Beam), Karsyn Koontz (9.400 Bars), Alivia Cerina (9.650 Beam), Ella Lamson (36.325 AA) (9.325 Bars)(9.250 Beam)(9.200 Floor).

Xcel Silver: Mishoe (37.375 AA), Esme Davis (9.500 Vault), Freyja Borgia (9.500 Beam).

Xcel Bronze: Wilbur (9.275 Floor), Beatrice Hagge (9.600-tie Beam), Ribeiro (9.450 Bars), McGuire (9.600-tie

Vault)(9.375 Beam)(37.600 AA), Lorelei Shackett (9.375 Bars)(9.625 Beam), Domenica Gagliardi (9.600-tie Vault) (9.250 Floor)

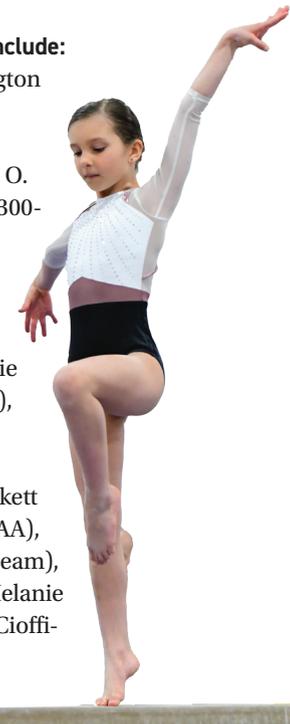
**Bronze Medalists include:**

Xcel Diamond: Mia Harrington (8.600 Bars)

Xcel Gold: A. Gibbs (9.325 Floor), Carmack (9.150 Vault), O. Gibbs (9.625 Bars), Koontz (9.300-tie Floor).

Xcel Silver: Gieder (9.300-tie Beam), Mishoe (9.500 Vault).

Xcel Bronze: Skuro (9.550-tie Vault), Wilbur (9.650-tie Vault), Hagge (9.650-tie Vault)(9.250-tie Floor)(37.950 AA), Ribeiro (9.575 Bars)(9.225 Floor), Shackett (37.400 AA), Gagliardi (37.325 AA), Ella Cortina (9.5 Vault)(9.225 Beam), Bree Sarandrea (9.525 Bars), Melanie Jamieson (9.600 Beam), Piper Cioffi-Willman (9.550-tie Vault)



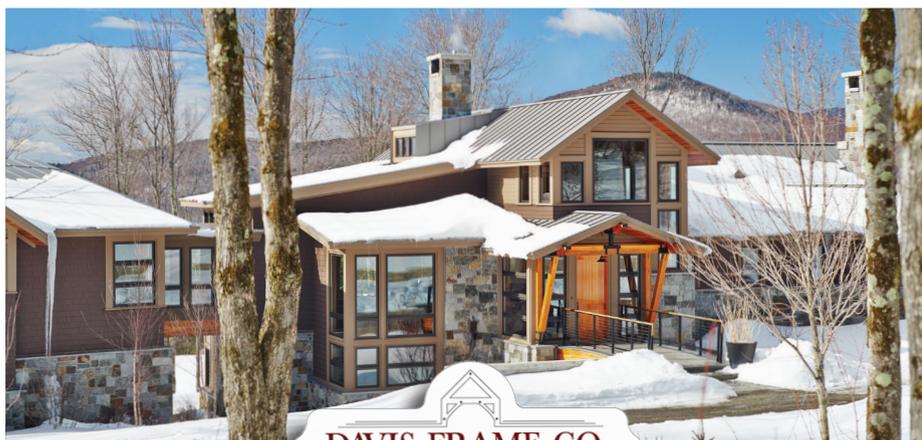
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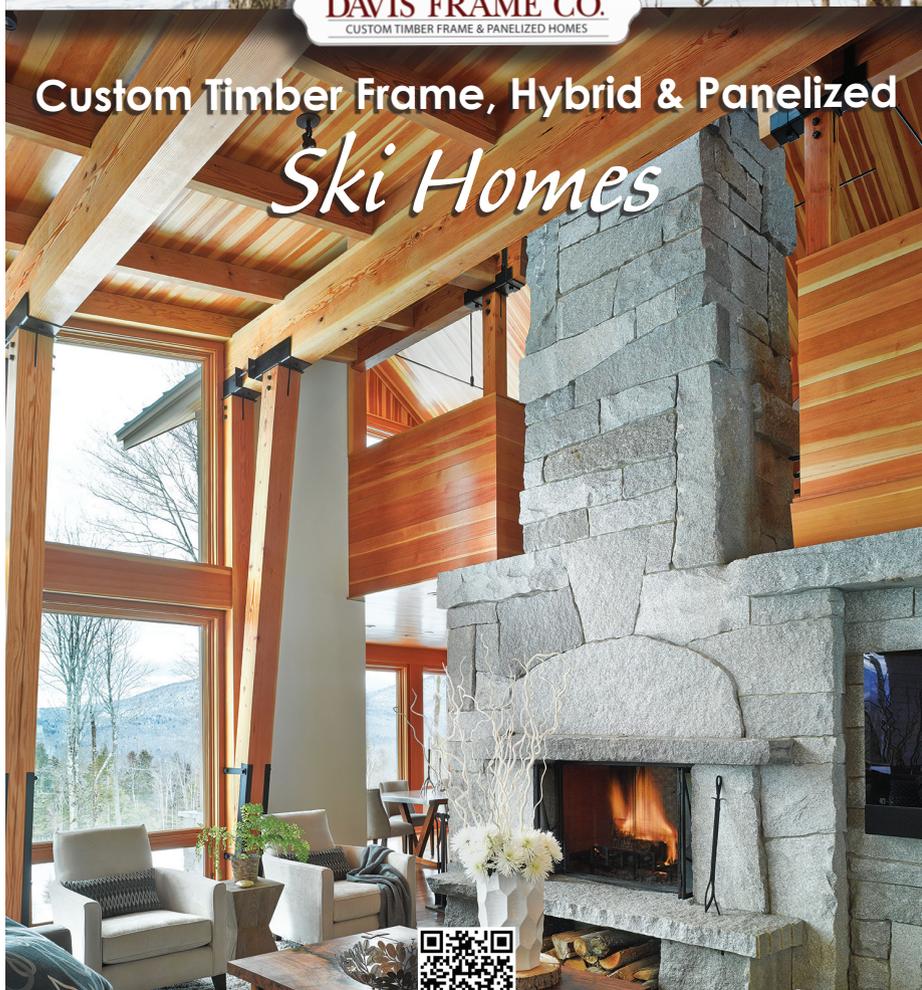
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## ← Meditation: from page 33

We roared with laughter (above Roaring Brook) then returned inside to savor ice cream heaped on top of Entenmann’s cake, drowning in Mom’s “Ooh-la-la hot fudge sauce.” (Our ice cream stayed frozen in our old-fashioned ice box with a big block of ice that stayed frozen for days.)

With electricity installed, we hauled a used refrigerator up from New Jersey to Vermont. We placed it in our rustic kitchen to keep our food cold and safe from critters, or so I thought.

The next Friday night, we arrived late and hadn’t stopped for our midnight snack. Mom unpacked from our cooler cheese and bread for grilled cheese and condiments. As I opened our “new” refrigerator door and gasped the ketchup jar in my hand, a very

cold mouse jumped out and ran. I screamed and dropped the glass jar on the floor. Ketchup and glass flew everywhere as the little culprit took off. As soon as we moved from our tent to the downstairs, word spread quickly in the field mouse community. They moved in and felt right at home. Every night, they performed a “floor show,” racing like Olympians along the tops of our cement walls. They were too fast to brush off or catch, which my folks urged us to do. At dinner one night when Ann Wallen was there, I held up the broom to give it a go. Just as a mouse headed my way, I dropped the broom and burst into tears. “I can’t hit the mice!” I cried. “They’re far too adorable.”

*Marguerite Jill Dye is an artist and writer who divides her time between Killington and Bradenton, Florida.*

## ← TOS: from page 30

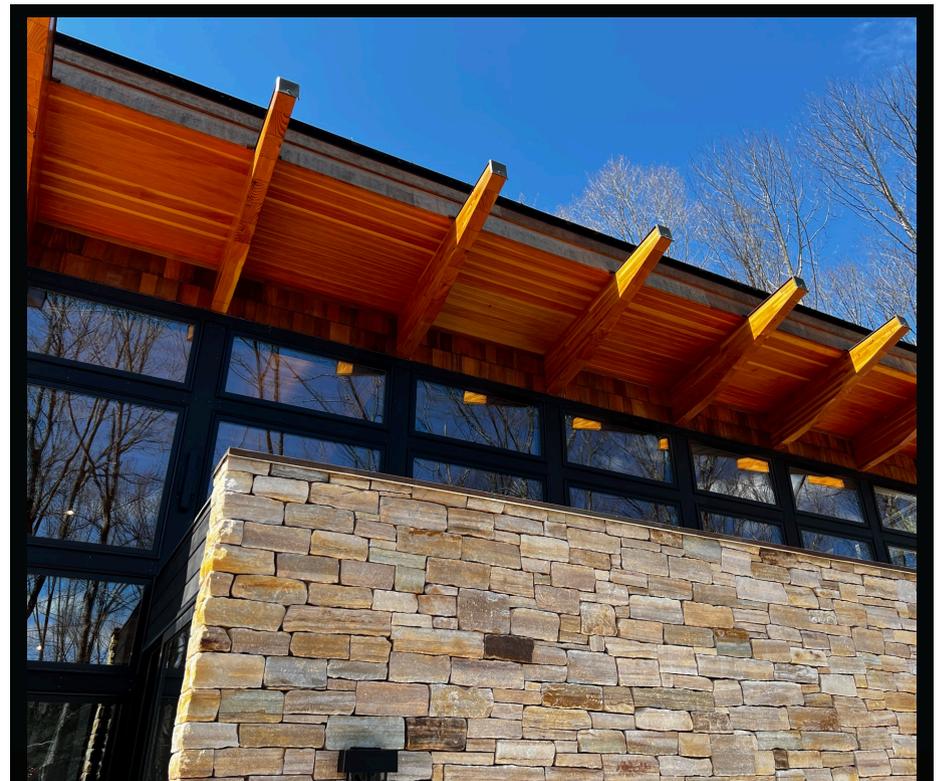
strategy has worked well. For white-throated sparrow offspring, the stripe colors will be split nearly 50/50 in a single brood, preserving the balance of the two color forms and their associated personality traits within the greater population.

As the days grow longer and new leaves unfurl, the white-throated sparrow’s

melodious song will once again sound through the forest. As you enjoy their charismatic singing and familiar appearance, take a closer look—is this a white-striped male staking out a territory? A tan-striped female foraging dutifully to support her nestlings? Whichever bird you see, there are endless questions to ask about the

lives of the wildlife that make their homes in our own favorite patch of forest.

*Jackie Bussjaeger is a writer and naturalist in Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.*



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## ← Boys and men:..... from page 11

system in the next ten years, and when the shortage of trades and construction workers is well documented and presents a major constraint on projects like flood recovery and broadband buildout, and when the shortage of nursing staff is compounding extremely expensive health care costs, just to name a few critical gaps.

On a recent visit to a community member and long-time colleague in the Northeast Kingdom, this community member shared several stories: an overdose, a suicide, a drug-related violent crime against a family member—all in the last few months among male peers of her children. She looked at me with tears in her eyes and asked, “What are we going to do about the boys?” I wish this discussion was the exception, but it is not. In the U.S., men are consistently four times more likely to die by suicide. In 2021, 70% of opioid deaths were men, and 71% occurred between ages 25 to 54. They are described as deaths of despair, and we should be asking where that despair comes from.

Last fall I took hope from an article by Rachel Kleinfeld of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, which highlighted strategies to support American democracy in an age of decline. Kleinfeld identified both institutional and social tactics. The social tactics she described included efforts to reduce the demand for political extremism and anti-democratic leaders through the revival of rural communities, the creation of a more positive view of masculinity, and the restoration of social status and wages to people working in laboring jobs.

As economic inequality compounded, those holding jobs without a college degree or certificate saw wages stagnate. This contributes to what Reeves has described in his writings as a decline in relational equality, which could be reversed in part through the restoration of employment as a basis of status

and respect. But progress on this front seems to have stalled. As Kleinfeld put it:

“On the right, efforts to create a positive masculine vision have curdled toward reinforcing male dominance. Among progressives ... the concept of ‘toxic masculinity’ is strong, but a positive vision that holds space for emotionally and socially healthy men who also like pickup trucks, hunting, physical labor, physical strength and traditionally masculine pursuits is not. And neither vision is clear on where nonbinary individuals fit into their views.”

This polarity offers fertile ground for the erosion of community and escalating extremism.

When systems and institutions fail our neighbors, they fail our communities, and they fail us all.

When systems and institutions fail our neighbors, they fail our communities, and they fail us all. The heart of community is common experience. There are abundant gaps in that shared experience—by race, place, gender, sexual identity, and economic background—that we, as an organization and a collective of funders, have been committed to exploring and addressing over the years alongside many others. But when it comes to the experience of men and boys in our educational and social structures over recent decades, there is a notable vacuum. As an organization, part of our role in Vermont is not just to reinforce what is already understood in terms of how we close the opportunity gap, but to shine a light and pursue understanding in those areas which may be overlooked. Hopefully, our upcoming event with Richard Reeves will help us better understand what a number of our communities are experiencing and foster a thoughtful and perspective-deepening dialogue about these issues.



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