



## BEAR MOUNTAIN MOGUL CHALLENGE IS APRIL 6

Don't miss the annual mogul competition and springtime party, Saturday. (It's shaping up to be a powder day, too!) Amateur bumpers will battle it out on the slopes of Outer Limits!

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By Connor McGrath

## BASE OF KILLINGTON ROAD TO CLOSE APRIL 15-JULY 8

The first phase of the Killington Road reconstruct project will begin soon. From April 15 to July 8 Killington Road will be closed from its intersection with Route 4 to Anthony Way, said Mike Falk, surveyor for Markowski Excavating. The detour will be up West Hill Road.



## 500-GALLON OIL SPILL CLOSES FAIR HAVEN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

About 500 students and 150 staff have been out of school this week due to an oil leak that spread.

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## Killington Deli and Marketplace changes hands after 39 years

By Polly Mikula

After 39 years working seven days a week all year long, Cliff Koch and family are ready to pass the torch of the popular Killington Deli & Marketplace on to the next family. The business officially sold to the Zelken family, Monday, April 1, 2024.

Cliff and his wife Sally ran the business with help from their four daughters: Nancy and triplets Molly, Annie, and Jennifer. Nancy was formerly the general manager.

"My parents are ready for retirement," said Nancy, who currently lives in Boston. "Dad still works seven days a week... and my sisters and I are all on different career paths at this point in time," she added.

"We want to see it continue to grow with the times," Nancy said, adding, "The Zelken family comes from a 4th generation family business and shares the same values of the tradition."

Peter Zelken and his wife, Emma, have three boys, aged 7, 9 and 11.

"I grew up pumping gas, working the registers and stocking shelves at our family's stores, and our boys are already asking when they can Killington Deli → 4



Courtesy Nancy Koch  
New Killington Deli & Marketplace owner Peter Zelken shakes hands with former owner Cliff Koch in front of the store.

## \$50 million assessment at Mountain Green to hit condo owners in July

After decades of calling Killington home, some say it's too expensive for them to stay  
By Katy Savage

Mountain Green condo owners voted in favor of a \$50 million assessment to bring the building into the 21st Century, but some longtime owners said their quarterly payments will be so high they can't afford it and they will be forced out.

"We don't need the Taj Mahal," said Werns.

Helen Werns, who retired last March, said she has to go back to work to afford her condo. She has owned her 750-square-foot unit for 30 years. The assessment

will cost her about \$7,000 a quarter.

"We don't need the Taj Mahal," said

An \$18 million assessment was approved in 2022, and another \$29 million was approved by condo owners on March 11.

Starting July, owners will pay \$10,000 or more a year for the next five years, after which payments will start to drop through 2035.

Werns. "We need something that functions, that's safe. I wish they budgeted easier for people like me to handle."

Mountain Green Condominium Association, Inc. is a 45-year-old, 215-unit association with three buildings. It's located across from Mt. Green → 2

## Economic impact of total solar eclipse could top \$50m

State Treasurer Mike Pieciak released a report estimating the economic impact of the April 8 total solar eclipse could range between \$12.9 million and \$51.8 million. The actual economic impact rests on the total number of visitors who travel to Vermont for the eclipse, which highly depends on the April 8 weather forecast.

"The economic impact of the total solar eclipse could be significant for Vermont, and the benefits will be even greater considering April is generally a slow period for Vermont's tourism industry," said Treasurer Pieciak. "This will be a boon to our state's coffers, with millions of dollars in tax revenues likely to be collected."

The economic impact is based on the estimated number of visitors who will travel to Vermont and the estimated dollars each visitor will spend while in Vermont. The Great American Eclipse provides an estimated range of the number of visitors who will travel to Vermont with a low of 52,000 visitors and a high of 208,000 visitors.

The Treasurer's Office estimates that on average each visitor will spend \$249.28 while visiting Vermont. The estimate was derived from economic analyses prepared by Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Carolina following the 2017 total solar eclipse. Wyoming generated \$3.8 million in tax revenue after nearly 200,000 people visited the

state for the 2017 eclipse. (Figures are adjusted for inflation.)

It is possible Vermont's economic benefits will be even greater than the 2017 total solar eclipse. The period of total darkness for the April 8 eclipse is expected to be over a minute longer than the 2017 eclipse. And unlike in 2017 when the next U.S. eclipse was only seven years away, the next U.S. eclipse will not happen for another 21 years.

Vermont is also more accessible to the large population centers of the Boston and New York greater metro areas.

See page 20-21 for eclipse related information and events.

## All aboard the 'Solar Express'

Sold-out train will run from Rutland to Burlington and back, aims to reduce hassles, traffic during April 8 eclipse

Staff report

While everyone knows about the Polar Express, on Monday, April 8, it'll be the "Solar Express" that takes passengers from Rutland up to Burlington, to witness the solar eclipse in the path of totality, which will last from about 3:26 to 3:29 p.m.

Not surprisingly, tickets sold out quickly. Nicole Carlson of Vermont Rail System has reported that roughly 25% of the tickets were purchased by Vermonters living outside of the path of totality. The other 75% were

bought by out-of-staters who either couldn't stay in the path of totality or who wanted to avoid potential hassles like traffic jams and difficulty finding parking, Carlson added.

The idea to run the Solar Express train was twofold: to help alleviate traffic congestion and to "provide a really fun experience," she said.

The train will depart from downtown Rutland at 8 a.m., passengers will spend 12:30-4:15 p.m. in Burlington, returning to Rutland by 6:30 p.m. Tickets were \$250 per person.



By Aubrey Gemignani, NASA  
The total solar eclipse as seen on Monday, Aug. 21, 2017 in Oregon.



By Wiemann Lamphere Architects  
Renderings of the renovations planned for the three-building  
condo complex of Mountain Green near the Snowshed base.

## ← Mt. Green: from page 1

Snowshed Lodge on East Mountain Road.

“At one point it was one of the premier buildings on the market,” said Jamie Fox, the general manager.

Fox said the second \$29 million became necessary after realizing \$18 million wasn’t going to cover the costs.

“As we started to look at the cost of materials and what it’s taking to do the job, the overall cost of what we wanted to do became apparent, that increased it exponentially,” he said.

The renovations, under DEW Construction Corporation, will take about 2½ years to complete.

“We have the ability to stretch it out over six years if we wanted,” Fox said. “The longer we go, the more expensive materials get.”

The \$50 million will pay for new standing seam metal roofs on all three buildings, new decks, new siding, insulation, new windows and accessible entryways. It also pays for \$1.5 million in upgrades to the health club, which includes a pool, two hot tubs, sauna and a steam room.

“We’ve had multiple architects and engineers investigate our buildings to be sure we are uncovering deficiencies and addressing them properly,” explained Adam Carne, president of the Mountain Green board. “There were some structural issues around the indoor pool and garage area that were remedied in 2022 and 2023. There are no [further] significant structural concerns that we are aware of but we know there is still water infiltration due to our failing roof and envelope which is being addressed as part of the repair project. If left unchecked, the continued water infiltration would lead to structural issues that could eventually lead to condemnation,” he said, adding: “By doing a complete siding and roof replacement, rather than just going over the existing structures, we are able to see what’s going on under the skin, address any issues that are uncovered and seal our buildings properly.”

But the cost may be unaffordable for some, forcing them out. Longtime condo owners, like Misha Havlicek who has owned her condo for 30 years, are concerned they won’t be able to afford it. Havlicek lives on Social Security and gardening in the summer. Mountain Green condos used to be a relatively affordable option in town.

“This is my home,” she said.

Mountain Green has been her home since her previous house in New Jersey burned in a fire.

Her mortgage will be paid off this year, but the assessment will cost her \$200,000 in the end.

“It’s just like buying a new condo,” she said. “I was planning to leave this condo in a body bag. I don’t know how that’s all going to work now.”

Many owners are trying to sell their condos. There were 24 units on the market at the end of March. Havlicek and others are concerned their condos won’t sell, leaving her no options.

Havlicek’s situation has other condo owners concerned. “She will lose her condominium due to this excessive assessment,” said Diane Deutsch, a friend of Havlicek who has owned her condo at Mountain Green for over 20 years.

Deutsch bought her condo for \$48,000.

“And at the end of all this [the assessment, it] will probably cost me \$350,000—that’s not worth it,” she said.

Deutsch, who is at retirement age, works as a librarian at Pittsfield Library and an administrative assistant.

Deutsch and other condo owners admitted some repairs and expenses are necessary. There are rusted beams and leaky roofs, but Deutsch said many of the renovations are excessive.

“[The board] keeps talking about how we have to do this,” she said. “We have to look good and yeah, it’s going to hurt people and it’s going to change people’s lives but we don’t care.”

While expensive, some other owners say the \$50 million price tag is well worth the investment.

Great Gulf is planning to construct a village at the Snowshed/Ramshead base areas, creating a hub that includes 32,000 square feet of commercial space and 239 new units of housing.

Mountain Green will be central to that new village.

“That could tilt the scales drastically,” said Nathan Mastroeni, an associate broker at Four Seasons Sotheby’s International Realty in Killington, which has office space at Mountain Green.

Mastroeni anticipates the value of condos will rise dramati-

cally when the village becomes a reality.

“The location is pretty cool because...you’re going to walk right into the village,” Mastroeni said. “We’re making it ready for the next 20-30 years.”

Mastroeni said there were about 24 units currently for sale, ranging from \$150,000 for a one-bedroom condo to \$300,000 for a three-bedroom condo. Four units are under contract or have recently sold.

“Even though the numbers look scary, there’s some life out there for these condos,” he said.

Despite the concern, there is also excitement about bringing needed upgrades to the building.

A new management company, FirstService Residential, took over on Monday.

FirstService, based in Florida, manages thousands of properties and was hired to lead Mountain Green into the future with more digitized services for condo owners.

The current Mountain Green board is trying to get the building ready to meet the new construction standards of the anticipated village.

“We don’t want to be the eyesoar,” said Carne.

Carne said the buildings have been patched and repaired for too long. “We’ve reached the end of that road,” he said. “Much of our infrastructure is beyond the end of its useful life. There’s a responsibility to get this right.”

The Mountain Green community is diverse: while some use Mountain Green as a primary residence, others rent out their units, and others use it as a vacation property.

Carne said longtime owners had to know the day of a large assessment was coming, given the obvious deferred maintenance throughout the buildings.

“They can’t be surprised a renovation had to happen because a renovation never happened,” Carne said. “It’s unfortunate to see folks go, but we didn’t have a choice. These repairs weren’t options. They had to be done and we couldn’t take any more time.”

“The location is pretty cool because...you’re going to walk right into the village,” Mastroeni said.

# Rutland to receive \$7.2 million grant to prevent sewer overflows

Governor Phil Scott and the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced \$29.25 million in grants to improve municipal combined sewer infrastructure and reduce pollution in Vermont's streams and lakes, on Tuesday, April 2. Rutland will receive \$7,201,017 — the largest grant given.

DEC has allocated these funds as grants to 11 Vermont municipalities to prioritize projects that reduce or treat combined sewer overflows (CSOs). The program is funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and was proposed for this use by the governor and approved by the Legislature.

"Upgrading our water and sewer infrastructure has been a top priority for my team with ARPA dollars," said Governor Scott. "These investments support economic development, a cleaner environment, and have public health benefits. We will continue to focus on making these critical infrastructure upgrades in communities across the state."

A combined sewer system collects sewage and stormwater runoff in the

same pipe for treatment at a wastewater treatment facility. Stormwater runoff is water that is collected from streets or other hard surfaces during rain and snowstorms.

During small storms, a wastewater treatment facility can treat all the combined sewage and stormwater. However, during larger storms, a combined system may be overwhelmed and the CSO — by design — will release some of this pollution directly into streams and lakes without treatment. This helps to avoid overwhelming wastewater treatment facilities and prevents sewage from backing up into homes and buildings or onto roads but adds water pollution to streams and lakes.

To reduce the amount of pollution entering Vermont's waterways from CSOs, municipalities are required to meet Vermont's CSO rules. Because of these untreated discharges, wastewater collection systems are no longer designed this way. The ARPA funding will help municipalities modernize and bring their CSO systems into compliance.

The municipalities of Burlington, Enosburg Falls, Hartford, Middlebury, Montpelier, Newport, Rutland, St. Albans, St. Johnsbury, Vergennes, and Northfield will use these ARPA funds for projects that reduce or eliminate forever the potential for sewer overflow events to occur.

Examples of projects include separating stormwater and wastewater infrastructure, increasing storage within the sewer network, and modifying wastewater treatment facilities to reduce peak flow during wet weather events.

**Issued CSO ARPA Funds include:**

1. Rutland: \$7,201,017
  2. St. Johnsbury: \$5,462,074
  3. Vergennes: \$4,304,579
  4. Burlington: \$3,294,440
  5. St. Albans: \$3,109,795
  6. Montpelier: \$1,950,938
  7. Northfield: \$1,519,157
  8. Newport: \$784,000
  9. Enosburg: \$760,000
  10. Middlebury: \$664,000
  11. Hartford: \$200,000
- Total: \$29,250,000.

## Killington Double Diamonds Hockey Club completes inaugural season 'undefeated'

The Killington Double Diamonds Hockey Club completed its inaugural season undefeated with a record of 0-0, head coach Arra Derderian reported.

"We are so proud of our athletes this year, and next year we hope to defend our title while adding some local teams to play against," said Derderian. "I am thankful for our assistant coaches Peter DuBois, Matt Bigelow, and Todd DeBiase who helped keep the program moving forward, and our Parks and Recreation Coordinator Griffin Van Niel for keeping the ice clear."

Last winter was the first season of the Killington town

ice rink, and in its second season it has grown from five kids to 11 participating in the hockey program. The program was held Monday nights throughout the winter as long as the rink was in skateable conditions. Kids learn the fundamentals of hockey and gain confidence skating.

The hockey program will continue into the spring with an outside street hockey program on the Johnson Recreation basketball court. Stay tuned for a message from the Parks and Recreation team on the day of the week this program will be held.



Submitted

In its second season, the Killington town rink provided kids (and adults) another way to play. A youth hockey club dubbed "Killington Double Diamonds" even sprang up. Teammates pictured above (l-r): Preston Bigelow, Molly DuBois, Emily Derderian, Easton Bigelow, Emma O'Leary, Liam O'Leary, Sammy Dubois, Lily Derderian and T.J. Derderian. Missing from the photo: Maeve O'Leary, Nora Rudy and Ava DeBiase.

## First Sundays at Mission Farm

Church Of Our Saviour (Episcopal)

A special community gathering exploring our relationship with God, Creation and one another. Enjoy worship, music from local musicians and refreshments and conversation after the service. All are welcome!

Monthly @ 9:30am
Mission Farm Rd Killington

[www.missionfarmVT.org](http://www.missionfarmVT.org)

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## MOUNTAIN TIMES

*is a community newspaper covering Central Vermont that aims to engage and inform as well as empower community members to have a voice.*

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Courtesy the Koch family

The Killington Deli & Marketplace has been family-owned and operated since 1985 when Cliff and Sally Koch took over operations from a 1940s Texaco gas station and garage. Cliff and Sally ran the business together until their first daughter, Nancy, was born in 1990, followed by triplets born in 1993. The Kochs ran it under a lease agreement with Bernie Rome until 2004 when they bought the complex plus the adjacent post office building at a bank auction. Pictured above is the current building on Route 4 in Killington with photos (below) of what it looked like prior.

## ← The Killington Deli:

from page 1

start,” said Peter Zelkens.

“We are so happy to welcome Peter and his family into the Deli and to the community,” said Cliff Koch. “They have young children just like Sally and I did when we started the business, so it feels like a great fit. We all met as families the other day and shared family business memories. Knowing that they will have the opportunity to build happy memories in the store, gives us comfort and pride in what we built over almost 40 years.”

“The sale is currently the highest priced property sale (commercial or residential) ever recorded in the town of Killington besides the sale of Killington Mountain Resort in 2007,” said Marni Rieger, broker of KW Vermont Luxury Killington (Peak Property Group) who brokered the deal along with her sales associate Will Spanos.

“I want to wish a huge heartfelt congratulations to the Koch family and the Zelken family on this iconic Killington sale,” said Rieger. “I’m honored that the Koch family selected and entrusted Will and I to list, market and sell their family business and real estate. We had well qualified prospective buyers inquire about the property... But the mission was to find the ‘right buyer’ to continue the Koch’s legacy they worked so hard to create.”

Nancy concurred, adding, “We had a number of people approach us in the last few years, but we really wanted it to

be someone we were excited to pass it on to; another family. We’re confident it’ll be in good hands. It’s not easy to hand ‘Cliff’s’ off to someone else, but we want the community to know that we chose the Zelkens because we know they will keep our long-standing traditions alive.”

The Zelken family met listing agent Marni Rieger when purchasing a home in Plymouth in 2019. When they decided to move from Plymouth to Killington in 2024, Rieger also had the listing for the Killington Deli. The timing was “kismet” as the Zelkens recently sold their fourth generation family business, Mystic Oil Company. This opportunity was right up their alley.

“We were very familiar with this location as long-time customers. It is a staple, and we are honored to have the opportunity to preserve its character while continuing to serve this amazing community,” said Peter Zelken, adding that the Kochs have done such a great job for generations that customers can expect to see what they’re used to, with the same familiar faces.

The Kochs and Zelken immediately “just hit it off,” Rieger added. “The transaction had many moving parts and we all worked together to get to the goal of closing. This has been a very special happy ending sale for both parties.”

Cliff and Sally plan to stay in Killington and enjoy their retirement.

“We are so excited to continue as residents of Killington and enjoy our friends and family. Cliff is waiting for the snow to melt so he can be the first on the driving range at Green Mountain National,” said Sally.

“My dad plans on keeping his memberships at Green Mountain National Golf Course and the Rutland Country Club,” Nancy said, adding “the best part about being in Killington is that it’s home for all of us.”

It’s also a central location for her and her sisters. She and Jennifer live in the Boston area while Annie and Molly live in the Burlington area. “It’s where we’re going to spend holidays and continue to call it ‘home’. We love Killington,” Nancy said.

Killington Deli, cont. → 5



Courtesy Nancy Koch

Molly Koch’s engagement at Killington Peak with sisters.



Courtesy the Koch family

Top left: The Koch family and the Zelken family smile together outside the Deli & Marketplace. One family passing the business on to the next! The Koch kids: Nancy, 34, and Annie, Jenny, and Molly (triplets), 31, who grew up at the deli, are excited to watch the Zelken kids: aged 7, 9 and 11 enjoy it. Top right: Sally and Cliff won first place for costumes at the Wobbly Barn Halloween Party 1987 and this photo was subsequently published in the Mountain Times Nov. 5. Cliff was dressed as a roast beef sandwich, and he handed out mayo and mustard packets to the crowd. Bottom left (l-r): Ken Lee, Claire Mercier, Peter Metzler and Alan Jeffries frequently met in the “coffee corner” at the deli. Bottom center: Sally serves up multiple lunch bowl for hungry patrons many decades ago.



## ← The Killington Deli, cont.:

from page 4

### A look back

Before moving to Vermont, Cliff and Sally Koch lived in New Jersey where they both grew up. Cliff owned a bar and restaurant in Ridgewood, New Jersey called The Cellar Door, where he met Sally.

Sally worked in the textile industry in Manhattan. In 1985, they married and moved to Killington “to get out of the hustle and bustle,” Nancy explained. “They knew they wanted to raise a family in Vermont, both my parents were big skiers at the time, and they wanted us to grow up skiing”.

Cliff and Sally originally leased the deli and gas station from Bernie Rome. At the time it was a full-service gas station, originally established in the 1940s, with just a small deli. Over the years, the Koch family grew it into full-service deli and convenient market and in 1997 added the state liquor outlet — doubling its original size — plus have updated and maintained the gas station.

They bought the deli and post office buildings at bankruptcy auction from Bernie Rome in 2004.

“It’s now really four businesses in one,” Nancy said, “Deli, marketplace, gas station and liquor outlet.”

The 802 Spirits Vermont State Liquor Outlet supplies nearly all the alcohol to bars and restaurants in Killington. “We have a big warehouse behind the liquor store that caters to those businesses, which has allowed us to build

many close relationships with other local business owners over the years,” said Nancy.

The liquor store is one of 80 in the state. The Killington outlet is consistently among the top in volume sold.

### Local charm

The deli has always been a popular local hangout.

Local golf pro Alan Jeffries and former selectmen Ken Lee and Peter Metzler among others (see photo above) would regularly meet in the corner of the Deli in the morning for doughnuts and coffee, Nancy remembered.

The deli’s sandwiches are named after local establishments, with offerings like the McGrath’s Irish Pub (corned beef or pastrami with melted Swiss, homemade coleslaw, and Russian dressing), The Foundry Gobbler (oven roasted turkey salad with homemade stuffing and cranberry sauce) and the Moguls (homemade meatloaf with melted American cheese, lettuce, onions, pickles, and Russian dressing), just to name a few!

Locals and visitors alike have their go-to deli sandwich. Any changes to the menu were always met with many vocalized opinions, Nancy said laughing. “Change is hard for all people, and people like what they like,” she said, adding that this concept is something her family kept in mind when selecting the Zelkens as the buyer.

While she expects (and hopes for) upgrades, she is glad

they plan to carry the torch by continuing to offer what people have come to rely on.

More than anything, the Koch family wants the community to know that they’re “confident that the Zelkens are the right fit for the store and the community,” and they are “excited to see the business remain successful under their ownership while they create new memories for their family,” Nancy summarized on behalf of her family.



Submitted

The Zelkens, like the Kochs, are a serious snowboarding family.

## 27-acre Jenne Forest Plan in the works

By Curt Peterson

Hartland's very active conservation commission is currently developing a "Jenne Town Forest Plan" to ensure maximum public value and sustainability in the 27-acre parcel, located just off Dodge Lane.

On March 13 Southern Windsor County Forester Hannah Dallas presented her suggestion for a plan to the commission volunteers.

"The Conservation Commission is in the process of writing a management plan for the Town Forest," commission chair Rob Anderegg said. "Hannah's plan is a part of that effort, but not the entire thing."

"Once the final plan is written and discussed," he continued, "it will need Select Board approval."

He hopes the plan will be ready for Select

Board review by April, and voted on by selectmen later in the spring.

The Conservation Commission manages six parcels of town property.

The Jenne Town Forest parcel was given to Hartland by Clyde Jenne's father, Alfred Jenne, and Alfred's sister, Ruth Jenne, in 1982 as part of settling their parents' estates, Clyde told the Mountain Times.

Recognizing that Ms. Dallas's proposal isn't the ultimate commission plan, her evaluation of the forest, which she called "pretty cool," is valuable. She explained how most of the original Vermont forest land was cleared for agricultural use in the 19th Century. Later, when farms were abandoned, new forest began to

Jenne Forest → 14

## Fair Haven Middle/High School remains closed after a 500-gallon fuel oil leak

Staff report

On Monday, April 1, the Fair Haven Middle/High School closed due to a boiler issue and has remained closed through Wednesday, April 3.

Slate Valley Unified Union School District Superintendent Brooke Olsen-Farrell has posted daily updates on the district's live feed explaining the situation as it unfolds.

"There was a break in the fuel oil line that supplies fuel to the boilers and upwards of 500 gallons of fuel oil leaked into the utility tunnels under the building and the boiler room," Olsen-Farrell wrote. "The fuel oil also drained into a sump pump in the boiler room and made its way into the sewer system. We have contracted with a hazardous waste company and reached out to the appropriate state officials. This is an ongoing situation and I will update you as more information is available. The building is closed to all at this time."

The school has roughly 550 students and 150 faculty and staff — about half of the entire district population — rendering relocation impractical.

Additionally, we still do not have access to the building to get student or staff materials," Olsen-Farrell noted.

"Remote days are not an option; those went away after the pandemic," she added, referring to the fact that the state no longer allows districts to count remote days as school days. "A lot of the legal flexibility that was available to schools during Covid no longer exists."

The state requires 175 days of in-person learning, so depending on the length of closure the school year may need to be extended. Olsen-Farrell, however, hopes the situation qualifies the district for a waiver.

"I am requesting a waiver for the missed days from the Agency of Education," she said, adding that Slate Valley has a bit of wiggle room as it schedules 180 days of

"Right now it is day to day as we need to ensure air quality has returned to the appropriate level throughout the building. Safety is our number one priority," Olsen-Farrell wrote.

instruction per its own policies and contractual agreements.

A timeline for when the building could be cleared for school to resume remained unknown as of press time, Tuesday, April 2.

"I know this is a difficult situation for all involved. Please be assured we are working as quickly and carefully to address the situation at Fair Haven Union Middle & High School (FHUMHS)," Olsen-Farrell wrote on Tuesday letting district members know that school at FHUMHS would be closed again on Wednesday, April 3. "Right now it is day to day as we need to ensure air quality has returned to the appropriate level throughout the building. Safety is our number one priority."

For more information visit the district's website: [slatevalleyunified.org](https://slatevalleyunified.org) and click on the live feed in the left column.



### TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

#### SELECT BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO KILLINGTON ZONING BYLAWS and KILLINGTON ZONING MAP

The Killington Selectboard will hold a public hearing on the proposed Town of Killington Zoning Bylaw Amendments on April 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Building, 800 Killington Road, Killington, Vermont. The hearing will also be held remotely via zoom. The link to join remotely is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85267223919> or by call in: +16469313860,,85267223919#. This public notice is given pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 4444.

The principal purpose of the proposed zoning bylaw amendments is to (1) reflect changes to the Vermont Planning and Development Act (the "Act") that were enacted by the Vermont Legislature in July 2023, which establish new required provisions in every municipal zoning bylaw, (2) modify the manner in which building heights are measured, (3) modify building height limitations to reflect the new manner in which building heights are measured, (4) modify building height limitations applicable to PUDs in the Ski Village II District, (5) modify setbacks applicable to PUDs in the Ski Village District and in the Ski Village II District, (6) authorize the Town to assess an application fee to pay or to reimburse the Town for the cost of hiring or engaging engineers, professional consultants, or attorneys to assist the Town with its review of applications, and (7) make revisions throughout the zoning bylaw to clarify and correct definitions, paragraph numberings, and other provisions for the purposes of internal consistency and conformance with the Act. These amendments will affect every geographical area of Killington. The Town of Killington Zoning Map has also been amended to relocate the boundary between the Ski Village District and the Ski Village II District and to identify the Killington Public Open Space District.

The proposed zoning bylaw amendments affect every section of the zoning bylaw, however, the section headings materially affected by the proposed zoning bylaw amendments are SECTION 120 – DEFINITIONS, SECTION 240 – USES, DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS, DENSITY AND DISTRICTS, SECTION 426 – HEIGHT REGULATIONS, and SECTION 610 – ZONING PERMITS.

The full text of the proposed Town of Killington Zoning Bylaw Amendments may be found at the Town Clerk's office, 2706 River Road, Killington and on the Town's website at: [killingtontown.com](https://killingtontown.com).

*Dated at Killington, Vermont this 27th day of March 2024.  
Michael W. Ramsey, Town Manager, Town of Killington, Vermont*

## Five lucky patrons win stuffies in drawing

By Curt Peterson

Three Corners Market in Hartland defied "April Fools Day" April 1, when they drew five winners of giant stuffed animals in Easter colors.

The raffle, sponsored by the store, received more than 100 entries. The five winners were: Josh Sanderson, Stacey Bradley, Cian Fields, Crystal Brooks and Jordyn Leonard. The winners will be notified via the phone numbers on their entry tickets.

Store manager Nate Eastwood said he was very pleased with the amount of interest, and hopes the winners enjoy their prizes.



A large purple bunny was one of the five giant prizes.

Submitted

# MVSU Board hears results of district survey on new build

By Curt Peterson

The Mountain View Supervisory Union (MVSU) board's proposal to fund a new middle-high school in Woodstock with a \$99 million bond was defeated about 60% to 40% last month on Town Meeting Day. The board subsequently distributed an information-gathering survey, to which 1,395 people responded. Board vice-chair Ben Ford reviewed survey results at the April 1 district board meeting.

Participation varied by district town: Woodstock had the greatest return rate with 37.3% of its voters responding, followed by Pomfret at 15.5% and Barnard at 15.0%. The other four towns in the district were less than half as responsive: About 8% of Bridgewater, Reading and Killington responded to the survey and only 4% of Plymouth recipients responded.

Of those responding, 43.3% voted in favor of the bond, 43.0% against; 6.6% had not voted on Town Meeting Day with 7.12% of the survey respondents marking that they were "ineligible to vote."

When asked if they were interested in helping gather more information from voters, respondents were fairly evenly averse to participating with ½ saying "no."

The short "essay questions" drew interesting responses. Ford listed several answers illustrating general attitudes by "Yes" voters. Of his dozen choices, five referred to need to replace the existing building. They voted in favor of the project, in spite of concerns such as finding more state money, more focus on pure education, and whether the new school was too large for current or anticipated needs.

A few mentioned the new school might attract young families to the area, in spite of the housing shortage. Quite a few participants thought the process of planning and proposing the new school lacked "transparency."

The "turf field," omitted for cost considerations was mentioned a few times.

Those who voted against the bond issue mentioned the project cost — they believed it too high — and the effect it would have on taxes. Woodstock residents cited other local tax increases and said they thought "another tax increase" was too much.

Unlike many of the "Yes" respondents, "No" voters suggested renovating the existing building was still an option. Other comments included: "fixing the education funding system," "charging second homeowners higher taxes to help finance the project," "student number projections are unrealistic," "the new building won't improve education," "promotion of the project was overkill," and "the whole idea is divisive - pitting new wealthy residents against long-time Vermonters in an us-versus-them scenario."

It seemed quite a few want more emphasis on athletics. Nostalgia for the old facility came up a few times.

"Love the idea, hate the tax implications," and "felt the proposal was being rammed down our throats" were also commonly noted sentiments.

Some interesting ideas for project success were offered, including asking local ski areas to contribute, asking Woodstock to finance the proposed theater with money they intend to use on the town theater, and more energetic fundraising from private sources.

The New Build Committee, Ford said, plans to tour the district with "listening sessions" led by local MVSU board members and volunteers in each sending community.

New informational materials will reflect concerns indicated in the survey, and the committee will continue to consult with architects, construction professionals and property owners to develop possible options to the current plan.



Photos by Victoria Gaither



## Easter on the sunny slopes

Sunday, March 31, was an early morning for those lucky enough to score tickets to the sunrise service atop Killington Peak. The K-1 gondola started loading at 4:30 a.m. The Easter Bunny himself led the egg hunt at K-1, which was open to all.



# Vermont Housing Improvement Program added 547 new affordable units in three years

Governor Scott and the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) are celebrating the success of more than three years of the Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP) as DHCD launches VHIP 2.0.

“The Vermont Housing Improvement Program has been incredibly successful and an essential tool expanding Vermont’s housing stock,” said Governor Scott. “By bringing existing units that have fallen into disrepair back online, we create housing at a fraction of the cost and much faster than other programs, while also revitalizing neighborhoods.”

VHIP and VHIP 2.0 are a cost-effective and reliable way to bring housing units online quickly. The programs grant an

average of \$38,400 to get one apartment up and running, compared to the \$450,000 to \$600,000 it costs to build one new unit.

VHIP (which was initially called the Re-Housing Recovery Program) sprang to life in September 2020 and was funded with federal dollars. The program offered grants to landlords for up to \$50,000 per rental unit. The money could be used to bring existing units up to code, add new units to an existing building, or create an accessory dwelling unit on an owner-occupied property. Tenants of these properties had to be exiting homelessness and the property had to be rented at an affordable rate for five years.

Vermont launched VHIP 2.0 on March 25, 2024. This pro-

gram is very similar to VHIP with three major differences:

It is funded with a one-time allocation of \$20 million state dollars instead of federal Covid money;

The property must be rented at an affordable rate for 10 years instead of five years; and

Tenants must qualify for affordable housing but do not need to be exiting homelessness.

“Vermont needs more housing units of all kinds, including affordable housing,” said DHCD Commissioner Alex Farrell. “With VHIP and VHIP 2.0, landlords get help bringing their units up-to-date and more Vermonters are able

VHIP → 12

## Two years after a veto, lawmakers angle again for expungement system reform

By Norah White, 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.*

Lawmakers are trying again to pass a bill to replace the state’s expungement system with a more expansive process of sealing records — after Gov. Phil Scott vetoed a similar effort almost two years ago.

Vermont currently has a dual-track system for people looking to clear up their criminal histories: for certain offenses and with certain caveats, people can have their criminal records sealed or expunged. The new bill, H.655, would switch the process almost entirely over to sealing, with certain rare exceptions, while expanding the list of crimes that qualify for clearance. In exchange for increasing the number of crimes that can be cleared, lawmakers are shifting to sealing as a compromise.

Expungement entirely wipes someone’s conviction from the official record — the goal being for equal treatment and opportunities as those not convicted. Sealing a record is meant to have the same effect; however, the record is still maintained and accessible to courts and law enforcement, among others.

Criminal history records refer to “all information documenting an individual’s contact with the criminal justice system,” said Michele Childs, legislative counsel, in a Feb. 20 House judiciary committee meeting.

The bill proposes three main objectives. The first objective is to outline all the qualifying offenses for sealing. The list includes most misdemeanors, with exceptions such as child exploitation, neglect and violation of abuse prevention orders. The bill also details a few extraneous felonies related to offenses such as burglary, drug possession and counterfeiting. The bill greatly expands what offenses qualify for clearance.

The goal of expanding the list of crimes is to make it so more formerly incarcerated people have an easier time obtaining employment or housing, explained Rep. Karen Dolan, D-Essex Junction, a sponsor of the bill.

The bill provides the process for sealing records while erasing the previous procedure for expunging records.

A person convicted of a crime may petition the court with a request for sealing, if their offense is no longer illegal or if it qualifies for sealing. A county state’s attorney or the state attorney general will respond to the petition and file an agreement with the court, and then the court will issue a notice of sealing.

“The current process is really open-ended. This moves everything to sealing to help make it more consistent,” Dolan said.

The last part of the bill explains who can access sealed records: the attorney general, a person or a court that issued the sealing order, the Vermont Crime Information Center and the Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the FBI.

Supporters of the bill recognize that no longer allowing expungement may be a loss for

Record reform → 13

## Tri-partisan Climate Superfund Act aims to hold big oil accountable

On Friday, March 29 the Vermont Senate voted overwhelmingly (21-5) to advance S.259, the Climate Superfund Act, which would ensure that Vermonters are not left shouldering the full cost of climate disruption. Following another vote Tuesday, April 2, the bill will head to the House of Representatives for consideration.

As Vermont continues to grapple with the physical and financial impacts of a changing climate, this bill represents a major step forward in ensuring that responsible parties, like Big Oil — companies like ExxonMobil and Shell that have known for decades that their products are disrupting the climate — be required to also pay a fair share of the cleanup costs.

Sen. Dick Sears (Bennington) chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee stated, “Vermont has been willing to take on huge multinational corporations before, including when we held Saint-Gobain accountable for contaminating people’s drinking water. The Climate Superfund Act is built on the long-standing principle that the polluter pays. The damage that fossil fuels are causing in our communities continues to grow, with flooding in the last year alone resulting in massive costs to our state. I’m pleased that my colleagues in the Senate advanced this important policy.”

Last summer’s catastrophic flooding in Vermont has already resulted in \$500 million in damage claims made to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is more than double the financial damages inflicted by Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. Beyond the claims filed to FEMA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) classifies last July’s flooding as a “billion-dollar climate and weather disaster.” The costs of climate disruption are only forecast to go up in the future.

“The Senate’s vote today to support the Climate Superfund Act represents a historic step towards both preparing Vermont for

the climate crisis and towards holding the fossil fuel companies responsible for the climate crisis accountable for their fair share of its costs,” said Ben Edgerly Walsh, climate and energy program director for VPIRG.

Just as Congress created the federal Superfund program and Vermont enacted the Waste Management Act in the 1980s to ensure that responsible parties paid their fair share to clean up toxic waste, S.259 would create a program to hold Big Oil companies strictly liable for their share of costs inflicted on Vermont as a result of climate pollution from their products. Those Big Oil companies that had business footprints in Vermont from 1995-2024 would pay a cost recovery assessment for their share of the state’s greenhouse gas-related costs.

“The costs of climate change are escalating and Vermonters are paying for high-priced, catastrophic, fossil-fuel induced damages,” said Johanna Miller, energy and climate program director at Vermont Natural Resources Council. “Creating a Climate Superfund to hold Big Oil accountable for paying their fair share of climate catastrophes is critical to providing some needed financial relief to impacted communities and Vermont families who are, now, singularly holding the bag”

The Vermont Climate Superfund would then provide funding for climate change adaptation projects in the state, including nature-based solutions and flood protections, upgrading stormwater drainage systems, making proactive upgrades to roads, bridges, railroads, and transit systems, and more.

“Today’s historic Senate vote represents real progress in the struggle to hold the world’s largest fossil fuel companies accountable for the climate chaos their profit-making activities have inflicted on Vermont,” said Elena Mihaly, vice president of Conservation Law Foundation, Vermont. “Conservation Law Foundation is

Climate Superfund → 13

## A lot of noise

The past few weeks at the State House have been anything but quiet. Last week, House leaders pushed through over \$130 million in new taxes and fees alone for various spending priorities. The governor has not minced words as to what he views as the Legislature making Vermont unaffordable. A group of House Republicans suggested that state spending was off the rails.

The governor invited a small business owner, Amanda Shangraw of Williamstown, to his weekly press conference last Wednesday. She made an impassioned plea to lawmakers to stop raising taxes and overregulating family businesses, such as hers.

House Majority Leader Emily Long, D-Newfane, shot back, “I guess it’s obvious that it’s an election year! Unfortunately, turning up the heat and delivering over-simplified political rhetoric doesn’t help anyone and it certainly doesn’t help Vermonters.” [See her opinion, page 10.]

The reality is that there are major differences in their respective approaches to what is best for Vermont. The House did pass significant spending increases last week for public housing initiatives, judicial staffing, Medicaid expansion and more. What was perhaps a bit different this year is that most of the increases were passed in separate legislation along with the necessary tax hikes to pay for them. The state budget bill itself (arguably the only bill that really must pass in any session), was largely clear of the major spending hikes and did not by itself require new taxes. Had it not been for a significant expansion of the hotel voucher program added to the budget bill at the last minute, I may have considered supporting it. However, that measure will most

certainly require tax hikes going forward. And to clarify, I opposed the bills with major tax hikes last week.



By Rep. Jim Harrison

We have a long way to go before the various tax and spending bills reach the governor’s desk. The Senate may have different views on what taxes to raise.

One of the tax increases included in House-passed bills is a surcharge on higher income families. There have been some signals that the Senate may take a different approach with it. According to the legislative fiscal office, the top 1% in the state currently pay 30% of Vermont’s personal income taxes. If Vermont becomes the state with the second highest income tax rate (California is No. 1), who will make up some of the 30% if any move or declare their residency elsewhere?

The other elephant in the room is what is going to happen to school taxes this year and in the future. There are discussions taking place on how to change funding formulas as well as adding other new taxes to take some pressure off property taxes, which are expected to increase significantly this year due to school spending hikes. Finding consensus could be difficult.

As we enter the final third of the 2024 session, I hold out hope that we can find a quieter path forward with the governor and legislative leaders on the key issues before us.

**Other items of interest:**

- In a marathon session last Wednesday, March 27, the House approved changes to Vermont’s land use law, Act 250. A total of 10 amendments were offered by various legislators, many from rural areas of the state. One of the main complaints of the Harrison → 12

## Mid-session turning points

The Legislature has now said “thank you and farewell” to our second set of Pages, which means we are more than halfway through our 2024 Session. If you know a young person who will be in the 8th grade next year and is interested in how Vermont works, please suggest they consider serving as a Page at the State House for the 2025 session. Pages serve the Legislature for six weeks, functioning as a living internet, enabling communications, deliveries, and helping the Sergeant at Arms with whatever special project she might have for them. They need to be self-directed, able to stay abreast of their schoolwork during the four days a week they are at the State House, and interested in learning more about the history and governance of Vermont.

Another indicator that the session is moving into its second half is that “cross over” is almost complete. Most of the Senate bills we’ve been working on have made it to the House for their consideration — and the Senate now has most of the House bills.

Having reached the mid-point in the session, I am proud that the Senate has passed a number of bills that address some of our top priorities: flood recovery, climate change mitigation and housing. We’ve passed measures which enabled tax relief for flood impacted towns and sent more financial support to help those towns recover. And we’ve sent the House bills that address mitigating future flooding disasters by creating watershed solutions to increase public safety and reduce future damage (S.213), a “making Big Oil pay” bill designed to ensure that the companies that profited

from the pollution of our state help pay to mitigate the damage to our environment (S.259) and legislation improving government’s response to future natural disasters (S.310). And, our big housing bill, Be Home (S.311), will be incorporated into the Act 250 update, which the House has sent us.

In the second half of the session the Legislature faces one of our toughest tasks — figuring out what to do about this year’s education property tax increases. As a result of several key cost drivers: overall inflation, a 16.4% increase in teacher health care, the debt service on new capital projects or renovations, and the end of one-time federal Covid funds, school budgets rose at an alarming rate. As a result, about a third of school budgets were rejected, and too many of our towns are facing double digit property tax increases. We are wrestling with how to contain costs going forward and reduce the tax increase for this year.

For the many of you who’ve been in touch with concerns about the impact these tax increases will have on your finances and our communities — thank you. It is frustrating to not yet have a clear solution but our committees of jurisdiction, working with our Joint Fiscal Office, the tax department, the Agency of Education, and a few wise consultants, are exploring a number of possibilities. It is probable that we’ll find a short-term solution for this year and continue to work on solving our longer term school funding challenges.

Sen. Alison Clarkson appreciate 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 State House (Tues-Fri) 802-828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) 802-457-4627.



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

## Let’s Recycle Better™ Together



### HOW TO RECYCLE BETTER!

**MAKE SURE ITEMS ARE EMPTY, CLEAN AND LOOSE.**

- Don’t bag recyclables.
- Keep items loose as well as free of food and liquid.

**KNOW BEFORE YOU THROW.**

- Recycling is great but waste reduction is even better. Reduce, reuse, or donate whenever you can.
- When in doubt, throw it out.



For more holiday recycling & waste tips, visit [casella.com/RecycleBetter](https://casella.com/RecycleBetter) >  
Your Local Waste & Recycling Service Provider & Proud Community Partner • 800-CASELLA •



## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Real affordability

By Emily Long

*Editor's note: Emily Long is the State House majority leader.*

As Democrats, there's nothing we care more about than making sure Vermont is a place where everyone can afford to live. We're working hard to pass legislation that makes a real difference for folks, and it's no secret that we have some deep differences with Governor Scott about how to get this important work done.

I guess it's obvious that it's an election year! Unfortunately, turning up the heat and delivering over-simplified political rhetoric doesn't help anyone and it certainly doesn't help Vermonters. It's disappointing to see the governor and our House Republican colleagues using press conferences and press releases to create an atmosphere of fear and mistrust. Making sweeping statements about taxes and fees — without any context, without any mention of the people and communities these investments will help, without any mention of long-term savings — falls far short of the kind of conversation we need to be having as a state. It's designed to create outrage, but we'd rather focus on helping our constituents raise families, build careers, grow their businesses and support their communities.

We need to start talking about real fiscal responsibility and real affordability, and what that means. As Democrats, our approach is to understand that when times are tough and budgets are tight, you need to control spending while also making careful, strategic long-term investments. That long-term, big-picture approach solves problems in the short term, helps people with every dollar, and often winds up saving money down the road.

Affordability → 13

## Enough is enough!

By Rep. Pattie McCoy

*Editor's note: Pattie McCoy, Rutland - 1, is the House Republican Leader.*

Today, [March 28] the House Republican Caucus is sounding the alarm. The supermajority is off the rails, and out of control. And Vermonters have had enough. Vermonters are struggling. They are stretched thin, trying to make ends meet. They have been stressed for years with Vermont's already-high cost of living. Inflation has made things even more difficult. And this supermajority has made it even worse.

As a reminder to Vermonters, last year, they hiked your DMV fees by 20%. We know Vermonters are already feeling that. In July, Vermonters will begin to pay the supermajority's \$100 million payroll tax. Our residents are facing a historic property tax increase. The governor, along with House and Senate Republicans, have warned this was coming for years.

We have supported solutions. But this supermajority has said no every step of the way, and now Vermonters are facing a property tax fiasco. Last year, they also approved the so-called Clean Heat Standard. When implemented, it could cost families and employers thousands of dollars more per year to heat their homes and businesses. And, they have not stopped there.

As Representative Mark Higley stated, "We should be considering the cumulative effect of our actions and mandates on Vermonters, such as passing the Global Warming

Enough → 29

"Vermont doesn't have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem, a big one," Rep. Beck said.



OKAY, WE'VE GOT THREE AND A HALF MINUTES.

"Eclipse Love" by Curt Peterson, Hartland

## LETTERS

## Forests of Telephone Gap in GMNF serve public good

Dear Editor,

My concern is the Telephone Gap project plans, primarily in Rutland County, of the Green Mountain National Forest and the public comment period that ends on April 8. Old growth forest stands are extremely rare in this publicly owned forest and it is not being managed to promote them in any significant way. At this point in time we need old forest to sequester and store carbon to slow climate change. Early successional forest created by cutting, releases CO2, not only in the road building/improving, cutting, transporting, and manufacturing or burning of the wood, but also after the cut in the rotting of roots and soil organisms.

We need maximum sequestration and storage of carbon now, not in 20-plus years after cut stands regrow. Let the "old," "mature," "late successional" (confused yet?!) stands keep growing into old growth on public land rather than tax subsidized logging. The No Action alternative plan

Public good → 14

## Killington Deli family reflects on 39 years at the helm

Dear Editor,

After 39 years of business, we are happy to announce our retirement and the sale of the Killington Deli and Marketplace. We would like to take the opportunity to thank our community for all your love, friendship, and support over the years.

Moving here in 1985 from New Jersey, not only did we feel that Vermont is a beautiful place to live, but that this community is the reason we chose Killington to raise our family. We never imagined that our little "Mom and Pop" store would become a such a wonderful gathering place for the whole town!

The community of Killington has offered so much to our family, and we look back on all of the great people that helped us along the way. We are appreciative of all our employees and their families that have helped us grow to what we are today, especially Val Hannan and Andy "Oooph" Smith. We also appreciate all of the support from

the teachers in our school and our School Board, Killington Resort, Killington and Pico Mountain Junior Programs, volunteer coaches and all of the programs through our Recreation Center, Sherburne Memorial Library, Our Lady of the Mountains Church, Killington Chief of Police, Killington Volunteer

All the laughs, good times, stories, and camaraderie will forever remain in our hearts.

Fire Department and First Responders, Sherburne Women's Club, The Rotary Cub, Killington Chamber of Commerce (KPAA), our Board of Selectmen, and all of the businesses here. It truly does take a village!

As we begin this new chapter of our lives, we will continue to cherish all the great memories we have of the Deli, and the new ones to come. All the laughs, good times, stories, and camaraderie will forever remain in our hearts. We

Famly deli → 12

## Logging old trees in GMNF is a serious public concern

Dear Editor,

I understand the Forest Service is planning to log stands of almost 12,000 acres of mostly old and mature forest in the Telephone Gap area of the Green Mountain National Forest just east of Pittsford. That is bigger than the whole city of Burlington. (Google it for yourself: Telephone Gap Project.)

We all know old forests preserve our watersheds, protect biodiversity of critters and plants, and do the most to stop climate change. We need wood but we shouldn't cut more than we really need.

A large amount of the trees logged in Vermont are exported to other countries or other states. We should preserve our public forests so they can continue to grow and do the above jobs better and better for us all. Private forests provide about 95% of all the timber harvested in Vermont, and we should let them continue to handle the timber needs. Preserve our old forests on

Old trees → 14

## CAPITOL QUOTES

The Vermont House passed the budget, H.883, via voice vote Friday morning, March 29, after a preliminary 104-39 vote Thursday night. It now will be sent to the Senate for inevitable edits.

“This particular budget, unlike last year’s, is a lot trimmer and is within the revenues of the state in a pretty tight box. I think it’s really important to see that this [budget] that the House is bringing forward has a difference from the governor that is so minute in its totality that it’s almost not even a decimal point,”

said House Appropriations Chair **Diane Lanpher**, D-Vergennes.

“They cut everything out of what we need in terms of housing, including a few things of their own. Now they’ve got four or five other bills that have spending attached to them...making it less transparent, more difficult to keep track.”

said Governor **Phil Scott** in response to the House-approved state budget.

“I think this caucus believes ... that investments in people and investments in our state and investments in our communities pay off, both indirectly and directly,”

said House Ways and Means Chair **Emilie Kornheiser**, D-Brattleboro.

“Last week, the House passed the FY25 budget. They prioritized some of the issues which affect those who are most vulnerable. The vast majority of the budget has been structured to benefit low- and middle-income Vermonters. It achieves these goals by asking wealthy Vermonters to participate in funding programs that help our most vulnerable.... While the legislature is trying to find real solutions to help vulnerable people, the governor’s statement is exploiting the real suffering of vulnerable Vermonters to help those making over \$500,000. We can do better.”

said Lt. Governor **David Zuckerman** in a statement Monday, April 1.

## COMMENTARY

### Only 1% up but defeated: examining the Slate Valley school district budget before revote April 11

By Pati Beaumont

*Editor’s note: The following commentary was written by Pati Beaumont, chairperson of the Slate Valley Unified Union School Board, as an open letter to the Slate Valley Unified Union School District community and published here by request.*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2,472 individuals who exercised their right to vote on March 5. As you know, the Slate Valley Unified Union School District’s budget was defeated by 464 votes, one of the largest margins in recent history. Members of the school board have tried to gather information as to why this budget proposal, with an increase of less than 1% in spending per weighted pupil, and an equalized tax rate decrease of less than 1%, was unacceptable to 59% of our voters.

I will begin by providing some factual information about our FY25 proposed budget:

Our per pupil spending is \$11,320.94 which is an increase of 0.20% from last year. This is the second lowest in the region.

Our average student teacher ratio is 16:1, which is consistent with other regional schools. The maximum class size in accordance with the Vermont State Educational Quality Standards is 20 students for grades K-3 and 25 for grades 4-12. Increasing class size is a challenge facing all rural schools. For example, in one of our schools, three grades have less than 10 students. This obviously brings our average down. Also, we have a few K-2 grades with a total of 23-28 students in each. These numbers are too great for one class, so two classes are created, to be below the allowed maximum.

Last year, only 19% of the expenditure budget, roughly \$5.3 million, was paid for by local district taxpayers. The remainder was paid by state and federal funds along with non-resident taxpayers.

The reason we do not mail a copy of our 36 page budget to all taxpayers is because it costs about \$20,000 to do that mass mailing. If you would like detailed information, please visit our website: [slatevalleyunified.org/o/svusd/page/budget](http://slatevalleyunified.org/o/svusd/page/budget), or call Slate Valley’s executive assistant, Lisa Bowen (802-265-2556), to have a copy mailed to you.

Some people think that by voting down the budget, we are sending an effective message to Montpelier. This idea is flawed for many reasons:

First, a full third of the budgets presented on March 5 were voted down, but there were districts that did not vote in March. It is likely that many budgets will pass after a second vote, thus, not raising significant concerns with our legislature. A “no” vote from SVUUSD taxpayers will not result in changes for this year, but it will send a negative message to our

Slate Valley budget → 12

### Stop logging in Telephone Gap

Dear Editor,

I am shocked that 11,800 acres are slated to be logged in the Green Mountain National Forest’s Telephone Gap Area. While the Forest Service’s Plan is attention grabbing, it misses the fact that the best protection for biodiversity and earth’s climate is to let forests mature. Animals of the forest need wild untrammelled mature forests. Old growth forests are the best means to store carbon. Science tells us that young forests do not store carbon adequately.

The Forest Service’s plan is wrong-headed and destructive to the wild places, which have been able to come back

in the last 60-100 years.

This project is primarily of benefit to the lumber industry. Nature knows what it is doing concerning adaptation and does not

Nature knows what it is doing concerning adaptation and does not need to be engineered for “best yields.”

need to be engineered for “best yields.”

We can source local wood in Vermont, but 96% of our wood products come from the private sector. Let the Public Forests become old forests for the benefit of all species and earth’s climate: This has been mandated by our

Logging → 14

### Community Care Network thanks voters for support

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Community Care Network and its two agencies, Rutland Mental Health Services and Rutland Community Programs, I extend my sincere thanks to the voters throughout Rutland County for their support in approving funding for our programs during the recent March Town Meetings.

For Rutland Mental Health Services, town giving supports a broad range of vital programs including mental and behavioral health services for children, adults and families, substance use treatment and recovery services, developmental disabilities services and emergency services, which

Community Care → 12

## ← Community care: .....

from page 11

combined serve more than 3,000 people each year in our area. To provide a brief, tangible example of the impact of this funding relative to essential service delivery, our emergency services team is able to provide mental health crisis coverage, 24-hours a day, helping nearly 1,300 people every year, including handling more than 200 calls or texts for help each month and responding more than 90 times per month to assist

individuals experiencing severe crisis.

For Rutland Community Programs, town giving support goes to our senior volunteer programs (RSVP and the volunteer center, and One-2-One). These programs engage hundreds of adults age 55 and older throughout the region in meaningful community activities. As just one example, Operation Dolls and More, a program of RSVP, provided over 10,000

new and restored dolls, toys, and books to area youth, distributed through 50-plus organizations to over 2,000 Rutland County children this past year.

We are deeply grateful to Rutland County voters for your continued support of Community Care Network and the positive change our organization strives to bring about in our communities. .

**Dick Courcelle, CEO Community Care Network**

## ← Slate Valley budget: .....

from page 11

district students and staff.

If you are concerned about student test scores and the quality of their education, continuing to vote down our budget will force us to reduce resources, which are necessary to increase test scores.

A “no” vote on the budget will have no substantial impact on your property taxes. Your taxes are rising due to a flawed educational funding formula. It is a very complicated formula, but one of the key components is the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) on your property. Due to a number of factors, the CLA for all the SVUUSD towns is much less than it should be. (To meet my goal of trying to explain things as simply as possible, I will not go into details about this here. Please refer to the budget presentation given during our informational meeting on March 4.) All your educational tax dollars become part of the pool of money at the state level that is then distributed to all schools in the state.

Budgets start to be developed about a year before they are presented to the voters. Therefore, the budget contains many contractual obligations (teacher’s contracts, fuel costs, insurances, etc.), as well as some forecasting (needs for new students moving into the district, building maintenance, etc.).

Obviously, we need to pay our financial obligations, as would any organization, or household. When a budget vote fails, it is necessary to continue revising the budget for a revote.

What happens if we continue to vote down our budget? By law, the school board must persist in developing a budget approved by the taxpayers. If the budget is not passed by July 1, 2024, we will be allowed to borrow money to meet our financial obligations. The law allows us to borrow up to “87% of our last passed budget” (for which we also must pay interest) which would result in a 21% shortfall from the currently proposed budget for FY25.

School spending mirrors local spending. It is exactly what households and businesses in our community are experiencing, an increase in food costs, fuel, rent and utilities. We [board members] do not have the power to solve the rising costs throughout our state. They are out of our control. So we will continue to revise our budget and bring it to the voters until a budget

is passed. Also, each time we go through the voting process, it costs us thousands of dollars that is not allocated in our budget.

Act 127 allowed us to increase our budget by \$3,000,000 without affecting the tax rate. These funds were to be reinvested to help our students achieve the desired outcome, to “level the playing field.” This money was not intended to reduce the tax rate. At this point, any further reductions to our budget will mean that this money is returned to Montpelier, where it will be allocated to other schools in the state. We will lose this money, and it will not significantly reduce our taxes.

On March 18, the school board voted to reduce our budget from \$31,021,635, to \$30,871,635, eliminating three instructional assistant positions (due to students moving out of the district during the 2024-2025 school year) and a late bus run. We will bring this revised budget to you for a vote on Thursday, April 11.

It is evident that the Vermont educational funding system requires reform. The cost of educating students in our state ranks second only to New York, necessitating a stronger voice in Montpelier.

We urge you to contact our legislators and convey that our taxes are too high, despite attempts at relief through current legislation. These individuals have the power to enact changes, unlike your local school board.

Contact: Representative William Canfield [wcanfield@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:wcanfield@leg.state.vt.us), Senator Brian Collamore [bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us), Representative Jarrod Sammis [jsammis@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:jsammis@leg.state.vt.us), Senator David Weeks, [dweeks@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:dweeks@leg.state.vt.us), Senator Terry Williams [tkwilliams@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:tkwilliams@leg.state.vt.us), Addison District: Representative Joseph Andriano [jandriano@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:jandriano@leg.state.vt.us), Senator Christopher Bray [cbray@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cbray@leg.state.vt.us), Senator Ruth Hardy [rhardy@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:rhardy@leg.state.vt.us).

Your school board members are committed to ensuring that each and every student in the SVUUSD has the best education possible, while being fiscally frugal. We love our community and want to support each and every one of you! We truly hope that if you are uncomfortable supporting this budget you will reach out to any of your school board members with your constructive thoughts about managing the budget.

## ← VHIP: .....

from page 8

to secure an affordable place to live. We’re excited to continue this good work.”

Here’s a look at VHIP’s accomplishments from September 2020 to date:

- Affordable units brought online: 547
- Units under construction: 399
- 79 ADUs being built
- 320 units being rehabbed
- Applications under consideration: 80
- Dollars invested in new affordable housing: \$12,000,000
- Average grant per unit: \$38,400

VHIP is making a difference throughout Vermont with the most units created and rehabilitated in Windham, followed by Rutland County. In total there were 332 units created and rehabilitated. Below is the distribution of units by county that received VHIP funds from Jan. 1, 2022 to March 25, 2024:

1. Windham: 72
2. Rutland: 41
3. Franklin: 40
4. Washington: 39
5. Chittenden: 37
6. Windsor: 33
7. Bennington: 30
8. Addison: 10
9. Orange: 9
10. Orleans: 7
11. Grand Isle: 5
12. Essex: 5
13. Lamoille: 3
14. Caledonia: 1

## ← Harrison: .....

from page 9

bill, H.687, was the potential for additional areas of the state that would be subject to Act 250 review for new developments. Unless modified by the Senate, the legislation will likely face a veto by the governor. In a statement, Scott said, “I believe rural Vermonters deserve affordable housing as much as those in Burlington and Montpelier. H.687 suggests otherwise and sets the state up for years of inaction, at a time when we need to move swiftly to support the housing needs of all Vermonters.”

- Scott expressed support for a public safety bill, S.58, which passed the Senate last week. The bill increases penalties on drug traffickers when death results from drugs with fentanyl and xylazine and it also further delays the “raise the age” which would have allowed more young adults to be treated as minors for violent offenses.
- The Progressive Party has expressed opposition and the Democratic Party shared grave concerns regarding the governor’s choice of Zoie Sanders as the new Secretary of Education. Her past employment with a for-profit charter school organization, even though she is currently with a large public school district in Florida, appears to be the target of the criticism. As the secretary needs approval by the Vermont Senate, her appointment has the potential of becoming political. Scott has expressed dismay that some are making assumptions and levying attacks on her character without even meeting or speaking with her.
- Legislation to invest in public housing coupled with tax increases in the property transfer tax and income tax on high earners was approved by the House at the end of last week. The bill, H.829, also includes new protections for tenants with help with legal representation and some funding for help with back rent. When the Legislature returns on Tuesday, the House will consider a Progressive-led amendment that would add a “Just Cause Eviction” requirement on landlords as part of a housing bill, H.829.
- The House approved a new task force to look at how Vermont might fund a new program for school construction in the future. A recent analysis estimated that Vermont faces nearly \$6 billion in school construction needs.
- The Senate Health & Welfare Committee has begun deliberations on the House-passed safe injection sites legislation, H.72. Governor Scott has indicated he believes it sends the wrong message about illegal drug usage.

*Rep. 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).*

Landlords, like Maggie Weiss in Washington County, sing the praises of VHIP and are excited to keep participating in VHIP 2.0.

“We turned a blighted duplex into safe, affordable rental housing for two families in need of permanent housing,” said Weiss, who owns two three-bedroom units in Barre.

Weiss used VHIP to renovate kitchens and bathrooms; make plumbing, heating, and electrical upgrades; refinish wood floors; install new exterior doors; correct all electrical and fire safety code violations; install a safety and privacy fence and add a stone walkway and steps to improve access to the front entryway.

Weiss says she would recommend VHIP 2.0 to other landlords and is proud to offer families with housing assistance vouchers safe, comfortable rental housing without judgment.

“We are former recipients of housing assistance who have experienced rental housing discrimination based on our use of assistance programs, housing insecurity, and the stresses of trying to secure rental housing in very tight rental housing markets,” said Weiss. “We appreciate that, without permanent housing, it is difficult to work toward personal goals and provide oneself and any family a good quality of life.”

*For more information visit: [accd.vermont.gov/vhip](http://accd.vermont.gov/vhip).*

**Record reform:**  
from page 8

some convicts. Some people who would have previously been allowed expungement will now only be allowed sealing, Dolan said.

But to get the bill to pass, legislators directly referenced and modified a similar bill vetoed by Scott in 2022. Some objectors were worried that allowing expungement would be harmful in certain scenarios.

First, said Dolan, critics were opposed to expungement outright. So legislators looked at sealing instead. But opponents of the vetoed bill wanted records to be accessible in more situations.

“Before [in the 2022 bill], some crimes were going to be expunged, or they were going to be sealed, but record checks could not be done,” said Dolan, pointing to firearms purchases as an example. “In this bill, we are addressing and fixing both of those issues,” she said.

Victims of crimes also preferred sealing to expungement so that if someone re-offended, law enforcement would be able to look for patterns in their criminal histories, Dolan said.

By moving the entire process to sealing, more parties are likely to support the bill and increase its chances of passage. Even though their criminal histories wouldn’t entirely disappear, people convicted of crimes would still see benefits in the realms of employment and housing.

“We were able to expand the list of crimes

because more folks were on board with this,” Dolan said. “That helped expand who could have access to record clearance ... there seems to be more of an appetite for sealing [at] the state’s attorney’s level because the record is not completely gone.”

Still, some people harbor worries that sealing is too lenient.

Chris D’Elia, president and treasurer of Vermont Bankers’ Association, is worried that sealing of some of the crimes listed in the bill will hamper employers in his industry who want to hire trustworthy people.

“Us as institutions, when you’re looking at the HR process, the hiring process, you want to be able to understand ... if somebody was involved in credit card fraud,” D’Elia said in a Feb. 27 meeting of the House judiciary committee.

Credit card fraud is a felony that qualifies for sealing under the bill. D’Elia worries the inclusion of crimes like that will negatively impact the decision-making process for employers like him.

But supporters of the bill say Vermont needs to move toward a more merciful criminal justice system that gives people who’ve served their time more viable second chances in the workforce, while allowing certain people to see someone’s criminal history when necessary.

“We are trying to balance public safety with the welfare of folks who have been convicted,” Dolan said.

**Affordability:**  
from page 10

The governor has increasingly used the word “supermajority” in his talking points to imply that work is being pushed through without collaboration. It is true that the governor was elected by a large majority but it’s also true that Vermonters voted to elect a large Democratic majority in the Legislature. We are citizen-legislators sent to the State House by voters to represent our communities. We are parents, educators, small business owners, state employees, nonprofit professionals, health care workers, farmers, and community volunteers. We share the

values and concerns of our constituents, and our priorities are Vermonters’ priorities.

When it comes to hard choices, we’re willing to step up and lead — to support real progress in critical priorities like housing, childcare, climate resiliency, food insecurity, supporting our public schools, affordable healthcare and public safety.

I want to reaffirm our commitment to listening and collaborating across party lines, and to building a stronger economy that supports working families and a brighter future for future generations of Vermonters.

**Climate Superfund:**  
from page 8

proud to have contributed to the Senate’s careful consideration of this bill and will continue to work with the legislature and the administration to see its enactment into law this year.”

Lauren Hierl, executive director of Vermont conservation voters, added, “The Climate Superfund bill is critically important as more and more communities deal with climate disasters, and with the increasing costs of building more resilient infrastructure. It’s only fair that the largest fossil fuel companies help pay for these growing expenses. We thank the Senate for their leadership on this issue.”

“Medical professional organizations across the United States and internationally are unified around one core message about climate change — it is, far and away, the primary threat to human and animal health in the 21st Century. As we began to see in Vermont last year, the costs to protect our citizens and our infrastructure are building — and poised to become astronomical. It’s time that the industry that is the root cause of climate change is held accountable for those costs,” noted Dan Quinlan, chair of the Vermont Climate and Health Alliance.

Vermonters shouldn’t be the only ones footing the bill for the costs of the climate crisis. As S.259 heads to the House, the Democrat, Republican and Progressive parties along with countless supporting organizations look forward to continuing to work alongside lawmakers to protect Vermonters and ensure Big Oil pays its fair share.



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	<p><b>ABSOLUT VODKA</b> 750ML</p> <p>SALE PRICE <b>\$18.99</b> SAVE \$3.00</p>		<p><b>FIREBALL CINNAMON WHISKY</b> 1.75L</p> <p>SALE PRICE <b>\$24.99</b> SAVE \$5.00</p>		<p><b>KETEL ONE VODKA</b> 1.75L</p> <p>SALE PRICE <b>\$41.99</b> SAVE \$3.00</p>		<p><b>EVAN WILLIAMS BLACK LABEL BOURBON</b> 1.75L</p> <p>SALE PRICE <b>\$27.99</b> SAVE \$4.00</p>		<p><b>HORNITOS PLATA TEQUILA</b> 750ML</p> <p>SALE PRICE <b>\$27.99</b> SAVE \$3.00</p>

**Visit 802spirits.com for locations and details.**

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## Family deli:

from page 10

have seen our community come together, not only in the good times we've shared, but even in the hardest of times. We, as a family, are forever grateful for that.

We plan on staying here and enjoying our home, family, and friends, because there's no place on earth that we would

rather be. The only difference there will be is that now you will see Cliff on the other side of the Deli counter!

To all our friends and neighbors, we want to say, 'Thank you.'

Sincerely,  
**The Koch Family: Cliff, Sally, Nancy, Annie, Jenny, and Molly**

## Old trees:

from page 10

public lands!

If you share my concern, please make a comment to the Forest Service in this form before Midnight April 8: [Tinyurl.com/m8uyf5ye](https://www.tinyurl.com/m8uyf5ye).

Equally or more important, call or write our senators and representa-

tive Bernie Sanders, Peter Welch, and Becca Balint.

This is a federal matter, and they want to know how we feel. Just Google them to get contact information.

Thank you,  
**Howard Jennings Bristol**

## Public good:

from page 10

would do this best and be of the most public good. Log on private lands where 95% of the logging is done in Vermont and on the thousands of acres of already approved logging in GMNF. If you are concerned, please make an official comment at [tinyurl.com/m8uyf5ye](https://www.tinyurl.com/m8uyf5ye).

**Alan Coulter, Weybridge**

## Logging:

from page 11

federal and state governments.

If you are concerned about the Telephone Gap logging, please write the Forest Service before April 8. The Public Comment form is here: [cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=60192](https://www.cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=60192).

**Frank White, Worcester**

## Jenne Forest:

from page 6

emerge, without the "balance" it had before the clearing.

The new trees formed a canopy over the forest floor, that didn't allow for regeneration, and deer browsing kept saplings to knee-level. Dallas recommends opening the canopy to encourage more diverse development, and selective thinning can enable access for more active management.

According to Northern Woodlands Magazine, [legacy trees] "are old trees that have been spared during harvest, or have survived stand-replacing natural disturbances."

Dallas says legacy trees can become crop trees to be harvested, just thinned out to allow "future legacy trees" to develop from the forest floor. If timber cutting isn't desirable or profitable enough, the trees thinned by girdling or cutting, can be left where they fall to nourish the undergrowth.

She said it could be called "killing things to release others."

Dallas said planting "brush barriers" around growing trees can discourage browsing by deer. An alternative is "tubing" young trees, but she warns it can be expensive.

Phragmites is an invasive that can clog forest growth. A Wisconsin state website describes phragmites as a reed-like plant that likes wetlands like the Jenne parcel. Controlling phragmites requires chemical remediation, usually applied as early growth by a licensed applicator.

"This is a great time to begin work on invasives control," Dallas said. "They are easily identified by their leaves, which will be obscured when more desirable plants and trees begin to foliate."

# Celebrate Civilian Conservation Corps day, April 5

Local CCC camps were located throughout the region in Bethel, Cuttingsville/North Shrewsbury, Danby/Mount Tabor, East Wallingford/Weston, Ludlow, Mendon, Plymouth, Proctorsville/Cavendish, Poultney, Rochester, Sharon and Windsor

Civilian Conservation Corps Day will be celebrated nationwide on Friday, April 5 because on that day in 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) with Executive Order 6101. The order set out the framework for how the CCC would be run and established a fund of \$10 million for the Corps. This innovative federally funded organization put millions of Americans to work during the Great

Depression on projects with environmental benefits. The camps were run by the U. S. Army which provided enrollees with good food, clothing, shelter, and medical care.

CCC camps were located in all 48 states and these territories: Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix). There were separate camps: white enrollees, black enrollees, unemployed veterans who served in WWI, and

Native Americans who worked on tribal lands.

There were approx. 35 CCC camps in Vermont: Bellows Falls, Bethel, Brunswick, Cuttingsville/North

The program provided unskilled manual labor in environmental conservation and the development of natural resources in rural lands.

Shrewsbury, Danby/Mount Tabor, East Barre, East Wallingford/ Weston, Elmore, Jericho/Ethan Allen Firing Range, Fort Ethan Allen/Colchester, Ludlow, Lyndonville/East Burke, Marshfield/Groton, Mendon, Middlesex, Milton/Sand Bar Bridge, Montpelier/Camp McKee, Montpelier/Wrightsville (Camps Wilson, Weeks, Cushing), Moscow/Stowe, Northfield, North Thetford, Peru, Plymouth, Proctorsville/Cavendish, Poultney, Ricker Mills, Rochester, St. Albans, Sharon, Underhill Center/Ethan Allen Firing Range, Waterbury/Camp Charles M. Smith, Waterbury Village, West Burke/

Depression on projects with environmental benefits. The CCC was a public works program that operated from 1933 to 1942 as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. It targeted single men, 18-25 years old, and WWI veterans in relief of families that had difficulty finding jobs during the Great Depression. The program provided unskilled manual labor in environmental conservation and the development of natural resources in rural lands.

The program employed 3,463,766 men who worked a 40-hour week for \$30 a month. The government sent \$25

a month home to their parents, leaving the workers \$5 spending money. The camps were run by the U. S. Army which provided enrollees with good food, clothing, shelter, and medical care.

CCC camps were located in all 48 states and these territories: Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix). There were separate camps: white enrollees, black enrollees, unemployed veterans who served in WWI, and

Native Americans who worked on tribal lands. There were approx. 35 CCC camps in Vermont: Bellows Falls, Bethel, Brunswick, Cuttingsville/North

Sutton, Wilmington, and Windsor. Supply depots: Barre/Quartermaster Depot, Colchester/Fort Ethan Allen. They built trails, roads, campsites and dams, stocked fish, built and maintained fire tower observer's cabins and telephone lines, fought fires and planted millions of trees. During its nine years of existence, CCC enrollees throughout the country were credited with renewing the nation's decimated forests by planting an estimated 3 billion trees. The men labored to build hundreds of state and national parks, with cabins, artificial lakes, and water supply systems.

Much of the infrastructure in the U.S. National Park Service was created using CCC labor. Enrollees built more than 3,000 fire towers, constructed 46,854 bridges and 125,000 miles of roads, built 13,100 miles of foot trails, stocked 972 million fish, and improved 40 million acres of farmland. The education program taught approximately 110,000 illiterate enrollees to read and write.

The billions of trees the Corps planted beautified our state and national parks and exist today to mitigate the effects of global warming. To honor the work of the CCC, visit a state or national park that was developed by the CCC.



Vermont Historical Society Library  
Workers built roads, trails and fought fires in the Green Mt. National Forest. The Danby CCC Company 167 was established in June 1933 in the nearby town of Mt. Tabor. The young men lived in Army tents for a few months until buildings were constructed. Here are the camp cooks and a mess sergeant (left, rear) takes a break from cooking.

# WORDPLAY

CAR CARE WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

H H T L R P S G P N P A B B U W P P P H  
 S E V N M T N O I T A T O R S I C N F O  
 A B K O L I S W I K M D G L L E M U V S E  
 W W G E P M L M B R A K E S R O H P I E  
 R P B P O D I A F U W M C G E L O M C S  
 A E E I B N V W E O W G S P M Z P V Z N  
 C B R Z G M M E C H A N I C P M R R E N  
 S V R B E R E U R O T O R S U H D O G O  
 A Z R W U E H L B U D C D P O R A T N E  
 I S P D K A R S C B D I R H S O D A A D  
 R P F A S I N F D I S U E U T N O N H W  
 P O A E P N P K I I H E V S E Z N R C I  
 R R G A H T S L O T U E R P E R O E L P  
 E N I U N E Z E U L N L V V N L N T I E  
 S F D A U R P D U G I A F C I W F L O R  
 S W D F Z V C Z I G S H R N M C N A N S  
 U I B W S A G N I R E E T S H P E I K P  
 R H M Z D L E I H S D N I W V U B R N Z  
 E W O I T S H F E F T A Z S N A Z R W H  
 K G N E N G I N E S B T Z I C W F O C U

AIR PRESSURE  
 ALTERNATOR  
 ANTIFREEZE  
 BELT  
 BRAKES

CABIN  
 CAR WASH  
 DIESEL  
 ENGINE  
 FLUIDS

HOSES  
 INTERVALS  
 MECHANIC  
 OIL CHANGE  
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PUMP  
 ROTATION  
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## SUDOKU

Solutions → 25

## How to Play

Each block is divided by its own matrix of nine cells. The rule for solving Sudoku puzzles are very simple. Each row, column and block, must contain one of the numbers from "1" to "9". No number may appear more than once in any row, column, or block. When you've filled the entire grid the puzzle is solved.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 25

### CLUES ACROSS

1. A minute amount (British)
5. Mystical or magical
11. Shortening
14. More satisfying
15. Other side
18. Philippine island
19. More unnatural
21. Mutual savings bank
23. Famed designer Chanel
24. Makes less wild
28. At some prior time
29. The cops who investigate the cops
30. Immune system response
32. Distress signal
33. Engine additive
35. "No Scrubs" trio
36. Very fast airplane
39. A reward (archaic)
41. Commercial
42. Spots where golfers start
44. Polite form of address (Indian)
46. French river
47. Reduce the light
49. Blood-sucking fly
52. A way to categorize

### CLUES DOWN

56. Procrastinates
58. Tall slender tower
60. Where researchers work
62. Office of the Pope
63. Office furnishing
1. Possesses
2. American Board of Orthopedic Surgery
3. Ancient Syrian city
4. Clip
5. In a way, misleads
6. Human gene
7. The Golden State (abbr.)
8. Lizard genus
9. Parasites that invade the skin
10. Took apart
12. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
13. S. California town
16. Suffix plural
17. Painting technique
20. Small Eurasian deer
22. Mr. T character
25. Microsoft
26. Shock therapy

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
11				12					13			
14							15		16	17		
	18							19		20		
				21		22			23			
					24		25	26	27	28		
				29			30		31	32		
				33		34		35				
36	37	38		39			40		41			
42			43		44			45				
46							47		48			
49				50	51			52		53	54	55
	56					57		58				59
				60				61				
					62						63	

27. Able to be sold
29. A doctrine
31. These three follow A
34. Pulse
36. Quantitative fact
37. Doctor \_\_\_: children's book author
38. Hebrew calendar month
40. Designated hitter
43. Norther Poland village
45. A passport is one form
48. Hand (Spanish)
50. Hit with the open hand
51. Actor Idris
53. Shakespeare's nickname "The \_\_\_"
54. Northern U.S. lake
55. Marvin and Horsley are two
57. Soak
58. Partner to cheese
59. Expression of disappointment
61. College dorm employee

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

Level: Intermediate

## Guess Who?

I am an actress born on April 4, 1979, in New York. I had a role on "Pee-wee's Playhouse" as a child. I gained additional acclaim in the "American Pie" movies and on "Orange Is the New Black." I am also the successful co-creator of a macabre TV series.

Answer: Natasha Lyonne

## WEDNESDAY

4/3

**Bone Builders**

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

**S.E.A.T. Exercises**

9-10 a.m. Wednesdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$6 per individual class or \$5 per class when paying for the whole month upfront. A brand-new, chair-based full body workout led by Melissa Cox, ACSM-GEI. [rutlandrec.com/godnick](http://rutlandrec.com/godnick) or 802-773-1853

**Senior Bone Builders**

10 a.m. Wednesdays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. [sherburnelibrary.org](http://sherburnelibrary.org) or 802-422-9765

**Killington Active Seniors Lunch**

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

**Book Club**

1:30 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. [sherburnelibrary.org](http://sherburnelibrary.org) or 802-422-9765

**Cribbage for Adults**

3-5 p.m. Wednesdays. 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. Wednesdays. 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

**Intro to Mosaics: Birdhouses**

5 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> of 3 sessions. 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)

**JAM Equipment Orientation**

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

**Ballroom Dance with Patti Panebianco**

Wednesdays. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney

**Open house: free class for new students**

6-6:50 p.m. Waltz for adults  
7-7:50 p.m. Cha-cha for adults  
For details and cost, contact Patti Panebianco at 516-909-1686 or email [pattidance@gmail.com](mailto:pattidance@gmail.com)

**'The Play That Goes Wrong'**

7:30 p.m. Ends April 14. Northern Stage, Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. Sliding scale tix. A play within a play, this Olivier Award-winning comedy rolls out every theater troupe's nightmare. Directed by Peter Hackett. For performance dates and prices, go to [northernstage.org/the-play-that-goes-wrong/](http://northernstage.org/the-play-that-goes-wrong/). For tix, [northernstage.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/events/a0S5d00000bekADEAY](http://northernstage.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/events/a0S5d00000bekADEAY) or call 802-296-7000.

## THURSDAY

4/4

**Bone Builders**

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

**Advanced Line Dance**

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

**Senior Bone Builders**

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

**Survivors' Support Group**

10 a.m.-Noon. Thursdays. 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

**Opening Day at Billings**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, River Road, Woodstock. General admission, reservations not required. The farm comes back to life! Enjoy a free scoop of ice cream from the Billings dairy herd, view the new exhibit of amazing handmade quilts, explore the livestock barns, the Vermont Farm Life Exhibits and the 1890 house Frederick Billings built for his farm manager's family. Opening Day includes a photo exhibit, "Telling the Climate Farming Story through Art," featuring three local working farms. Tix: [cart.billingsfarm.org/GeneralAdmission.aspx](http://cart.billingsfarm.org/GeneralAdmission.aspx) or call 802-457-2355

**Art at the Chaffee: Artery**

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Thursdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Fee: \$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. To reserve a meal, 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. Thursdays. 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)

**Winning Bird Photography on Display**

Noon-6 p.m. Open weekly, Thursday-Friday-Saturday. Castleton Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row, Rutland. Free. Outstanding large-format photographs of bird life, winners of the National Audubon Photography Show of 2022. Ends April 27, 2024.

**Play Bridge!**

2-4 p.m. Thursdays. 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. Thursdays. 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/calendar/](http://kids@hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/) or 802-436-2473

**Yoga with Kellie**

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

**Spirituality in Recovery**

4 p.m. Live or virtual. Rutland Jewish Center, 96 Grove St., Rutland. 802-773-3455

**'Wild & Scenic' Film Festival**

4:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. General admission \$12, members \$20. Films about stewardship, recreation and the resilience of our communities and natural areas, plus food, drink, raffles and more to benefit the work of the Vermont Natural Resources Council. Register, buy tix now at [vnrc.org/wsff2024/](http://vnrc.org/wsff2024/).

**An Evening with Vermont Poet Amy Allen:****'Mountain Offerings'**

6:30-8 p.m. Phoenix Book Store, 2 Center St., Rutland. Free. Amy Allen reads from her debut collection of poems, which trace a coming-of-age in partnership, parenthood, loss, independence and self-awareness, in the context of living in the mountains. Autographed copies will be available at the event. 802-855-8078.

**Lampshade Poets Open Mic**

7-8:30 p.m. JAM - Junction Arts & Media 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. Free. RSVP so we can set up enough chairs. [uvjam.org/event/lampshade-poets-open-mic/2024-04-04/](http://uvjam.org/event/lampshade-poets-open-mic/2024-04-04/)

## FRIDAY

4/5

**Bone Builders**

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

**JAM Equipment Orientation**

Noon-12:45 p.m. Next date: April 3. 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/)

**Lego Hangout**

3:30-4:30 p.m. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow. Free. K and up. 802-228-8921

**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

**Eying the Night Sky: Preparing for the Solar****Eclipse**

6:30 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$15.50 for General Public, \$13.50 for VINS Members. Join VINS for an immersive experience in the StarLab to learn about moon phases, eclipses, and eclipse mythology from various cultures. [vinsweb.org](http://vinsweb.org)

**Movie: 'Inundation District'**

6:30-8:30 p.m. Virtual. Free. Sustainable Woodstock, Climate Change and Sustainability Film Series.  
8:30 p.m. Live Q&A with Director David Able. "Inundation District," by David Abel and Ted Blanco, posits a not-so-futuristic scenario in which a city expands too close to an ocean front. Synopsis, registration & other details at [pentanglearts.org/event/inundation-district/#content](http://pentanglearts.org/event/inundation-district/#content)

**Carpenters Legacy Tribute Concert**

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$39 + surcharges. Recreation of the Carpenters' live 1976 performances, a mix of sentiment and humor. Tix: [ci.ovationtix.com/36265/performance/11372551](http://ci.ovationtix.com/36265/performance/11372551)

## SATURDAY

4/6

**Bear Mountain Moguls Challenge**

7 a.m.-5p.m. Killington Resort. \$50 + lift ticket. Waitlisted. Details: [killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar/bear-mountain-mogul-challenge](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar/bear-mountain-mogul-challenge)

**Energize UV Workshops**

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge St., White River Junction. Free. Workshops on home heat transfer and home electrification, registrants get a free lunch with energy experts. Workshop space is limited. To register: [tinyurl.com/energizeuv](http://tinyurl.com/energizeuv)

**Lego Club**

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



# BEAR MOUNTAIN MOGUL CHALLENGE

SATURDAY, 7 AM

**Jeanette Fournier: Exhibit of Watercolors**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Daily to April 30. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Nature's Way, Quechee. Portraits of birds and wildlife meticulously illustrated as they appear in nature. info@vinsweb.org or 802-359-9000

**The Vermont Winter Farmers' Market**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Howe Center, Suite 92, 1 Scale Ave. (off Strongs Avenue), Rutland. Free. One of the largest farmers' markets in the state and the first to operate year round. Watch for outdoor opening date. vtfarmersmarket.org

**Wunderle's Circus Workshops**

10 a.m. The Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$15. Kids ages 6-9 will work in small groups to learn clowning and improv skills. Kids ages 10+ will explore hand/eye coordination skills like plate spinning, juggling, diablo and more! For pricing and further info, visit: paramountvt.org.

**Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. 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

**Eclipse talk at Brandon Museum and Visitors Center**

11 a.m. The Brandon Museum and Visitors Center, 4 Grove St. John Peterson to give a talk about all kinds of celestial signs and portents, from eclipses to comets. Peterson is a retired history teacher from Rutland High School and local historian. brandon.org

**Cooking Class: The Alchemy of Batter**

Noon-3 p.m. Weekly, Saturdays. Odyssey Events, 276 Laber Road, Bridgewater Hill, Bridgewater Corners. \$81.88 includes surcharge. Learn the art of working with batter in different forms, from 18th-century crepe-style pancakes, goat cheese and chive beggars purses, to bacon and corn cakes. Many other classes available. For the complete schedule of future classes, photos and tix, go to eventbrite.com/cc/odyssey-events-cooking-classes-163609

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

Noon-2 p.m. Saturdays. 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/ or 802-775-0356

**Okemo Slush Cup and Spring Fling**

12 p.m. Slush Cup. 2 p.m. Spring Fling. Okemo Ski Resort, Ludlow. The Okemo Ski Resort's Slush Cup is an annual end-of-season event where participants in colorful costumes ski or snowboard across a pond created at the mountain's base. Spectators enjoy the spectacle, complete with music, food, and prizes, making it a highlight of Okemo's spring festivities. okemo.com.

**'Dungeons and Dragons' for Tweens**

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

**Wunderle's Big Top Adventures**

6 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. General admission \$15 + surcharges. Vermont native Troy Wunderle, a veteran of the circus world, brings his amazing one-man show to Rutland to benefit Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Tix: ci.ovationtix.com/36265/performance/11423715?performancelid=11423715 or call 802-775-0903 for ADA accommodation.

**Spring Concert ... Live and Local**

6:30 p.m. Little Theater in the Woodstock Rec Center, 54 River St. (Route 4), Woodstock. \$25. Relaxing, low-key evening with acoustic guitar and vocals by Laurie Marshall and Zack Danziger, to benefit the Ottauquechee Health Foundation. Raffle prizes, cash/cc bar. Tix: tickettailor.com/events/ohf/1136098

**Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival**

7 p.m. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St., Randolph. General admission, \$27; students, free. Bach's "Goldberg Variations" orchestrated for string trio. Special reception to follow. Tix: app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=220818

**Documentary: 'Just Getting By: A Day in the Life'**

7-9:30 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. \$15 or donation at the door. Directed by Bess O'Brien. A searching, sympathetic look at the realities of daily life for Vermonters, including New Americans, who experience homelessness and food insecurity and those who try to help. Kingdom County Productions. rutlandfree.org/calendar-events/ or call 802-773-1860

**SUNDAY**

4/7

**Fool's Fandango Psychic Fair**

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. Fee.\* Vendor booths, workshops in gardening, astrology and tarot. \*15-minute readings by readers in multiple disciplines, \$30 per reading. To schedule a reading or join workshop, go to foolsfandango.com/

**Sun, Moon & Stars at VINS**

10:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. Cost Included with general admission. Explore moon phases, eclipses, and eclipse mythology in the immersive StarLab experience at VINS. Prepare for the upcoming total Solar Eclipse in Vermont on April 8. vinsweb.org

**Cooking Party: The Souffle Also Rises, Apple Tart**

Noon. Odyssey Events, 276 Laber Road, Bridgewater Hill, Bridgewater Corners. \$91.81 includes surcharge before April 7. Premier chef Ted Fondulas will show you how to make our un-classic fallen soufflé, a light and delicious apple tart and maple cream with this spring's maple syrup! Recipes included, gluten-free by advance request. BYOB and eat what you make! Learn about the Fondulas' fascinating career. Other classes available. For the complete schedule of future classes, photos and tix, go to eventbrite.com/cc/odyssey-events-cooking-classes-163609

**Matthew Modell**

3 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$15. American pianist Matthew Odell. Odell began his studies at the age of 10 and has since won acclaim for performances of a wide range of repertoire as a solo recitalist, soloist with orchestra, and chamber musician. artistreevt.org.

**International Folk Dancing**

1-3 p.m. Rutland Jewish Center, Library Ave., Rutland. Free. Email judy.e.stern@dartmouth.edu

**The eclipses through Indigenous lenses**

2 p.m. The Brandon Inn, 20 Park St. Peggie "White Buffalo Moon" Rozell will speak about how Indigenous people have thought about eclipses. Rozell is a member of the Abenaki and Cherokee people but will also talk about how Navajo, Iroquois and Mohawk people have considered eclipses. brandon.org

**MONDAY**

4/8

**Senior Bone Builders**

10 a.m. Mondays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-9765

**Solar Eclipse 2024 at VINS**

10-5 p.m. VINS Nature Center, VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. Included with general admission to VINS. Join us for live music, a special program about animals and the eclipse, and space to watch this amazing natural phenomenon. One pair of solar eclipse viewing glasses are complimentary with admission to the VINS Nature Center (while supplies last). vinsweb.org

**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 for the menu.

**Monday Movie**

1 p.m. The Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Contact the library for the title. sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday/ 802 422-9765

**Pittsford Solar Eclipse Viewing Event**

2:14 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Free Experience the historic total solar eclipse in the serene setting of Pittsford Village Farm. Witness the near-total eclipse from the picturesque PVF knoll, away from the crowds, and enjoy the beauty of this celestial phenomenon. pittsfordvillagefarm.org

**Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra Spring Concert**

4 p.m. Grace Congregational UCC, 8 Court St., Rutland. General admission \$15, 60+ \$10, students \$5. Small service fee added, plus 3% if credit card. Tix: check or cash at the door, or go to champlainphilharmonic.org/concert-schedule

**Poetry Group**

4-5:30 p.m. Mondays. Norman Williams Public Library 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Looking for feedback on your poems? You are invited to join the Poetry Group at NWPL for sharing and critique. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

**TUESDAY**

4/9

**Bone Builders**

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

**Line Dance for Beginners**

9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Line dance basics taught by Sharon McKee. No partner or experience needed. Call 802-773-1853 for cost and to sign up. rutlandrec.com/godnick

**What's on Your Nightstand?**

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Norman Williams Public Library 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. The not-a-book-club book club. Open discussion, what you're reading, what you've read or want to read. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

**Bridge Club**

Noon-4:30 p.m. Weekly, Tuesdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. rutlandrec.com/godnick

**Met Opera in HD: 'Romeo et Juliette'**

1 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$20 + surcharges. Charles Gounod's 1867 interpretation of the Shakespeare play is visually sumptuous and emotionally mesmerizing. Run time: Approximately 3 hrs 10 mins. Tix: ci.ovationtix.com/36265/production/1187890

**Bridge Club**

2-4 p.m. Weekly, Tuesdays. Hartland Public Library, 150 US-5, Hartland. Free. All levels are welcome. Want to learn? Contact Toni at 802-436-2943 or email tonidave@vermontel.net.

**Rutland Business Show 2024**

4-7 p.m. p.m. (Exhibitor set-up at 2 p.m.) Rutland Recreation Community Center. Free. Join us at the annual Rutland Business Show to promote your business or organization, network with other businesses, and connect with the Rutland County community. Sponsored by Cape Air, GE Aerospace, Killington Resort, and M&T Bank. For more information, contact Chrispin White at chrispin@rutlandeconomy.com or (802)770-7066 for more information.

**Chess Club**

4-6 p.m. Weekly, Tuesdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Whether you have been playing for years or are new. If possible, bring your own chess set; some sets will be available. Contact club organizer Gregory Weller at gawchess802@gmail.com.

**Play Chess, Backgammon!**

5-7 p.m. Weekly, Tuesdays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. All skill levels are welcome, and coaching is available. Bring your own set or use one of ours. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295

**Swing Dance Class**

6:30-8 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. 802-773-1860

**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/ or contact Patti Panebianco at 516-909-1686 or email pattipdance@gmail.com

**Peppino's Classics 1 Day Dining Event**

An Event 3 Years in the Works  
Chef Louie Illiano Joins Rivershed's  
Chef Nevin Perry & Chef Tom Spencer  
for One Day Only of Peppino's  
Classics at Rivershed, 747 Killington  
Road, Killington.  
\*No reservations - walk-in only\*

# Gearing up for the Killington Mogul Challenge: Event essentials

Saturday, April 6 at 7 a.m.—KILLINGTON—Killington's annual mogul competition and springtime party will heat up once again on Saturday, April 6 as amateur bumpers take to the slopes of Outer Limits to battle for a place in the finals. The top 32 men and 16 women will compete in a head-to-head competition for the Mogul Challenge cup.

## Registration

Registration is open to skiers only and is limited to the first 150 registrants. This competition fills up fast, so we recommend pre-registering to guarantee your spot. The entry fee is \$50 for all divisions. Entry fee does not include a lift ticket, which is required for all competitors. Discounted lift tickets for competitors will be available for purchase online and at registration. These tickets will only be offered to registered participants who have been assigned a bib.

If you purchase a discounted lift ticket, you must fill out an Express Assumption of Risk form by clicking [HERE](#). If you are under 18, you will need a parent/guardian to fill out the form on your behalf.

All competitors must check-in at the Fuel TV Lounge on the 3rd floor of Bear Mountain Lodge between 7-8:30 a.m. on event day to pick up a competition bib. When tickets sell out online, you will be able to join the waitlist through the Eventbrite link below. A drawing will take place after registration on the event day (4/6) at 8:30 a.m. for any unclaimed bibs. We will call names starting at the top of the waitlist & you must be present to claim a bib.

## Volunteers

Volunteers will be provided with lunch & will earn a free Killington lift ticket, good for a calendar year, for each shift worked. Claim your spot as a volunteer below— shifts are available working both indoors & outdoors, so please check the descriptions of each position to make sure you are comfortable in the given role:

## Rules

This is an amateur competition. No USSS members ages 12 and over as of Jan 1, 2024 who have registered as competitors in the past five years will be allowed to race. Competitors ages 11 and under are eligible to compete regardless of USSS status.

Each participant must wear a properly fastened snow sports helmet during all event practice/inspection and competition. No exceptions.

Scope it out. Make a habit of course/venue inspection before every event.

Know your limits (skill and ability levels) and stay within them. This isn't the time to try something you've never done before.

## Divisions

- Men - 13 & under
- Women - 13 & under
- Men - 14-20
- Women - 14-20
- Men - 21-34
- Women - 21-34
- Men - 35-49
- Women - 35-49
- Men - 50+
- Women - 50+

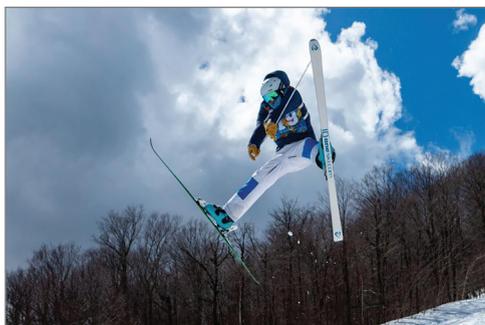


## Competition details

Practice is scheduled to take place on the course on Outer Limits on Friday, April 5th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.—stay tuned here for any updates on practice availability. Practice is only open for registered competitors with valid lift tickets for the day, and hiking up to the course will not be allowed.

The start order for qualifiers will be available for viewing on Friday, April 5 from 6-8 p.m. during our pre-party at Sushi Yoshi. The start order will also be available to view at registration on Saturday morning. On Saturday starting at 9 a.m., competitors will each have one run, then the top 32 men and 16 women will compete in a dual format at approximately 12 p.m. Pairs of competitors will run a dual course with sudden death format—only the winners remain.

Awards will be presented to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place overall men's and women's winners. The 1st - 4th place winners' names will be engraved on the Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge trophy.



Courtesy Killington Resort

Competitors hit the bumps at a recent mogul challenge at Killington Resort. This year's competition will be held Saturday, April 6 at Outer Limits on Bear Mountain, Killington.

## Judging criteria

The purpose of the Mogul Challenge is to recognize technical superiority and athletic ability. Men and women are scored separately in each of the age groups. Each judge can award a maximum of 5 points in the following categories:

- **Turns and Line (60%):** Quality and variety of well-executed turns while staying as close as possible to the fall line.
- **Air (20%):** Quality of upright aerial maneuvers executed spontaneously in the fall line. Inverts are strictly prohibited.
- **Speed (20%):** Speed score will be based on a male and female pacesetter's time.

## Live music

- **Nick & Rhys duo**

Local legends Nick Bredice & Rhys will take the stage under the big tent on the Bear Mountain deck as our first act of the day.

- **Jamie's Junk Show**

To close out the day, we'll welcome back Jamie's Junk Show to outside the Bear Mountain Lodge. The Junk Show has a groovy acoustic style incorporating Rock, Reggae, Bluegrass and Jazz. Performing energetic, acoustic interpretations of your favorite songs. Not your typical cover band!

## Party tips

### Parking and access

This is an outdoor event; be sure to wear proper footwear. There is limited parking at Bear Mountain. Those who wish to drive should plan to carpool and arrive early.

Skiing or riding to the event from other base areas can help in avoiding traffic congestion leaving Bear Mountain after the competition.

Tailgate set-up will commence Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m. No Friday set-up will be allowed and Bear Mountain parking gates will be locked at 5 p.m. Friday evening.

Lifts operate until 4 p.m. but the Skye Peak Express Quad will reopen after awards, allowing guests to ski or ride back to other base areas. Free shuttles will run from 6:30 a.m. until after the event to transport guests between base areas. Other transportation options exist including Timberline Transportation (802-345-6917) and Uber (app available for download on smartphones).

### Alcohol and consumption

Personal consumption is permitted. Please note it is against Vermont State Law to dispense alcohol. No kegs nor illegal drugs/substances will be allowed inside the event, on-snow area, or in parking lots. Alcohol cannot be given to or consumed by minors. Evidence of this will lead to removal from the premises. Only those 21 and older are permitted in the Bear Mountain bar areas. Personal consumption of alcohol is not permitted in base lodges or other designated food and beverage venues. Don't drink and drive! Taxis and shuttles are available for a safe ride home—see above for options.

### Venue policies and amenities

Leave all non-service animals at home, including donkeys.

Bring weights to hold down your tent if you bring one for your tailgate area.

There is limited cellular service at Bear Mountain.

Wi-Fi is available in the lodge.

Live music & DJs other than Killington Resort entertainment are not permitted.

No drones, bonfires, fire pits, or fireworks allowed.

Observe Killington's smoking policy by only smoking in the designated areas (Bear Mountain Parking Lot ONLY).

Clean up after yourselves. There will be dumpsters available for post-event clean-up in addition to trash cans throughout the venue.

Restrooms are available on the first floor of Bear Mountain Lodge with portable toilets available throughout the venue.

Food will be available inside Bear Mountain Lodge in addition to a BBQ on the Bear Lodge deck (weather-permitting).

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

Leave all non-service animals at home, including donkeys.



Courtesy Killington Resort

# [MUSIC Scene]

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

**WED**  
4/3

**KILLINGTON**

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Nick Bredece

6 p.m. Rivershed – Sammy B

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

**LUDLOW**

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

**QUECHEE**

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Kim Wilcox

**RUTLAND**

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

**THURS**  
4/4

**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**

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

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

**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

7 p.m. Off the Rails – Nick Bredece and Jenny Porter

**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 Josh Cote

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

**FRI**  
4/5

**KILLINGTON**

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Nick Bredece & Daniel Brown

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

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Red River North

6 p.m. Sushi Yoshi – Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge Start Order Party with Music by DJ Dave

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

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – McMurrphys

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Felix Brown

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

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

**LUDLOW**

6 p.m. The Killarney – Sammy B

**QUECHEE**

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Ryan Fuller

**RANDOLPH**

7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Night Protocol and Adrianna

**SAT**  
4/6

**BOMOSEEN**

5:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – James Joel

**BRIDGEWATER**

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Co-Headliners Mike Bramante & Mae Planert

**KILLINGTON**

9 a.m. Bear Mountain – Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge with music by DJ Dave, Nick Bredece & Rhys Chalmers and Jamie's Junk Show

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Rivershed – Red Daisy Revival

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

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Aedie

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – McMurrphys

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet

9 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Official BMMC After Party with Felix Brown

**LONDONDERRY**

3 p.m. Black Line Tavern at Magic Mountain – Sammy B

**LUDLOW**

12 p.m. Okemo Mountain – The Snowmelt: Slush Cup and Spring Fling

8 p.m. The Killarney – Ruby Street

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Nick Bredece and Liz Reedy

**STOCKBRIDGE**

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

**SUN**  
4/7

**KILLINGTON**

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Red Daisy Revival

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Nick Bredece

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 – Comedy & Cocktails

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

**RUTLAND**

4 p.m. Grace Congregational Church – Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra: Symphony No. 3

**SOUTH POMFRET**

3 p.m. Artistree - Matthew Odell in Concert

**STOCKBRIDGE**

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

**MON**  
4/8

**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:

**LUDLOW**

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

**TUES**  
4/9

**KILLINGTON**

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 Yakaftis

**LUDLOW**

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

**PITTSFIELD**

6:30 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Jam

**QUECHEE**

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

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# 5 tips for viewing the 2024 solar eclipse in Vermont

The once-in-a-lifetime chance to view a total solar eclipse is April 8, but clouds and crowds are expected, too

By Erin Petenko/VTDigger

When experts and scientists are asked about their suggestions for how best to view the April 8 eclipse, many of them started off with the same piece of advice: “Don’t look directly at the sun!” as Scott Whittier, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service, put it.

Even during a partial eclipse, the sun’s burning rays can penetrate your retinas and cause eye damage in minutes. But the once-in-a-lifetime chance to watch the sun be completely covered by the moon may make it worth finding safe ways to gaze upward.

The last time Vermont experienced a total solar eclipse was 1932, said John Perry, an astrophysics professor at the University of Vermont. Another total eclipse won’t come to the state for another five decades, according to NASA, although parts of the U.S. will experience one in 2044 and 2045.

## 1. Find out where you are on the eclipse path

A total solar eclipse is when the moon completely covers the sun from view, causing an effect where the dark moon is surrounded by the hazy glow of the sun’s corona. That “total” effect will only be visible in the northern part of the state, according to maps from NASA.

Burlington will experience the total solar eclipse first, from about 3:26 to 3:29 p.m. on April 8. From there, the path of totality will travel diagonally past Montpelier, hitting the Northeast Kingdom at about 3:30 p.m.

But areas south of the path of totality — including Rutland, Killington and Woodstock — will experience a partial solar eclipse, according to NASA. The sun’s corona will not be visible, but the sky is still predicted to become dark and the sun would look like a crescent when viewed through safety equipment.

The closer you are to the path of totality, the longer the total eclipse effect is predicted to last, Perry said. The very center of it will be a mile or two into Lake Champlain. “You can always rent a boat,” he said.

## 2. Figure out a way to view the eclipse safely

There are several methods to protect your eyes during an eclipse. Perhaps the easiest is to purchase special eclipse glasses or handheld solar viewers that are designed to block harmful sun rays. Look for glasses that conform to the ISO 12312-2 standard, Perry said.

In a pinch, you can also build a pinhole projector out of a box, aluminum foil and a piece of paper, Perry said. This NASA website has a diagram of how to create it. Even a small hole punched in an index card, or an object with lots of holes like a colander, will allow you to indirectly see the crescent shape of the sun as a shadow on the ground.

At the very moment of totality, when the moon has completely blocked the sun, it is safe to view the effect without eclipse glasses, according to NASA.

## 3. Keep an eye out for these ‘special effects’

Even on a cloudy day, as the moon starts to block parts of the sun, the entire sky will gradually get darker, Perry said. Animals might begin to react as though it’s twilight. “Furry creatures come out and bump into your legs, you know, stuff like that,” he joked.

On a clear day, as the moon covers the sun, it will create a crescent shape followed by bright patterns as the last remnants of

It will create a crescent shape followed by bright patterns as the last remnants of the sun’s rays peek out behind the moon, called the diamond ring effect.

the sun’s rays peek out behind the moon, called the diamond ring effect. Then the moon will completely block the sun, causing the streaming lights of the corona to stand out around it.

On a clear day, planets such as Venus and Jupiter might become visible as they would in the evening sky, Perry said.

Perry suggested that the best viewing location might be looking westward and downward so that you can watch the shadow of the moon traveling toward you as totality approaches.

“It’s a fairly dramatic thing to see, to look down for a moment instead of looking up and see that shadow coming at you,” he said.

## 4. Be ready for crowds

Local organizations, businesses and communities have

already planned a number of eclipse events and celebrations. (See the adjacent page and calendar for events held locally.)

The eclipse is expected to draw tens of thousands of visitors. Officials across the state are planning for crowds, traffic and other hazards, according to Mark Bosma, a spokesperson for Vermont Emergency Management.

Burlington schools are even scheduled to close early on Monday, April 8, because of traffic and safety concerns, said Russ Elek, a spokesperson for the school district, via email. He cited estimates from local authorities that the eclipse

could draw up to 250,000 people to the area, causing traffic that could last for hours after it ends.

Perry said being in a crowd to see the eclipse might be “exciting”

“You’re looking up, so it’s not going to be like in a theater trying to see through the person in front of you,” he pointed out.

## 5. While the forecast looks good, be prepared for clouds.

How many people will come to Vermont? What will they see? Those answers are dependent on one important but uncertain factor: the state’s wily and wet spring weather.

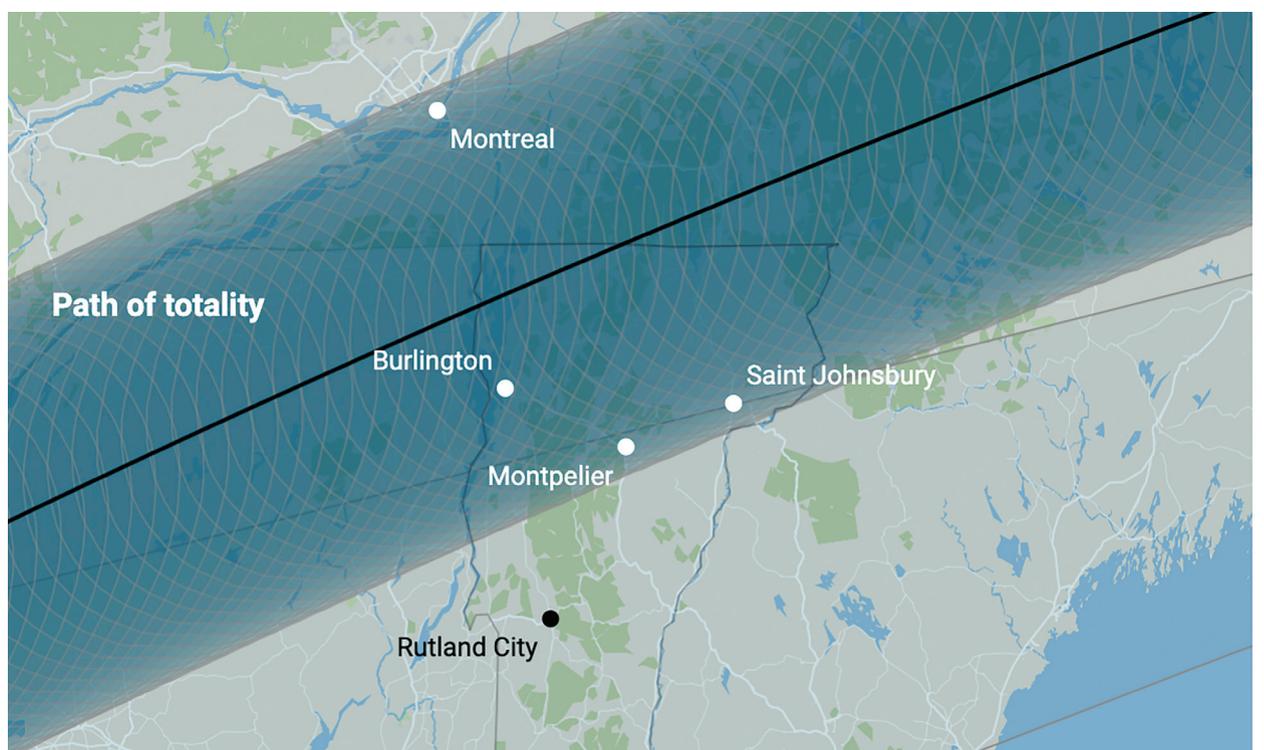
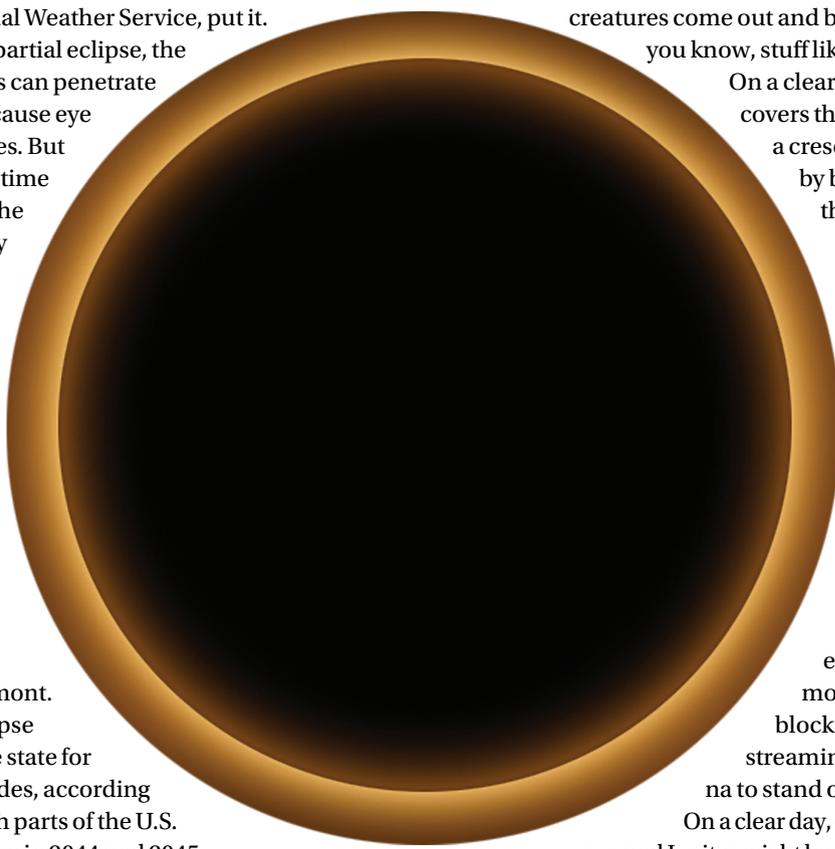
Meteorologist Whittier is ready for disappointment. He cited data showing that based on historic patterns, the chance of a relatively clear day is between 10% and 20%.

“If I was putting my eggs in one basket to really wanting to see it at this point ... I would probably be down in Texas to see it,” he said.

As of Monday, April 1, forecasters were predicting April 8 to be sunny and around 50 degrees with just a 5% chance of clouds.

But “It really can vary,” Whittier said.

Perry says to have hope. He recalled the partial solar eclipse that occurred last October on a cloudy day. “It was totally cloudy, totally overcast, all right up until the eclipse started,” he said. “And then it magically cleared and we got this great look at the eclipse for about an hour.”



Courtesy NASA Scientific Visualization Studio

Path of the solar eclipse through Vermont. Rutland is about 40 miles south of “totality,” the epicenter is in Lake Champlain.

## Eyeing the Night Sky at VINS StarLab, Friday

Friday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m.—QUECHEE—The VINS StarLab will feature an immersive experience to learn about moon phases and features. Then, an explanation of eclipses and explore the mythology of eclipses from cultures throughout history.

Reservations for seating in the StarLab are required as space is limited.

Tickets are \$15.50 General public; \$13.50 VINS Members.

Seating for the StarLab will be at 6:30 and 7:15 p.m.

This is a family-friendly event. Be aware that the dark environment and close proximity of the StarLab may not be suitable for all.

For reservations and more information, visit: [vinsweb.org](http://vinsweb.org).

## Eclipse talk at Brandon Museum and Visitors Center

Saturday, April 6 at 11 a.m.—BRANDON—The Brandon Museum and Visitors Center, 4 Grove St., will host John Peterson to give a talk about all kinds of celestial signs and portents, from eclipses to comets, on Saturday at 11 a.m. John Peterson is a retired history teacher from Rutland High School and local historian. He'll discuss how long ago people explored the world by tracking the movements of stars and planets — and how they learned how to predict eclipses. Solar eclipses are when

the moon passes in front of the sun; lunar eclipses are when the earth gets in between and blocks the sunlight from shining on the moon.

In his talk, he'll discuss how different cultures across the world have reacted to eclipses.

Peterson said he plans on the event to be more of a discussion than a lecture and encourages folks to join who have questions and/or knowledge to share.

For more information, visit: [brandon.org](http://brandon.org) or call 802-247-6401.

## Sun, Moon & Stars immersive experience at VINS

Sunday, April 7 at 10:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 1:15 p.m.—QUECHEE—Journey into the VINS StarLab for an immersive experience to learn about moon phases and features. Then, dive into an explanation of eclipses and explore the mythology of eclipses from cultures throughout history.

Reservations for seating in the StarLab are required as space is limited.

This is a family-friendly event. Be aware that the dark environment and close proximity of the StarLab may not be suitable for all.

For reservations and more information, visit: [vinsweb.org](http://vinsweb.org).



Courtesy VINS

## The eclipses through Indigenous lenses

Sunday, April 7, at 2 p.m.—BRANDON—Peggie “White Buffalo Moon” Rozell will speak about how Indigenous people have thought about eclipses at The Brandon Inn, 20 Park St., at 2 p.m. Sunday. Rozell is a member of the Abenaki and Cherokee people but will also talk about how Navajo, Iroquois and Mohawk people have considered eclipses.



## See the sun disappear at VINS Solar Eclipse 2024

Monday, April 8 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.—QUECHEE—VINS will have live music, a special program about animals and the eclipse, and space to watch the eclipses. One pair of solar eclipse viewing glasses are complimentary with admission to the VINS Nature Center (while supplies last).

For more information, contact us at 802.359.5000 or [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org).

## Pittsford eclipse event offers spectacular viewing opportunity

Monday, April 8 at 2:14 p.m.—PITTSFORD—Vermont residents and visitors alike are gearing up for an extraordinary celestial event as a total solar eclipse graces the skies. This rare phenomenon marks a historic occasion for Vermont, as it is the first total solar eclipse visible in the state since 1932 and won't occur again until 2106.

Scheduled to begin precisely at 2:14 p.m., the total solar eclipse will cast its shadow over the northern half of Vermont, culminating in a breathtaking display as the sun is completely obscured by the moon from 3:26 to 3:29 p.m. During this remarkable event, the skies will darken, resembling dusk or even the middle of the night if clouds are present.

In Pittsford, Vermont, observers will have the opportunity to witness this near-total eclipse from the picturesque surroundings of Pittsford Village Farm. Avoiding the chaos and crowds often associated with such events, attendees will enjoy free and easy access to the PVF knoll, one of the area's

most beautiful gathering spots.

To enhance the viewing experience, Maclure Library will be providing complimentary eclipse glasses to ensure safe observation of the celestial spectacle. Additionally, the library will offer engaging eclipse-related activities for attendees of all ages, adding an educational component to this unforgettable event.

For more information, visit: [pittsfordvillagefarm.org](http://pittsfordvillagefarm.org) or [maclurelibrary.org](http://maclurelibrary.org)



# Billings opening day celebrates 42nd season with animals, programs, exhibitions, free ice cream and more

Thursday, April 4, at 10 a.m.—WOODSTOCK—April 4 marks opening day at Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock, and that gets visitors a free scoop of ice cream. Of course, not to be missed are the programs and animals that Billings Farm fans know and love.

Explore the site in early spring and take in the boldly painted patterns of our Barn Quilt Exhibition that will adorn our historic barns and buildings throughout the season. View the thought-provoking “Portraits of Resilience” exhibition of the Vital Communities “Climate Farmer

Stories” project and learn what farmers in our local area are doing to address climate change. Wander through history in the Vermont Farm Life Exhibits and the 1890 Farm Manager’s House.

For more information, visit: [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

## Art exhibition showcases 'Climate Farmer Stories'

WOODSTOCK—This thought-provoking exhibition of 26 original artworks from the Vital Communities “Climate Farmers Stories” project will be displayed in Billings Farm’s Historic Barn from April 4 - June 23.

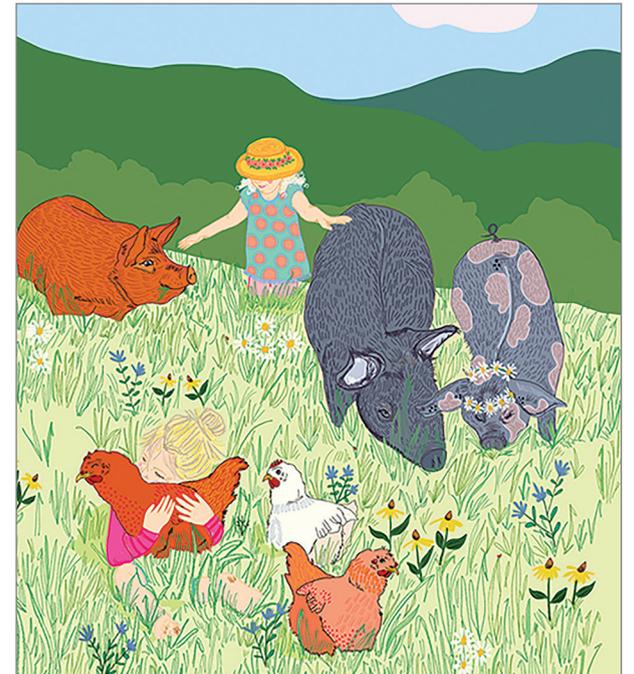
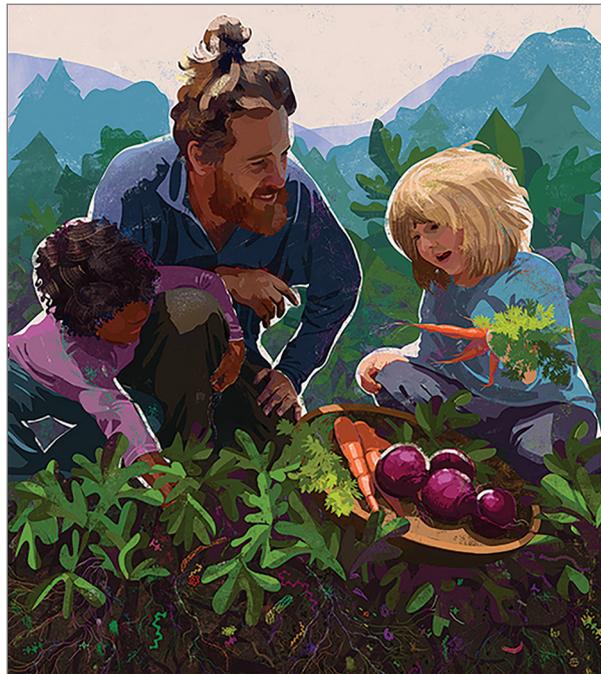
Through portraits in paint, print, fiber, and digital media, the works highlight the resiliency, creativity, and problem-solving abilities of farmers in the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire. Each portrait is intentionally crafted by local artists to connect viewers with climate farmers.

The artwork, along with educational panels and quotes from artists and farmers, help convey both the problems and solutions that climate change presents and provides an important platform for raising awareness.

The exhibition will continue outdoors where guests will find examples of approaches to improve climate resiliency at Billings Farm. A few of the methods include rotational grazing of the dairy herd, solar panel usage, low or no-till fields with organic-only fertilizers.

This collaboration between Vital Communities and Billings Farm & Museum provides accessible ways for individuals to take meaningful action to help farms address climate change.

For more information, visit: [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).



Courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

The Vital Communities “Climate Farmers Stories” project at Billings Farm features 26 original artworks, educational panels, and quotes from local artists to promote climate resiliency measures.

## Billings Farm & Museum Hosts 2024 Barn Quilt Exhibition: A Celebration of Rural Artistry

WOODSTOCK—Billings Farm & Museum is bringing the rural artistry of barn quilts to our scenic site for the 2024 Barn Quilt Exhibition from April 4 - December 1.

Barn quilting recreates the concept of quilt squares on durable mediums such as plywood. These squares, starting at 4 feet by 4 feet and up, feature striking colors and simple geometric designs. Collaborating with Vermont artists as well as artisans from the Chelsea Barn Quilt Project and Barn Quilts of Northern Vermont, who have been working to highlight barn quilting in Vermont, each space will host a uniquely crafted piece inspired by nature, math, agriculture, and the history of the Billings Farm site.

Guests can wander through the farm and take in the boldly painted patterns that will adorn historic barns and buildings. As a working dairy farm and historical landmark, Billings Farm offers a contextual richness to the exhibition. The Barn Quilt Exhibition also extends the traditional fiber quilt show at Billings Farm, adding another dimension for visitors to engage with contemporary art within the framework of an American art tradition.

### Deadlines

- Submissions Accepted: March 7 - April 6.
- Exhibition Dates: June 29 - Sept 2.

For more information, visit: [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).



Courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

The Barn Quilt Exhibition, featuring plywood quilts curated by Vermont artists, inspired by nature, math, agriculture, and Billings Farm site history.



Courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

One of the many exhibits at the farm, the general store allows visitors to explore the 19th and early 20th century general store's significance in rural communities.

## Carpenters Legacy: A tribute to the iconic duo comes to Rutland

Friday, April 5 at 7 p.m.—RUTLAND—Coming direct from Las Vegas, to Rutland's Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland, is "Carpenters Legacy," the definitive show celebrating the music and legacy of the famed brother-sister duo. Starring Sally Olson as Karen Carpenter and Ned Mills as Richard Carpenter, the show is a re-creation of the Carpenters' 1976 live performances, featuring hits including "We've Only Just Begun," "Yesterday Once More," "Superstar," Karen's drum solo, Richard's classical piano feature, a Spike Jones parody of "Close To You," comedy antics and much more.

Carpenters Legacy maintains a Las Vegas residency in the V Theater at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino. The show is a six time Best of Las Vegas winner and was voted "Best Impersonator" (Gold), "Best Tribute Show" (Bronze) and "Best Family-Friendly Show" (Bronze) in 2023. Olson is the first-ever and only Karen Carpenter tribute artist to perform with Legends In Concert. Carpenters Legacy features a powerful live performance, historical commentary, lovely arrangements and video, taking audiences on an incredible journey down memory lane into the world of the Carpenters - the world's ONLY authentic Carpenters tribute in sight and sound.

"Heartfelt and honest" ~ Randy Schmidt, author of *Little Girl Blue: The Life of Karen Carpenter*

"Sally Olson and Ned Mills perfectly embody Karen and Richard Carpenter. Carpenters Legacy is nothing short of astounding" ~ Sam Novak, Vegas 411

"Musically sound, vocally spot-on, and will please any fans of the duo." ~ John Katsilometes, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Tickets for the show are \$39 + tax/fees.

For more information, visit: [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

## '2024 Wild and Scenic Film Festival' showing at Woodstock Town Hall Theater

Thursday, April 4, from 6:30-9:15 p.m.—WOODSTOCK—The Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) is coming to the Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock on April 4 to host the 2024 Wild and Scenic Film Festival. The event will feature an

evening of inspiring short films about stewardship, recreation and the resilience of our communities and natural areas.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with the film program beginning at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit: [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org).

## Matthew Odell: A musical journey through Schumann, Brahms, and more

Sunday, April 7, at 3 p.m.—SOUTH POMFRET—Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret will host the American pianist Matthew Odell. Odell began his studies at the age of 10 and has since won acclaim for performances of a wide range of repertoire as a solo recitalist, soloist with orchestra, and chamber musician. He has been hailed as "excellent" by the New York Times and "brilliant ... playing with total commitment and real abandon" by Gramophone. Highlights of past concert seasons include such diverse projects as Messiaen's "Des canyons aux étoiles" ... with David Robertson and the Juilliard Orchestra for the reopening of Alice Tully Hall, a performance in the New York Philharmonic's Stravinsky Festival, and a tour of concerts, lectures, and masterclasses in England, France, and Spain. Recent concerts have featured the complete solo piano works of Olivier Messiaen, Pierre Boulez, Elliott Carter, John Adams, and Michel Merlet. Tickets are \$15.

### Solo recital to include

- Robert Schumann: "Papillons," Op. 2
- Clara Schumann: "Variations on a Theme of R. Schumann," Op. 20
- Brahms: Sonata No. 2 in F-sharp minor, Op. 2

For more information, visit: [artistreevt.org](http://artistreevt.org).



Courtesy Matthew Odell

Matthew Odell



Courtesy Dmitry Sitkovetsky

The Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival will feature Dmitry Sitkovetsky's String Trio in Bach's 'Goldberg Variations' on April 6, with tickets priced at \$27 each and a reception afterwards.

## Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival presents Dmitry Sitkovetsky's String Trio arrangement of 'Goldberg Variations'

Saturday, April 6 at 7 p.m.—RANDOLPH—The Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N Main St., Randolph will host the 32nd annual Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival, featuring "Goldberg Variations" for String Trio arranged by Dmitry Sitkovetsky. Michael Roth, violin. Joana Miranda, viola. Peter Sanders, cello.

The "Goldberg Variations," originally for piano solo, work beautifully in this string trio version. The work which will be

performed in its entirety will be the only piece on this special program and will be performed without intermission. Dmitry Sitkovetsky has created a wonderful version of this Bach work.

Tickets are available for \$27 each and students can attend for free.

A special reception will follow the concert, an opportunity to meet the artists and share in the musical community.

For more information, visit: [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org)

## 'Romeo et Juliette' (Gounod) to enchant audiences with an encore presentation

Tuesday, April 9 at 1 p.m.—RUTLAND—The Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland will feature two singers at the height of their powers—radiant soprano Nadine Sierra and tenor sensation Benjamin Bernheim—come together as the star-crossed lovers in Gounod's sumptuous Shakespeare adaptation, with Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin on the podium to conduct one of the repertoire's most romantic scores. Bartlett Sher's towering staging also features baritone Will Liverman and tenor Frederick Ballentine as the archrivals Mercutio and Tybalt, mezzo-soprano Samantha Hankey as the mischievous pageboy Stéphano, and bass-baritone Alfred Walker as Frère Laurent.

For more information, visit: [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).



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*Rutland CO-OP*

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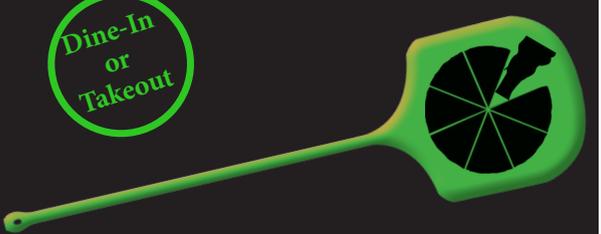


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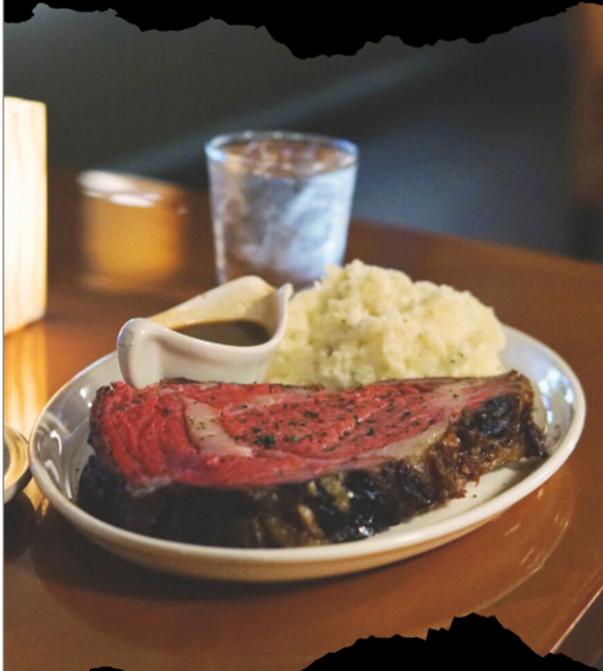
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# Wonderfeet Kids' Museum Brings Big Top Fun to The Paramount

Saturday, April 6 at 6 p.m.—RUTLAND—Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, Rutland's very own children's museum located in the Energy Innovation Center on Merchants Row, is bringing a fun-filled night of family entertainment to The Paramount Theatre stage, 30 Center St., Rutland this Saturday.



Nationally renowned circus performer Troy Wunderle will be entertaining families for the evening, and welcoming local kids to join him onstage. Wonderfeet is working with Wunderle to offer a two-hour clowning and circus workshop on

Saturday morning. Kids will learn a variety of skills from improv and miming to plate spinning and juggling. All of the workshop participants will also get to appear in the evening's show with Wunderle at The Paramount.

Wonderfeet has planned for this to be an evening for the whole family. Troy's performances are appealing to all ages from preschoolers to grandparents. Wonderfeet board member Nicole Mastroenin says, "Tickets to the show are just \$15 each, so people should bring the whole family and make it a great night out. Kids will get a kick out of seeing their friends on stage clowning around and There will be a concession stand and 50/50 raffle. We hope this is just one more great memory families create with Wonderfeet."

Families can find more information about signing up for Troy's Circus Workshop at [www.wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/events](http://www.wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/events) The workshop is \$50 per student, but includes their ticket to the 6 p.m. show. "Working with Troy feels like an extension of what kids do at Wonderfeet. We want them to use their imaginations, be creative, try new things and explore. Getting to actually join the circus is something many of us probably dreamt about as a kid!" says Wonderfeet Executive Director, Danielle Monroe.

Troy Wunderle is the founding director of Wunderle's Big Top Adventures. He spent 27 years directing Circus Smirkus and 6 years as director of Clowning for the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. He is a juried artist through the Vermont State Arts Council. Troy is the 2022 recipient of the American Circus Educators Excellence in Circus Education Award. Troy is a proud native of Vermont. For the past 27 years, he has toured throughout the United States as a freelance performer and employee of Vermont's own Circus Smirkus. His antics have been featured on the Disney channel, The Today Show, Martha Stewart, Chronicle, Fetch, Fox and Friends and America's Funniest Home Videos.

All money raised during this event will go towards Wonderfeet Kids' Museum - ensuring that admission cost stays affordable for all families in Rutland County and that we can continue to offer reduced-price memberships to families in need.

Wonderfeet Kids' Museum has worked

with The Paramount Theatre in the past on their Lip Sync Battle fundraiser which has raised over \$100,000 over the years. This year, Wonderfeet decided to take a break from the Lip Sync Battle while they are planning for their Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Celebration on May 11. The Wonderfeet Lip Sync Battle will return in 2025!

Wonderle's Big Top Fun is presented by MKF Properties with additional support from Sotheby's Four Seasons International Realty. All proceeds will benefit Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, located at 66 Merchants Row in Rutland in the GMP Energy Innovation Center. Ticket sales support operations including outreach programs, ongoing exhibits, and affordable memberships to meet the needs of all members of our community.

Wonderfeet fosters curiosity and exploration, inspires creativity and ignites the imagination of every child through the power of play. For more information call (802) 282-2678 or visit [WonderfeetKidsMuseum.org](http://WonderfeetKidsMuseum.org).



Courtesy [bigtopadventures.com/shows](http://bigtopadventures.com/shows)  
*Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, Rutland's children's museum, is bringing a fun-filled evening of family entertainment to The Paramount Theatre stage on Saturday, April 6 featuring nationally renowned circus performer Troy Wunderle.*

# Local Artist Pat Wise

The Old Barn  
Watercolor Print  
4 x 5 \$68  
5 x 7 \$72  
8 x 10 \$103

To see more work, visit me on Instagram @patrickcwise



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Church Of Our Saviour (Episcopal)

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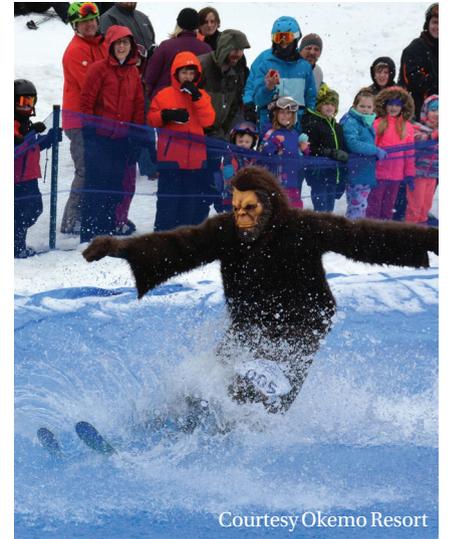
Monthly @ 9:30am      Mission Farm Rd Killington

[www.missionfarmVT.org](http://www.missionfarmVT.org)

## The Snowmelt: Slush Cup and Spring Fling brings late season, spring skiing fun to Okemo

Saturday, April 6 at Noon—LUDLOW—  
The Snowmelt: The Slush Cup is the biggest event of the year at Okemo Ski Resort and is the highlight of the day, where participants test their skills on skis or snowboards to see if they can glide across the slushy pond or take a refreshing dip. Prizes await those who conquer the challenge, adding an extra layer of excitement to the event.

Slush Cup and Spring Fling festivities will take place at the Clock Tower base area this season. Join Okemo for the Slush Cup from 12-2 p.m.. Stick around for even more fun afterwards at the Spring Fling Après 2-5 p.m. Jam out on the Base 68 Patio with live music by Total Strangers on the Toyots Music Den. For more information, visit: [okemo.com](http://okemo.com)



Courtesy Okemo Resort

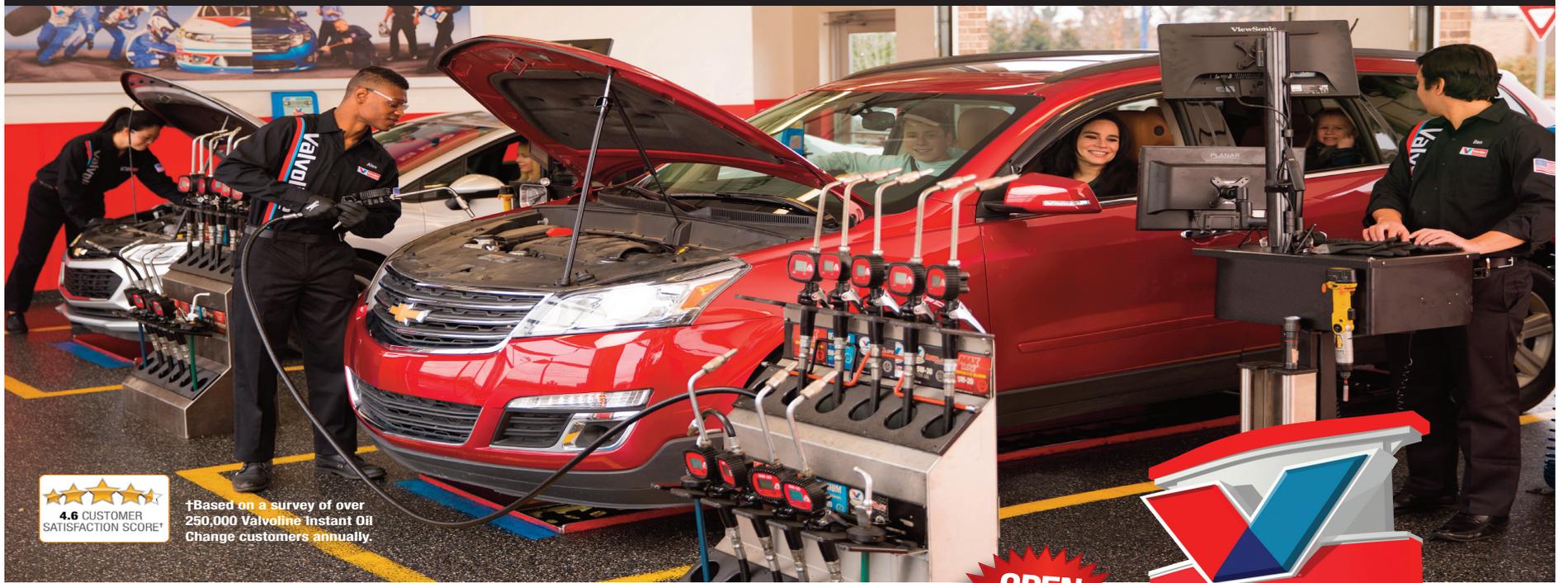
## Sherburne Killington Historians

Sherburne Historians is pleased to host famed Historian Howard Coffin, presenting Vermont Women and the Civil War April 19th, 1-3 PM 2024 at the Sherburne Memorial Library

Howard Coffin is a seventh generation Vermonter and the author of four books on the Civil War with a focus on Vermont and the Chaplain Corridor.

This talk is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. For more information, contact Sheila Pilsmaier at (802) 770-9776 or [skvthishistorians@gmail.com](mailto:skvthishistorians@gmail.com), or visit our Sherburne Killington Historians Facebook page.

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## CEDRR hosts business show, Tuesday

Tuesday, April 9 at 4 p.m.—RUTLAND— After a successful business show last year, the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) will again host its business show. The show will serve as an opportunity to promote local businesses or organizations to potential new customers and make important connections within the Rutland County community.

The event will be held at Rutland Recreation Community Center from 4-7 p.m. Exhibitor set up will begin at 2 p.m. From 4-5 p.m., businesses and organizations will have an opportunity to network with one another. The show will open to the public at 5 p.m.

For more information, visit: [rutlandvermont.com/2024-rutland-business-show](http://rutlandvermont.com/2024-rutland-business-show).

## ← Enough:

from page 10

Solutions Act, the so-called 'Affordable Heat Act,' which would add \$.70 or more to a gallon of heating fuel, and the Renewable Energy Standard Bill."

This year, they approved the Renewal Energy Standard, which was written by, and for, the utilities and special interest groups, who stand to gain the most.

It will cost Vermonters hundreds of millions on their electric bills. Representative Gina Galfetti noted, "The Renewable Energy Standard (or RES) bill was passed by the supermajority despite stiff opposition. The bill was written by and for the utilities and special interest groups, the very groups that will benefit most from its passage. Instead of fully vetting a proposal of \$164 million, by the Public Service Board, we passed the RES plan that will cost upwards of \$450 million more."

Doing things like this behind closed doors does a disservice to Vermonters. It flies in the face of transparency, and it is done to hide from press accountability. How else do you explain a committee being hit with an additional \$131 million, in new taxes and fees on Thursday late morning and voting it out of committee on Thursday afternoon? \$131 million folks!

Representative Scott Beck stated: "Now, we are told by the supermajority that we need to increase taxes another \$131 million by increasing personal income, corporate income and property transfer taxes. These taxes will chase even more Vermonters and businesses to other states, and make it more expensive to purchase a home for those that remain. We are told that it will only impact a relative few. We need everybody, especially the 1% that are paying 35% of all Vermont income tax and bring philanthropy and economic vitality to Vermont. Vermont corporate income tax receipts have tripled in the last 10 years due to state tax policy, federal tax policy and corporate profits, and now we are told that we must increase the top tax rate from 8.5% to 10%, which will make Vermont the highest in the nation.

## Ludlow Rotary Club hosts international exchange students at Okemo

In early March international exchange students and their Rotary sponsors gathered for the weekend at Okemo Mountain Resort for snow sports and friendship. The students, who are studying in southern Vermont and New Hampshire for the school year, had a great time skiing, snowboarding and riding the Mountain Coaster courtesy of Vail's Epic Promise grant program.

The program supports local communities where Vail resorts are located.

The weekend has become a tradition with the Okemo Mountain Resort where staff arrange for lunches, ski and board rentals, and lessons for the students.

This year students were from Brazil, Belgium, Para-

guay, Venezuela, Romania, Croatia, Germany, Peru, Japan, Netherlands, France and Spain.

Program leader, Jim Rumrill commented that many students find this weekend to be one of their

Many students find this weekend to be one of their favorite experiences during their exchange year.

favorite experiences during their exchange year. The Romanian student received pre-trip orientation from a Rotarian in her home country who felt the Okemo Resort weekend was the highlight of her Rotary exchange more than 20 years ago. The memories and friendships formed this



Courtesy of Jim Rumrill

Exchange student take part in the Youth Exchange Program ski weekend at Okemo last month.

weekend last a lifetime for the students.

The Youth Exchange Program ski weekend in March was a great success due to the Okemo Mountain Resort staff who help make it so

successful.

Anyone interested in learning more about being a Rotary youth exchange student is invited to contact Jim Rumrill, chairman at (802) 380 2766.

This makes no sense."

The supermajority is sending a message to businesses: we do not want you, or your jobs, here.

Meanwhile, today [March 28], they are moving forward with H.687, a land use bill, which will make it more difficult to build homes in the vast majority of the state. As Representative Ashley Bartley stated: "The House passed House Bill 687, touted as a housing bill, although it is fundamentally not. I would even argue that it constitutes an anti-housing bill. H.687 seeks to reform Act 250 land use jurisdiction in a manner that disproportionately penalizes rural Vermont, making development nearly impossible in these areas. Any legislation that hinders housing construction and sustainable growth cannot rightfully be classified as a housing bill."

We have a housing crisis. Vermonters are demanding action.

As the governor has said, we need to make it MORE affordable, and FASTER, to build housing. This bill does the opposite. Especially for rural communities. I know the leadership of the supermajority is from Burlington. But this bill does great harm to rural Vermont.

Representative Ashley Bartley noted, "As committees neglect to prioritize funding requests, beneficial programs like the Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP) suffer reductions in their appropriations. Despite the governor's initial \$6 million budget proposal for VHIP, the allocation was slashed to \$1 million, likely spelling the end of the program by early January next year. VHIP boasts a commendable track record, having brought 535 affordable housing units online statewide since 2020, with an additional 386 units in progress. It is imperative that the supermajority's excessive spending does not result in the demise of programs that have effectively addressed the housing crisis."

Many of my Democratic colleagues represent rural

communities that would be harmed by this bill. The question is, will they side with their own constituents? Or will they side with their political leadership?

Vermonters elected *our* governor to look out for THEM. Republicans, Democrats and independents sent him here to Montpelier, to offer balance, fiscal discipline and common-sense leadership. He won in *every single* House district.

Our caucus will continue to support his affordability plans and pro-housing agenda. We're calling on our moderate colleagues across the aisle to do the right thing, and do the same. Put their constituents over politics.

And to all Vermonters: We are also asking you to help restore balance to the State House. Our caucus hears you. The governor hears you. We will continue to support you. We desperately need a moderate, pragmatic majority here.

Because again, this supermajority is out of control and off the rails. This week, they will pass a bill to make Vermont the highest corporate tax state in the country. They did this with no real testimony, which leads us to ask, who is writing these bills?

Representative Scott Beck states: "In the last 10 years Vermont personal income tax receipts have increased 54%, sales tax has increased 65%, property taxes have increased 53%, and corporate income taxes have tripled. All of these increases dwarf the economic growth, inflation, and wage and salary growth during the same period, by a lot. The only metric they haven't exceeded is Montpelier's insatiable appetite for spending increases. Vermont government has all of the revenue that it needs. What we don't have is spending discipline. Vermont doesn't have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem, a big one."

We hear you. And we know you have had enough. Please, hold your representatives accountable. Now and in November.

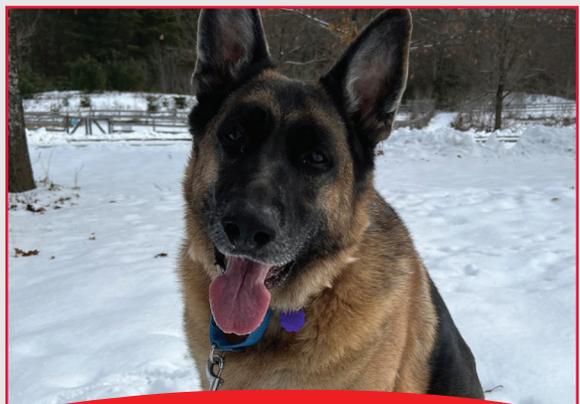
# Rutland County Humane Society



**GERARD**

Gerard is a handsome 2 year old medium haired tuxedo that loves people, cats and is dog friendly too!! Gerard is the PURRfect kitty and will need an indoor only home due to being FIV positive. He is enjoying all his feline roommates and will be a great addition to a loving home. To learn more about Gerard call 802-885-3997 or stop in Wed-Sat from Noon to 4.

This pet is available for adoption at  
**Springfield Humane Society**  
 401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, VT • (802) 885-3997  
 \*Open by appointment only. spfldhumane.org



**SKIPPER**

Hi, I'm Skipper. I'm an 8-year-old neutered male German Shepherd. I came to Lucy Mackenzie when somebody found me on the side of the road all on my own. I'm an older and sometimes anxious fellow that would love a caring and calm home. I'm a little on the hefty side. I can be intimidating at first. I bark with people I don't recognize, but warm right up. I should live in a home without cats or other dogs, and we'd need to test me around younger people first.

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Chico—10 m/o. Neutered male. Mixed breed.



Remus—2y/o. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



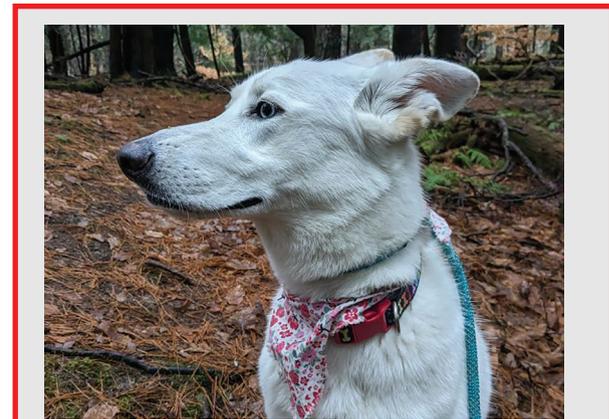
Mochi—11m/o. Spayed female. Mixed breed.



Dandelion—2y/o. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Banana—3y/o. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



**YURI**

Yuri—11m/o. Spayed female. German shepherd mix.

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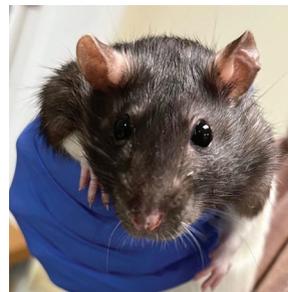
Clover—1y/o. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Lucky Meow—4y/o. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Domino—1y/o. Neutered male. Terrier mix.



Penelope—1y/o. Female. Fancy rat.



Tilda—1y/o. Female. Fancy rat.



Melford—8m/o. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.

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# Cosmic Catalogue




**Aries**  
March 21 - April 20

The bulk of the celestial action is in your sign now. For the most part, this should be a good dose of energy, strength and vitality. So why are you feeling so tired, uncertain or even emotional? Well, it is the week in between eclipses and next week, it will be revealed why you're feeling the way you do. Relationships aren't feeling great and they are taking a toll on you. One way or another, the situation will correct itself.



**Leo**  
July 21 - August 20

The world is really opening up for you both literally and metaphorically. Whether it's travel plans, study or writing or a spiritual pathway, you're chomping at the bit to take action on the next chapter. The week may reveal blind spots, crossed wires or details that you overlooked. Frustration is an understatement. Patience is a virtue so do your best to embody that, if possible. Today's misfortune is tomorrow's opportunity, so long as you are patient.



**Sagittarius**  
November 21 - December 20

Your romantic life could really be set on fire this week. Thought there could be a bit of confusion or crossed – wires. Also, there is the opportunity to return to a pleasure or pastime that has been left on the back burner a while. It's been a long and arduous road for you for some time now. This week, have a little bit more fun, just for the sake of it. You've earned it, so why not?



**Taurus**  
April 21 - May 20

In time, you'll look back at this month and realize that it changed your life. The planet of high rank and royalty, Jupiter, prepares to meet with anything-can-happen Uranus. For now, though, you're in retreat, working behind the scenes. You may need to grapple with issues from the past or you're just too busy on an important project to be visible this week. Be rest assured though, what you're doing right now will catapult you towards a wonderful path.



**Virgo**  
August 21 - September 20

Just when you thought you were home and hosed in terms of a money situation, you're not quite where you need to be. Your patron planet, Mercury, begins a reverse cycle in your debt and joint finances sector. This week, go through your money stuff with a fine-tooth comb. If you want prosperity and ease of mind, then don't bury your head in the sand regarding your finances. Breakthroughs are possible, but not if you can't see them!



**Capricorn**  
December 21 - January 20

You'll find so much happiness and contentment the more you turn your attention toward your domestic life. It could be improvements around the home or maybe you need to invest more energy into your family relationships. Every now and then, you do need to be reminded of all that you do and who you do it for. Home is where the heart is and right now, you're being called home in one way or another.



**Gemini**  
May 21 - June 20

Your social circles and the company you keep are in flux. You might need to get something off your chest, but you know it's not going to land well. So, what can you do? Say your piece and you can start a war or you keep quiet and create a war within yourself. This may not be the week to push forward any agendas, but it can be useful for considering what is right and wrong for you.



**Libra**  
September 21 - October 20

For a while now, you've probably been feeling tired and uninspired. This week, prepare for everything to change all of a sudden. It could have something to do with a key relationship, either in life or in business. Paperwork and conversations may be a stumbling block to progress, but hashing out the details is unavoidable. You may be tempted to compromise too soon, but it's in your best interest not to. Demand your desires in order to get them.



**Aquarius**  
January 21 - February 20

The state of your life can really be determined by the way you think about it. As cliché as it's become, in order to change your life, you have to change your thoughts. It's easier said than done, though. However, if you can begin to make even the smallest adjustments or catch yourself if you get into a negative or rigid thought pattern, then you're halfway there. This week, commit to learning something new each day and start to change your mind.



**Cancer**  
June 21 - July 20

It's a tender time for you as this is the week in between eclipses. No doubt, you're feeling sensitive and emotional. You may be being pushed and pulled and your heartstrings are hurting. You're renowned for being a homebody, but you know how to make waves at work when required. Right now, you need to be a warrior in the external world. So, armor up and do what needs to be done.



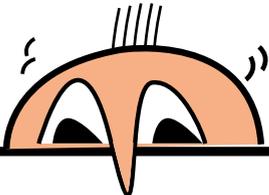
**Scorpio**  
October 21 - November 20

You're torn between what you want to be doing and what you have to do. Just when you thought you were off the hook and could play, chances are you've overlooked an important detail. If things go awry this week, and they most likely will, it can often be the chance to improve things. Frustration is going to be difficult to avoid, but it is what it is. Sometimes there is little you can do about it.



**Pisces**  
February 21 - March 20

Money is under the spotlight this week. An expense you didn't plan for or delays around cash could land you in some hot water. Be sure to go through your incomings and outgoings. The first step in managing your money is knowing your numbers. This isn't the time to get vague or put it in the too hard basket. By paying attention, you may even realize that you're in a better position than you thought.



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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.

## Agreement, compromise is unlikely this week

Monday morning and a bright new month begins, albeit on the back foot, as with Mercury, the planet of communication, thinking and logistics hits the brakes and heads in reverse.

Don't expect negotiations, agreements or deals to go according to plan. If you don't get what you want, then you want nothing at all. These could be the terms you bring to the table. In "me-first" Aries, the terms are likely to be one-sided, yet from an honest standpoint. Seeing a situation from another point of view is the first step towards a successful negotiation. Compromise isn't written in the stars for

some time to come.

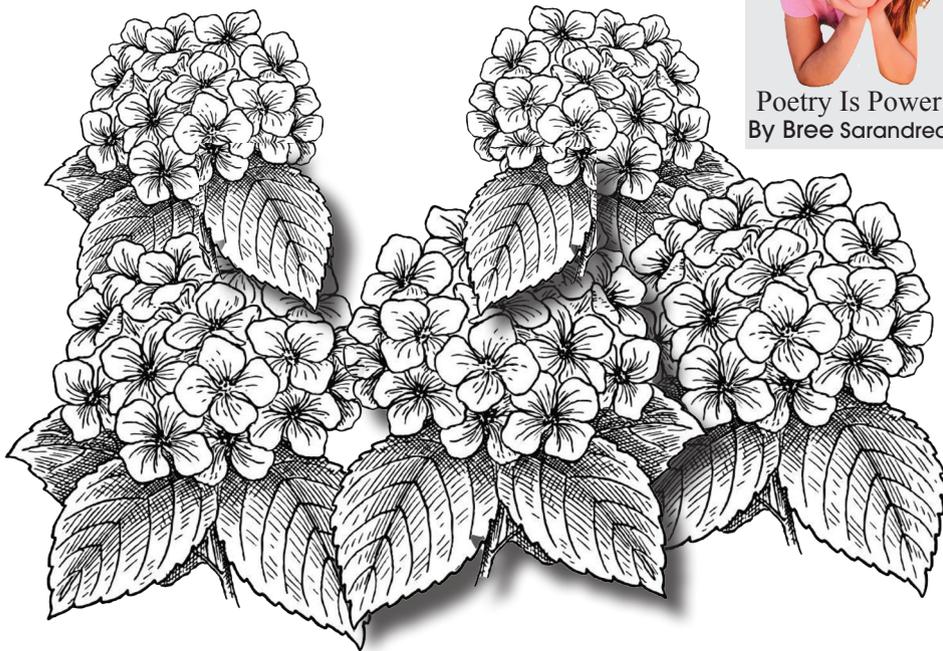


Cosmic Catalogue  
By Cassandra Tyndall

To make matters worse, the planet most capable of compromise moves from her most supreme position to her least. You may realize that in some instances, you simply have to put your own needs first. The optics of this position can make you appear like the bad guy. The beauty of a planet in its technical position of being in detriment is knowing how bad things sometimes have to get before they get better. Life isn't always in perfect harmony and balance. The battle isn't always the good fight, but it's the right one nonetheless. Your mission is to step up and face that.

## Petals of Color

Colorful flowers,  
Purple, yellow, pink and white,  
Petals of color.



Poetry Is Power  
By Bree Sarandrea

## My double life and nearly opposite parents

Building our Killington Dream dream lodge, Part 7

I felt I was living a double life since everything happened Friday through Sunday. Returning to "normalcy" in New Jersey resembled acting in a surreal play.

We knew once we crossed the New York State line and entered Vermont, the magic would start. Our weekends were filled with exciting surprises that kept us on our tippy toes. We never knew what would happen next. It was always another adventure.

Growing up in the New Jersey suburbs, weekends in Killington gave me the freedom to experience Dad's passion for nature first hand. I, too, fell in love with Vermont's

ponds, lakes, streams, mountains, forests, woods, and abundant wildlife.



Mountain Meditation  
By Marguerite Jill Dye

Dad taught me to not fear, but respect the world of nature that we humans are part of. Our setting was ideal for me to explore, collecting wildflowers to paint or press, ferns to print with, brilliant leaves for bouquets, and birch bark that I loved writing poems on. There was no end to the creativity that Vermont inspired in my life.

Few friends from New Jersey had any idea of what our weekends were really like building our ski lodge in the wilds of Vermont. Fewer still got up the nerve to

Meditation → 35

## The fascinating metamorphosis of frogs

Frogs have hopped about Earth since before the time of the dinosaurs, and it shows.

Celebrated for their amphibious lifestyle and cacophonous choruses, the long arc of frog evolution has yielded other awesome and efficient adaptations in organs from their lungs to their skin.

Research on green tree frogs demonstrates that frog lungs also assist in hearing. Like noise-canceling headphones, frog lungs help dampen extraneous sounds — such as the calls of other frog species, insects, and airplanes — and allow females to hear the calls of their own species through the din. When frogs inflate their lungs, their thin, rib-less body walls vibrate with sound waves. The lungs transmit these waves to the inner ear, where they interact with sound waves arriving via the frog's ear. Researchers believe the sound waves of noises other than species-specific calls interact with one another in a way (called "destructive inference") that dampens them and allows females to better hear the males of her species.

Not only do frogs detect sounds with their lungs, but they can also drink and breathe through their skin. Frogs absorb water through their skin when submerged. Some terrestrial frogs also have a highly vascularized surface located near their hind legs — called a seat patch — that is responsible for more than 70% of total water uptake, despite constituting just 10% of the skin area. These frogs change their posture to depress the patch onto moist surfaces to control absorption.

Perhaps the most fascinating frog adaptation is the ability to breathe on land and in water via four respiratory systems. When submerged, adult frogs breathe exclusively through their thin skin (cutaneous respiration), which diffuses dissolved oxygen into blood vessels beneath the skin. Because their lungs are inefficient, frogs rely on supplementary cutaneous respiration while on land. Frogs do not have diaphragms to pull air into their lungs and rely instead on "buccal pumping" — expanding and contracting their closed mouth — to create a vacuum that drives air into and out of their lungs through their nostrils. Moreover, the lining of their mouth is a respiratory surface.

Almost all frogs begin their lives in the water as tadpoles. In this larval stage, frogs extract dissolved oxygen from water as it passes over their gills and skin, especially the highly vascularized skin of their tem-

porary tails. Eventually, the gills and tails of metamorphosing larvae degenerate, and lungs develop, allowing frogs to venture onto land.

As if skin breathing, metamorphosis, and selective lung listening aren't sufficient party tricks, frogs' eyes provide nearly 360 degrees of vision, allow them to see in low light and under water, and help them to swallow their food. Frogs do not chew their food but use modified teeth to hold their prey while they retract their eyeballs to push food into their esophagus.

According to Jim Andrews of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, one of the coolest adaptations of the frogs in our region is freeze tolerance. Freeze-tolerant species, including wood frogs and spring peepers, survive the winter in a semi-frozen state in the leaf litter below the snow. The liver releases sugars that act as anti-freeze within the frog's cells to prevent the cells from freezing and bursting. Meanwhile, the fluid between these cells freezes solid.

"They're like frogcicles," Andrews said.

He also admires the resourcefulness of "satellite males." These male frogs, for whatever reason, lack good voices, be it the deep drone of a bullfrog or the high-pitched chirp of a peeper. Sensing their ineptitude, satellite males position themselves next to males with good voices and grab the

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As if skin breathing, metamorphosis, and selective lung listening aren't sufficient party tricks, frogs' eyes provide nearly 360 degrees of vision, allow them to see in low light and under water, and help them to swallow their food.



## Finding the right footing

Parents and children, if they're lucky, will find a multitude of ways to bond. My son and I have been fortunate in this respect because we've always found common activities that have brought us closer together.

Early on, we bonded over Legos. I grew up enthralled with the plastic building blocks and subsequently passed this love onto my son once he was old enough not to eat them. Later, it was the Nerf Hoop. I grew up obsessed with the small plastic basketball hoop and puff ball and spent countless hours finding unique ways to make shots in various rooms in my house. When my son was finally old enough to understand the concept of putting a ball through a goal, I bought him one. After that, he was off to the races.

Then came the real sports like Little League baseball and rec basketball. I coached both from the time my son started playing as a 7-year-old all the way through middle school. I valued those seasons immensely as it allowed us to spend quality time together while he learned the love of competition.

But the one activity that bonded us the tightest was our mutual love of playing music.

I selfishly sent my son to drum lessons when he was only 12 years old just so I could have someone to jam with. He picked the instrument up quickly and then, without warning, learned how to play the guitar and bass as well. Before I knew it, we were playing songs together.

Our sessions are frequently fraught with arguments because we often disagree on what songs to play, but the magic of making music together connects us in a way that nothing else does.

Not surprisingly, we also love going to music stores together to test out instruments. When we travel, we often search out big-box suppliers like Sam Ash or Guitar Center and then spend an hour or two playing with all the demo products they leave out to sample.

Recently, my wife, son and I were in Colorado for a vacation. When there was some downtime, I suggested to my son that we visit the local Guitar Center to blow off some steam. An hour later we were in a musical paradise.

Anyone who's ever visited one of these big-box music stores knows that they are a musician's dream come true. The walls are lined with guitars and basses while the floors are stacked with amplifiers. There are special rooms dedicated to

acoustic instruments and other rooms reserved for percussions. No matter what your interest or ability, these places invite you to explore and have fun.

My son and I usually wander off and do our own thing for the first hour and then spend the next hour comparing notes. That was the case during our latest visit; however, when we reconnected half way through, my son insisted on talking about something totally unrelated to music.

He grabbed my arm and led me to the keyboard area to point out a middle-aged man happily tickling the keys of an electric piano.

"You see those sneakers he has on?" my son boasted. "They are worth \$200,000."

I laughed at his statement and insisted he was wrong, but my son persisted. I finally asked him to prove it. A moment later, he held his phone in front of my face with a picture of the exact shoes up for auction with an asking price of \$200,000.

I still found it preposterous, so I told my son I'd give him \$50 to go over and talk to the guy, which he promptly did. The gentleman was kind and answered all his questions and confirmed that the sneakers he was wearing were indeed extremely rare and valuable.

This average looking guy in a tracksuit with long greasy hair had apparently been given the famed Nike Air Force 1 Low Louis Vuitton Monogram Brown Damier Azur sneakers by a Saudi businessman who thought his piano performance at a local hotel was worthy of special praise.

My only question to him was, why are you wearing them? He responded, "Why not?"

(Google the sneaker name and check it out yourself; you'll be shocked too.)

This week's feature, "Asphalt City," starring Sean Penn as a grizzled New York City EMT worker looked like it would be deserving of special praise, but the end result left me feeling punished by the content.

It's hard to connect with an audience when the subject matter is so brutal that you constantly feel like you're being violated. While this film was well acted, the violent and cruel nature of the story alienated me to the point that I didn't enjoy the film as much as I wanted to.

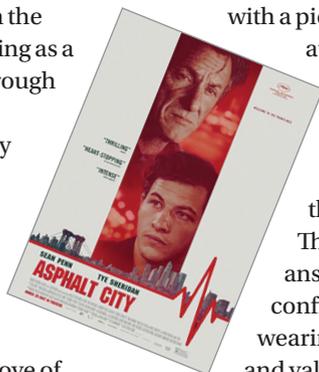
Give this one a shot if you love to be exposed to the underbelly of humanity, just be prepared to suffer along the way.

A searing "C" for Asphalt City," now playing in theaters everywhere.

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



The Movie  
Diary  
By Dom Cioffi



## Vermont and its bipolar spring

I woke up this morning to the sounds of birds chirping outside my window. And not just one lonely, mixed up and confused bird desperately looking for a bite to eat buried underneath the snow. No, this was a plethora of birds, belting out their happy morning songs on another beautifully warm day.

Last week's 4 foot snowfall is pretty much melted down, except for the large chunks on the side of the road left over from the plow truck. It's a completely different world outside than it was only a few days ago.

And that is spring in Vermont for you. A bipolar, all encompassing identity that change daily or even by the hour, whichever it is feeling like. The other Sunday, it was a different weather pattern every time I picked my head up. It was phenomenal. Like, really a phenomena.

But what does this mean, this odd weather that has no pattern ever really at all? It means you pack absolutely everything in your car every day and hope for the best. Snowing? Better have your scraper and brush ready to go. Mud? Don't forget to wear your big boots. Rain? Make sure they are the waterproof ones. Sunshine? Me sure to pack the lawn chairs for tailgating, and clouds? Don't forget to sharpen your edges. It's a mess and you have to be prepared, both physically and emotionally.

Don't get too attached to your crocus when they start to rise, unless you are putting a blanket on them over the next few days. Because now that we've had a week of basking in the sunshine, working on our goggle tans and starting to think about planning our gardens, Mother Nature is about to dump another couple of feet on us.

I keep looking out over Kent Pond as I make my way in to work in the mornings, but it is still frozen solid. Usually, this time of year we've had a couple of days on the water before it starts to freeze back up a bit. But that's not the case this year — the mountain looks fuller and fresher at the beginning of April than it did in February!

But I am okay with leaving my boat in barn for a few more weeks, the summers seem so much longer than they used to anyways. Or maybe, it's that I've been skiing less and less each year as I get older and further away from the ski bum lifestyle so the winter feels shorter. But I do love those multi-sport spring season days where you can spend an hour paddling on the water in the morning and then spend the afternoon sharing drinks in the parking lot after a few runs on the mountain.

Is there seriously anything better than apres ski in parking lot beers? The joy of knowing you spent some glorious time outside, enjoying the world and even though the lifts are closed, you just cannot seem to let the moment go? You're stalling, unwilling to accept the inevitable, but the sheer fact that you're drinking in the parking lot after 4 p.m. means that the weather has been warming up.

It's a contradiction, this Vermont spring. I want things to warm up, so the snow is soft and glorious and we can play in the hero snow. But I want things to stay cold, so that winter

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Living the Dream  
By Merisa  
Sherman

## Choosing your career

A common question that children are asked is, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Odds are that their answer will not be the future profession they choose after graduation.

I read a survey that was given to children in the U.S. whose ages ranged from 8-12. The child who said he wanted to be "A YouTuber!" speaks to the era that we are living in. The other two most popular answers were "a teacher" and a "professional athlete." "The education field could definitely use more teachers. And a pro athlete who plays football, baseball and basketball certainly makes a lot of money. Unfortunately, we adults know that the chances of playing in a

professional sport are slim to none.

I looked back at my own career path as well of that of my friends and classmates. Some of us did exactly what we planned to do. Others went in an entirely different direction.

I have a few friends who became nurses well into their adult life. They had all been a part of the business world and in their 30s, 40s and early 50s headed to college to become registered nurses. Their kind and caring nature is exactly what you want from someone who is charged with your care. With age comes wisdom and when you have seen your own family members and friends deal with an illness you can relate more to what your patients are going through.

My own approach to a career choice was somewhat backwards. I wanted to major in Latin and the only logical profession in which I could use my degree was to become a teacher. Latin quickly disappeared

Looking Back → 35



Looking  
Back  
By Mary Ellen Shaw



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← **Meditation:**  
from page 32

venture north with us. So, I often wrote of our wild weekends for my English class. Some stories were so funny and outlandish no one believed they could be real.

When I was old enough, I invited a school friend for a Killington weekend. Nancy was courageous (or trusting) enough to travel in our cramped station wagon, cope with the outhouse and chilly elements, mice, and roof repairs. I enjoyed having her along and showed her my favorite Vermont pastimes. She never divulged what she thought afterwards but didn't appear to want to return. Go figure! After that, only male friends joined us. They loved roughing it and pitching in.

I helped Mom and Dad a lot for a kid, but also roamed and played with the Ayers' kids. I especially loved exploring Roaring Brook with our eager black lab, Star. After hard work in the summertime heat, Dad often joined us on a walk to Roaring Brook. There was a waterfall just high enough to flow over our shoulders and down our backs. Dad made strange noises and funny faces. We laughed as the cold water cooled us off.

Dad was influenced by Indigenous people while living in Mexico as a boy. He admired Native Americans and tribal ways of communing with plant and animal life. His sensitivity and heart-felt kindness were appreciated little in his weekday work world. But in Vermont, he was the creator of his own dream lodge and natural haven. Killington added fulfillment and meaning to Dad's life and the beautiful legacy he was building for us.

Mom, on the other hand, loved Montclair life, her social activities and teaching piano lessons. She was active in the PTA, our United Methodist Church, and the Montclair

Dramatic Club. Mom and Dad sometimes played bridge and belonged to the Cosmopolitan Club where monthly dances brought people together from many fields and nations. It was Mom's chance to dress up in glamorous satin and lace evening gowns—quite a contrast from our life in Vermont. Since Dad had grown up in various countries as the son of an American diplomat, (and spoke Spanish like a native), the Cosmopolitan Club was a fun way to make friends from afar.

In spite of Mom's preference for a more elegant life, she came to every weekend in Killington. As tough as it was on her delicate nature, Mom donned her work clothes and jumped into action, as long as black coffee provided her sustenance. First thing every morning, Dad started the Coleman and heated a kettle of boiling water. Then he made Mom a strong cup of black instant coffee and served her the steaming brew in bed. It worked like magic and brought her to life. Our "Energizer Bunny" was awake and revived.

I treasure my childhood Vermont weekends and vacations that are gifts that last a lifetime, as character-building, crazy happy memories I now enjoy sharing. I received a comment from an active Killingtonian, Lauren Traub Teton, snowboarder extraordinaire. I just want to say I so appreciate your comment re: my columns and paintings. Writing a column and releasing it to the world, writers seldom know if folks read or enjoy it. So, thank you Lauren, for making my day! Hint: comments are welcomed!

*Marguerite Jill Dye is an artist and writer who divides her time between Killington and Bradenton, Florida. She can be reached at: jilldyestudio@aol.com.*

← **Looking Back:**  
from page 33

from school curriculums shortly after I began to teach. I did a quick turn-around and entered the business world. That was actually a better fit for me but I didn't know that at age 21 when I graduated from college.

Sometimes a task you enjoy doing seems like a good field to study. I have a relative who went to school to be a hairdresser and ended up in an office as an administrative assistant. The salary and benefits far exceeded what she would have made as a hairdresser. By keeping her beautician license up to date she could still do that type of work in her spare time. That was the best of both worlds.

As long as we seniors stay "young at heart" we can keep asking ourselves what we want to be when we grow up. I am still trying to figure it out!

Then there is my college classmate who wanted to work in a science lab doing research. Someone from her local high school asked her to teach science and math classes so she got her certification and was going to try it for a year.

She never left teaching because she loved it so much.

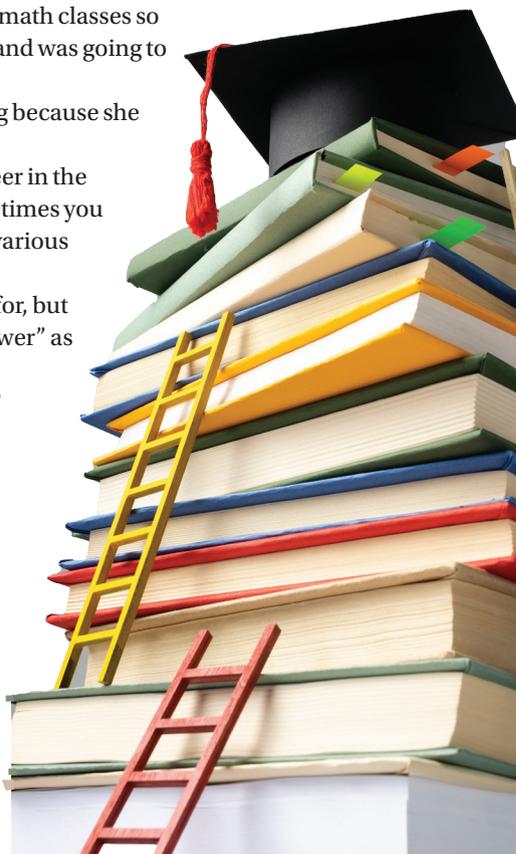
Another friend started off as a teacher and ended her working career in the field of gerontology after adding another degree to her resume. Sometimes you just stumble on a profession that is right for you by being exposed to various fields in your day-to-day life.

It might take us awhile to realize the best career that we are suited for, but we will figure it out eventually. There are many of us whose "final answer" as a child wouldn't match our actual profession when we grew up.

Is there anything wrong with wavering around until we get it right? Absolutely not!

It would be nice if your passion could also be your career. But that isn't usually the case. However, as you try to figure out what you want to be when you grow up you can continue to pursue your passion. Although it might not be practical as a career it can still have a place in your life. If you like sports you can coach or be a referee. If you like sewing or doing crafts you can take part in a craft show and sell your items. If you love books, you can join a book club. There are groups that meet for just about everything that we are passionate about such as knitting, exercise sessions, cooking, painting classes and the list goes on and on!

As long as we seniors stay "young at heart" we can keep asking ourselves what we want to be when we grow up. I am still trying to figure it out!



← **Living the Dream:**  
from page 31

lasts forever, but who really wants a foot massage where their knees vibrate so much it feels like your femurs just might misalign with your shins and your whole body will crumble.

Obviously, we know which one will come out victorious in the battle of winter versus summer, it is April. And that is okay because all good things must end, especially since it's not for almost two months! Seriously, folks, why is everybody all talking about the end of ski and ride season

I mean, really how often do we get to ski in unblemished woods in April?

when we seriously have *two more months* to go!

There are parties every weekend. We're heading into spring with some of

the thickest base we've seen in a while. I mean, really how often do we get to ski in unblemished woods in April? And not just on the mountain, but we'll be touring through the woods all around the region this week.

And I will be out there, getting enough snow to fill my powder belly up because I am still so hungry! Of course, I am also hungry for that fresh spring corn and all the margaritas we'll be drinking in the parking lot. Ugh, I am so getting ahead of myself.

First we have to get through the season of chaos, with Mogul Challenge, Dazed & Defrosted and hopefully soon our first paddle days of the year!! See you all out on the slopes!

*Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, local Realtor®, KMS coach, town lister and member of the Development Review Board. She can be reached at femaleskibum@gmail.com.*



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KKIS Board President Gayle Collins

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Education reduces poverty, improves lives, and builds better communities. KKIS Keeps Kids in School by removing financial barriers for the Riviera Maya students it serves. Its success is made possible by donations of time and money from individuals and corporations who share values and vision. KKIS programs combine financial assistance, community connections and educational support to produce an 86% high school graduation rate.

## Keeping Kids in School offers real opportunity to reduce generational poverty

*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. This is the last in the series as they Rutland travelers have now returned home.*

I met with Gayle Collins, board president of Keeping Kids in School (KKIS), at a genteel beach club, where a number of mostly senior women meet weekly for Monday "Ladies Who Lunch" sessions. (Stephen Sondheim's "Ladies Who Lunch" sung by Patti LuPone plays in the background as I write.)

Gayle Collins is a lifelong educator from a far suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota. She taught English and library science. She retired after 35 years and was a pioneer in the U.S.-to-Playa movement. She's been coming here for nearly 20 years! She is also a warrior for underserved Mexican children in this region, through her commitment and board presidency on KKIS, a not-for-profit dedicated to advancing educational opportunities for children of poverty.

The vision of KKIS is "improving lives through education by keeping kids in school."

The mission of KKIS is as follows: Education reduces poverty, improves lives, and builds better communities.

For many families in Mexico education is not affordable. Keeping Kids in School does just that by removing financial barriers.

"We also help students develop their language, life and work skills. Our success is made possible by generous donations of time and money from individuals and corporations who share our values and vision. KKIS programs combine financial assistance, community connections and educational support to produce an 86% high school graduation rate vs the standard of less than 50%," stated Collins.

The beginning of Collins' involvement is interesting; she was bored and ready to "make a difference;" and in her words she "fell into" the KKIS endeavor, first as an initial volunteer and later as the board president. She attended a not-for-profit charity meeting to pursue volunteering, and by way of introduction, she announced that she had been an

educator for 35 years. Following the meeting, she was approached by a 2nd grade teacher in a Playa del Carmen school who told her that on the first day of school, out of a classroom of 36 kids only three showed up with supplies. Let that sink in for a moment. Imagine how the kids feel who don't come to school possessing the basic minimum to support learning — school supplies like pencils, pens, notebooks, rulers, etc. They start the school year grappling with shame, stigma and diminished self-esteem around their family circumstance. Collins responded immediately and she was quickly fully engaged.

KKIS programs offer student support from kindergarten through university. Together, these programs keep kids in school and give them tools to thrive, fundamentally changing

their lives and that of their offspring. Staying in school helps ensure higher paying jobs, which means financial support will not be needed for the next generation.

The overarching factor that drives the KKIS programs is a grinding set of financial obstacles for working class Mexican families. These statistics may surprise you — so take this in: The average wage for a Mexican worker, is \$10 U.S. per day! Third-World realities! And the cost of high school (yes, there is a cost) is \$650 per year!!

These obstacles in many instances are beyond family finances, understandable, and keep children from continuing in school. Many families need children at young ages (14-16 sometimes younger) to join the work force (selling trinkets on the beach or menial help in bodegas, and in low-level service industries) to support of family incomes. How many of these children, provided the opportunities, might well have become working professionals or in trades made possible by finishing high school? The sorrow and heartbreak of generational poverty hits hard. The programs below are merely thumbnails, should you be interested, for more information, please visit: [kkiproject.org](http://kkiproject.org).

### Scholarships

In the current school year, direct financial assistance has awarded scholarships to 100 public high school students in nine different schools, and 40 university students in 16 different universities. As the KKIS programs grow one can see that there is a huge possibility for growth allowing these numbers to increase exponentially!

### School supplies

As detailed above, the supplies program, assisted by sponsorships and individual con-

tributions provides free school supplies for a full academic year.

Over the span of time that KKIS has been serving this community thousands of students have received a full year of supplies. To quote Gayle Collins, "In the last year alone we distributed over 2,500 bags of school supplies to Playa students!"

### Conversation Club

A unique endeavor within KKIS is this program to assist students, by working with volunteer English speakers to increase their pronunciation and confidence. While English language is not part of the school curriculum in schools, eager students turn to other means to learn English: Netflix with translation, slow English via the internet, and the memorization of English song lyrics. Every week, KKIS' English Conversation Club in Riviera Maya pairs students from local high schools in Playa del Carmen and Tulum with volunteer English speakers to have immersive conversations.

### Community connections

KKIS has brought inspirational speakers to schools, advisors to our high school scholars, negotiated contracts with four universities granting students deep discounts on tuition and introduced students to businesses in the community.

I am proud to now be involved in this organization and am planning to consult on various fundraising endeavors. This superb endeavor has opened my eyes to the plight of underserved children and lost potential. In America, we know generational poverty, but nothing of this depth and scale.

*If you have further questions, ideas or inspirations, please email me at [bouchard.brucebb@gmail.com](mailto:bouchard.brucebb@gmail.com).*



Tales:  
Riviera Maya  
By Bruce Bouchard

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**RCHS SEEKS LAND FOR NEW SHELTER.** The Rutland County Humane Society's (RCHS) current building's systems are failing and it no longer has space to provide the animals with a healthy environment where they can thrive. RCHS is looking for property in Rutland County, specifically a piece of land of approximately 5-10 acres centrally located in the county. Access to a major road is preferable and property with electricity and access to public water and sewer is ideal, although not a requirement. Please reach out to Beth Saradarian, executive director at: [shelterbeth@rchsvt.org](mailto:shelterbeth@rchsvt.org) or 802-483-6700 ext. 211 with any ideas or suggestions.

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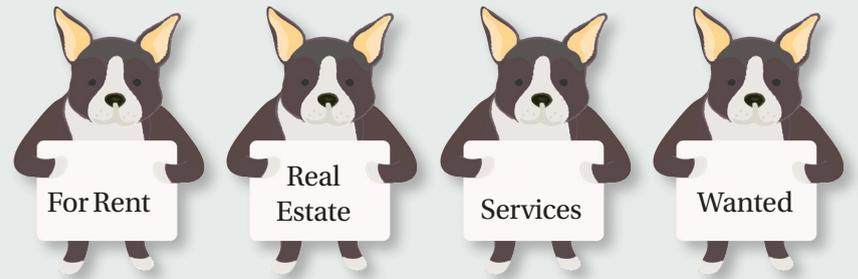


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## SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Location: 2981 River Road, Killington  
(Behind Town Garage)

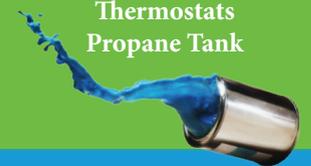
### Killington Hazardous Waste Day

April 13th  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Gasoline  
Adhesives  
Resins  
Paint

Pesticides  
Oil  
Aerosol  
Fluorescent

Thermostats  
Propane Tank



Killington Hazardous Waste Day is put on in conjunction with the Rutland County Solid Waste District for Killington residents. Proof of residency required.

For Question Regarding Hazardous Waste Day

Call RCSWD: 802-775-7209

For Killington Transfer Station Hours, visit website:

[killingtontown.com/transferstation](http://killingtontown.com/transferstation)



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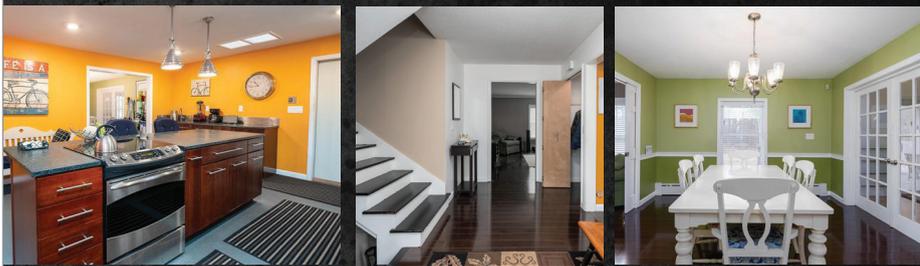
TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

The Town of Killington's Selectboard is seeking requests from residents who are interested in serving on:

**THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM**  
&  
**THE DRB AS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR A 3 YEAR TERM**

A letter of interest can be sent directly to Michael Ramsey, Killington Town Manager at [townmanager@killingtontown.com](mailto:townmanager@killingtontown.com) by April 30th, 2024.

**JUST LISTED  
RUTLAND TOWN**



356 North Grove Street Rutland Town, Vermont **\$539,000**

Spacious, **three-bedroom** contemporary property. The home features a large, modern kitchen with upgraded appliances, cabinetry and countertops. The primary bedroom includes an en suite bath and a walk in closet with custom cabinets. Additional rooms in the attic and basement provide plenty of space for storage, home office or a playroom. Outside, you'll find a brick patio in the front, and a large covered deck in the back, perfect for summertime entertaining, as well as a two-car garage and garden shed. Just across the street from the Rutland Country club and only a few miles from Pico Mountain and Killington.

*The Rutland Town address gives students (9-12) access to school choice.*



View Listing



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Easy prime spot.  
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**\$479,000**



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2.3 Acres with deeded shared lake rights on Woodward Reservoir.  
3 bed state ww permit in place.  
**\$169,900**

**TOS:**  
from page 32

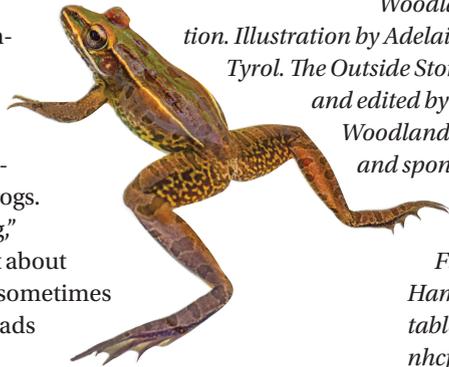
females that are called in by them. "It's not unlike a junior high party, where kids jockey to sit with the cool kids," Andrews said.

Despite these remarkable adaptations, there exists some room for improvement. Male frogs embrace female frogs from behind to immediately fertilize the eggs as they are released. Andrews and colleagues have observed male frogs embracing everything from salamanders to trout, the latter being an especially poor choice, as trout eat frogs.

"When hormones are raging," Andrews said, "they'll grab just about anything that moves and even sometimes things that don't, like cattail heads and dead mice."

So, maybe evolution hasn't yet solved all challenges frogs face. But, ready or not, frogs will emerge in the coming weeks eager to get the raucous party started.

Frogs will emerge in the coming weeks eager to get the raucous party started.

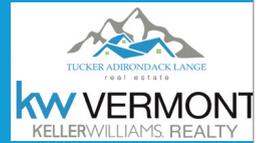


Rebecca Perkins Hanissian is the editorial and outreach coordinator at the Center for Northern Woodlands Education. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



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- \*Great rental history
- \*Woodburning fireplace
- \*Includes 1BR ensuite that can rent separately
- \*Activity center: Pool, hot tub, sauna, game room & exercise room.
- \$740,000

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- \$329,500



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\$275,000

Under Agreement

- 1-bedroom/1-bathroom
- Close to ski home/bike trail
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- Vinyl wood plank flooring
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- GREAT (\$50K) rental income history!!!

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\$419,000

Under Agreement

- 1-bedroom/2-bathroom plus loft
- Mountain views!
- Updated kitchen & bathrooms
- In-unit washer/dryer
- In-unit sauna
- Being sold furnished

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\$389,000

Under Agreement

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- Updated kitchen & flooring
- Next to sports center
- Strong rental potential
- Access to ski shuttle

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