



MORE TOWN MEETING RESULTS ONLINE

Some important results were still being tallied from area towns and school districts as we went to press Tuesday. We'll post breaking news online. [MountainTimes.info](https://mountaintimes.info)



EAST BARNARD MAN TURNS 104 – BUT CLAIMS 26 AS HE WAS BORN ON LEAP DAY

Floyd Van Alstyne, lives in the house he purchased after he was discharged from World War II, with his wife of 76 years.

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UVM UNVEILS NEW LOGO, REACTIONS MIXED

The University of Vermont is updating its look with a new logo. The official announcement will be made later this month.

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COURTS CRACK DOWN

Local cases and repeat offenders are facing steeper penalties.

Page 3

Killington voters approve cannabis by 21 votes

Articles, municipal budget pass, Haff re-elected
By Polly Mikula

Whether to authorize cannabis retailers to operate in a defined business district on Killington Road passed by the smallest margin, just 21 votes (265 for to 244 against) on Town Meeting Day, March 5.

Voters also approved a budget of \$7,021,304 — up \$419,050 over last year, about 6% — 72 votes, 288 for to 216 against.

Incumbent Select Board member Jim Haff was reelected for the 3-year term, by 81 votes (284-203). No other seats were contested. Voters also authorized the Select Board to study the impacts of leaving the Mountain Views Supervisory Union (345 for to 152 against).

Killington voters also chose Nikki Haley over Donald Trump, 150-121. Write in candidate winners were not announced prior to press time, see [MountainTimes.info](https://mountaintimes.info). For school district results see related story.

School budgets struggle

By Polly Mikula

The Barstow school budget, Article 10, was defeated by just 4 votes — 379 (no) to 375 (yes). The proposed budget was \$6,273,856, up about 12% over last year.

But the actual education tax rate in Chittenden would increase 31%, from \$1.38 after adjusted for the common level of appraisal

School budgets → 4

Rutland city votes to keep fluoride in water

By Katy Savage

Rutland City voters opted to not change the language of a charter to remove fluoride from the water.

The measure failed by 687 votes (2031-1344) on Town Meeting Day, March 5.

Some residents at public hearings in January had mixed feelings, saying fluoride in the city water is a violation of medical ethics. Dentists said fluoride helps prevent tooth decay, particularly for those who can't otherwise afford dental care.

This wasn't the first time

the fluoride issue appeared on the ballot and failed. About 60% of residents rejected the charter change in 2016.

Voters approved a \$25,128,435 budget on Tuesday, which is up about 7% from last year's \$23,261,061 budget.

The \$63.8 million school budget, up 5.4% over the previous year, also passed.

Familiar faces were elected to the Rutland City Board of Aldermen.

Rutland votes → 7

Hartland School District pulls school ballot Articles 4 and 5

Follows other area districts in region
Staff report

A number of area school districts made a last-minute decision to pull school budget articles from the Town Meeting Day ballot.

The Mount Ascutney School Board removed a 2023-24 budget proposal from an approved Town Meeting warning on Feb. 12. Strafford school officials followed three days later. Then on Feb. 27 Hartford did the same.

"Given the statewide crisis in school funding, the Board made the decision to rescind the original budget. This means that school ballots Articles 4 and 5 have been rescinded and will not be counted," wrote Nicole Buck, chair of the Hartland School District, on the town listserv Saturday, March 2. "Our hope is that every Board in the state makes similar cuts, the total statewide tax burden will decrease and help Hartland."

The school officials are responding to the passage of H.850, a law that allows Vermont school districts to delay their annual budget votes this winter. Lawmakers in Montpelier are encouraging the delays to give school districts time to trim their budgets and get the new information about tax implications out to voters. H.850 includes \$500,000 to compensate districts for expenses related to moving budget votes, such as reprinting and mailing warnings and ballots.

The biggest change in H.850 is its repeal of the 5% property tax increase cap created by Act 127. State officials rushed to pass H.850 because the tax cap incentivized some schools to increase spending above the already high contractual increases, 16% rise in state-negotiated health care costs and loss of federal ESSR funding, among other reasons.

But H.850 is only a temporary fix, Governor Phil Scott said after signing the bill, Feb. 22: "To be clear, this bill does not solve our property tax problem... [the bill] will only reduce rates if school boards adjust their spending accordingly and

Delayed voting → 5



Courtesy MVSU

E-bus joins fleet

Mountain Views Supervisory Union welcomed its new electric buses last week. A "meet and greet" was held Friday, March 1, at 10:30 a.m. on the Woodstock Middle/High School campus.

Education spending ticks down as state gets affirmation of what's driving costs

By Ethan Weinstein/VT Digger

The latest data from the Vermont Agency of Education shows a small decrease in projected education spending and affirms previously anecdotal evidence on the major factors causing a projected increase in education property taxes.

Health care costs, construction, special education, disappearing federal money and increased salaries are all contributing significantly to a projected \$230 million increase in education spending, from \$1.71 billion in fiscal year 2024 to \$1.94 billion in fiscal year 2025, according to the agency's survey.

While budget information from late January and early February indicated that the average education property tax bill was projected to rise 19%-20%, many are hopeful that will be revised down as a result of school districts shaving money from their budgets, as well as updated education fund data.

Ed spending → 5

How'd this East Barnard man reach 104? Lots of reading, he says

By Catherine Morrissey, Community News Service

Editor's note: Catherine Morrissey reported this story on assignment from The Herald of Randolph. 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.

Floyd Van Alstyne has just as many stories and anecdotes as you'd expect from a 104-year-old, plus a few more.

Visiting the East Barnard home he shares with his wife, Marjorie — perhaps to wish him a happy birthday Feb. 29 — is like traveling back in time.

He purchased the house immediately after he was discharged from World War II, and he still resides there today.

"See, I got discharged the second of November 1945 and bought this place the 17th," he said on a recent afternoon, sitting in his wheelchair while idly pulling at his brown-and-orange flannel shirt. "Didn't even come up here."

Paths of people treading through the rooms have been permanently worn into the original wooden floors, a feature Floyd is proud the house still has.

Everywhere you look, you can find museum-grade pieces. In just 8 square feet of wall space alone there's a one-of-a-kind Sabra Field print of his family's farm gifted by the artist, a more than 100-year-old charcoal drawing of horses done by his mother, a painting made in 1890 of a Rhode Island harbor and a framed 100th birthday card addressed to Floyd and signed by former President Donald Trump.

Marjorie, who has been married to Floyd for 76 years, has several collections scattered throughout their home including an impressive herd of elephant statues that's over 100 members strong. There are dolls in glass cupboards, now-antique magazines and, most importantly, a regularly used bookshelf.

Floyd's reading fixation these days?

"I'm reading a law book right now, constitutional law," he said, handing over his copy of the Vermont Constitution, marked up with neon yellow highlighter, margin notes and sections messily circled. After years of research, he thinks Article 7 sums up his position best: "That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, nation or community, and not for the particular ... advantage of any single person ... and that the community [has a right] to reform or alter government," it reads, among other provisions.



Courtesy Tim Calabro/The Herald of Randolph
East Barnard's Floyd Van Alstyne turns 104 this month — or more properly, he turns 26. The centenarian celebrates his birthday on leap day.

As for how he achieved such an old age, Floyd thinks it has to do with being a lifelong reader and learner.

"I never played a hand of cards, I never shot pool — I'd get a book and get in a corner somewhere and read it," he said, recalling his time in the service.

Just like his mother, he always kept a dictionary on hand to look up how to spell words. "If I wanted to write a letter, I didn't want it to look like I was a complete damn fool," he said.

His favorite book is the 1941 novel "Matchlock Gun" by Walter D. Edmonds, which

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Grafton Village Cheese moves its retail store to the Okemo Valley

The Grafton Village Cheese Company (GVCC), a subsidiary of The Windham Foundation, recently announced the move of its retail store and cut and wrap operation from Brattleboro to the Okemo Valley. A long-time fixture at 400 Linden St. in Brattleboro, the company lost its lease when the building was sold to Retreat Farm in late 2022.

The company found it challenging to find an adequate space for both the retail store and the cut and wrap operation around Brattleboro, hence the move.

Store manager Sherry DiBernardo remarked, "Brattleboro has been a great community to have been a part of the past 11 years, and we are very appreciative of the support from the town and the local patrons." DiBernardo added that, while GVCC had hoped to continue at its current location, she understands the need to make room for the Retreat Farm.

GVCC does not rule out a return to Brattleboro, but for now, the focus is on getting established in its new location on Route 103, just east of downtown Ludlow.

Grafton Village Cheese CEO Curt Alpeter also expressed his appreciation for the loyal following that DiBernardo and her cheesemonger team have built in Brattleboro. "The Company faced tough decisions after Covid, including the downsizing and streamlining of our operations. Most of our cheese is now being produced at the main plant in Grafton," Alpeter said. "The move to Okemo Valley is another piece of the restructuring and revisioning for the Company ... I am excited that we have the opportunity to put down roots in another vibrant community and we look forward to our Brattleboro customers visiting us at our new location. I do



Courtesy Grafton Village Cheese
Grafton Village Cheese has a new home in Proctorsville.

hope for some kind of a retail presence again in Brattleboro."

The new retail store location is 2568 Route 103 in Proctorsville. The company plans a soft opening at its new location on March 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Regular operations will continue 7 days a week 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Customers will find great selection of artisan cheeses, accompaniments and gifts — and, as always, free cheese tasting.

Ludlow Rotary hears from Croatia exchange student

The Ludlow Rotary Club was treated to a lively overview of Croatia's history, language, culture and geography by a Rotary Youth Exchange Student Klara Lendic at their recent meeting.

Lendic spoke of how her country has been strongly influenced by neighboring countries as Croatia is a small country that was at one time part of the Hapsburg Empire, the central European monarchy that ruled over a collection of lands from the 13th century to 1918.

The historically difficult yet close connection to its neighboring countries continues even though Croatia has been an independent, democratic

country since 1991 and a part of the European Union since 2013. Long and difficult negotiations have been a tradition as political and cultural

Croatia has strong cultural and culinary traditions, which Lendic described in terms of extended family groups.

differences overlap the boundaries of so many small countries in such close proximity.

Croatia has strong cultural and culinary traditions, which Lendic described in terms of extended family groups, traditional foods, and elaborate celebrations of holidays and weddings.

Rotary exchange → 14

Rutland man sentenced to 80 months in prison for robbery spree

Brennan Bigelow, age 33, of Rutland, Vermont, has been sentenced by U.S. District Judge Christina Reiss to a term of 80 months' imprisonment to be followed by a 3-year term of supervised release, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Vermont announced on Feb. 29, 2024.

Bigelow previously pleaded guilty to two robberies and, at the same change of plea hearing, admitted participation in two additional robberies and one attempted robbery, all occurring from August to December 2022 at five Rutland businesses: a convenience store on Woodstock Avenue, a gas station on South Main Street, a restaurant and a gas station on U.S. Route 4 East, and a pharmacy on Woodstock Avenue.

In each robbery, Bigelow threatened a store employee with violence, brandished a pellet gun that resembled a firearm, brandished a knife,

simulated a concealed handgun or threatened to shoot the cashier.

According to court records, Bigelow told one of his victims that he would shoot the victim in the face. Another victim remains fearful of being alone, experiencing sadness and anger, and wanting Bigelow to spend "life in jail."

Another of Bigelow's victims reported replaying the robbery, especially when trying to fall asleep. Another explained the incident with Bigelow "was a short ordeal, but it was truly terrifying."

While detained in connection with this federal case, Bigelow was convicted of assaulting another prison inmate and is awaiting sentencing in that case in New York state court.

U.S. Attorney Nikolas P. Kerest commended the Rutland Police Dept. for its investigation of this matter.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jon Ophardt and

Colin Owyang. Defendant Brennan Bigelow was represented by Peter Langrock, Esq.

"This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence, and to make our neighborhoods safer for everyone," stated the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Vermont in the news release.

On May 26, 2021, the Dept. launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities, supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place, setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities, and measuring the results.

For more info about Project Safe Neighborhoods, visit: [Justice.gov/PSN](https://www.justice.gov/PSN).

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Vt. Supreme Court rejects Daniel Banyai's appeal

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

The Vermont Supreme Court on Friday, March 1, upheld contempt sanctions imposed on Daniel Banyai, owner of the former Pawlet weapons training facility Slate Ridge.

The court heard oral arguments in the appeal in January. Banyai, who faces an ongoing arrest warrant for failing to comply with orders to remove unpermitted structures on his property, was not present for that hearing.

"The contempt sanctions the Environmental Division imposed are entitled to full

enforcement," wrote Associate Justice Harold Eaton Jr. in a decision posted Friday, finding that Banyai's arguments, which targeted an

The court found Banyai's attacks on the sanctions against him, including an active arrest warrant, were "impermissible."

already finalized decision by the lower court, were an "impermissible collateral attack"

Robert Kaplan, Banyai's lawyer, had argued that the environmental court imposed "punitive" rather

than "coercive" sanctions by levying more than \$100,000 in fines against his client and potentially allowing for Banyai to be jailed until

Pawlet officials could bring his property into compliance.

Merrill Bent, Pawlet's attorney, argued that the ostensibly punitive nature of the sanctions, as Kaplan described them, had

nevertheless failed to result in the deconstruction of unpermitted structures on the property.

In turn, she posed to the court whether Banyai was free to "defy court orders" and "endlessly litigate."

The high court, in its decision, found that Banyai did not have grounds to challenge the contempt sanctions at all.

Banyai "never challenged the February 2023 contempt order or denial of reconsideration by a timely direct

Banyai → 7



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Hartland Town Meeting goes smoothly

By Curt Peterson

The approximately 200 attendees at the Hartland Town Meeting Tuesday, March 5, approved all nine pertinent Articles on the warning.

Select Board chair Phil Hobbie told the Mountain Times, “I think things went surprisingly well. John Broker-Campbell, who’s been our town manager for just five weeks did a wonderful job.”

Many said it was refreshing to hear Broker-Campbell admit when he did not know the answer to a question from the floor, and he sought the needed information among town officials.

State representatives Elizabeth Burrows and John Bartholomew, and state Senator Alison Clarkson provided brief updates on the Legislature’s activities.

Conservation Committee chair Rob Anderegg awarded the 2023 volunteer of the year award to Sarah Bruce, listing her many activities.

Article 2: Voters unanimously approved \$92,000 for the Hartland Volunteer Fire Department, including a new \$12,000 stipend for veteran chief John Sanders.

Articles 3 and 4: Moving small amounts from long-inactive funds to budget items that could use them were unanimously approved.

Article 5: Ottauquechee Health Foundation requested, and received, an increase to \$5,000 in appropriation funds. The vote was unanimous.

Article 6: Hartland Community Arts was cheerfully appropriated \$2,000 with which they will upgrade lighting in Damon Hall.

Article 7: Voters approved \$84,482 total appropriations to 24 non-profit service organizations, unanimously.

Article 8: The town general and highway funds of \$3,679,380 (\$2,867,414 raised by taxes) won unanimous approval.

Article 9: The proposal to use up to \$150,000 to provide lighting for the new 3-Corners intersection attracted considerable comment and questioning. Broker-Campbell said the current lights would gone with the poles that hold them, as the wires are going underground. A handful of “Nays” were outvoted by a majority of “Ayes.”

Article 10: The Upper Valley Land Trust is negotiating with Timotheus Pohl for purchase 75 acres of open land between Route 12 and Ottauquechee Road to establish a permanent conservation easement. The land would be available for public use for year-round recreation, and some of the land will continue as agriculture use. Seven-plus acres will be set aside for future construction of affordable housing. Voters were asked to approve “setting aside” up to \$100,000 as the town’s contribution to the purchase, should it happen.

Local land surveyor Tim Rockwood gave a presentation of reasons to question the transaction, and there was active debate.

The great majority of voters present gave approval, and a smaller number said, “Nay”. This Article has been a topic of conversations in town for some months.

The meeting was adjourned at noon. Ballot voting was open until 7 p.m. There are no contested local positions. Nikki Haley overwhelmingly beat out Donald Trump on the Republican primary ballot, 238-198.

← School budgets: from page 1

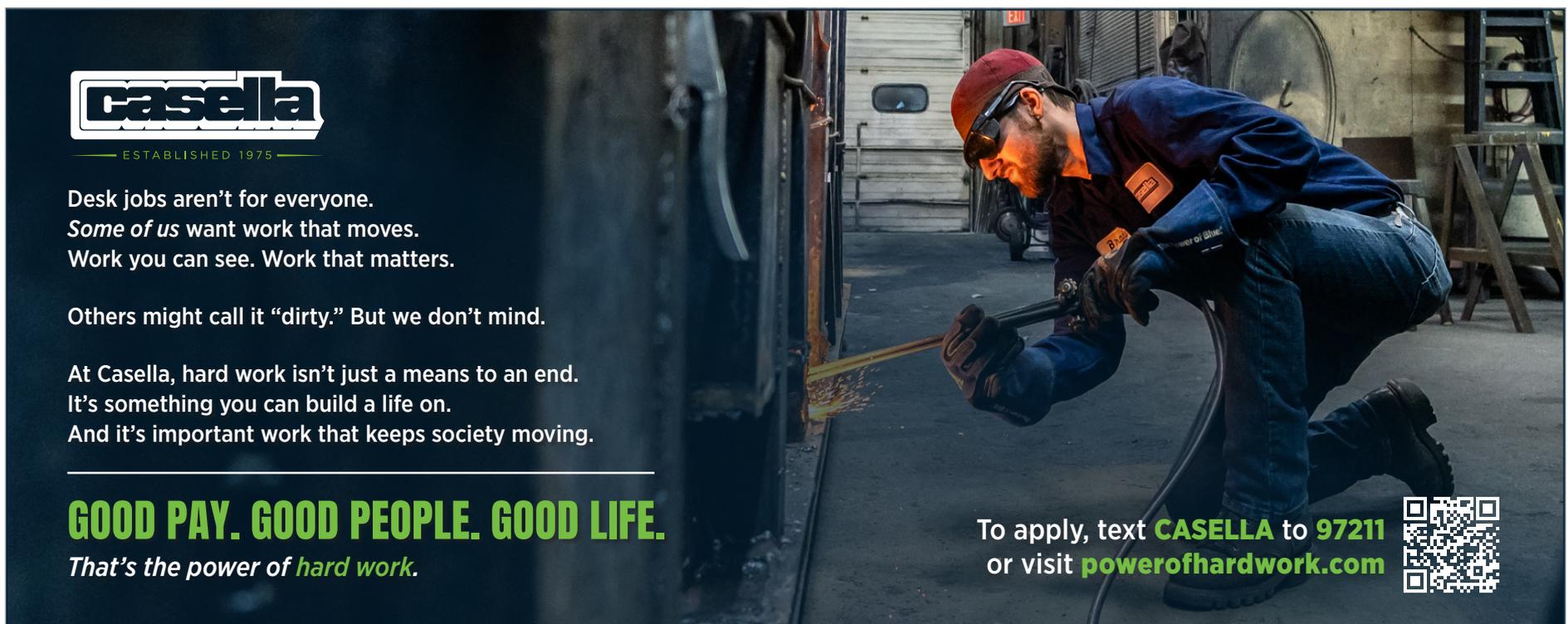
to \$1.81. The increase for Chittenden residents is now estimated to be \$430 per \$100,000 of home assessment, based on current statewide projected education spending proposals. In Mendon, the tax rate would increase 28% from \$1.20 after adjusted for the common level of appraisal to \$1.54. The increase for Mendon residents is now estimated to be \$340 per \$100,000 of home assessment.

Otter Valley Unified Union School District school budget vote was also defeated with a margin of 891-yes to 1,325-no. Its budget was also about 12% over last year with proposed FY25 budget of \$27,247,823.

Mountain Views Supervisory Union (MVSU) was expected to pass its \$29,756,674 bond, an 11% increase over last year, by a narrow margin. As of 11 p.m. Tuesday, six of the seven district towns had reported results —only Woodstock, which is expected to pass the budget by a wider margin than some other district towns, votes are not tallied.

MVSU also has a \$99 million bond for a new middle school/high school on the ballot. However, those results will not be available until Wednesday per 16 V.S.A. §743, which states “[Bond] ballots shall be commingled before counting.” For those results as well as more from school and municipalities throughout Rutland and Windsor counties, visit: MountainTimes.info.

		BARNARD results	BRIDGEWATER results	KILLINGTON results	PLYMOUTH results	POMFRET results	READING results	WOODSTOCK results	TOTALS:
Article 2	To elect a Clerk	Rayna Bishop	Rayna Bishop	Rayna Bishop		Rayna Bishop	Rayna Bishop		
Article 3	To elect a Treasurer	Calista Brennan	Calista Brennan	Calista Brennan		Calista Brennan	Calista Brennan		
Article 4	Fix salary for Treasurer- \$7,500	261-yes 35-no 58-blank	185-yes 72-no 91-blank	258-yes 99-no -blank	-yes -no -blank	264-yes 24-no 145-blank	244-yes 30-no 28-blank	-yes -no -blank	
Article 5	To elect town reps	Heather Lawlor 3-year term	Ryan Townsend 3-year term	Katie Reed 3-year term	N/A	Robert Crean 3-year term	N/A	term of three years	
Article 6	MVSU budget of \$29,756,674	216-yes 129-no 10-blank	156-yes 176-no -blank	186-yes 315-no -blank	101-yes 98-no 14-blank	328-yes 88-no 17-blank	178-yes 114-no 9-blank	-yes -no -blank	1165 - yes 920 - no 245 - difference



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Nikki Haley wins Vermont, the first state to spurn Trump in primaries

By Emma Cotton and Paul Heintz/VTDigger

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley won her first state in the Republican presidential primary on Tuesday — and it happened in Vermont.

Haley defeated former President Donald Trump by the slimmest of margins in the state, according to the Associated Press, which called the race for her at 10:37 p.m. With 224 of 247 precincts reporting late Tuesday night, she was leading Trump 49.3% to 45.3%, according to the Vermont Secretary of State's Office.

Though she prevailed in the Green Mountains on Super Tuesday — when Vermont and 14 other states held primary elections — she was trounced elsewhere, including the nearby New England states of Massachusetts and Maine. Trump continued to rack up delegates to the Republican National Convention and seemed ever closer to clinching his party's nomination.

President Joe Biden, meanwhile, cruised to victory in Vermont's Democratic primary. The Associated Press called the race for the incumbent president at 7:20 p.m., soon after the polls closed.

In the GOP primary, Haley capitalized on anti-Trump sentiment in Vermont — and the state's open primary system — to notch a win. (Vermonters cannot formally register with a political party in the state and are free to take Republican or Democratic presiden-

tial primary ballots, leading to the possibility of crossover voting.)

Presidential candidates rarely campaign in Vermont, but Haley touched down in the state on Sunday to hold a rally in South Burlington, where she was joined by her most prominent local supporter, Republican Gov. Phil Scott. He urged Vermonters of all political persuasions to cast their ballots for Haley to "help stop Donald Trump."

While Vermont doesn't send that many delegates to either convention, where the parties pick their presidential nominees (California, which also votes on Super Tuesday, will send 169 delegates to the Republican convention, compared to 17 from Vermont), it did feel like a victory to many Vermonters.

According to Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas due to the primary presidential elections, she expected there to be a higher turnout for Town Meeting Day. It's the local elections, however, that Copeland Hanzas said are particularly important.

"While we get jazzed up about the presidential race, because there's lots of advertising dollars that put that in front of us and in lots of different media sources, it's really the decisions that are being made at your local level that are more impactful on your life," she said.



Candidate	▼ Votes	Percent
 Nikki Haley ✓	33,684	49.6%
 Donald J. Trump	30,469	44.9%

By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Above: Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley spoke in South Burlington on March 3.

← Delayed voting: from page 1

local voters approve those changes," he said.

The last minute change in the state formulas also created unprecedented levels of uncertainty about the tax impacts of school spending.

"Essentially the playing field changed at the end of the game," White River Valley Superintendent Jamie Kinnarney said in a recent interview with VTDigger. His business office is "working on its sixth or seventh budget draft," he said.

Norwich board member Neil Odell explained that the way Vermont calculates and collects education funding has gotten far too complex and that's part of the problem. "The formula is so complex that there is no linear correlation between how much you spend and what your tax rate is, and that's hard for people to understand," he said.

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, the Hartland District School Board held its budget presentation where it outlined cuts (included over \$500,000 at the supervisory union level) to come up with a new proposed budget of \$11,040,567. Additionally, the board is asking for \$10,000 from the capital reserve fund to make necessary safety modifications to the playground or to completely remove it if it cannot be modified sufficiently.

Even with cuts the board was only able to reduce the tax increase to 29%.

"This is due to the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA = 69%)," Buck wrote. "If houses

in Hartland were appropriately valued (CLA = 100%), our tax rate would be nearly identical to previous years. But because our properties are valued so high, 'we' all need to contribute more to the state's funding formula," she explained. "While we vote on school budgets locally, Vermont's taxation system is statewide and this year, the state's formula says that Hartland residents need to pay substantially more into the state fund."

"The CLA's impact this year is so extreme," she continued. "If we wanted to present no tax increase to the community, we would need to cut 25 of our 29 certified teachers. I only present this scenario to highlight the insanity of the state's formula and how it is impacting our community. We already know that in 2022, 67% of our community receives an income-based reduction on their property taxes so one has to question the value of increasing our taxes more."

The Hartland board is aiming to put a revised budget up for a separate vote April 2 and will hold another informational meeting before time.

"We are asking residents to look at the school budget individually and decide if the board made an appropriate budget when voting. Thank you for your support during this extremely challenging time," Buck concluded.

← Ed spending: from page 1

Nicole Lee, the agency of education's director of finance, presented the results of a survey Feb. 27, which asked districts about costs related to special education, construction, federal dollars, mental and behavioral health, school staff and staff benefits.

More than 80% of supervisory unions and districts responded to the survey — 43 of 52 — and Lee acknowledged that the data is highly preliminary and subject to change and potential errors, she said in testimony to the House Ways and Means Committee. The data also doesn't account for the number of students in each district, though Lee said both big districts and small districts replied.

Takeaways from the data include:

- The total cost of special education is projected to have increased about 30% in the last three years.
- Construction spending is projected to rise 32% year over year, with a drop in money coming from capital reserves, and more money coming from bonds.
- Costs related to retaining staff once paid for by federal funding increased more than 150%, a total increase of about \$15 million in the districts that provided data.
- Total full-time employees remained essentially level year over year, though salaries increased about 8%

and benefits increased 33%. (Lee warned these numbers require the most additional review and may reflect a greater-than-reality jump.)

- Surveyed districts have added funding for 648 full-time staff related directly or indirectly to mental and behavioral health in the most recent three budget years.

Total full-time employees remained essentially level ... though salaries increased about 8% and benefits increased 33%.

As part of ongoing conversations about how the state could lower education property tax bills, the committee also considered the impact of a "cloud tax," which would remove a sales tax exemption for software programs stored and accessed over the internet.

The tax, which would raise a projected \$20.4 million next year, would bring down the average education property tax bill increase 1.4%, according to modeling from the Joint Fiscal Office.

"It's not surprising but just discouraging how adding \$20 million moves the needle so little," said Rep. Katherine Sims, D-Craftsbury. "The magnitude of this challenge is ... enormous."

University of Vermont announces new logo, branding

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

“Going forward, UVM will unify its brand message under a refined V logomark outlined by a shield,” wrote the University of Vermont’s strategic communications division. Image courtesy University of Vermont

The University of Vermont will abandon its iconic Old Mill building tower logo for a letter “V.”

The university’s strategic communications division announced the “brand refresh,” which will occur over the next 18 months, as first reported by Seven Days.

“With UVM’s newly refreshed branding, the tower logomark is being retired. Going forward, UVM will unify its brand message under a refined V logomark outlined by a shield,” the division wrote.

According to the brand refresh, the logo change in part symbolizes that UVM “looks far beyond Vermont’s state borders to attract students, faculty members, and research partners,” detaching the school from its physical Burlington campus.

“The new V logomark supports the message of UVM’s expansive mission and sparks visual recognition to the institution’s broad statewide, national, and international audiences,” the university said. “Combined with the university’s name in a refined typeface, the new logo confers a higher level of brand recognition and distinction.”

UVM first began using the Old Mill tower as its logo in the 1990s. New typefaces and colors will accompany the updated logo, according to the school, and the tower graphic will no longer appear on new materials beginning this July.



The University of Vermont

Courtesy UVM

The new logo (above) will replace the steeple logo from the '90s.

The redesign will not affect athletics branding, Adam White, executive director of university communications, said in an email. White declined to answer further questions about the rebranding, including its cost, until officials make a more detailed announcement on March 19.

The university unveiled the new logo quietly, without public posts on social media.

After media first reported on the logo change, internet commenters — including self-reported alumni — were quick to weigh in, with many bemoaning the new design.

Vermont Campus Voting Challenge launched

Colleges and universities can now participate in the Vermont Campus Voting Challenge, a new nonpartisan initiative announced Jan. 25 by Vermont’s Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas, in partnership with the nonpartisan nonprofit “All In” Campus Democracy Challenge.

All higher education institutions in Vermont are invited to be a part of the challenge. Participating colleges and universities will be eligible for awards based on achieving their campus goals for the Nov. 5, 2024, election.

“The Vermont Campus Voting Challenge is a great addition to all of the civics education and engagement work my office has been focused on since I took office last year,” said Secretary Copeland Hanzas, “I know we have engaged college students here in Vermont and any extra incentive for them to get energized about voting is fantastic. I can’t wait to see the results of our partnership with All In as November’s General Election draws closer.”

College and university administrators, faculty and staff can learn more and sign up at allinchallenge.org/vermont-campus-voting-challenge. There is no sign-up cost to participate. Institutions that opt into the program will be provided guidance and tools to create an action plan for increasing student engagement on their campus. By signing up for the Vermont Campus Voting Challenge, all accredited, degree-granting higher education institutions across the state can improve, measure, and celebrate efforts to institutionalize nonpartisan civic learning, political engagement, and informed voter participation.

The Vermont Secretary of State is partnering with the All In Campus Democracy Challenge, a national, nonpartisan Voting Challenge → 14



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Vermonters continue to be sheltered following the new hotel/motel rate

The Dept. for Children and Families (DCF) has announced the successful continuation of sheltering all Vermonters currently in a motel and eligible for the General Assistance (GA) Emergency Housing program. This has been made possible through collaboration with hotels/motels that accepted the new negotiated rate of \$80 per night, according to a news release Friday, March 1.

While a handful of hotels/motels opted not to accept the new rate, no Vermonters lost their room due to these negotiations and subsequent new rates. Individuals requiring relocation were moved to alternate hotels/motels within the same geographic area.

During the pandemic, the state simply paid the room rate designated by the hotel/motel for Vermonters housed in the GA hotel/motel program. The negotiated rate is almost half what the hotels/motels had been charging under the GA program.

As part of regular monthly procedures, the DCF Economic Services Division is seeing a natural change (rise and fall) in the population served by the GA Emergency Housing Program based on program guidelines. DCF will continue offering alternative options for Vermonters needing to seek shelter at an alternate location.

“Understanding that this process moved quickly and there was a fair amount of confusion in our communities,” DCF stated in the news release.

The Economic Services Division extended housing center hours through last weekend and VT-211 will continue to operate their after-hours call center each night until 11 p.m. “DCF appreciates everyone’s understanding and cooperation as they work diligently to ensure continued support for Vermonters in need,” the statement continued.



The Travel Inn in Rutland was one of at least 75 motels in Vermont where state agencies housed people who would otherwise be homeless.

By Mike Dougherty/VTDigger

Governor Phil Scott supported the results of the negotiations. He issued the following statement after the announcement March 1: “This room rate cap is an important tool in our work to provide temporary, emergency shelter for our most vulnerable while moving to more permanent solutions. By reducing the cost we’re paying per room, we’ll be better able to fund this program as we work on other more effective solutions to permanently and safely shelter and house those in need.

“It’s important for program participants and Vermonters to understand that we’re continuing to wind down the pandemic-era approach, and there will continue to be changes to eligibility. This includes the annual shift in our Adverse Weather Conditions policy on March 15, which will make this policy weather dependent.

“This is going to continue to be a difficult transition, but we’re working to do it in a way that protects those with the greatest needs. Importantly, the expansion of this emergency housing program in recent years has

not been the best approach to meeting the needs of unhoused individuals and the high cost is not sustainable for Vermonters. So, it’s critical for the Legislature to work with us on our proposals to make it less expensive, faster and easier to build housing and shelters. Restoring existing housing stock and creating new units is the only way to truly end homelessness in Vermont.

“I want to thank the team of state employees across multiple agencies who have worked diligently to make sure we could transition to this rate cap on March 1 without losing the capacity to shelter those currently in rooms. Our Buildings and General Services Property Management Director Eric Pembroke led an intensive effort to achieve this goal, supported by Miranda Gray, deputy commissioner at DCF, and I appreciate their – and the full team’s – work. I also want to thank the Legislature for working with us on this rate cap, and for passing it under pressure from advocates who were not supportive.”

For more information visit: DCF.vermont.gov.

Vermont’s revenue for January exceeds projections by \$38 million, 11.7%

The General Fund, Transportation Fund and Education Fund all exceeded their monthly consensus cash flow targets, corresponding to the annual fiscal 2024 consensus forecast update as adopted by the emergency board at its January 2024 meeting. Revenue collections for the month of January 2024 receipts were a combined \$362.4 million, exceeding the \$324.4 million monthly consensus target by \$38.0 million, or 11.7%, according to the monthly revenue release report by Agency of Administration, March 1.

Combined receipts are \$38 million, or 2%, above the updated \$1,863.1 million target adopted at the most recent emergency board meeting.

According to Administration Secretary Clouser: “The January revenue results represent the first time receipts have exceeded their targets for two consecutive months. This provides a small but welcome cushion as the state enters into the critical income tax filing season.”

General Fund

General Fund revenues for January totaled \$254.9 million, \$29.6 million, or 13.1%, above the \$225.3 million monthly consensus cash flow target. All receipts categories, except for a -\$2.8 million underperformance by the corporate income tax, surpassed their combined targets by \$32.4 million. Receipts are \$29.6 million, or 2.4%, above their \$1,245.2 million target adopted at the most recent emergency board meeting.

Transportation Fund

Revenues in the Transportation Fund exceeded their \$21.8 million January consensus target by \$7.2 million, or 33.1%, yielding \$29.1 million. All receipts categories, except for a -\$0.2 million underperformance by the Gasoline Tax, surpassed their combined targets by \$7.4 million. Receipts are \$7.2 million, or 4.4%, above their \$165.0 million target adopted at the most recent emergency board meeting.

Education Fund

Monthly Education Fund revenues of \$78.4 million were \$1.2 million, or 1.5%, above their January \$77.3 million cash flow target. The \$3.5 million of combined receipts above target from the meals & rooms tax, the motor vehicle purchase and use tax, and Lottery receipts were offset by a combined -\$2.3 million underperformance by the sales and use tax, and interest earnings. Receipts are \$1.2 million, 0.3%, above their \$452.9 million target adopted at the most recent emergency board meeting.

← Banyai: from page 3

appeal to this Court,” reads the order, and thus his arguments against the sanctions now are “impermissible.”

“The Town is pleased that the Supreme Court has once again upheld its legal position and the trial court’s considered decisions in this challenging case,” Bent wrote in an email to VTDigger. “The Town will be reviewing the options to finally bring the community closure on this matter.”

In an email Friday, Ka-

plan, Banyai’s attorney, said his client “is very disappointed that the Supreme Court chose not to address the important issues raised by his appeal.”

“Mr. Banyai is evaluating the implications of this decision and determining the best path forward,” Kaplan wrote.

As part of the outstanding warrant for Banyai’s arrest, Vermont State Police and the Rutland County sheriff are required to

inform the Environmental Court every 30 days of their attempts to arrest the Pawlet landowner.

Those most recent reports, from Feb. 2, indicate state police performed 29 checks on Banyai’s property during the last 30-day window in an attempt to locate him.

“We have continued to act on tips received from the public that are brought to our attention,” wrote state police Lt. Douglas Norton.

← Rutland vote: from page 1

Incumbent Sharon Davis, who has served on the board for 34 years, was the top vote getter on Tuesday, with 2,133 votes, followed by incumbent Michael Talbott with 1841 votes in unofficial results.

Henry Heck took third place with 1,776 votes and previous Board of Aldermen member Matt Whitcomb took the fourth spot with 1,733 votes.

Incumbent Anna Tadio took the fifth spot with 1,724 votes.

Political newcomer Eddie Grove and Bob Pearo, Jr. were not elected, receiving 944 and 1,517 respectively.

“I think that speaks to Rutland looking for the experience,” Rutland City Mayor Michael

Doenges said in an interview on PEGTV Tuesday night.

Heck, who previously served as town clerk before he was ousted by Doenges last March, also appeared on PEGTV Tuesday night, saying he wants to make a “better Rutland” and work with other board members. “I’m all about working together,” he said. “I look forward to working with the older Aldermen.”

There were four candidates seeking election to three 3-year seats on the School Board. Justine Franco, a former school nurse, was the top vote getter with 1,785 votes, followed by Charlene Stoodley with 1,399 votes, Charlene Seward with 1,399 votes and Jen Rondinone with 1,364 votes in unofficial results.

Gardeners/farmers take note: USDA hardiness zones have changed

By Deborah J. Benoit, UVM extension master gardener

There are countless things that can go right or wrong in a garden. Some of them are obvious: too much or too little water, diseases, pests and critters that nibble on our plants. Other things that can make or break your gardening efforts are less obvious. It's those little details that can be so very important.

If you've purchased perennial plants or started them from seed, you've likely seen notations such as "hardy to Zone 5" or "USDA Zones 4a-9b" on the package or in the product description. This is vital information for gardeners because plants suitable for your U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zone are far more likely to grow successfully for you, barring unusual weather conditions.

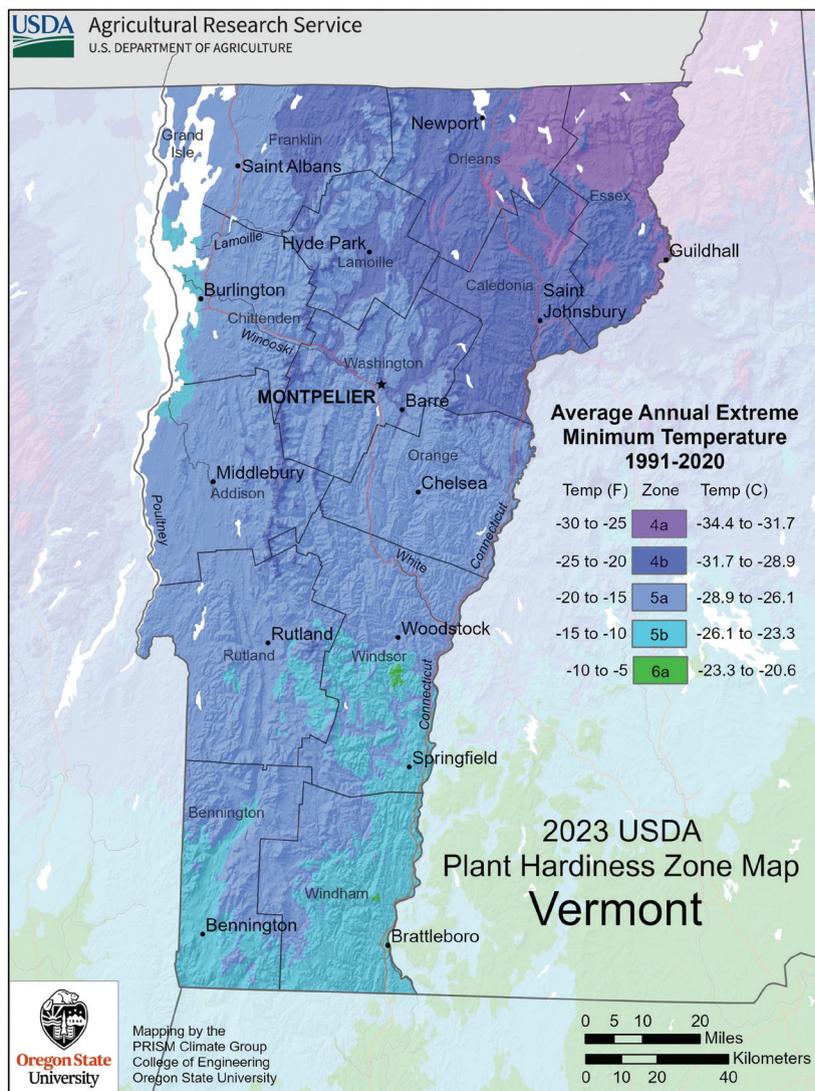
The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone map is based on information collected over a 30-year period from 1991-2020 from over 13,000 weather stations across the country. The map assigns locations a zone number (1a-13b) using extreme minimum winter temperature data. A lower number/letter combination indicates cooler low temperatures.

Knowing the zone for your location and for the perennial plants (including shrubs and trees) you intend to include in your garden are key pieces of information for successful growing. Even if you already know your location's zone number, it's a good idea to check the newly published 2023 map before purchasing seeds or plants. The zone designation for many locations has changed since the last update in 2012 (for example, from zone 4a to 4b or from zone 4b to 5a).

You can find your location's USDA Plant Hardiness Zone by entering your zip code at: planthardiness.ars.usda.gov.

While you are plant and seed shopping, you may see some plants labeled as "tender perennials." These are plants that will come back year after year in an appropriate zone but which will not survive freezing conditions. Often such plants are sold or treated as annuals in colder zones such as those here in New England, or they can be brought inside before the first frost to

In Killington, for example, there's a 90% chance that there will be no more 36° or colder nights by June 11.



Courtesy of USDA Agricultural Research Service
Gardeners can use the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map for their state to determine their zone and select appropriate plants for their garden.

overwinter indoors.

In addition to knowing your zone, it's important when selecting plants and seeds to know the length of your growing season. By determining your average last and first frost dates, you can easily calculate the anticipated length of your growing season. Simply count the number of days between the last likely spring frost and the probable date of the first frost in the fall. That is the average length of your growing season.

This is important when selecting annual vegetables and flowers for your location. Look for the number of days to maturity on seed packets.

For example, if your growing season is only 100 days long and the tomato variety you want to plant requires 120 days to harvest, you may be very

disappointed in the fall when temperatures drop and a freeze puts an end to your plants before you've tasted a single tomato. By selecting a variety with a shorter number of days to maturity, you're far more likely to enjoy the fruits of your garden before cold arrives in the fall.

Information concerning last frost dates (in the springtime) and first frost dates (in the fall) can be found by entering your zip code at: garden.org/apps/frost-dates.

In Killington, for example, there's a 90% chance that there will be no more 36°F or colder nights by June 11. In the fall, the risk of frost typically begins in mid-September (20% chance of temperatures reaching 36°F by Sept. 6 rising to 90% by Sept. 29). According to the National Gardening Association, 36°F is considered the "danger zone" for frosts, because many additional factors like wind, ground temperatures and structures can add to subtract from real temperatures.

Dec. 18-19 disaster declaration approved for seven counties

Rutland and Windsor are among them

President Joseph Biden has signed a major public assistance disaster declaration for seven Vermont counties to assist communities in recovering costs for the repair of public infrastructure damaged by severe storms and flooding on Dec. 18-19, 2023.

The declaration covers Essex, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Windham, and Windsor counties.

Governor Phil Scott requested the declaration in February, stating: "I appreciate the federal government's quick response to the flooding disasters we've faced over the last several months. Between the July, August and December flooding, we have a long road ahead and my team will continue to do all we can to help with recovery, and support mitigation that will better secure communities in the future."

Cities and towns in the declared counties now qualify for 75% reimbursement of recovery costs arising from the storm under the Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Program. Eligible costs include debris removal, road and public building repairs, staff overtime responding to and cleaning up after the storm, and contractor assistance.

State and federal assessors identified more than \$1.9 million in storm-eligible costs during a preliminary damage assessment in December, although the final tally will likely be higher statewide.

← 104: from page 2

helped spur his passions for reading and learning. Floyd claims its protagonist, Edward Van Alstyne, is a direct ancestor. The book inspired him to look into his family history and lineage, which has since been compiled into a thick binder by one of his daughters. He was quick to brag: "I go back to 800."

One of the more exciting genealogical finds he and Marjorie laugh over: "Actually, we're related."

"We found out by reading the history," he said. "She and I had the same grandfather eight generations ago."

He also credits his longevity to remaining active. His working life began at 15 when he broke in a team of horses and started logging. Throughout his long and winding career, Floyd cleared the top of Jay Peak Resort, helped build the Vermont interstates, was the fire warden of Barnard for over 30 years and all the while maintained his maple farm and sawmill.

Today, his property has over 3,000 trees that his two sons, Greyling and Clay, tap and take care of. The brothers also run the sawmill, which produces building materials. Floyd doesn't get to be as involved as much as he once was — his wheelchair makes it hard. Even so, he still moves freely around his home. "I use my feet ... Pretty good at it," Floyd said, shuttling himself and his chair to another room to grab a few papers.

And while he's technically turning 104 this year, he likes to remind people he was born on a leap day — so maybe wish him a happy 26th this time around.

One of the more exciting genealogical finds he and Marjorie laugh over: "Actually, we're related... She and I had the same grandfather eight generations ago," Floyd said.

Heating up

With self-imposed deadlines coming up to move legislation from the House to the Senate or vice versa, the pace of bills advancing is heating up. And being the second year of the biennium with elections coming up this fall, the motivation to get one's priorities passed is increased. For some it may be now or never.

Unfortunately, several of the initiatives being advanced include new money.

On Friday, H.645, which expands restorative justice programs, was quickly amended by the House Appropriations Committee, to remove its funding for two new positions (a total of \$277,000). That could become a common theme for the committee as it grapples with decisions over the next few weeks to balance next year's budget. Another housing bill is heading to the Appropriations panel that calls for close to \$200 million in new funding. That will most likely be impossible to satisfy unless lawmakers want to raise significant new taxes.



By Rep. Jim Harrison

Heating up could also apply to some of the rhetoric between advocates, including Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman, for a new renewable energy bill and the Scott administration. An analyst for the Public Service Dept. estimated the legislation, H.289, could cost ratepayers an additional \$1 billion over the next 10 years. Supporters of the bill say

that the number is exaggerated but haven't offered any analysis of their own. They also don't believe electric infrastructure needed for local renewable power sources should be included in the cost estimates.

There are also the beginnings of disagreements among committees about what if anything to change with Act 250 to allow more housing development this session. Members of the tri-partisan rural caucus sent a letter to House Speaker Krowinski, outlining several concerns with a pending Act 250 bill under review in the House Environment & Energy Committee.

And finally, all eyes will be on the outcome of proposed school budgets this week. If most are approved, homeowners could see average increases in property taxes of 20% or more, with some districts over 30%.

At a press conference on Friday afternoon, March 1, the chair of the House Education Committee said he didn't even know how he would vote on his own school budget, where he is a former board member. In a separate interview, the governor indicated he was leaning toward voting against his own school budget in Berlin.

Other issues of interest:

- Commissioner of Health, Dr. Levine, has apparently changed course and now is supportive of safe injection sites in Vermont. This conflicts with the governor, who appointed him to the position.
- The mid-year budget adjustment bill, H.839, received final passage by the Legislature on March 1 and was sent to the governor for his signature. The bill includes capping the price paid to operators of hotels participating in the hotel voucher program for homeless at \$80/night. It also includes financial assistance to towns impacted by last summer's flooding to help cover their required local match for FEMA assistance.
- A Senate committee approved a bill to make Juneteenth a state holiday and will now go to the full Senate. This would increase the state's legal holidays to 13. June 19 marks the day when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control

Harrison → 14

Pre-TMD: Flood grants and ed funding

The Vermont Legislature is now on its Town Meeting week break. It is an opportunity for us to go to town/information meetings, meet with constituents, and re-energize our personal batteries. My hope is to get to 12 town/information meetings this year. I represent 25 towns, this is a great time to get a better sense of some of the different places I represent and an opportunity to re-appreciate this treasured Vermont tradition.



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

Before we left the State House, we passed the Budget Adjustment Act (BAA) which adjusts the FY24 state budget. The BAA addressed a number of additional state needs from emergency housing to adult basic education. And it allocated \$23.5 million to our most flood impacted municipalities for much needed repairs of sewer systems and other damaged infrastructure. Of the 25 most impacted towns, nine are in Windsor County. And, while many towns will receive some financial support, Ludlow will receive the most, almost \$3 million to help repair their devastated waste water system. Here is a link to the funds allocated to each flood impacted town: Tinyurl.com/VTJulyFloodGrants.

In addition, the Legislature passed a fix to an education funding problem that resulted from 2022's Act 127 in H. 850. This year some key cost drivers have challenged

our schools as they created their budgets: a 16.4% increase in teacher's health care, the end of one-time federal Covid/ESSER funds, overall inflation, and the debt service on new capital projects or renovations. And an aspect of Act 127 misled some school boards to think they had more financial protection than they had.

Act 127, known as the pupil weighting bill, led to budgeting confusion, and sent inaccurate messages about what was possible without raising taxes. Many school boards thought they could raise budgets 5%. However, the 5% cap in Act 127 was designed for one purpose: to help districts hit particularly hard by the changes in pupil weighting adjust over time to accommodate those changes. The "5% cap" mechanism in Act 127 has not behaved as expected, preventing the Legislature from taking

The Budget Adjustment Act ... allocated \$23.5 million to our most flood impacted municipalities ... Of the 25 most impacted towns, nine are in Windsor County.

necessary steps to reduce property tax rates for Vermonters, across towns.

We had to address the flaws in this mechanism immediately. We did so in passing H.850, which repeals the 5% cap transition mechanism established in 2022's Act 127 and replaces it with new tax rate transition mechanism to be implemented between fiscal years 2025 and 2029. This new mechanism will grant a discount to some district homestead property tax rates for those districts negatively impacted by the new

Clarkson → 14

ERAF Calculations				Local Economic Impact Grant		Total
Windsor and Rutland County Towns	Estimated. FEMA Public Assistant Cost	ERAF State Share approximately 78% of 10 % local share	Estimated Local Share reduction	\$3.25M Individual and Household Program	\$3M Local Economic Impact Payment	TOTAL Muni grants (\$6.25) and State ERAF Contribution (\$16.25M ERAF)
Ludlow, Town	27,718,152	\$2,173,103	(787,196)	750,000	75,000	2,998,000
Killington	8,847,500	\$693,644	(251,269)		75,000	769,000
Stockbridge	7,525,997	\$590,038	(213,738)		75,000	665,000
Bridgewater	4,732,200	\$371,004	(134,394)		50,000	421,000
Cavendish	3,233,188	\$253,482	(27,159)		50,000	303,000
Norwich	2,518,350	\$197,439	(71,521)		50,000	247,000
Plymouth	2,353,759	\$184,535	(19,772)		50,000	235,000
Barnard	2,323,410	\$182,155	(19,517)		50,000	232,000
Chester	2,233,414	\$175,100	(63,429)		50,000	225,000
Ludlow, Village	2,040,000	\$159,936	(57,936)		50,000	210,000
Hartford	1,927,452	\$151,112	(54,740)		30,000	181,000
Strafford	1,835,665	\$143,916	(15,420)		30,000	174,000
Mount Holly	1,807,500	\$141,708	(51,333)		30,000	172,000
Bethel	1,601,287	\$125,541	(45,477)		30,000	156,000
Reading	1,147,939	\$89,998	(32,601)		30,000	120,000
Tunbridge	766,082	\$60,061	(6,435)		20,000	80,000

Courtesy Vermont Joint Fiscal Office

Chart shows grant funding for towns in Rutland and Windsor Counties that were most impacted by the July floods. Ludlow received the second most funding, Killington fourth most in the state.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Building together: A call for collaborative housing legislation

Editor's Note: This commentary is by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Vt. Natural Resources Council, and the Vt. Association of Planning and Development Agencies.

Climate change poses a significant threat to Vermont's natural resources, economy, and way of life. From extreme weather events to loss of biodiversity, the impacts are already evident. Simultaneously, Vermont faces an urgent housing crisis that demands swift and strategic action. Adequate and affordable housing is essential for attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, promoting economic vitality, accommodating climate refugees, and ensuring the well-being of our communities.

Elected leaders at all levels have made building more housing and protecting our environment a priority — and yet progress to comprehensively reform Act 250, our state's landmark land use and development law, has remained elusive for a number of years, even though there have been multiple attempts. This year, after building unprecedented consensus among a number of stakeholders, we believe a compromise is available, actionable, and attainable.

Legislators can make real progress this year by passing the recommendations in the Vermont Natural Resources Board's Report on the Necessary Updates to Act 250, which was released in December 2023. This report reflects areas of common ground and outlines a framework for how Act 250 can be modernized to better protect our environment while also encouraging more housing to be built in viable locations.

Act 250, originally enacted in 1970, has played a fundamental role in shaping Vermont's development, and these proposed updates signal a willingness to adapt to the evolving needs of our state. Following six months of work, stakeholders with different priorities have shown a commitment to demonstrating that progress is not a zero-sum game. The solutions proposed in this report highlight the intersectionality of the challenges Vermont faces today, and offer a path forward to incentivize new housing development in and around our community centers, while better protecting Vermont's natural resources.

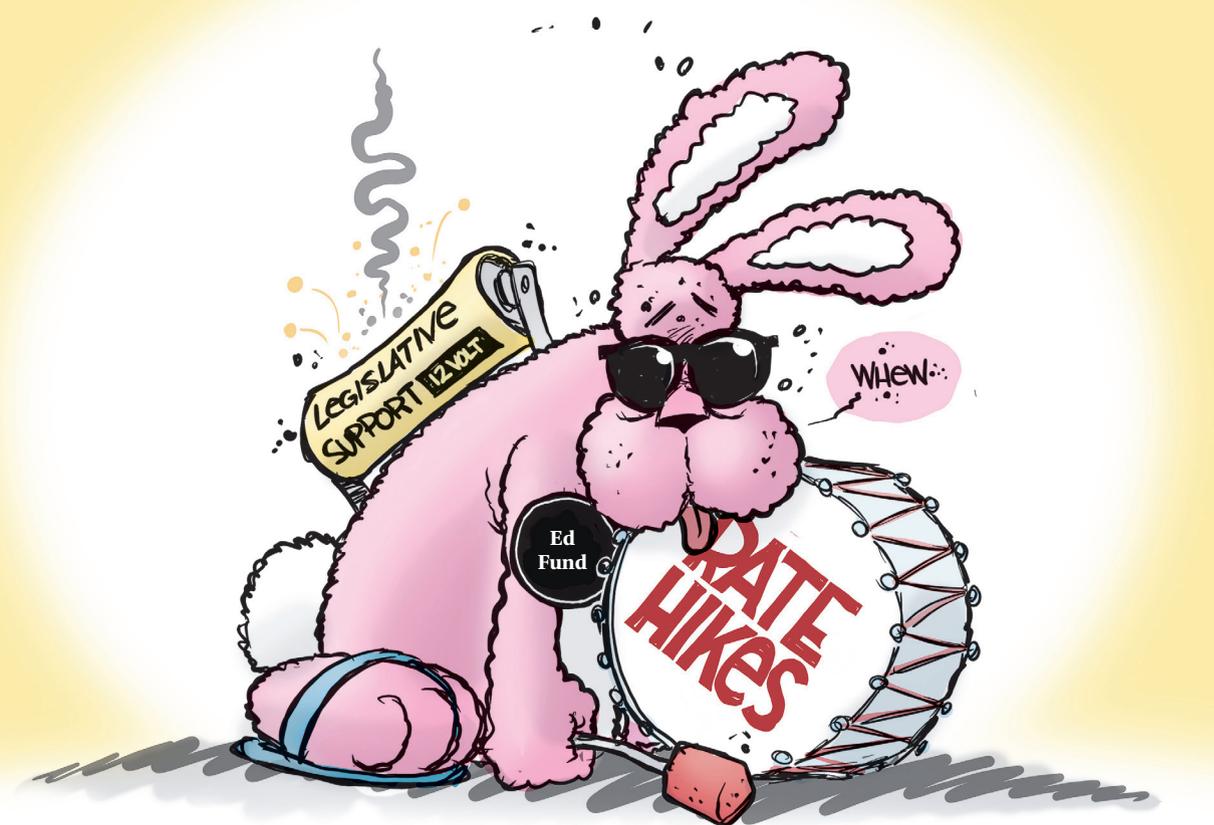
With the current legislative session well underway, this report is now in the hands of Vermont's lawmakers. Committees in both chambers have spent weeks hearing testimony on how Act 250 can be improved to more effectively support housing, environmental protection, social equity, and economic vitality. There is much more work to be done to develop legislation that meets the moment by adequately protecting our environment and advancing needed housing around the state.

By modernizing Act 250 to a location-based approach with a three-tiered system, we can better incentivize the development of dense and resilient communities where we want growth to happen while also recognizing that certain

By modernizing
Act 250 to a
location-based
approach ... we can
better incentivize
the development of
dense and resilient
communities
where we want
growth to happen.

Build together → 14

JOHN COLE
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Battery depleted for school funding by John Cole, Georgia Recorder

LETTERS

MVSD corrects inaccuracies in JCI presentation to Killington

Dear Editor,

School District administration have reviewed the paid advertisement written by former School Board Director Jim Haff running in the Feb. 28 edition of the Mountain Times.

The article includes a chart describing certain services proposed by Johnson Controls Inc (JCI) to the School District for improvements to the School District's buildings.

The assertions Mr. Haff makes in his advertisement do not accurately describe the expected results of those services as they pertain to decisions made by the District Board to pursue replacement of the current Middle School and High School Building. The following chart provides a breakdown of what was and was not proposed by JCI.

MVSD corrects → 11

H.132: Housing status anti-discrimination bill sorely needed

Dear Editor,

Vermont House of Representatives recently passed H.132, a vastly amended homeless bill of rights legislation (compared to the bill as originally introduced), which is now in the hands of the state Senate.

Afterwards, I had written to state Representative Tom Stevens, chair of the House General and Housing Committee, which had recently passed the bill out of its

committee, to thank him and also members of both the committee as well as members of the House for the passage of H.132.

Many years ago, I had been among those who had testified before the House General and Housing Committee, formerly House General, Housing and Military Affairs, concerning the need of homeless bill of rights leg-

H.132 → 12

A tribute to Vermont's submarine hero

Dear Editor,

A tribute to Torpedoman Henry Breault is planned for March 15 at 9:30 a.m. to honor the 100th anniversary of Submariner Breault receiving the Medal of Honor, a declared Vermont resident to which the state of Vermont received credit. Representative Michael Morgan of Grand Isle-Chittenden District is initiating a Legislative resolution to honor Torpedoman Henry Breault, the first submariner and only enlisted submariner to receive the Medal of Honor. The event is to take place at the Vermont State Capitol in the House of Representatives in Montpelier.

The 15th of March date was chosen for this event as the Vermont legislature will be in recess on the 8th of March, the actual date in 1924 when the Medal of Honor was presented to Torpedoman Breault by President Calvin Coolidge. All veterans are encouraged to attend the resolution reading at 9:30 a.m. at the

Sub hero → 12

Will Vermont continue to be a going concern?

Dear Editor,

In the field of auditing companies, nonprofits and government entities, auditors determine whether an entity can continue to operate. Auditor concerns are if an entity has lost a significant customer, cannot secure financing, or lost a major supplier or key personnel. Vermont state government has gotten itself to a place where, due to open-ended financial commitments, one wonders if the state can continue to function as it has in the past.

Presently, significant matters must be dealt with within the state government simultaneously. Each carries financial implications.

One often-stated issue is that the state and local government entities have no more pandemic funding from Washington. It is no secret that these bodies received billions of dollars between 2021 and 2023. To the surprise of some, this financial windfall has ceased, but not the programs it

Growing concern → 12

CAPITOL QUOTES

Republican presidential hopeful Nikki Haley campaigned in South Burlington on Sunday, just two days before Vermonters head to the polls to cast their ballots in the state's presidential primaries.

“There is no one less equipped, no one more incapable of healing the huge divide that we have in this country, than Donald Trump.”

said Governor **Phil Scott**, according to Seven Days

“The reality is that there would be no practical difference between a second Trump term and a first Haley one,” Glidden said in the release. **“They both want to cut Social Security and Medicare; they are both viciously anti-LGBTQ; and they are both committed to eliminating legal abortions in the United States.”**

The chair of the Vermont Democratic Party, **David Glidden** said according to VT Digger

“(State programs) will empower people on the ground. Think education. Think health care. Think welfare. Think mental health. If we cut the strings and send it down to the states where your governor and legislature could decide how to spend it. It’s better handled by them and you than it is by some Washington bureaucrats...Look at what Trump did. He put us \$8 trillion in debt in just four years. 8 trillion that’s more than any other president.”

Said **Nikki Haley** Republican presidential hopeful, according to the Essex Reporter

“Not many people have been to a political rally before...Why not come expose ourselves to all the hubbub. Young people vote less enthusiastically and that’s not a good thing. Regardless of how one feels about a candidate, it’s a good experience for young people and college students.”

said **David Delaney** of the UVM Political Science Club, according to the Burlington Free Press

← MVSU corrects

from page 10

What Johnson Controls Inc’s \$10M proposal entailed:

- Lighting improvements
- Efficiency upgrades through weatherization
- Installation of a facilities management control system
- Replacement of boiler burners
- Improved ventilation
- Unit ventilator upgrades
- New pumps and fans on designated air handlers
- Heating pipe and valve insulation
- Water conservation
- Installation of solar power systems

What Johnson Controls Inc’s \$10M proposal did NOT entail:

- Remediating contaminants (asbestos, lead, & PCBs)
- Bringing the structure into seismic, fire, or ADA code compliance
- Eliminating security vulnerabilities consistent with current student safety standards
- Installing a sprinkler system for fire suppression
- Repair of calcified water and septic lines
- Roof repairs to stop water leaks
- Structural repairs to the failing HS gym roof and walls
- Repairs to water damaged ceilings within classrooms
- Reconfiguration of special education and counseling spaces to be consistent with current practices
- Replacement of dated and inefficient windows
- Repair of exterior concrete infiltrated by water
- Reconfiguration of classrooms to enable modern approaches to teaching and learning
- Reconfiguration of small, noisy and poorly ventilated cafeteria spaces
- Reconfiguration of inadequate performing arts spaces.
- Reconfiguration of the MS gymnasium to regulation size or to allow for spectators

Contrary to the assertions made by Mr. Haff in his advertisement, at no time did JCI claim these services would make the building meet modern building codes or extend the useful life of the building by 15-20 years. Nor could they. These assertions by Mr. Haff are contradicted by both the Vermont Agency of Education’s 2022 evaluation of the building as having a Facilities Conditions Index (depleted value) of 96.7% and the comprehensive Facilities Evaluation completed by a team of architects, engineers, and other consultants in 2017.

Also untrue is Mr. Haff’s assertion that JCI’s proposal was ignored. In fact, the School District has completed nearly all of the work proposed by JCI for each of the district’s buildings. While Mr. Haff served as Buildings and Grounds Chair, the School District replaced the boilers at Barnard Academy, Killington Elementary School, Reading Elementary School and Prosper Valley School and completed an oil to propane burner conversion at Woodstock Elementary School. This scope had been proposed by JCI, but the district instead

contracted them locally using Efficiency Vermont and federal funding at a savings of about 30% from the original prices in the JCI proposal.

With regard to the Middle School and High School building, all proposed services have been completed except for the boiler replacement and solar panel installation. JCI was specifically contracted to install controls and valves for connecting the building to their proprietary Metasys building control system.

The School District’s experience working with JCI has been regrettable for the following reasons:

1. JCI has not delivered a functional Metasys building control system. The contractual completion date for this deliverable was June 24, 2022 with training to be completed on Aug. 5, 2022;
2. During bidding for the air exchange replacements for both RES and KES, local contractors refused to bid because they were required to work with JCI to connect the new equipment to the Metasys building management system;
3. Due to JCI’s poor interactions with local contractors, JCI has been unable to retain a local electrical contractor for work on our school buildings. For example, the electrical contractor scheduled for work at WES on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024 is from Albany, New York;
4. The School District’s poor experience with JCI is not unique. Facility managers and business administrators in Claremont, New Hampshire, Langdon, New Hampshire, Plainfield, New Hampshire and New Market, New Hampshire have all stated that JCI has not delivered on their contracts. Based on these negative experiences, neither the Mountain Views School District nor any of these other Districts intend to contract with JCI in the future.

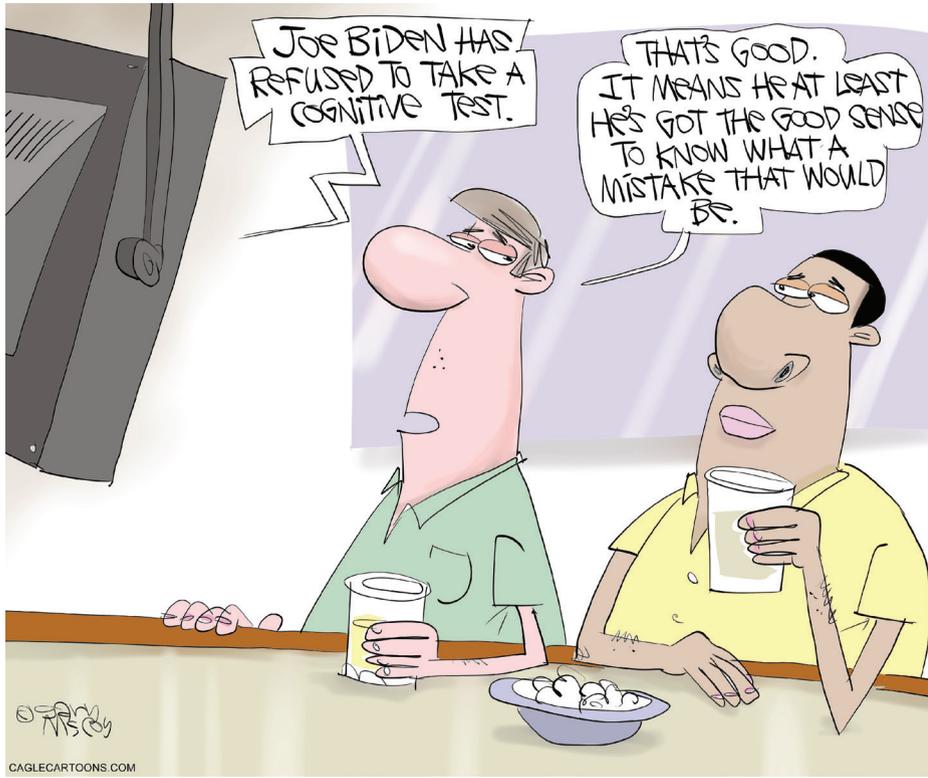
With regard to his experience working with JCI, MVSU Facilities Director Joe Rigoli states the following: “In my entire career, signing a contract with JCI for the energy project we are still doing was one of the worst business decisions I have ever made.

“JCI has failed miserably on delivering the only part of our energy project that could not be contracted out to a subcontractor as it is their proprietary system. This failure to deliver to us and at least four other public schools in Vermont and New Hampshire of the Johnson Controls Metasys building control system is enough for me to never do business with them again.

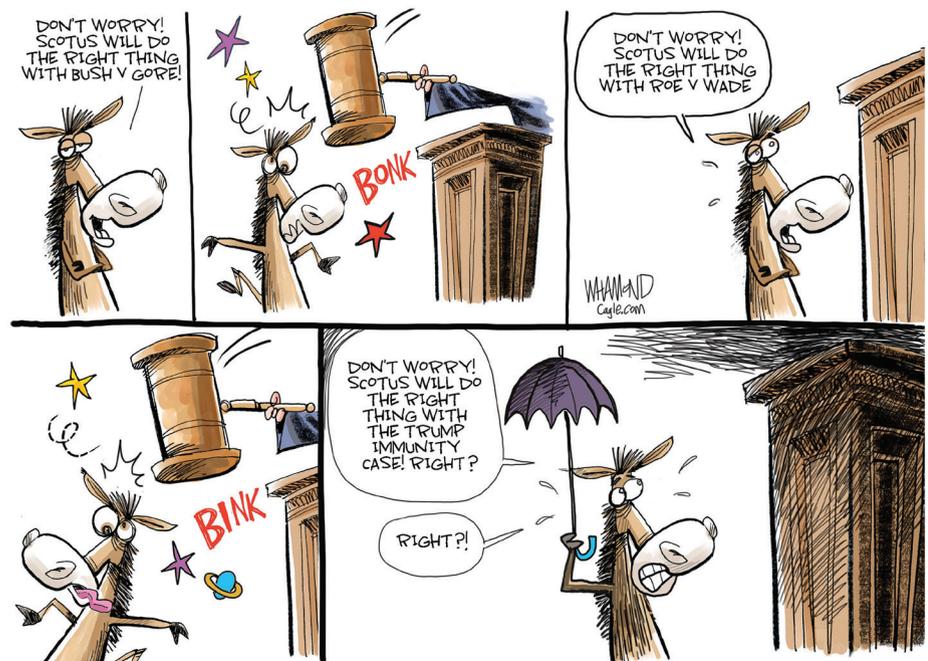
“Despite JCI having two technicians on Dartmouth’s campus daily, anyone from JCI working on our project travels to Woodstock from Albany, New York. We are on our fourth new to JCI technician on the Metasys building controls system since October.”

James Fenn, business operations manager, MVSU

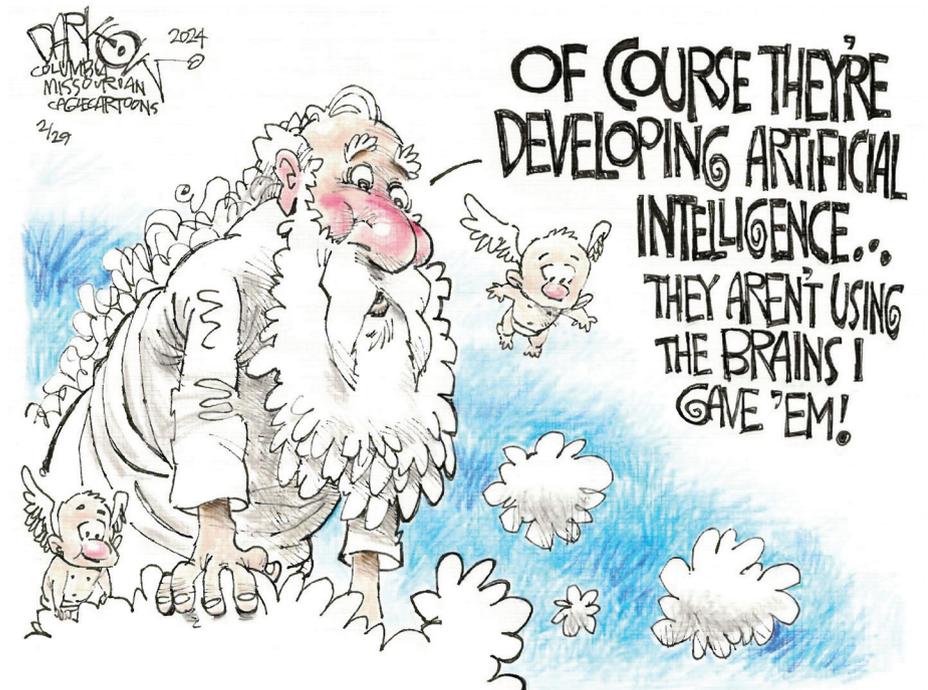
CARTOONS



Biden's Cognition by Gary McCoy, Shiloh, IL



Do the "right" thing by Dave Whamond, Canada, PoliticalCartoons



The brains I gave 'em by John Darkow, Columbia Missourian

← Growing concern: from page 10

underwrote. We turn to school construction funding. The rest of the state should be deeply interested in what occurred at Burlington High School. The school was required to replace its buildings due to the discovery of PCBs — or polychlorinated biphenyls. The contaminated buildings were abandoned, and the replacement cost has exceeded \$200 million.

The State Education Construction Task Force created by the Legislature in 2023 estimated Vermont's schools will need more than \$6.3 billion just to fund in-kind replacement in the next 21 years, a number widely considered a significant underestimate. While Vermont ended its school construction aid program in 2007, it may be resurrected soon.

In addition, Gov. Phil Scott recently announced that there could be an 18% increase in property taxes this year to close the existing State Education Fund funding gap. Of course, this will be on top of what local towns and cities need to carry on their operations.

Then, there is the crisis between those who provide health care and the state. With so much of Vermont's health care costs going to fund Medicaid, there continues to be a perpetual war between the providers and the state. The former's ability to survive has become dire for some.

The drug issue is another

health care problem that is drawing on 10s of millions of state dollars. Setting aside enforcement for the moment, the cost of overdosing and resulting hospitalization is

and the statewide destruction in 2011 from Tropical Storm Irene, one would think that the state would be all-out in replacing its antiquated infrastructure. But

Vermont state government has gotten itself to a place where, due to open-ended financial commitments, one wonders if the state can continue to function as it has in the past.

staggering. Added to this, the state is the principal funder when it comes to recovery treatment, and it has thousands of residents in such programs with more waiting.

State leaders must not ignore the fact that, several years ago, it made commitments to have the state carbon neutral, starting in 2025, more by 2030, and fully accomplished by 2050. This commitment comes with a substantial unknown financial obligation for the state government and all who do business and reside in Vermont.

One can sense the desperation of some in the Legislature to fund the above by considering bringing a class action lawsuit against the oil companies for providing us with a product the oil companies knew could cause pollution and health issues. How deep into denial are we that we must resort to funding from litigation, which is decades away?

With the recent flooding disasters in central Vermont

the state can only allocate so many dollars to the issue.

It now has a homelessness issue to contend with, and in the past fiscal year, more than \$160 million was allocated for shelters. Not for roads, bridges and culverts.

Of course, we must not forget the elephant in the closet: the state's multibillion dollars in unfunded pension obligations. Partially addressed several years ago, this liability just grows exponentially each year.

The auditing principle of a "going concern" may not directly apply to Vermont. Indeed, the state will be functioning a year from now, which is the time period the "going concern" principle covers. What does the future hold as the state continues to take on huge financial projects with no funding source? The proposed unrealized wealth and surcharge income tax can only do so much.

Don Keelan, Arlington, a retired certified public accountant

← Sub hero: from page 10

Capitol building, House of Representatives, especially Navy veterans to show their support of one of their own.

A group of active duty submariners from the Naval Submarine Base, Groton, Connecticut, and the Vermont Submarine Veterans Green Mountain Base members of the U.S. Submarine Veterans are planning on attending this memorable event.

C. William Mattoon, Springfield, Green Mountain Base Submarine Veterans Commander

← H:132: from page 10

isolation and why its passage was so very crucial as well as being sorely needed.

It is my hope that the state Senate will also pass the bill as passed by the House and that the Governor will sign it into law.

Although it goes without saying that the passage and the signing of this particular bill into law would merely be one small — yet — step on behalf of those living unhoused within Vermont, in my opinion, it would still be an important and vital step taken.

It is hoped that other equally crucial, important and vital steps will continue to be taken to address the other very real and most urgent needs of people living unhoused and ending homelessness within the state, sooner rather than later.

To help ensure that this hope will become a reality down the road, however, please urge members of the state Legislature and the Governor to do so as well.

Morgan W. Brown Montpelier

Seven 5-year-olds celebrate 'graduation day' at RFL

A group of 5-year-olds recently experienced their own "pomp and circumstance" ceremony recently at the Rutland Free Library (RFL), Saturday, March 2. After their 5th birthday, the boys and girls aged out of the Dolly Parton Imagination Program Library (DPIL) program. As a way of celebrating this special milestone, and encouraging the children to keep on reading, the DPIL committee put together a graduation ceremony just for them.

The children along with their families enjoyed a coloring activity, refreshments including cookies from Vermont Country Store, and goody bags. Jennifer Bagley, DPIL committee member fashioned mortar boards with tassels for each child. Joan Gamble,



DPIL committee champion, presided over the ceremony in a cap and gown awarding diplomas to the children. The next step is for them to sign up for a library card at the Rutland Free Library.

Mark your calendars: The Imagination Library will be hosting a free children's literacy event featuring Duncan McDougall, founder of Vermont Children's Literacy Foundation, on Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 11am-Noon in the Fox Room at the

Rutland Free Library. There will be singing, storytelling, and refreshments.

All children, from birth



Submitted

Seven Rutland area 5-year-olds "graduated" from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program at Rutland Free Library, Saturday, March 2.

'til their 5th birthday, who reside in Rutland City, Rutland Town, Ira, Mendon, and Tinmouth are eligible to sign up for DPIL and begin receiving their free age-appropriate books.

For more information, visit: rutlandfree.org/imagine.



TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO KILLINGTON ZONING BYLAWS and KILLINGTON ZONING MAP

The Killington Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed Town of Killington Zoning Bylaw Amendments on **March 20, 2024, at 7:00 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://us06web.zoom.us/j/89935436769> or by call in: +16468769923,89935436769#. 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
- (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.

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 Planning Commission page of the Town's website at <https://KillingtonTown.com>.

Dated at Killington, Vermont this 22st day of March 2024.
Lisa Davis Lewis, Town Planner, Town of Killington, Vermont

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← **Voting Challenge:**
from page 6

anonprofit, to create a learning community for Vermont campuses and to facilitate the program. Institutions that sign up for the Vermont Campus Voting Challenge will also be automatic participants in the nationwide All In where awards are issued for highest voter turnout, most improved voter turnout, and highest rate of voter registration. There are also state-specific awards for meeting objectives mapped out in an institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan.

"Preparing students for their public lives as citizens, members of communities and professionals in society has historically been a responsibility of higher education," said Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, executive director of the All In Campus Democracy Challenge. "We are thrilled to partner with

Secretary Copeland Hanzas to encourage higher education institutions in Vermont to make a plan to increase student voter engagement."

All In empowers colleges and universities to achieve excellence in nonpartisan student democratic engagement. Through an intentionally-designed program that provides structure, support, and recognition, All In works to improve civic learning, political engagement, and voter participation on more than 980 campuses nationwide. All In believes higher education should play a role in developing an active and informed citizenry by educating students, motivating them to engage in American democracy, and instilling the value of lifelong participation. For more information visit: allinchallenge.org.

← **Build together:**
from page 10

natural areas deserve a heightened level of review. In Tier One, Act 250 would acknowledge where municipalities and state agencies are already providing appropriate oversight of development by encouraging compact housing in areas that will lead to better smart growth outcomes. The addition of a "road rule" trigger and forest fragmentation criteria in Tier Two would incentivize more compact growth that better maintains our forested and agricultural lands and wildlife habitat. Tier Three would acknowledge that there are critical natural resources that need additional review and protection when development is proposed.

We acknowledge and expect that disagreements will continue to arise throughout the legislative session. However, we firmly believe that by remaining at the table and engaging in open dialogue, we can find common ground and work together to find solutions that serve the best interests of Vermont. We can strike a balance between development and natural resource protection that allows us to find shared solutions to the housing crisis and mitigate the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont Natural Resources Council, and the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies recognize the urgency of

addressing these issues and are committed to fostering collaboration among stake-

We firmly believe that by remaining at the table and engaging in open dialogue, we can ... work together to find solutions that serve the best interests of Vermont.

We can strike a balance between development and natural resource protection.

holders. Each of our organizations brings a unique perspective to the issue and we are all committed to working toward policies that pave the way for a resilient and prosperous future for all Vermonters.

As leaders in our respective fields, we urge legislators, communities, businesses, advocates, and government agencies to remain engaged in this collective effort. The challenges we face are immense, but so too is our capacity to overcome them. Let us embrace collaboration, and work together to create a resilient, thriving future for Vermont.



By Glenn Heitsmith

Klara Lendic, Rotary exchange student from Croatia, described what her native country is like to members of the Ludlow Rotary Club.

← **Rotary exchange:**
from page 4

Lendic is being hosted this year by the Manchester Rotary Club. She also participated in the Youth Exchange Ski weekend at

Okemo Mountain March 1-3. Vail's Epic Promise grant to the Ludlow Rotary Club makes this weekend event possible for 13 in-

ternational students who are on a year's exchange in Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

← **Clarkson:**
from page 9

weighting system. We will continue to work on these education funding concerns when the Session starts up again March 12.

Sen. Clarkson appreciates hearing from you. She can be reached by email: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at the Statehouse (Tues-Fri) 802-828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) 802-457-4627. For more information on the Vermont Legislature, visit: legislature.vermont.gov.

← **Harrison:**
from page 9

of the state and ensure that all enslaved people were freed.

- The House Judiciary Committee approved H.534, which allows prosecutors to combine retail theft cases by an individual, that happen within 14 days. If the cumulative total theft is over \$900, the potential penalties for the offenses increase, including possible prison time.
- Just over a third of the Legislature, along with the lieutenant governor, signed on to a letter to President Biden to halt arms sales and military aid to the nation of Israel, and to use all means within his ability to demand an immediate ceasefire in Palestine. Other legislators have suggested that foreign relations are not the purview of the Vermont Legislature and that we are not informed enough about this conflict to add our opinion one way or the other.
- For the second time in recent weeks, a constitutional amendment proposal to allow the Legislature to establish guidelines for elected sheriffs and states attorneys has been sent back to committee as it lacked the necessary 20 votes to advance the measure to the House. The proposal is likely dead for the session.
- Another Senate committee is considering a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to unionize, which is already stated in Vermont law.
- The entire State House family gave an appreciative send-off to Sergeant-at-Arms Janet Miller on her retirement last week. A big thank you to Mendon's Teri Corsones (Vermont Court Administrator), for baking the large beautiful and delicious cake in honor of Janet Miller. On Friday, the Legislature elected a new Sergeant-at-Arms, Agatha Kessler, in a very close vote, 84-82, over Mike Ferrant. Kessler was the deputy director at the office of professional regulation and Ferrant is the legislative operations director.

With the Legislature on recess this week for town meetings, there will be no report next week. Hooray!

Jim Harrison is the state representative for Chittenden, Killington, Mendon and Pittsfield. He can be reached at JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us or harrisonforvermont.com.

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WEDNESDAY

3/6

Community Brunch

11 a.m.-noon. Weekly. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Over 60, suggested donation \$4; under 60, \$4 fee payable at time of registration. Get to know your neighbors, make new friends! Choice of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage patty, home fries, fresh fruit salad, muffins, coffee, decaf coffee, and tea. Open to residents and non-residents. 802-773-1853.

Cribbage for Adults

3-5 p.m. Weekly. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Join a gathering of adult cribbage players at the library's meeting room. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/ or 802-436-2473

Bone Builders

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

Silent Reading Group

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

Adult Open Gym: Coed Pickleball

7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 8-Mar. 27. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$5 for every time you come. Partially punched cards from last year are still valid. Enjoy coed team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, no preregistration and no leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

Rutland Rocks Curling Club

8 p.m. Giorgetti Athletic Complex, Oak St. Extension, Rutland. rutlandrec.com/icearena

THURSDAY

3/7

Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Weekly. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323.

Domestic/Sexual Violence Support Group

10:30-11:30 a.m. Weekly. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Partnering with New Story Center. A different theme each month, flyers available at the Godnick Center or call 802-775-3232. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853

Art at the Chaffee: Artery

10:30 a.m.-noon. Weekly. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$10 if you bring your own painting supplies, up to \$20 if supplies provided. Painting in all mediums welcome. No set topic or instructor, attendees will work on their individual artwork. Must preregister. chaffeeartcenter.square.site/ or 802-775-0356

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. If interested, call 802-773-1853 and leave a message with your name and phone number, the Monday before. rutlandrec.com/godnick

Ukulele Group

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

Dodji Koudakpo: 'Historic Figures & Nature' Art Exhibit

Noon-6 p.m. Until March 15. VTSU Castleton Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row, Rutland. Free. Togolese artist Dodji Koudakpo's art reflects his experiences, people, places, and imagination. In bold colors, his paintings create a bridge between worlds, inspiring and sparking curiosity. djalstarart.com. vermontartscouncil.org

Michelob Ultra Race World

1-3 p.m. Final day March 14. Pico Mountain: Lower Pike or Exhibition. \$50 per individual. Weekly race series at Pico featuring 8 races, where participants can race as individuals or form a team of up to 5 racers. Each race is followed by a party at the Last Run Lounge from 4-6 p.m. Register for the race series: tfaforms.com/5031843. picomountain.com

Play Bridge!

2 p.m. Weekly. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

Public Skate

3 p.m. Giorgetti Athletic Complex, Oak St. Extension, Rutland. rutlandrec.com/icearena

S.T.E.A.M.

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

Ballroom Dance

5 p.m. Open house night. Waldron Gym, 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney. Free class to new students in Waltz and ChaCha. Weekly classes include Tango & ChaCha for kids, Foxtrot and Salsa for adults. For class times and cost, contact Patti Panebianco at 516-909-1686 or email her at pattipdance@gmail.com. Offered by Stone Valley Arts Center, Poultney.

Rumney Music Session

5:30 p.m.-end. Thursdays. Rumney Barn, Fable Fermentory, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. Sea shanty pub sing + acoustic string trio, followed by open jam session. Firepit, woodfired pizza, soup, wine, beer, cider. Sliding scale tix at feast-field-at-fable-farm.square.site/

Adult Open Gym: Soccer

7-9 p.m. Final day March 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$5 each time. Partially punched cards from last year are still valid. Enjoy coed team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, no preregistration and no leagues. For questions contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

TEDxHartlandHill – A glimpse behind the curtain and a gaze into the future

4 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. This behind-the-scenes glimpse into the TEDx experience will shed light on the creative process and the journey of crafting an impactful talk that resonates with audiences. Attendees will have the opportunity to gain insights from the speakers' experiences. For more information, contact Norman Williams Public Library at 802-457-2295 or email programs@normanwilliams.org.

Zach Nugent and Dead Set

7 p.m. The Pickle Barrel Nightclub, 1741 Killington Road, Killington. Led by Zach Nugent, Dead Set channels the spirit of Jerry Garcia featuring Nugent's guitar work which captures Garcia's essence, with solos and on target improvisations. The band's chemistry and dedication ensure that every note resonates with the same magic that made the Grateful Dead legendary. Must be 21+ to attend. For more information, visit picklebarrelnightclub.com.

Stick and Puck

7:45 p.m. Giorgetti Athletic Complex, Oak St. Extension, Rutland. rutlandrec.com/icearena

FRIDAY

3/8

Ski Vermont's Specialty Food Day

K-1 Lodge, Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Rd, Killington. Free; food and beverage purchases available. A culinary experience at this pop-up farmer's market event showcasing Vermont's finest offerings, with vendors like Cabot Creamery, Long Trail Brewing, and more. For more information visit killington.com

Get the Girls Out! Join SheJumps celebrating women and the outdoors

9 a.m. 3rd floor of Ramshead Base Lodge, Killington Resort. Free with lift ticket. Optional \$5 donation. Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or a newcomer, the Get the Girls Out! gatherings aim to foster a community where participants can thrive outdoors, inspire one another and younger generations, forge new connections, and rekindle friendships. To volunteer or for more information, contact Delaney Konert-Edison at dkonertedison@shejumps.com or visit killington.com

Rutland Free Library Book Sale

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Basement, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. A room packed with gently used books, audiobooks, CDs and DVDs, puzzles, and rare and antique books. Donations are gratefully accepted to support library activities and collections.

Story Time at the Library

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

Bone Builders

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

Dodji Koudakpo: 'Historic Figures & Nature' Art Exhibit

Noon-6 p.m. Until March 15. VTSU Castleton Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row, Rutland. Free. Togolese artist Dodji Koudakpo's art reflects his experiences, people, places, and imagination. In bold colors, his paintings create a bridge between worlds, inspiring and sparking curiosity. djalstarart.com. vermontartscouncil.org

Stick and Puck

3 p.m. Final day. Giorgetti Athletic Complex, Oak St. Extension, Rutland. rutlandrec.com/icearena

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 or 802-356-2776

Blue Cat Music Series: Jared Johnson

6-9 p.m. Weekly through March 22. Blue Cat Bistro, 575 Main St., Castleton. Solo acoustic performer and multi-instrumentalist. No cover. 802-468-2791

Wobbly Barn: Turning the Tide

6 p.m.-1 a.m. The Wobbly Barn, 2229 Killington Road, Killington. Apres-ski steakhouse, nightclub & live-music venue since 1963. Cover charge may be required. killington.com or 802-422-6171

Missy Raines at Chandler Center for the Performing Art

7 p.m. Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph Vermont, 71 N. Main St., Randolph. Grammy-nominated Missy Raines was named 2021 International Bluegrass Music Association Bass Player of the Year, for the 10th time, more than any other bass player in the history of the organization. Missy Raines has proven herself without a doubt as an iconic bluegrass instrumentalist. For tickets and information, visit chandler-arts.org.

Public Skate

6:30 p.m. Final day. Giorgetti Athletic Complex, Oak St. Extension, Rutland. rutlandrec.com/icearena

'Murder by the Book'

7-8:30 p.m. Wallingford Town Theatre, Wallingford Town Hall, 75 School St., Wallingford. Suggested donation at the door of \$15 cash or check (no credit cards). A comedy directed by Sasaki Hagen Groom. The script for this play-within-a-play comes compliments of mystery writer Louise Penny & playwright Laura Teasdale, who created the play to help raise money for libraries everywhere. Proceeds go to support Wallingford's Gilbert Hart Library. Seating is limited, so call 802-446-2685 to reserve a seat, or email ghlib@comcast.net.

Paramount: Railroad Earth Band

7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$25, \$35 + tax, fees. Sensational performances, in demand nationwide, Railroad Earth is swinging through New England this week. Tix at paramountvt.org/event/railroad-earth-2/

Pickle Barrel: Lost in Paris Band

9 p.m.-midnight. Performing both Friday and Saturday night. Pickle Barrel Nightclub, 1741 Killington Road Killington. \$15-\$20 at the door. picklebarrelnightclub.com

SATURDAY

3/9

Teton Gravity Research Stokemobile

All day Sat. and Sunday. Free. Jackson Gore Courtyard, Okemo Ski Resort, Ludlow. The Stokemobile is in town for the weekend. Check out apparel, ski films, and more at the Jackson Gore Courtyard. For more information, visit Okemo.com

Rutland Free Library Book Sale

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Basement, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. A room packed with gently used books, audiobooks, CDs and DVDs, puzzles, and rare and antique books. Donations are gratefully accepted to support library activities and collections.

The Vermont Winter Farmers' Market

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

Magic Program

10:30-11:30 a.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Family magic with Alyx the Magician. All are welcome, no registration required.

Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club

11 a.m.-3 p.m. 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

'The Snowflake Man' Puppet Show

11 a.m. Castleton Library, 638 Main St., Castleton. Free. Puppeteer Sarah Frechette's nationally known puppet company, PuppetKabob, tells the story of Vermonter Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley, pioneer of snowflake photography over 100 years ago.

VINS: Vermont Days

11-11:45 a.m. Saturday & Sunday. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Nature's Way, Quechee. \$10 admission. Raptors up close, Songbird Aviary Tour, Animal Encounter, raptor feeding time. vinsweb.org

Art at the Chaffee: Drop 'N' Paint

Noon-2 p.m. Saturdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25 per person, instructor fee optional. All ages. Supplies and images to paint are provided. Must pre-register by Friday noon. chaffeeartcenter.org/adult-classes-coming-soon/

Dodji Koudakpo: 'Historic Figures & Nature' Art Exhibit

Noon-6 p.m. Until March 15. VTSU Castleton Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row, Rutland. Free. Togolese artist Dodji Koudakpo's art reflects his experiences, people, places, and imagination. In bold colors, his paintings create a bridge between worlds, inspiring and sparking curiosity. djalstarart.com. vermontartscouncil.org

'Dungeons and Dragons' for Tweens

Noon-4 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Ages 10 to 13. All are welcome, no registration required. 802-773-1860

Apres at Okemo

2 p.m. Bull Patio (Clocktower Base Area). Okemo Ski Resort, Ludlow. Free. Jester Jigs will play for the festivities that also feature games for kids and an outside beer tent for adults. Magician Tom Joyce will entertain for Apres time. For more information, visit Okemo.com

Annual Spring Piano Duet Concert

2-3 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. By donation. Eight pianists, two pianos. An interactive spin-off of "Name That Tune" will follow. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295

'Murder by the Book'

2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Wallingford Town Theatre, Wallingford Town Hall, 75 School St., Wallingford. Suggested donation at the door of \$15 cash or check (no credit cards). A comedy directed by Saski Hagen Groom. The script for this play-within-a-play comes compliments of mystery writer Louise Penny & playwright Laura Teasdale, who created the play to help raise money for libraries everywhere. Proceeds go to support Wallingford's Gilbert Hart Library. Seating is limited, so call 802-446-2685 to reserve a seat, or email ghlib@comcast.net.

Claudine Langille performs live to benefit charity

4-6 p.m. Scotch Hill Brewing Company, 71 Main St., Fair Haven. Suggested \$5 donation at the door. The internationally known Irish and folk music artist Claudine Langille will work her spell with mandolin and flat-picked tenor banjo to benefit Slate Valley Cares, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Open to all.

Let it Glow Party and Kids Torchlight Parade

5 p.m. Free. Jackson Gore Courtyard, Okemo Ski Resort, Ludlow. The resort will feature a Let It Glow Party and Kids Torchlight Parade where the area will be adorned with lights, glow gear, ice sculptures and an ice bar. The BBQ station and local food trucks Sustainable Eats and Hangry Hog will be available. For more information, visit Okemo.com

Wobbly Barn: Turning the Tide

6 p.m.-1 a.m. The Wobbly Barn, 2229 Killington Road, Killington. Cover charge may be required. killington.com or 802-422-6171

MSM: Carton Wojcicki Cousin Greg

7 p.m. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. \$10 o.b.o. Accepts Venmo. 802-356-2776

Paramount: 'Who's Bad' Michael

Jackson Tribute
7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$50.30 includes fees. The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience, 20th Anniversary Tour. Tix ci.ovationtix.com/36265/performance/11396512

Pickle Barrel: Lost in Paris Band

9 p.m.-midnight. Pickle Barrel Nightclub, 1741 Killington Road, Killington. Admission at the door. picklebarrelnightclub.com

SUNDAY
3/10

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m.

Teton Gravity Research Stokemobile

All day Sat. and Sunday. Free. Jackson Gore Courtyard, Okemo Ski Resort, Ludlow. The Stokemobile is in town for the weekend. Check out apparel, ski films, and more at the Jackson Gore Courtyard. For more information, visit Okemo.com

St. James Episcopal Church 3rd annual online auction

9 a.m. Ends at 11 p.m. The auction features over 100 items including gift certificates, dinner parties, antiques, handmade items, jewelry, and more. 100% of proceeds benefit the church outreach committee, who organizes support for many local needs and well beyond. Visit 32auctions.com/stjames2024 to view and bid on the items.

VINS: Vermont Days

11-11:45 a.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Nature's Way, Quechee. \$10 admission. Raptors up close, Songbird Aviary Tour, Animal Encounter, raptor feeding time. vinsweb.org

Sarah Hagen: 'Perk Up, Pianist'

2 p.m. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St., Randolph. \$10-\$45. \$10 for students, free for under 12. Often referred to as the next Victor Borge, Sarah Hagen has transformed her award-winning role as "concert pianist" into a stand-up, or rather, sit-down comedy. Pairing anecdotes from the road with some of her favourite pieces by Chopin, Debussy, and Liszt, Sarah takes audiences deep inside the world of a classical musician as she shares her earnest efforts to keep her spirits up in the midst of troublesome times. For tickets and information, visit chandler-arts.org.

Adult Open Gym: Pickleball

7-9 p.m. Final day March 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$3 for every time you come. Punch cards from last year with holes not yet punched, are still valid. Enjoy coed team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, no preregistration or leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

MONDAY
3/11

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. If interested, 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. Weekly. The Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Please call the library for the title of the film. sherburnelibrary.org, 802 422-9765

Adult Open Gym: Floor Hockey

7-9 p.m. Final day March 18. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$3 for every time you come. Punch cards from last year with holes not yet punched, are still valid. Enjoy coed team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, no preregistration or leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com



TUESDAY
3/12

The Met in HD: 'La Forza del Destino' by Verdi

1 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$20 + fees. "The Force of Destiny" is one of Verdi's most moving works, a tale of ill-fated love, deadly vendetta, and family strife. Tix at ci.ovationtix.com/36265/production/1187884

Godnick Center: Line Dance for Beginners

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

Play Chess & Backgammon!

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

VINS: Birth of the National Parks System

5:30-7 p.m. Virtual lecture. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Natures Way, Quechee. Suggested donation \$10. "Olmsted and Yosemite: Civil War, Abolition and the National Park Idea." Former National Park Service park superintendent Rolf Diamant will discuss how anti-slavery activism, the Civil War, and the remaking of the federal government gave rise to the American public park and the concept of a national park system, first promulgated in 1865 by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. For more information, call 802-359-5000 or email info@vinsweb.org.

Godnick Center: W2W Cancer Support Group

6 p.m. Monthly. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. W2W - Women's Cancer Support Group of Rutland County. Questions, call Katrine at 802-770-8777.

Adult Open Gym: Basketball

7-9 p.m. Final day March 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$3 for every time you come. Punch cards from last year with holes not yet punched, are still valid. Enjoy coed team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, no preregistration or leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

MSM: Movie Night

7:30 p.m. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., WRJ. Free. mainstreetmuseum.org/about

Discount Skate Night

7:45-9:15 p.m. Final day. Griffetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$2 admission, \$2 skate rental.



Courtesy Zach Nugent.com

Dead Set, led by Zach Nugent, will perform at Killington's Pickle Barrel Nightclub on March 7 at 7 p.m. They bring the Grateful Dead's timeless music to life with precision and passion, capturing the spirit of Jerry Garcia with their guitar work and improvisations.

Zach Nugent and Dead Set bring their magic to Killington and the Pickle Barrel Main Stage

Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m.—KILLINGTON—The Pickle Barrel Nightclub, 1741 Killington Road, Killington presents Zach Nugent and Dead Set. Dead Set is more than just a cover band; they are an ensemble that brings the Grateful Dead's timeless music to life with precision and passion.

Dead Set channels the spirit of Jerry Garcia featuring Nugent's guitar work which captures Garcia's essence, with solos and on target improvisations. The band's chemistry and dedication ensure that every note resonates with the same magic that made the Grateful Dead legendary.

Must be 21+ to attend.

For more information, visit picklebarrelnightclub.com.

Bring on the Best of Vermont

Friday, March 8—KILLINGTON—Get ready for a culinary experience as Ski Vermont's Specialty Food Day returns to Killington Resort, now located outside of the K-1 Lodge, 4763 Killington Road, Killington.

This pop-up farmer's market style event showcases all the unique things that Vermont has to offer, right at the base of the mountains we love. Sample various sweets and treats and go home with some too!

Ski VT welcomes skiers and riders to join us on the tour and sample and purchase local foods while enjoying Vermont's slopes.

2024 Vendors

- Cabot Creamery
- Long Trail Brewing
- Woodchuck Cider
- Day Chaser Seltzers
- Luce Farm Wellness
- Munching Moose Bakeshop
- Frenchy & Balloo's BBQ
- King Arthur Baking Co.
- Mixed Up Nut Butter

For more information, visit www.skivermont.com.

**Friday
March 8**

TEDxHartlandHill – A glimpse behind the curtain and a gaze into the future

Thursday, March 7 at 4 p.m.—WOODSTOCK— Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock, invites the community to an event offering insights into the making of a TEDx talk, featuring previous speaker Adrian Tans, Woodstock's "town smiler" and youth services librarian at NWPL, along with Deborah Greene, the executive director of TEDxHartlandHill Conference.

This behind-the-scenes glimpse into the TEDx experience will shed light on the creative process and the journey of crafting an impactful talk that resonates with audiences. Attendees will have the opportunity to gain insights from the speakers' experiences.

TEDxHartlandHill announces the theme for the upcoming 2024 TEDxHartlandHill Conference: "Awe." Through the theme "Awe," attendees are prompted to embark on a journey of exploration of the wonders that encompass our existence. The event will feature a presentation and panel discussion, offering attendees the chance to engage with the speakers and explore the theme of "Awe" in depth. Following the discussion, guests are invited to enjoy a cocktail hour, fostering further conversation and connections within the community.

RSVP to TEDxHartlandHill is appreciated. For more information, contact Norman Williams Public Library at 802-457-2295 or email programs@normanwilliams.org.



Courtesy of Ted X

Witness a classic in the making as Norman Williams Public Library in Woodstock hosts a TEDx talk event on March 7 featuring "town smiler" Adrian Tans and TEDxHartlandHill Conference executive Deborah Greene, with a "Awe" theme.

[MUSIC Scene]

By DJ Dave Hoffenberg
Have a music scene coming up? Email djdavehoff@gmail.com

WED
3/6

KILLINGTON
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Bredice & Liz Reedy

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

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jim Devlin

LUDLOW

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

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Chris Pallutto

THURS
3/7

BARNARD

5:30 Fable Farm – Rumney Barn Sessions with Randy Leavitt & Friends Old Time Music

BRANDON

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

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Sammy B

KILLINGTON

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

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. The Freerider – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Zach Nugent and Dead Set

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

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic hosted by Josh Cote

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

FRI
3/8

BOMOSEEN

5:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge – Aaron Audet

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Jared Johnson

KILLINGTON

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

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

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

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Psylas

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

7 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Bards of Gungywamp

8 p.m. Northstar Lodge Lounge – Jake Palatine

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Lost in Paris

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

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

9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Turning the Tide

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Em & Nat

RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – The Radiance with Hard Copies

RUTLAND

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre – Railroad Earth

WALLINGFORD

7 p.m. Town Hall Theatre – Murder by the Book

SAT
3/9

BOMOSEEN

5:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge – Ryan Fuller

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Co-Headliners Rachel Lenihan & Jill Weiner

SUN
3/10

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Daniel Brown

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

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Preston's at the Grand Hotel – James Joel

6 p.m. Rivershed – Red Daisy Revival

6 p.m. Wobbly Barn – KGB

6:30 p.m. O'Dwyers Pub – County Down

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

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Bards of Gungywamp

8 p.m. Northstar Lodge Lounge – Jake Palatine

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Lost in Paris

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

9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Turning the Tide

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

LUDLOW

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

2 p.m. Apres Afternoon at Jackson Gore – Jester Jigs

5 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Let It Glow: Party & Kid's Torchlight Parade

PROCTORSVILLE

5 p.m. Outer Limits Brewing – Sammy B

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Brooks Hubbard

STOCKBRIDGE

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

WALLINGFORD

2 p.m./7 p.m. Town Hall Theatre – Murder by the Book

KILLINGTON

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

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

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

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

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

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

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Drew Baldrige

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

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Grace Church – Spark of Creation: Choral Concert to benefit HEAL, Raising our World One Child at a Time

STOCKBRIDGE

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

MON
3/11

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

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

5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n

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

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Sammy B

LUDLOW

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

TUES
3/12

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Bredice

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

KILLINGTON

5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – Daniel Brown

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

RUTLAND

8:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Acoustic Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave



SAVE BIG at Rutland Co-op

coop deals

relax and decompress
Weekend's cooler weather offers an opportunity to relax and enjoy a picnic. Relax on your porch and enjoy your meal. Try for a small amount.

5/\$5
Brewery Co-op
Organic Cream Tea
Yogurt
1.25 liter carton

5/\$5
Rural Spirit
Organic
Egg Nog
1.25 liter carton

2/\$7
Hope Foods
Organic Kalamansi
1.25 liter carton

2/\$8
Hope Foods
Organic Kalamansi
1.25 liter carton

11.99
Pasta
1.25 liter carton

3.99
Silver Hills
Soybean Bread
1.25 liter carton

4.29
Snowfield Organics
Organic Yogurt
1.25 liter carton

4.49
Nancy's
Organic Yogurt
1.25 liter carton

2/\$9
Pine-Head PBS
1.25 liter carton

5.49
Becher's
Organic Yogurt
1.25 liter carton

Large Kombucha
This is crafted with real ingredients to help you.

3/\$4
Forager
Organic
Cultured
Probiotic
1.25 liter carton

Rutland Area Food Co-op
By the Community... For the Community

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Rutland, Vermont
rutlandcoop.com

**Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District
2024 Spring Planting Program**

Trees Beautify Our Surroundings
Help Save Energy and Protect Our Waterways

All stock is bare root and is being offered at a reasonable cost
Orders taken thru March 29, 2024 or until supplies last.

vacd.org/conservation-districts/rutland
Email nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net

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Courtesy Norman Williams Public Library

Annual spring piano duet concert: Friends of Norman Williams Public Library showcase local talent

Saturday, March 9 at 2 p.m.—WOODSTOCK—The Friends of the Norman Williams Public Library (NWPL), 10 The Green, Woodstock, announce their anticipated Annual Spring Piano Duet Concert, scheduled for March 9, 2-3 p.m. This musical event promises an afternoon filled with piano performances and group activities for music enthusiasts of all ages.

The concert will feature eight talented performers, including Gwen Ambrose, Rebecca Banks, Sherry Belisle, Carol Cronce, Kathleen Dolan, Bob Merrill, Avery Salisbury, and Sonny Saul. Audiences will be treated to a repertoire of duets performed on two pianos, showcasing the skill and artistry of these local musicians.

Following the musical performances, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in an entertaining round of the "Name That Tune" game, led by Sherry Belisle. Test your knowledge of music history as you try to identify popular Beatles songs based on quirky trivia clues.

Admission to the Spring Piano Duet Concert is by donation to the Friends of the NWPL, supporting the library's ongoing programs and initiatives. Donations help ensure the continued success of library events and activities for the benefit of the entire community.

For more information, visit normanwilliams.org

Opening reception: annual student exhibit, "A Kaleidoscope of Art"

Saturday, March 9 at Noon—RUTLAND—The Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland, will showcase young artists in grades PreK-12 from Vermont schools and homeschoolers for Chaffee Art Center's annual student exhibit, "A Kaleidoscope of Art."

There will be lite refreshments and no charge for admittance. The Chaffee Art Center presents the opportunity for the talented young artists to find inspiration by seeing their work, and the works of others, displayed in its 1890's historic mansion galleries. The Student Exhibit will be on display until April 6.

For more info, visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

Courtesy Chaffee Art Center
Chaffee Art Center

Celebrate Women's History Month with a trio of performances

March—RANDOLPH—Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph Vermont, 71 N. Main St., celebrates Women's History Month with a trio of performances by strong women-led projects.

Beginning Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m., on International Women's Day, Missy Raines and her band Allegheny take the stage touring Raines' new album, "Highlander." Missy Raines is a trailblazer in bluegrass music, an industry dominated by male performers. She is the most awarded bass player in the history of the International Bluegrass Music Association with 10 wins under her belt for bass player of the year. On "Highlander," Raines gives a tip of the hat to the region of West Virginia where she grew up and developed her passion for bluegrass music.



Submitted
The Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph, Vermont, is celebrating Women's History Month with a trio of performances by women lead projects. Missy Raines, a trailblazer in bluegrass music, will tour her new album Highlander on International Women's Day. The tour includes a curated list of guests, including Kathy Mattea, Laurie Lewis, Dudley Connell, Michael Cleveland, and Danny Paisley.

Working again with producer Alison Brown, Raines and her touring band Allegheny are joined by a thoughtfully curated list of guests including Kathy Mattea, Laurie Lewis, Dudley Connell, Michael Cleveland and Danny Paisley to create an album that at once honors Raines' deep bluegrass roots even as she cultivates them.

On Sunday, March 10 at 2 p.m., Chandler welcomes Canadian pianist Sarah Hagan for an afternoon of piano and comedy. Often referred to as the next Victor Borge, Sarah Hagen has transformed her award-winning role as "concert pianist" into a stand-up, or rather, sit-down comedy. Pairing anecdotes from the road with some of her favorite pieces by Chopin, Debussy, and Liszt, Sarah takes audiences deep inside the world of a classical musician as she shares her earnest efforts to keep her spirits up in the midst of troublesome times.

Finally, on Sunday March 17, Chandler hosts a matinee with Swedish violinist Lena Jonsson and her trio at 2 p.m. Lena Jonsson's ability to balance a deep knowledge of traditional Swedish folk music with innovative artistic sensibilities, and the charisma of a rock-star have made her one Scandinavia's most visionary musicians. She has created a unique style inspired by traditional Swedish music as well as rock, pop and American old-time and bluegrass traditions. Together with guitarist Erik Ronström and bassist Krydda Sundström they create a virtuosic yet playful trio. In April this year, the Lena Jonsson Trio won Artist of the Year at the Swedish Folk awards. Their latest album, "Stories from the Outside," won both a Swedish Grammis and the Manifest prize in 2021, and Album of the year by LIRA Music magazine and Song of the Year by Swedish radio. The Lena Jonsson Trio released their third album, "Elements" in June 2023.

In an effort to increase accessibility and inspire future generations of musicians and music lovers, Chandler is offering free tickets to children 12 and under.

For tickets and information, visit chandler-arts.org.



Sarah Hagen, known as the next Victor Borge, has transformed her award-winning role as a concert pianist into a stand-up comedy. She shares her journey with classical musicians and shares her efforts to keep her spirits up during troublesome times. Hagen has been awarded Artist of the Year by Ontario Contact and the British Columbia Touring Council, and has performed across Canada, Sweden, France, Germany, Italy, and Carnegie Hall. She also writes wine reviews and released her third solo album, "Women of Note".

Courtesy Chandler Center for the Arts

Rockin the Region with Railroad Earth

Railroad Earth makes their long-awaited return to Vermont, all while making their debut at the Parmount Theatre in Rutland. You can catch them this Friday March 8, a rescheduled show from November. The band is in their 24th year, with 25 just



Rockin' the Region
By Dave Hoffenberg

around the corner. I've seen the band four or so times but the last being in 2018, so it's long-awaited for me as well. The band takes its name from the Jack Kerouac prose poem "October in the Railroad Earth". You can find the band under their name on social media like Facebook, Instagram and X (Formerly Twitter) and music sites SoundCloud, YouTube and Spotify. Their website is railroad.earth.

I had the pleasure of speaking with John Skehan who sings in the band and plays mandolin, bouzouki and piano.

I first met John at a pre-show BBQ in New Jersey with my friend Glenn Soika, also a friend of theirs, before they opened for Hot Tuna at the Stone Pony in Ashbury Park in July 2005. I also met John's mom, who attended that show and many others. John said, "She's 95 now. She's not getting out to as much shows as she once did, for obvious reasons. She and I have both been super blessed because people like Glenn and so many others in the Hobo community have done so much for her, more than I have, like getting her out. She's 'Mother Earth', she's become her own little celebrity in that fanbase for sure. Back in the day, not even for a RRE show, she would go see Hot Tuna on her own. She would say, "I talked to Jorma, he says Hi." It's weird when your mom says stuff like that. If your mom actually likes your rock 'n' roll band, is it still a rock 'n' roll band? Perhaps that's a question for the philosophers."

Joining Skehan are: Todd Sheaffer – lead vocals/acoustic guitars, Tim Carbone – violins/ electric guitar/vocals, Carey Harmon – drums/hand percussion/vocals, Dave Speranza – upright and electric bass, Matt Slocum – keys and Mike Robinson – banjo/pedal steel/acoustic guitar. In 2018, Railroad Earth bid farewell to founding member and multi-instrumentalist Andy Goessling, who passed away from cancer. They became a seven person band because it took two guys to fill Andy's shoes. John said, "A lot of changes, some difficult times, especially losing our brother Andy but we try to keep on, keeping on. Andy was a musical Swiss army knife, he played everything, all strings, all woodwinds. Essentially there is no replacing Andy but the new guys we have are all wonderful. It's a whole new sound but it's really been gelling."

The band just finished a two-week run through the Midwest. They prefer their tours now to be in that range. John said in the summer, it's so many festivals that it's a lot of back and forth. In the winter they try and do a West Coast tour, Midwest and a run through the Northeast.

Railroad Earth got their start in NJ and have a family oriented fanbase. John said, "We're super lucky there's a sense of participation on the side of the fanbase, with the band because we try and make things different every single night, don't repeat songs from night to night, at least in a 3-4 night run. They make this a part of their lifestyle and plan their vacations, their time around it, going to see a band in a set period of time as opposed to, U2 is coming to town you go and see the show one night and you're good for the year. The Hobo community has taken on its own identity. It really is an amazing family of people for sure."

Shortly after they formed, they got invited to play the infamous Telluride Bluegrass Festival. John talked about it and said, "We kind of got a fire lit under our asses to go tour nationwide before we were even ready to, or planned on it. We started playing locally around NJ just to get in practice and develop material. In the beginning it was just me, Andy, Todd and Timmy, working on some stuff acoustically. They met

someone who suggested they go into the studio so they made a demo of five songs that eventually became the first half of their first album, "The Black Bear Sessions." He passed that around and the next thing we knew, we were booked on Telluride and High Sierra in the same summer. Then it came to we better first get a crappy old red van and trailer and a booking agent and try and fill in a bunch of shows. Maybe we should go back in the studio, record another five songs to make an actual record ("The Black Bear Sessions"). We then realized if we were going to be playing every night, we needed about 20 more songs. We started working some of that out, on the road, as we were traveling around the country."

Earlier I said they prefer two-or three-week tours. That first one to get out to Telluride was eight weeks. They played every little town across the way. John added, "We were cutting our teeth and figuring things out from the get-go, with an album of 10 songs and a bunch more we were trying to learn. It was very much a hit the ground running and see what happens."

Their catalog consists of eight studio albums plus one live album, "Elko," a double disc recorded during their 2005 spring tour. They're currently touring in support of their 2022 release, "All For The Song." Like many bands, the pandemic changed their lives. They finished that album in 2019, planning on releasing it in 2020. They did the winter tour through the first part of 2020, with the new lineup. John said, "Everything was feeling great. We were starting to play some of the new album and then we all know what happened in March 2020. That was one of those, the band is gaining traction, we've got a new record, here we go and then close the curtain for two years."

They're now playing everything from that record and hitting the rest of the country they missed in the previous couple of years. They've been getting together in-between touring to develop some new material to get out in the coming year. Even though it's been years, they still need to hit some places. John added, "You have that weird gap in there where everything changed."

John likes the adventure that goes with these shows. He said, "It's kind of like what's going to happen tonight? As much as we meticulously plan everything, we also leave a lot of open room for jams and improvisations. It's the nature of the band. Everybody communicates and is so tuned in to each other so well, you're going to get to go someplace new. The best thing overall is that sometimes elusive feeling you get when everything is cooking and the audience is really right there with you, the energy is symbiotic back and forth. That gets us going to new places, taking chances. The fact people respond to that and know they're taking that journey with you, just makes it all that much more special. It's that feeling that I don't know how to describe other than the 'nice place.' You kind of lose yourself and forget you're one person and now part of something bigger, which is rest of the band but also all the people in the room, even if it's a small crowd. It's part of a transcended experience and that's what you're always jonesing for."



By Phil Clarkin

Railroad Earth will debut in Rutland, March 8 at the Parmount Theatre. The band, which includes John Skehan, formed after playing the Telluride Bluegrass Festival and have recorded eight studio albums and one live album.

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'Get the Girls Out!' Join SheJumps for an adventure-filled day celebrating women and the outdoors

Friday, March 8—KILLINGTON—Join SheJumps as we celebrate Get the Girls Out!, a nationwide campaign uniting women and girls—transgender and cisgender—as well as non-binary individuals to embrace the great outdoors while fostering a sense of adventure and camaraderie. Spurred by International Women's Day, this program is a call to action for participants of all ages to connect with nature, break down barriers, and celebrate their

achievements and strengths throughout the month of March.

Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or a newcomer, the Get the Girls Out! gatherings aim to foster a community where participants can thrive outdoors, inspire one another and younger generations, forge new connections, and rekindle friendships.

All women and girls (transgender and cisgender) as well as non-binary people are welcome to participate in this event. All minors (under age 18) must be supervised by a parent or guardian for the full event.

All participants must sign the SheJumps Participant Waiver prior to participating in this event. Additionally, any participants or volunteers who do not already have a lift ticket for the day must fill out Killington's required Express Assumption of Risk form.



Courtesy Killington

SheJumps is holding a day celebrating women and the great outdoors at Get the Girls Out! Event participation is free and there will be special discounts on skiing lessons and rental gear.

Registration

Event participation is free. However, guests must supply their own lift ticket & register using the link below, where you will also find full event information. An optional donation of \$5 selected at checkout enters you to win prizes in the raffle.

Additionally, registered participants will be able to book Adult Learn to Ski/Ride lessons, Adult Group lessons, and/or rental gear on March 8 only for 50% off! Discount code information for this will be shared after you register using the link below:

Schedule

- 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Check-in and registration

Registration and info table will be set up on the 3rd floor of Ramshead Base Lodge to help with waivers, raffle entries and answer any questions you may have.

- 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.—Follow a Patroller

Meet a ski patroller and see what her job is like! See the inside of the hut, learn about basic first aid on the mountain and some of the quirks of dragging a sled around. Group capped at 18 total people, meeting at the top of the Snowdon six-pack lift, outside of the patrol building.

- 12-1 p.m.—Lunch

Lunch will not be provided, so please remember to pack your own pocket snacks. Food courts are located in each base lodge, as well as the Peak Lodge and of course, there are a variety of restaurants.

- 10 a.m.—Telemark Skier Meetup w/Karen Dalury

Open to Telemark skiers, leaving from the bottom of the Snowdon 6-pack chair between the K1 and Ramshead base areas. A limited number of complimentary uphill ski set-ups will be offered out of the demo tent at Ramshead base lodge, courtesy of Base Camp Outfitters. Group will be led by a guide who will help facilitate the decision on a preferred route. This is not intended for instruction but is intended for those with a confident grasp on telemark basics. Group capped at 20.

- 3 p.m.—Uphill Travel Meetup with Merisa Sherman

Open skiers and snowboarders willing to take the uphill travel route from the Ramshead base area of Killington. A limited number of complimentary uphill ski set-ups will be offered at the demo tent at Ramshead base lodge, courtesy of Base Camp Outfitters. Group will be led by a guide who will help facilitate the decision on a preferred route. This is not intended for instruction and is not suitable for those who have never tried uphill travel before. Group capped at 20.

- 4:30-6 p.m.—Apres Get Together—Still on the Mountain

Come meet some new friends and hang out with the people you met along the way! Light snacks will be provided by Still on the Mountain in their upper group room, directly across from the upper Snowshed parking lot. Collect your raffle prizes, catch some ladies' ski edits and chat about what you got up to.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Delaney Konert-Edison at dkonertedison@shejumps.com or visit killington.com.

Okemo announces spring events lineup

By Karen D. Lorentz

March and April can be the “kindest months” for skiers and riders. Most years the longer and sunnier days soften the snow, and the fun kicks up into celebration mode with special events.

March 9-10

This weekend, Magician Tom Joyce will entertain for après time at the Bull Patio (Clocktower Base Area) on Saturday, March 9. Jester Jigs will play for the 2-5 p.m. festivities that also feature games for kids and an outside beer tent for adults.

Adding to the fun, the Teton Gravity Research Stokemobile will be at Okemo’s Jackson Gore Courtyard Saturday and Sunday, March 9-10, with apparel, ski films, and more to check out.

This year Okemo introduces a festive family friendly Let It Glow Party and Kids Torchlight Parade on Saturday, March 9 from 5-8 p.m. at the Jackson Gore Courtyard. The area will be adorned with lights, glow gear, ice sculptures and an ice bar (drink tickets can be purchased online in advance or onsite at the beverage tent.) Music will enhance the festive atmosphere while the Okemo BBQ station and local food trucks Sustainable Eats and Hangry Hog will be available for the hungry.

For more fun for kids of all ages, the Snowground Playground offers sliding, the nearby Ice House is available for skating, and the Timber Ripper Mountain Coaster gives a thrilling ride. Kids can also watch or participate in a torchlight parade guided by Okemo ski and ride instructors who will lap the Stargazer Magic Carpet with them. All can pick out free glow gear from a Grab n’ Glow stand located at the sign-up tent in the Courtyard.

March 16 and beyond

Après fun continues at the Bull Patio on March 16 with games, food, and DJ dave.

Also, on the 16th, the Adam McMahon trio will entertain for après at the Jackson Gore Courtyard.

On March 17, Epic Passholders will get to experience

first tracks at Jackson Gore at 7 a.m. when the Coleman Brook Express and Quantum 6 start spinning just for them. The First Tracks event will also offer free coffee, hot cocoa, Okemo’s signature churro donuts, granola bars and giveaways. All participating passholders will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win prizes.

March 17 also brings the Ski VT Specialty Food Tour to Jackson Gore from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It’s a delicious opportunity to sample various Vermont made specialties—and to take some home too—from vendors like Cabot Cheese, Mad River Distillers, Woodchuck Cider, and Daychaser Seltzers.

On March 23, après fun continues with Cooei’s Trio and games at Jackson Gore and on March 30 Jim Yeager will entertain at the courtyard for après fun.

If you’ve never taken a moonlit evening snowshoe tour, don’t miss the free guided snowshoe hike with local guide Joe Karl on March 25 from 6-8 p.m. Meet at the Ice House parking lot at Jackson Gore and bring your snowshoes (and ski poles if you have them as I find they can come in handy). If you don’t own snowshoes, you can rent them in downtown Ludlow. Vermont residents can check with their local libraries, which often loan out children’s and adult snowshoes for free.

A great spring tradition caps the events roster with the Snowmelt Slush Cup and Spring Fling at Jackson Gore on Saturday April 6 from 12-2 p.m. with an après afternoon to follow.

The Slush Cup is a great spectator event as skiers and riders try to skim over a pond, many wearing creative costumes. Okemo workers create a huge mound of snow, then carve out a pond which they line with double layers of plastic to keep the water in for a tradition that harks back to

the 1950s.

The spirited skim is all about hilarity with a great part of the fun coming from the wacky costumes and the wild splashes from those who don’t make it across.

Judges award prizes to top male and female competitors.

History of the Okemo Pond Skim

Pond Skimming was one of the favorite rites of spring at Okemo from the 1950s to the early 1970s and drew hardy souls for a cold water dash. Utilizing the natural springs on the lower mountain by

the original Okemo base lodge plus run-off from melting snow, the pond was created in late spring by digging a trench. Skiers started their runs on Bull Run with the object to skim across, or failing that, skim the longest distance. Most contestants wore zany costumes, and each year someone could be counted on to perform some spectacular feat.

However, due to the water problem that the springs caused for the loading areas at the Pomalifts, new drainage was installed one summer and the popular event became history. But with a new method of pond creation, the event made a splashy comeback as the Okemo Slush Cup in 1997 and continued to be held in front of the Okemo Base Lodge until moving to Jackson Gore.

Courtesy Okemo Ski Resort

An exhilarating moment of triumph as a skier successfully crosses the pond at a recent Okemo Slush Cup. Just one of the many events awaiting skiers and riders during Okemo Ski Resort's spring skiing and riding season.



Courtesy Okemo Ski Resort



Courtesy Okemo Ski Resort

A time-lapse photo of the red light glow stream seen on a ski trail at a recent Okemo Torchlight Parade captures skiers descending the mountain with illuminated torches.





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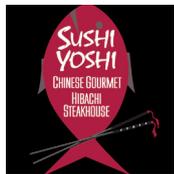
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Solutions From page 15

Crossword

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Sudoku

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Crave away: this Vermont cookbook invites you to dip into creativity, find sustenance

By Karen Ranz

One year ago, the most recent cookbook by celebrated pastry chef, Gesine Bullock-Prado, “My Vermont Table Recipes for All (Six) Seasons,” hit the bookstore shelves as an immediate New York Times bestseller. Twelve months in, Vermont’s local booksellers report it’s a perennial favorite, copies going off the shelves in many cases to visitors buying a memento of Vermont to take home, one that can feel very personal.

It’s a lovely book, the kind of cookbook arranged by season that begs you to find a quiet moment, a comfy chair, maybe to put your feet up, a cup of something nearby, and enjoy spending some quiet time because, first, true to the “from my table / kitchen” genre of cookbook, this one promises wonderful stories. And they are wonderful. It’s a delightful story of an ambitious woman who actually did what many of us only dream of — she chucked it all and put down roots in Vermont, living close to the land, expanding the circle to include ducks and chickens and Mama, a goose; making not just a living as a self-taught master baker, but teaching. Living on six acres not far from White River Junction and Woodstock in a restored 1793 inn and tavern with a carriage house converted for teaching and filming (and a husband that cleans up) would be a dream scenario for most of us, especially those who aspire to baking beautiful breads, cakes and pastries.

It announces itself as an ambitious cookbook from the flyleaf photo of a *vol au vent* — multitudes of delicate layers of pastry beautifully holding a tiny arrangement of blanched crudités and a bean puree, mirrored to great effect in what appears to be polished black granite.

It’s blessed with an abundance of tremendously good photography and a layout that draws you in and carries you through. What makes life good — meeting someone new and learning how to do something — is one aspect the book offers. But the dream, the idyll, is breaking with the grind, whatever that is, and finding a more meaningful existence in a beautiful state where a soul can find sustenance. There’s much that’s happily escapism. And there’s much to find in the recipes, plans to make, days to spend tackling ambitious projects. It’s a book you want to take in.

Asked what recipes she’s most proud of, it’s the versatile milk bread recipe, the oatbread that her students are baking and eating. There are sourdough and salt rising breads too. She mentions Pulled Pork Sliders on soft buns. If a book can

convey heart, it would have to be the Zwetschgendatschi (Yeasted Plum Cake) and her tribute to a German mother who was obviously very dear. Any baker who offers two recipes featuring fresh plums is a baker with both heart and soul.

Teaching is as much her element as baking; there’s ease with nuanced instructions, an encouraging tone, visual and tactile cues, and when called for, easy methods for fixing things that might go wrong — so much more than merely sequence and timing. She insists that anyone can master recipes that might seem daunting.

Other bakery recipes include Dog Team Tavern Sticky Buns, a luscious Apple Tart Tatin, Wild Blueberry Turnovers ensconced in laminated pastry crazy with sanding sugar, and Sourdough Discard English Muffins. The Ramp Pesto Twist Bread is an absolutely gorgeous variation of a sweet babka definitely worth the effort for an occasion.

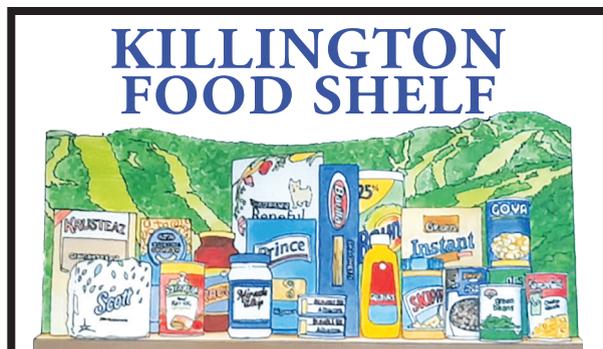
There is cake! There are cookies too! There’s much to celebrate, certainly, with baking.

On the savory side there’s an elegantly simple Roast Turkey a la Helga, Sisters’ Gravy (the sister being the other Bullock — of film), Maple Glazed Carrots, and Butternut Squash Fritters. And while there seems to be an abundance of specialty ingredients for much of it — especially beyond Vermont — it’s delightful to learn that the fruit gel that is canned cranberry sauce is perfect for Cranberry Crumble Shortbread. It’s a perfect fruit gel in some ways!

It’s on the *chef de cuisine* side of the kitchen where the book occasionally stumbles, often what a more deft editor would smooth: two whole cloves swimming freestyle in a Dutch oven of braised red cabbage, two to three hours for that turkey to roast... The index can be problematic, disappointing because of the book’s arrangement by season.

In too many cases the impulse is to dash for the equipment corner, a *sous vide* and food mill or ricer frequently called for, sometimes at the expense of technique. Even the salt rising bread relies on having a bath encased in plastic in precisely heated water. The admonition to grind your own cardamom is backed up by no instruction on what to expect with cardamom pods.

But if your itch to scratch is a beautiful book you can have to dip into when a calm and inspiring moment is what you crave most, crave away. Find a comfy chair. You might decide to teach yourself something new. And wouldn’t that be good!

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The Killington spring events calendar

Ski VT Specialty Food Day - March 8

Enjoy the flavors of Vermont on the slopes

Get the Girls Out! - March 8

A women-led outdoor event by SheJumps

Wobbly Barn: Turning the Tide - March 8-9

Rockin' band and good time fun

Red Bull Slide-In Tour - March 10

Spend the day with Red Bull athletes as they session through Killington Resort

Wobbly Barn: 3AM Tokyo - March 15-16

The brainchild of the Grammy-nominated song "Picasso"

Vertical Challenge at Pico - March 16

Head over to Pico for a day of all-ages racing!

Love Your Peaks - March 30

A Boarding for Breast Cancer fundraising event

Easter Sunrise Service and Egg Hunt - March 31

Catch the early gondola for a peak sunrise and Easter service

Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge - April 6

The highly-anticipated competition and on-snow party returns to Killington

Pond Skim - April 13

A wacky rite of spring; skim the pond or watch while others try!

The Woodward Wind Down - April 13

A celebration of our Killington Woodward Mountain Parks

Dazed and Defrosted - April 20

Enjoy live music along with soft bumps, cold brews, & more!

Vt green Up Day - May 4

Grab a bag & help the Green Mountains stay green!

Killington welcomes back Red Bull Slide-In Tour with pro snowboarders

Killington welcomes back the Red Bull Slide-In Tour on Sunday, March 10. X Games gold medalist and snowboard-style king Zeb Powell will once again return to the slopes at Killington with another stacked roster of Red Bull athletes, including:

- Alex Caccamo
- Jesse Augustinus
- Brantley Mullins
- Brooklenn Khoury
- Luke Eich
- Kelly Wakasa
- Jamad Finn

Schedule:

- Morning session: 9-10 a.m. — Peace Park (Ramshead)
- Open clinic: 10-11:30 a.m. — Red's Backyard (Ramshead)
- Athlete autograph session: 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. — Ramshead Lodge
- Lunch break: 12-2 p.m. — Killington Resort
- Afternoon session: 2-4 p.m. — Resort-wide
- Après & athlete meet & greet: 4-5 p.m. — K-1 Lodge (3rd floor)
- *All events, times, and locations are subject to change.

About the tour

Zeb Powell's snowboard event has gone national, uniting snowboarders from across the U.S. celebrating snowboard culture one stop at a time. Zeb Powell first teamed up with Red Bull to bring athletes together for Red Bull Slide-In Tour in 2017. It began and continues to be an opportunity for riders to come together in a format other than competitions. "The tour is where we can be our most creative selves," Powell said. "There is no risk to throwing crazy tricks or trying something new since it's not a competition. When we are all together, we also come up with things that we wouldn't come up with on our own."

For more information, visit killington.com.



Courtesy Killington Resort

Courtesy Killington Resort
Pro snowboarder Zeb Powell lends a helping hand as he guides a young rider through mastering a box feature in Killington's terrain park, fostering camaraderie and progression in the snowboarding community.



Rutland County Humane Society



LENOX

If the recent warm weather has you wishing for a walking friend we have the boy for you!! Lenox is a year old and loves treats, learning new tricks, walks and lots and lots of cuddle time!! He is housebroken and adores people and other dogs. We are open Wed- Sat from Noon to 4 for walk-ins or call 802-885-3997 for more information on him.

This pet is available for adoption at
Springfield Humane Society
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 *Open by appointment only. spfldhumane.org



NINA

Nina—9-year-old spayed female. I came to Lucy Mackenzie with my best friend, Maria, after our previous owner could sadly no longer take care of us due to health reasons. We're here now, though, and this is the best place for us to be while we wait to begin our next chapter. We're both affectionate little souls with a lot of love to give. Oh, and we're extremely bonded! So, we would like to live together with the same family once we find our forever home. We're so bonded we even drafted this "write-up" together!

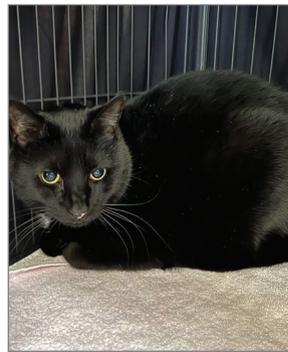
This pet is available for adoption at
Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society
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 *(By appointment only at this time.)
 Tues. - Sat. 12-4 p.m. & Thurs. 12-7 p.m. • lucymac.org



Salem—1y/o. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Remy—2y/o. Spayed female. Heeler mix.



Clifford—9y/o. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Maddy-Jack—2y/o. Spayed female. Beagle mix.



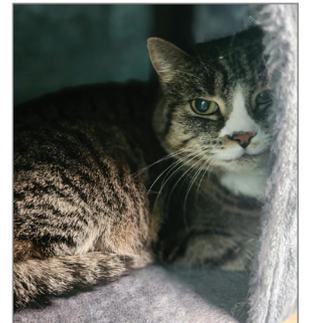
King—10y/o. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



DALE

Dale—5-month-old. Black Mouth Cur mix.

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Mittens—12y/o. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Keen—7y/o. Neutered male. Domestic longhair.



Strudel—9y/o. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Brown tiger.



Squid—10 month-old, Neutered male. Mixed breed.



Odin—2-3y/o. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.

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Cosmic Catalogue



Aries
March 21 - April 20

Did your parents ever tell you when you were a kid that if so and so jumped off a cliff, would you? This week, you may experience a bit of peer pressure or even some FOMO in terms of what your friends are doing. While it may seem exciting, do you really need this level of chaos in your life right now? Maybe you do, maybe you don't. Just think a bit before acting on impulse.

Leo
July 21 - August 20

No matter how hard you try, you cannot please everyone. At the end of the day, do you even want to please everyone? Regardless of whether you do or don't, people are going to have their own thoughts and opinions about you anyway. The question you need to ask yourself this week is, why do you even care? You're still going to be shining bright in either case. You do you, as they say.

Sagittarius
November 21 - December 20

Go with the flow as much as you can on the home front now. Even if you're tempted to micromanage the situation, you'll only add to the confusion or uncertainty. You're better off not having any expectations and be prepared that things are likely shift at a moment's notice. Also, communication is everything now if you've had enough or feeling overwhelmed. Ask for help or get others in your home to lend a hand.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

There is a conflict between you want to do versus what you think you should do. Do the old rules still apply? Maybe you need to break the existing rules and rewrite them in a way that fits you better now. If you feel jarred or uncomfortable this week, consider where the friction is coming from. It's either coming from an external source or your internal resistance to change. Get used to this feeling as it won't go away anytime soon.

Virgo
August 21 - September 20

This week, you might choose to let any confusion or uncertainty not spoil your chance to be happy. Sometimes, it's best to not sweat the small stuff and just enjoy the moment. Just be aware though, the if you do, you might overlook some issues you'd be better off dealing with. Unspoken feelings could harbor future resentments. The question is, do you even care right now in this state of bliss and sweet abandon?

Capricorn
December 21 - January 20

Mercury isn't retrograde right now, though it will likely feel like it. Rather than trying to get to the bottom of every problem, just understand that some of them aren't meant to be answered. In other words, expect the unexpected and just go with the flow. When you let plans sort themselves out you give yourself the opportunity to experience things you'd otherwise miss out on. Also, don't be influenced by desire when it comes to financial decisions.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

If anyone can turn the sublime into the ridiculous right now, it's you! There may be a special kind of magical power in your words this week that can evoke all the right feelings. Be careful though. Just because you're unleashing your romantic and mystical side, someone may take your sweet nothings a little too personally. Whisper the whimsical words if you wish, but be aware of their potential consequences. Tempt fate and fate may tempt you!

Libra
September 21 - October 20

Just because someone is enticing you into their sphere, it doesn't mean you have to accept. This could be a romantic situation or financial one. If you can do what you're least inclined to do, you'll likely come out of it better off, whether that be your dignity or your bank balance. One rule for this week - just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Though it may depend on whether you want to or not!

Aquarius
January 21 - February 20

Avoid biting off more than you can chew when it comes to your finances this week. Sure, splash some cash if YOU feel like it. However, don't do it just because you want to show off or you're feeling pressure to do so. So much about your current astrology is about showing up for yourself. Change and transformation isn't going to go anywhere soon. The sooner you master the little choices, the bigger ones will feel easier.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

There's no dream too impractical or unachievable now. It really all depends on if you're ready to do the work required to achieve it. You might need to go against the grain of a community group, social network or a friend. In order to have everything that's possible for you now, you need to go against the grain. Don't be politically correct. That's not for you right now. Instead, dare to do the thing you've only dreamed of.

Scorpio
October 21 - November 20

There's a difference between love and wanting. This week, you're going to have to do both in order to maintain a relationship on an even keel. On the one hand, it's recognizing that deep love is honoring the other person and what they need (which is especially challenging and important if it's not aligned with your needs in the moment). On the other, adding a dose of spontaneity, passion and desire can spice things up between you if you need to rekindle the spark.

Pisces
February 21 - March 20

Saturn really has added a level of pressure you're not always used to experiencing. It's put a challenge on your go-with-the-flow nature as well as forced you to implement boundaries, which is counterintuitive to the way you operate. This week though, relax the restrictions and allow yourself simply feel into things. Forget your problems for a while. They'll be there next week. For now, take it easy. You deserve a break. You can get back to rigidity again soon.

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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.

The abyss of chaos

Stepping toward the edge of chaos can feel exhilarating. The thrill. The excitement. The unknown. The rebellion. The breaking of rules. The possibility of anything other than what is. From the edge, you can stare into the abyss of chaos, while staying safely within the realm of what's known.

Chaos can entice and excite. Once the step is taken and the choice is made, there is no turning back. Feet first, you've entered into the abyss of chaos. Like a riptide, it matters not how good a swimmer you are because it will drag you wherever it wants you to go.

Before you know it, you're drowning.

Staring at the abyss of chaos from the bottom rather than the edge. It is easier to extract yourself from the edge than it is the bottom.

Whether the chaos is what you want, the chaos you're curious about or the chaos you cannot resist, it's a risk.

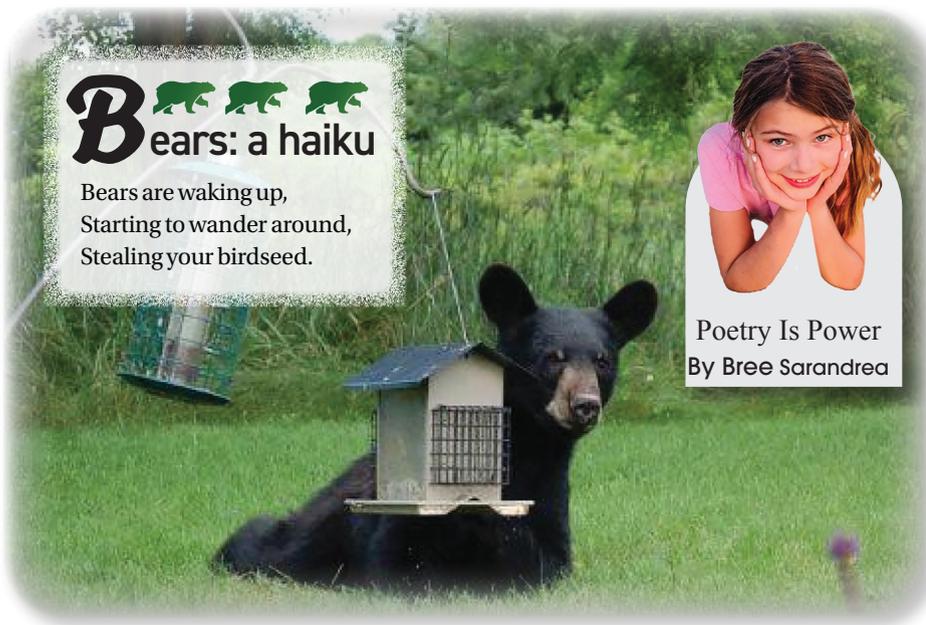
Is it risk with matters of the heart? Do you step toward the edge of the chaos and confusion, risking your heart being ripped from your ribs? Will it be crushed and discarded? Will it be cherished and revered like the

precious jewel it is?

Sometimes the greatest risk is to take no risk at all...



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall



Bears: a haiku

Bears are waking up,
Starting to wander around,
Stealing your birdseed.



Poetry Is Power
By Bree Sarandrea

Building a Killington Dream Lodge: Part 4

Flat tires, Dad's right hand tomboy, roof leaks *ad infinitum*

The year Dad bought two acres in Killington was when my older brother, Jack, left home for the University of New Hampshire to study forestry. Our brother Billie played high school football and wasn't free to join us most weekends. So Mom, Dad, our lab Black Star of Highland, and I headed north to our Green Mountain wilderness, unless we'd convinced a friend to come along on the (working) adventure of a lifetime.

En route to Vermont on our weekly pilgrimage to build our ski lodge in Killington, a flat tire was not infrequent since our station wagon doubled as a Mac truck. Dad constantly searched for good second hand tires that could withstand another year. Once ours were bare and no longer had tread, the time had arrived for the next "new" pair. Dad played a tire juggling act.

A flat tire was a major production, but Dad was prepared with all the right gear. He put out flare but the car was so full, it took us half an hour to access the spare. As giant trucks and cars sped by, we unloaded boxes, suitcases and furniture on grass or pave-

ment, backroad or highway, either by night or by day. It was hard enough in the daylight, but in the dark, it was treacherous and easy to lose things by the side of the road. I held the flashlight and lug nuts while Dad did all of the hard dirty work. We managed to finish the job and head north, arriving in Killington late at night.

However, when an engine issue arose that mechanically-savvy Daddy couldn't fix, we slept in the car in a gas station parking lot until the mechanic showed up. After repairs, we raced onward to Killington so all of our Saturday wouldn't be lost.

Meditation → 39

A new invasive is Zigzagging across North America

There's a new invasive insect zigzagging its way across North America. First reported by citizen scientists in Quebec in 2020, the elm zigzag sawfly (*Aproceros leucopoda*) has now spread to North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and Vermont. This new pest, which is native to Asia, has the potential to cause major devastation to one of our native tree species.

As its name suggests, this sawfly infests elms (*Ulmus* species), feeding on the tree's leaves in a zigzag pattern. The larvae, which feed spring through summer, resemble tiny green caterpillars but with six or more pairs of prolegs (fleshy abdominal limbs); caterpillars have five or fewer pairs of prolegs. These larvae eventually consume entire leaves and may completely defoliate trees. Branch dieback and tree mortality can occur if trees are severely defoliated for several years in a row. Once done feeding, the larva spins into a cocoon — attached to a leaf during summer, or overwintering in leaf litter — where it pupates into an adult.

The adult sawflies are all female and are parthenogenic, meaning they can reproduce asexually without fertilization from a male. They emerge in the spring and lay up to 50 eggs on leaf tips. The eggs hatch in about a week. In our region, elm zigzag sawflies typically produce two generations per year. In their native Asia, there may be as many as four generations per year. The number of generations produced each year determines the amount of defoliation.

You may be asking, "Didn't Dutch elm disease already kill off all the elm trees?" While the disease has decimated elms, it did not eliminate them, and resistant trees exist. Researchers are working to breed these survivors and restore the species to critical habitats including floodplains. In river floodplains such as those found along the Connecticut River, the American elm is a foundation species — one that forms the base of an ecological community and influences biodiversity. Restoring elm is even more important now, with the loss of ash tree species from emerald ash borer (another invasive species) and the increase of flooding events due to climate change.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is working with the U.S. Forest Service on a large elm restoration project in the Northeast. The project, initiated by former TNC floodplain forest ecologist Christian Marks, began a decade ago with the crossbreeding of survivor trees from the Northeast with trees resistant to Dutch elm disease. Since

2014, researchers have planted more than 11,000 of these hybrid elms at 72 sites across New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

Although these trees face pressure from deer browsing, flooding, ice jams, and other insect infestations, survival rates are as high as 88% at some research sites. In 2026, researchers plan to inoculate surviving trees with the fungus that causes Dutch elm disease to determine which trees are truly resistant. The final goal of the project is to create seed orchards of elms that are disease resistant and climate adapted.

TNC senior conservation planner Gus Goodwin manages the project and is hopeful it will be a success despite this new threat. While elm zigzag sawfly has not been detected in the elm restoration plantings in the Northeast, researchers have detected the pest in Ohio, where they have replicated the work done by TNC.

According to Kathleen Knight, a Forest Service research ecologist, sawfly defoliation in the summer of 2023 at the Ohio site was less than 1% of the surface area of the leaves, which is much less than the damage typically seen by other pests such as Japanese beetles. Sawfly populations observed at the sites in Ohio had only two generations in 2023, with the second generation comprising fewer individuals. This, along with the fact that elms are known to support a diverse population of native insects, suggests that native predators may control sawfly populations.

Researchers are still working to determine whether elm zigzag sawfly could be as devastating as other pest introductions, including Dutch elm disease, and will continue to work on elm restoration despite this new challenge. You can help track the spread of elm zigzag sawfly by reporting sightings to your state forestry agency or cooperative extension office.

Jen Weimer is a forest health expert, photographer, and writer living in the forests of New Hampshire. 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.



leaves



the plantings



The Outside Story
By Jen Weimer

The final frontier

I love the United States. I feel lucky to live in this country and be afforded the liberties and opportunities made available to me here. We're not perfect, by any measure, but I think we've done far more good in the world than bad. But I'd be lying if I didn't admit that I'm a little concerned about our future.

One of the reasons I'm concerned is based on the distressing attitude of America's youngest generations. Sure, many young professionals are more forward-thinking with positive attitudes toward technology, social issues, and the environment, but it feels like the majority are more comfortable staring into their iPhone or Xbox than grappling with the challenges of life. (Boy, do I sound like a Boomer!)

In generations past, the U.S. youth sought to enter diverse and compelling careers that helped weave the fabric of the American dream. For instance, in the early days of America, most children aspired to become explorers like Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan, or Lewis and Clark. These adventurers were celebrated for their daring journeys to new lands and discoveries, and the children who looked up to them became the frontiersmen, pioneers, and cowboys who opened up the heart of America.

And then came the dream of the soldier. Throughout U.S. history (particularly during times of war or conflict), many children aspired to become soldiers, fighting for their country and defending its ideals. This ambition was especially prevalent during the American Revolution, the Civil War, World War I, and World War II.

With the rise of industrialization and technological innovation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many children aspired to become inventors or entrepreneurs like Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, or Henry Ford. These individuals were admired for their creativity, ingenuity, and contributions to society and the children who emulated them became the future inventors and businessmen who propelled the U.S. economy to a world superpower.

During the "Space Race" between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, many U.S. children dreamed of becoming astronauts looking to explore outer space and all the questions therein. The Apollo moon landing missions in the 1960s inspired a generation of young Americans to reach for the stars with careers in aviation, tech, and the armed services.

But now, things are different.

Today, the entertainment industry holds significant appeal for many U.S. kids. Careers in acting, music, dance, and visual arts are the most popular aspirations, fueled by exposure to the internet via multiple social media platforms like YouTube and TikTok. In fact, the most cited career ambition of young Americans today is "influencer."

And therein lies my problem. While the U.S. is being co-opted by narcissistic tendencies fueled by social media, other countries' children are battling

for real occupations that have substance and meaning.

For instance, in India, children often aspire to become doctors, engineers, scientists, or civil servants. These occupations are highly regarded for their potential to bring social status, financial stability, and opportunities for upward mobility.

These same aspirations hold true in Nigeria and many other African nations. But do Nigerian children want to become influencers? Maybe a few. But the majority

are undoubtedly looking for ways to improve their social standing with occupations that help their families instead of feeding their egos.

Most distressing, however, is China, where children commonly dream of becoming scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs. But their most aspirational occupation is that of an astronaut. These ambitions reflect China's emphasis on academic excellence, technological innovation, and economic development (and world dominance if you read the fine print).

U.S. kids want to be influencers; China's kids want to be astronauts. I don't like where this trend is heading...

In this week's feature, "Spaceman," starring Adam Sandler (in a particularly serious role), we meet an astronaut drifting deep into the solar system to investigate a mysterious event. Oddly, his solitary journey is disrupted when he encounters an alien being onboard his spacecraft. Instead of inciting fear, however, the being forces the astronaut to contemplate his life.

This film is an interesting, almost meditative journey into one man's struggle to understand who he is and why he's made certain decisions in his life. It's less sci-fi and more psychological thriller at its core, so consider that before jumping in.

A stellar "B" for "Spaceman," now available to stream on Netflix.

Got a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at moviediary@att.net.



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



My skis, hero snow

I love hero snow. I love the feeling of safety it provides, like there is no way my edges are going to give out no matter how aggressively I throw my skis out from underneath me. I know the hero snow will be there to catch me.

Maybe it is because I don't tune my skis very often. I don't like getting them caught on rocks and trees while I am skiing in the woods, so I sacrifice the sharpness. I'd rather sideslip down the entire Vertigo headwall than tune my skis. Probably a childhood trauma from having skis so sharp they could slice your palm open. I had a teammate do that very thing while I was in high school. Not as cool as you would think.

I have friends that will tune their skis nightly, even if it's just a quick run through with a diamond stone to smooth out all the burrs. I mean, I have a diamond stone, I just don't think it would last very long on my set up, plus I like my burrs. I know where each one is and how they affect my turn. They give my skis life and character, they have developed along with myself. Neither of us are perfect, yet together we can make some pretty fine turns.

My dad used to spend hours tuning my skis to perfection before each race. Getting my edges to this degree or that, depending on the conditions and the type of race. He read book after book on tuning and would then spend hours in the ski shop pestering the shop guys on their thoughts. He was a collector of knowledge; to him a perfectly tuned ski complemented a perfect turn.

It is one of the few things my dad and I disagreed upon about skiing. I have always seen skiing as more of an art, you learn the technical features and then make skiing your own. He spent all his time trying to get this PSIA certificate or another while I focused on making my skis part of my body itself. If I could feel the movement underneath me, if I could feel the ski from tip to tail, then I knew I had something.

That's why I love hero snow. I can feel every little part of my skis against the variable snow beneath me. My shins and ankles are strong enough to pull my tips back underneath even with the heaviness of the snow. Hero snow makes me feel powerful and I'm not afraid to lean back and juice my tails. I love launching into the next turn because I know the snow will catch me.

And that is why I love Double Dipper in the early spring. The consistency of the slope (well, at least until the bottom), means that you can almost close your eyes and let the mountain take over. You can trust your skis to feel the terrain underneath you and not worry too much about anything but getting caught in the rope and guns on the slider's left. It's the kind of trail where you can almost lull yourself to sleep, your upper body just falling down the mountain while your skis sway underneath you like a grandfather clock.

I've actually lost myself on the Dipper, so zoned out with my turns on a perfect midweek

Livin' the Dream → 37



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

Remembering Latin

Where did Latin go??? If you went to high school up until the late '60s it was a subject that most schools required for college prep students. But by the '70s it gradually began to fade from school curricula.

Latin was my favorite high school subject. It was like figuring out a puzzle. The structure of sentences in Latin is not the same as an English sentence. The subject, object and verb can be in any order and an adjective can go before or after a noun. Phrases can be split by words that would be out of order in the English language.

My plan back in the '60s was to major in Latin and teach it. I entered Trinity College in Burlington in 1962 and declared it as my major. There didn't seem to be any concerns by the school that only three students chose that major. We all loved the nun who was our Latin professor. Her name was Mother Emmanuel.

One girl in our Latin class had a car and would sometimes give our professor a ride to educational events. Mother Emmanuel

was very concerned about staying within the speed limits during the road trips so we affectionately called her "Mother Radar!"

Many college hours were spent reading Latin grammar books as well as Horace's "Odes" and Virgil's "Aeneid." Our attic now holds all my college textbooks as I am too sentimental to discard them. It would be like throwing away some of the most important and fun days of my early life.

Latin is not thought of as a "spoken language." In fact that aspect was fading away as early as 750 A.D. As time moved forward it was spoken primarily

by students as they learned the language and studied the works of poets and orators. Much of the English language stems from Latin. It helps us to learn new words as we observe similarities with words we learned in Latin classes.

For our senior yearbook each student was asked to select a quote that we wanted to live by. I chose "He has half the deed who

Looking back → 38



Looking Forward
By Mary Ellen Shaw



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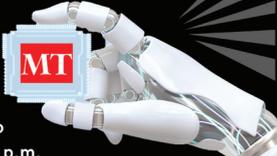
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Courtesy of Christian Rudy

Daniel, a fifth grader from West Rutland Elementary School won the golden ticket and thoroughly enjoyed his limo ride!

Fifth grader at West Rutland wins pizza party in limo with Bigfoot

Each year, Come Alive Outside's winter passports are delivered to all the elementary school kids in Rutland county, but this year, there was a unique twist to the passports. Inside one of the thousands of winter passports was a golden ticket. The finder of the golden ticket earned a limo ride with bigfoot and a pizza party with friends.

This year, Daniel, a fifth grader from West Rutland Elementary School was the lucky winner! Daniel took a limo ride home from school Friday, March

1, with friends Leo, Ethan and Wilder, his sisters Allison and Sarah.

Bigfoot was also there to deliver pizza and go along for the ride. Limo driver Paul Burroughs, owner of limo company Another Way Out took the group of happy kids on an hour-long tour of Rutland with Come Alive Outside outreach manager Christian Rudy serving as both host and Bigfoot translator.

"This is the best day of my life!" Daniel said.

Come Alive Outside will be offering

more opportunities like this in the future to boost joy and encourage students to use the outdoor passports.

Come Alive Outside is a 501c3 nonprofit founded in 2014 that works closely with partners in healthcare, public health, outdoor recreation, and the landscape profession to connect individuals, families, and entire communities to the health and wellness benefits of outdoor spaces where they live, work, and play.

For more info: comealiveoutside.com.

Rutland Garden Club enjoys flower arranging, awaits spring

The Rutland Garden Club members will soon be active again planting and assisting in the beautification of the city's gardens and several store front window boxes.

In the meantime, when the members are not planting in the gardens, they are busy organizing other community programs. They can be found sharing their love for flower arranging in programs at several of the assisted living facilities and the Boy's & Girl's Club of Rutland.

In February, members joined the residents at The Pines for a workshop on flower arranging. Members Cynthia Limburger and Nikki Apponowich led the demonstration. Limburger did the prototype and organized the flowers for each person to duplicate the arrangement. Other members joined in to help where needed. Each resident left with a flower arrangement of their own. Valentines were distributed courtesy of Ann Wilson and signed by the members. A Valentine poster was also provided, which was created by Susan Wolhunter's daughter. The program was truly enjoyed by all.

For more information, visit: Rutlandgardenclub.org.



Courtesy Rutland Garden Club

Members enjoy a flowers arranging program.

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All around Playa – the city and beyond

Before we get to a sampling of the many unique things to do in Greater Playa, let's have simple orientation to the city

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.

Like New York City or Toronto, Playa is a grid: north/south Avenues (avenidas) increase by five moving from the beach inland — 5, 10, 15, and so on. East/west streets (calles) increase by two moving from south to north — 2, 4, 6, and so on. It is an easy city to manage and to get quickly oriented. It is a walking city, the full run of the commercial area of Fifth Avenue ("The Fifth") can be done in a leisurely hour. (If you want to include occasional stops to investigate the many superb retail stores and brand outlets, better give it two hours.) A larger walking tour in Centro Playa is inside Constituyente to the north, Avenida Benito Juarez to the south, Fifth Avenue to the east and Calle 30 to the west. Covering these streets and avenues on foot (with a nice mid-day meal included) is a four hour walking tour — after which you will have had a good orientation to the heart of Playa.

Some people come to Playa for the sea (*el mar*) some come for the climate, some come for the culture, some come to learn of the mysteries of the Mayan civilization, and visit some of the important archeological wonders of the western hemisphere. Many others just come to escape the brutal cold of the winter — especially in Canada and the northern regions of the U.S.

For whatever reason people are compelled to visit the "northeast" of Mexico, they find a wide variety of things to do, and places to go inside the Playa boundaries and out (day trips). Along the way they also get visual splendor, and as much of the glorious Caribbean Sea as they wish.

About the sea

We have friends and acquaintances who don't go near the sea, due to "fear of the critters," I kid you not. While there is a greater probability of getting shot on 5th Avenue by Donald Trump than getting attacked by "The Critters" in the sea, there is no dissuading the wary whatsoever...I have tried and have failed miserably. Most of these folks stay in condominiums with pools.

Then there are those who can't seem to get enough of swimming, snorkeling, diving (divers find heaven here, both in many ocean locations and in the *cenotes*), greeting the sunrises and sunsets with, yep, more swimming. On most days the Caribbean Sea is calm, with very little wave activity but some days there can be 3- or 4-foot waves that can pack a real punch.

But even for those skittish of the sea, there is always the splendor of just going down to the sand (early or late in the day), taking a seat and watching the glory of the Caribbean skies...always moving, always changing, cloud formations straight from a Turner painting and, in addition, opening your ears to the perpetual speaking of Mother Ocean, sometimes a sensual low whisper, and sometimes like Lear railing at the gods in the storm: She shouts, roars, and admonishes.

And now, specifics about the beaches (*las playas*). (Full disclosure: I grew up surfing in southern California, worshipping Mother Ocean.) There are a wide variety of options here. Toward the north of Centro Playa (running from the north side of the Constituyente Pier) there are wider sand beaches most recognizable to Americans. In central Playa (running from the south side of Constituyentes pier down to

4th) are shorter rocky beaches, more akin to the Mediterranean or the Aegean than to the wider beaches to the north. From Calle 4 down to the main ferry pier, beaches widen again and there are no rocks. This area is what we call the "Proletariat beach" or the beach of the people. On Sundays (Mexicans work six days a week) you will find large numbers of families loving each other and every second of their time on the beach. Also, quality soccer is played on the sand here. Beyond the *futbol* are two horseshoe pits, where the French Canadians play an intense brand of "shoes." It's all worth a stop, look and listen. But take care...I hate to generalize, but they don't much like us Americans and can be very abrasive.

Immediately south of the Playa town (just south of the main ferry pier) is a luxury area called PlayaCar, which has both resorts and also, many private high-end houses and condominiums. Beach access is available just past the pier and you can walk for miles on the beach in PlayaCar.

Resorts vs. rentals

If resorts are your thing, you have many to choose from. We like being right in the thick of things. If you are the same way, then stick with Airbnb, Vrbo or any of the rental booking sites to find an apartment/condo unit that best serves your needs. Just speaking for us, the resort option doesn't work; you go in, all your needs are met for your stay and you return home. This has precious little to do with Mexico or a desire to mingle with or immerse in the culture; though we fully understand that for families with children or couples who work very hard 50 weeks per year the best solution is "all inclusive resorts."

Beyond the beaches (Mayan ruins)

The Mayan ruins are some of the most impressive and three sites can each be visited in a single day trip from Playa: Coba, Chichen Itza, and Tulum. The latter two feature the most visited and well photographed of all the Mayan Ruins. Chichen Itza on the left and Tulum on the right. The Mayan cities, full of magnificent stone and pyramids, were primarily ceremonial centers. The Maya are famed for their impressive knowledge of mathematics and astronomy, which were integral to their religious rituals. They are also known for the practice of human sacrifice, which was a means of appeasing and nourishing the gods.

The final Mayan location is Coba, a bit of a trek from Tulum

but doable in a day. Coba, sits northwest of Tulum and was essentially the capital of the Mexican portion of the Mayan civilization, being central to Chichen Itza to the north and Tulum to the south. All trade from the north and to the south/southeast moved through Coba, Note: if visiting Coba, you might want to do some research in order to find a compelling guide, the staff guides were less than stellar, mumbling through a rote presentation and constant use of a decades old flipbook. It was disappointing, as I came prepared with many questions and had mad desire for some inside scoop on the more ritualized side of the culture. Remember: it was an honor to lose at fire-ball soccer and get eaten!!

Amusement/ecological parks

Two large-scale recreational parks lie just south of Playa. The closest is X-care, and a bit farther south is Xel-ha (Zell-Ha). X-Caret is more an ecological journey (aviaries, animal compounds, a floating journey through underground waterways, dioramas, etc.). There are also beaches and lagoons to enjoy between the eco-walks. Xel-Ha has aquatic elements married to elements of ecology: water floats down rivers, snorkeling, gardens, caves, a "cliff of courage," and impressively long zip-lines make this a great destination for children and teens. We thoroughly enjoyed our time at X-Caret, which concludes with a spectacular performance in the massive 4,500 seat, semi-outdoor theatre, chronicling the history of the Mayan Civilization, and ending in song and dance of today. It is truly a fantastic performance at the end of a rich, educational and participatory experience.

Sports, entertainment, education

Beyond swimming in the sea or the hotel pools, enjoying the numerous cuisines morning, noon or night, or strolling "The Fifth" there are wonderful additional options:

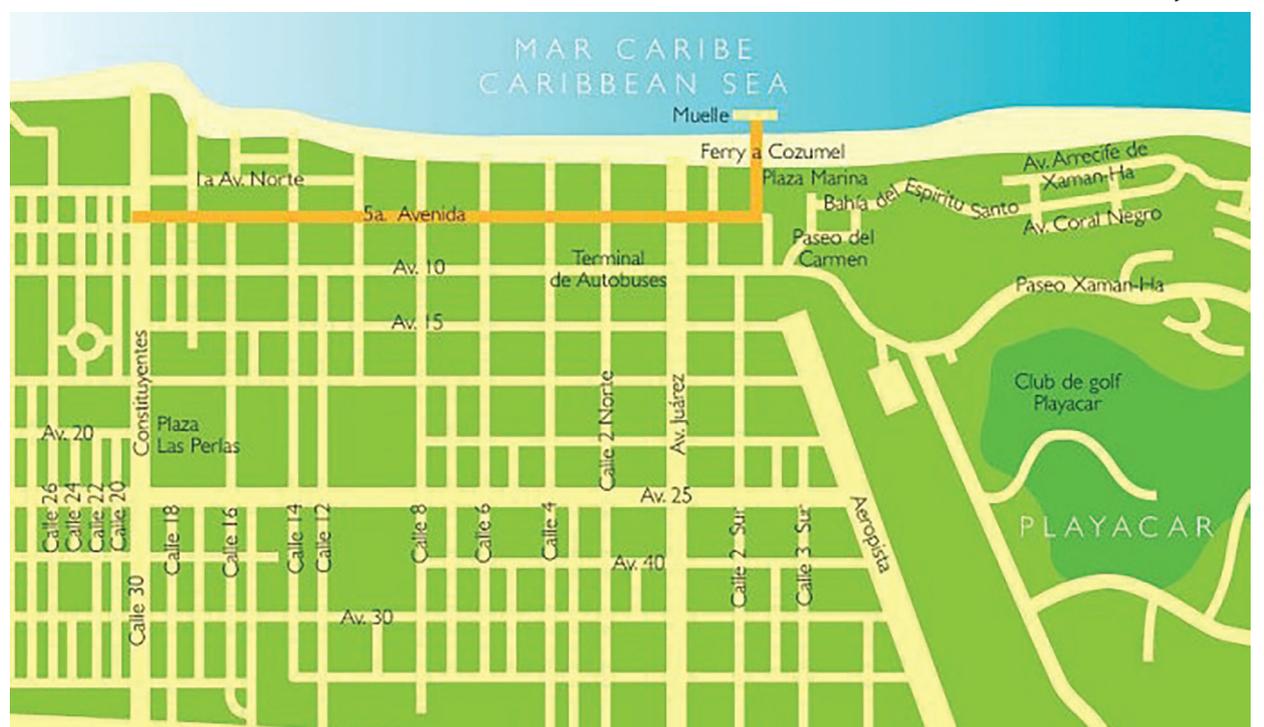
Professional soccer: Inter-Playa del Carmen Club is a superb brand of soccer (*futbol*) and is played in a large outdoor stadium on 34th street. This second division club (equal to our AAA-baseball) has won two championships in the past four years. The games are free and we loved the avid fans, the continuous noise of the drums and the *futbol-mad* vibe. In the upcoming World Cup U.S., Mexico and Canada co-host and will all play in the tournament.

Outdoor Music Festivals: Mexican culture is inextricable from live music. Festivals large and small proliferate and

Tales of the Riviera Maya → 37



Tales:
Riviera Maya
By Bruce Bouchard



Map of Centre ville Playa del Carmen downtown streets. "The Fifth" is the regions most popular walking/shopping avenue.

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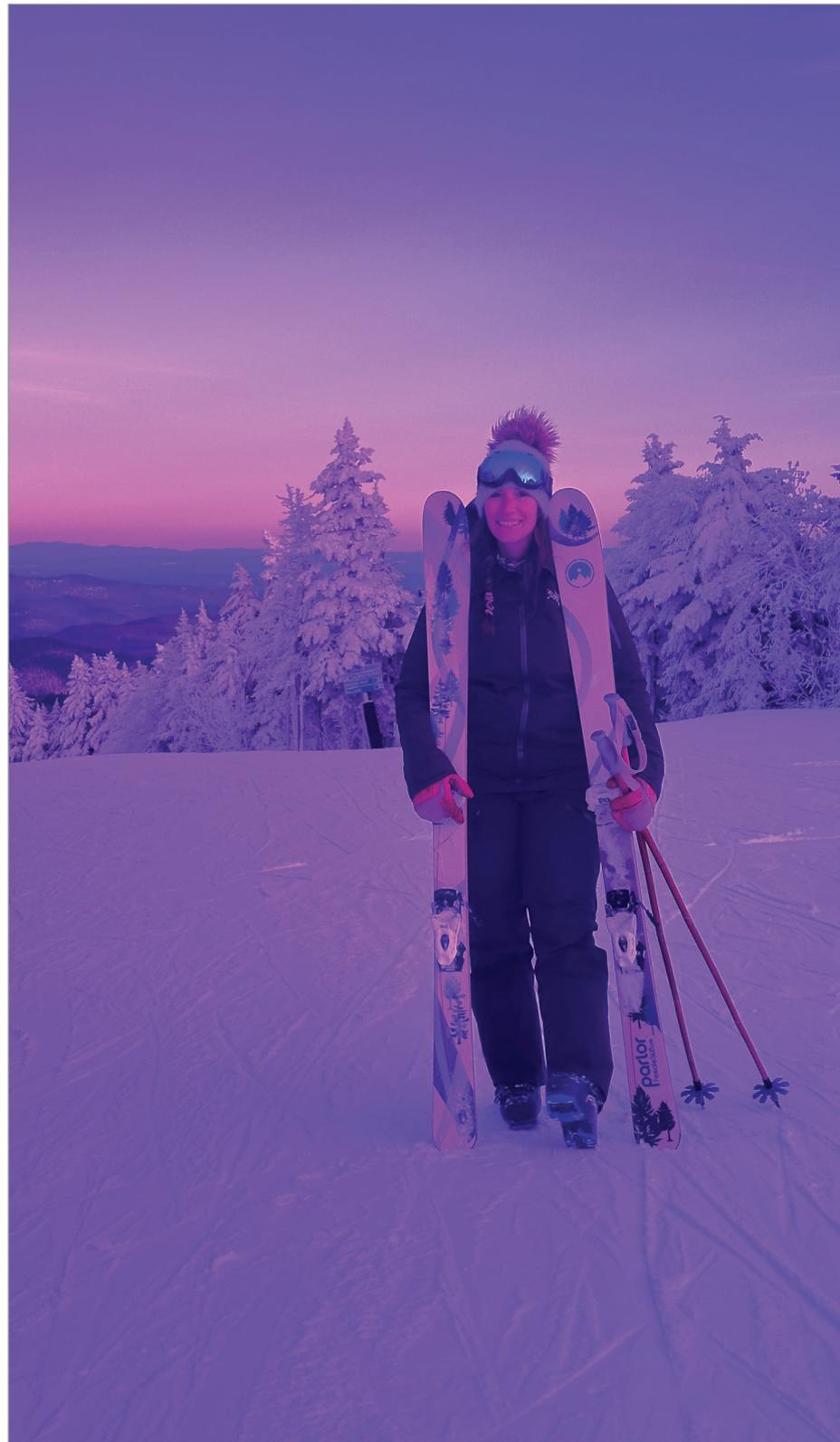
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← **Livin' the Dream:**
from page 31



Submitted

Merisa Sherman with her skis, which she designed and serve her very well.

day that when I came to I was almost to the merging fall line with Downdraft. I have gotten it during a regatta rowing crew in college, when your body is just repeating a motion and your mind goes blank while you keep moving. It's an amazing feeling, probably from a sugar low or something, but for me, it's the epitome of becoming one with your movements. When your body doesn't need your brain anymore and it just acts as it should. When you are in the zone and you cannot feel the rest of the world. When your body just knows what to do.

I love skiing. I love the movement, the adventure, the essence of moving your body with nature in such a way that everything is connected. I could never imagine living a life on concrete, where the world beneath your feet never changes except for a crack or pothole. I need to feel grounded, to feel the earth safely beneath my feet and skis. It's why I love my canoe - I can feel it underneath me, from bow to stern as if the boat has become my legs.

It's what I try to teach Team PomPom every week — that skis aren't just attached to our bodies, they are a part of us. An extension of who we are and how we move. I wouldn't be the same person without my skis. I wouldn't be who I am. I know we say date your skis and marry your boots, but I have never felt that way. It's my skis who make me who I am.

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, local Realtor, KMS coach, member of the development review board and town lister. She can be reached at femaleskibum@gmail.com.

← **Tales from Riviera Maya:**
from page 35

take place primarily in the spacious central square of Playa. We just had a four-day festival, which was celebrated alongside Mardi Gras, called Carnival 2024. Four evenings featured rock, traditional, hip hop and a closing night from Sonora Santanera, who crushed it with a Cuban blues- and soul-infused set that even had grandma and grandpa up and dancing. *Dia de los Muertos* (The Day of the Dead - Mexico's Halloween on Nov. 2) features a grand parade and is perhaps the largest four-day celebration of the year. In short, the Mexicans will open their arms to any opportunity to party, sing and dance and offer up parades.

Cirque du Soleil Theater in Vidanta Riviera Maya. Yes, the Cirque machine has set down in a huge resort north of Playa. The show called "JOYA!", is performed in a theatre built for this very occasion. We saw it in 2023 and while aerial athleticism is breathtaking as always, the concept has sagged a bit. Someone convinced the Cirque organization to center the piece on a story... some crazy search for a book detailing the future of mankind. It is garbled at best and confusing but, not to worry, spectacular Cirque high wire and thrills on the ground will grab you and shake you.

Coco Bongo is located in the heart of Playa on 12th and 10th will make you feel high voltage power while you are surprised with acrobats flying across the room and exciting tributes to the great figures of music (Michael Jackson, Queen, The Beatles, etc), plus a reenactment of the Rio de Janeiro Carnival. A place to dance, be amazed and to be part of the show.

Two smaller attractions

Museo Frida Kahlo Playa is a beautifully curated jewel of a museum. It's a must for art enthusiasts. It details the life, loves and torments in vintage pictures and documents and there is a brilliant collage



Courtesy Bruce Bouchard

Maureen McKenna Padula (left) and Bruce Bouchard (right) enjoy the beach.

of some of her more controversial works. While the jury is out on (and rages about) the importance of Kahlo (beyond her much publicized marriage to Diego Rivera), she remains Mexico's most storied female painter and her image is ubiquitous in Mexico.

3-D Museum of Wonders (very near the Kahlo) is an interactive museum that starts out as amazing images, that soon morphs into irresistible opportunities to 'jump into the art' and become active parts of the illusions.

It is high-end, wonderfully produced and presented, a one of a kind interactive entertainment experience. For all ages and all segments.

'Hawkers'

So, in conclusion, whatever it is that you seek to do when you travel, you will find plenty here. One little snippet to end: as you walk Fifth Avenue, you will encounter many "hawkers," owners and employees trying to engage you to look at, engage with (and of course buy) their food or wares. A few samples:

"Mister, Mister, *Amigo*... you can quit therapy tomorrow - all you need to do is drink tequila" or "Happier marriage, more children with tequilla" or "Don't be wimp, drink tequilla!"

Alternatively: "*Amigo, Amigo*, remember me from the bus, I remember YOU!! Step inside: souvenirs for one and all" or "Hey lady, lady, *Amiga*... you are a woman of taste, I can tell by your jewelry. We have the best pure silver in all of Mexico to compliment those fine accessories."

You don't need to be rude to these people, they are just trying to earn a living. Consider it part of the performance art of Fifth Avenue. It is best to memorize and say, quietly — with a smile: "*No, gracias, Amigo.*"



Courtesy Bruce Bouchard

A silhouette of Bouchard by the seas.

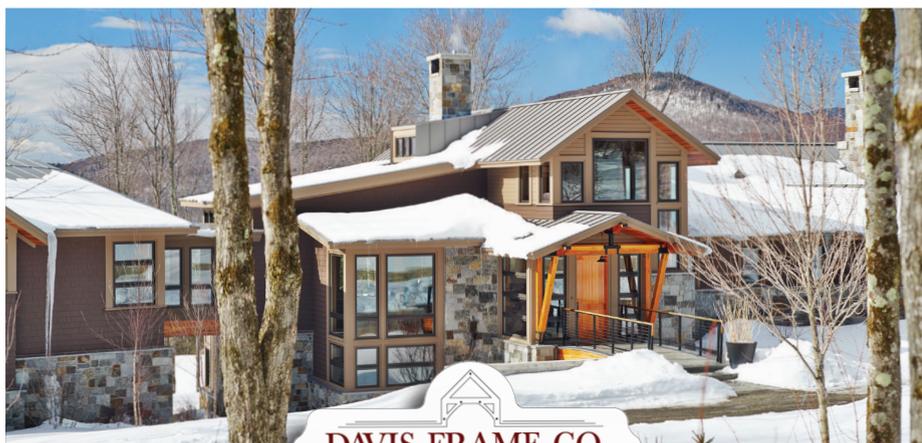
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Looking Back:.....

from page 31

has made a beginning." It is from one of Horace's works. That phrase comes to mind many times when I am putting something off. It's motivation to get started.

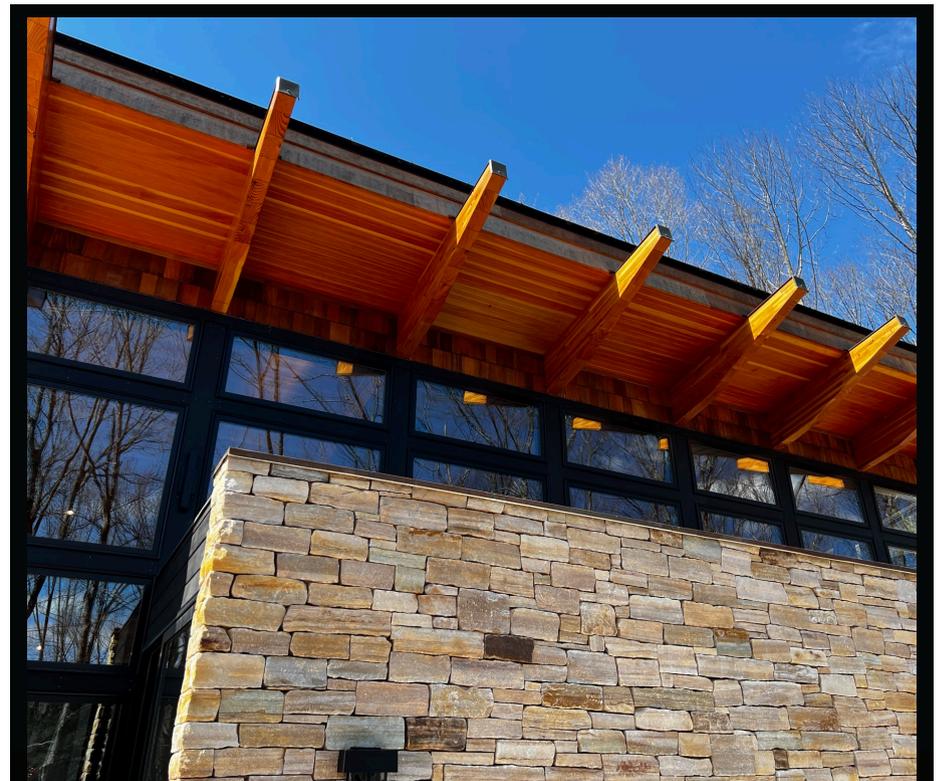
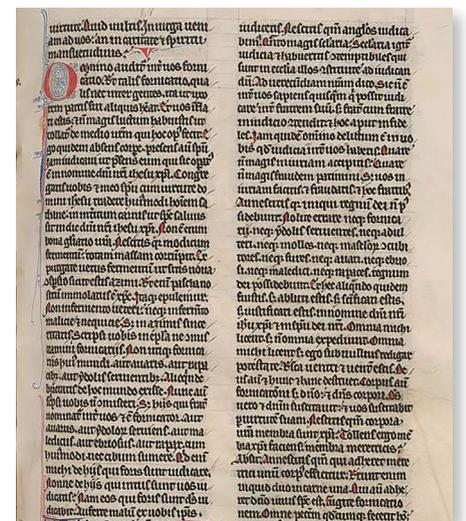
Little did I know that within a few years after my college graduation Latin would be dropped from the curriculum of most high schools. I was able to teach Latin for three years at Wallingford High School along with some English classes. Then I was told that Latin would no longer be offered. Area schools that still had it in their curriculum had no vacancy. So I decided to enter the business world as being strictly an English teacher just wasn't for me.

Out of curiosity I checked online to see if any schools are offering Latin today. I was surprised to find out that 6% of schools offer it. There is a school in Westminster, Virginia, that feels Latin is a very important part of their curriculum. Among the reasons they stated for offering it is the fact that half the words in the English language are derived from Latin. It can help you decipher words that are new to you. It provides a solid base for learning romance languages more easily such as French and Spanish. It is also an aid in fields such as medicine, law and the arts that pull heavily from Latin.

Much of the English language stems from Latin. It helps us to learn new words.

You know the expression, "It's never too late." Perhaps I should apply for a Latin position at Westminster School in Virginia and put my degree to use. After all, I only had that opportunity for three years and that was over 50 years ago. There is also an expression, "What goes around... comes round."

If I live long enough maybe Latin will be offered again in the Rutland area schools. I can come out of retirement. After all there is probably not a surplus of people who can claim a B.A. in Latin!



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Meditation:
from page 30

Once we began spending weekends in Vermont, due to necessity, I was Dad's right hand man. I was often the other guy on two-man jobs. Luckily, I was a tomboy at heart and loved this. Mom was fed up and had run out of patience, standing and waiting in heat or rain, shivering in cold or bracing against wind, while Dad tightened or replaced one thing or another. So, I was relegated the tasks she refused.

I became accustomed to holding Dad's wrench, flashlight, screw driver, crowbar, etcetera. I didn't mind terribly. I liked helping Dad, but it was often uncomfortable and tired me out, leaning over engines until my ribs hurt, bending under chassis while avoiding the oil, or holding the other end of whatever. I would have preferred continuing to play, but I didn't want to hurt Daddy's feelings, abandon him, or slow progress down. So, I carried on like a trooper.

Besides, I felt sorry for Dad, who worked all the time repairing what broke in both New Jersey and Vermont—our car, washer, dryer, plumbing, electrical, mechanical gadgets and fixtures. One day I asked, "Daddy, aren't you sick and tired of fixing everything that is kaput?"

"No, honey-bunch. I love to figure out what's wrong and what it takes to make it work."

That's when I knew Daddy didn't need my pity. He just needed me to hold the flashlight. "I guess that's what makes engineers tick."

"Yes, sir-ee Bob!" Dad agreed.

Raising three kids with college aspirations (the eldest, a freshman at UNH), steep taxes and mortgage on our Upper Montclair home made building a second home in Vermont a luxury requiring a very tight budget. Dad's salary and Mom's piano lessons (for extra wishes and unplanned expenses) barely covered family expenses. So, Dad planned and researched our

Vermont building process and spread out expenses, one week at a time. Reclaimed materials and sales helped. But he was also a perfectionist and made certain each step in the process measured up.

That's why we assumed we'd be safe from rain, ice, and snow with our temporary roof, but boy, oh boy, were we ever wrong. It was well built for a tar paper roof, but since it was flat, moisture remained. Each weekend we found more cracks in the junctions and leaks in old and new crevices. Any activity up top was perilous for the fragile seams and tar paper, especially in cold weather when it became brittle and cracked easily.

When the weather cleared up, I climbed onto the roof to follow directions Dad yelled from below. He knocked with a hammer where the ceiling was leaking. I circled the spots with pencil marks. Once the sun re-

When they asked her, "Do you have running water?" Mom replied, "Why, yes, when it rains!"

emerged and the roof dried out, we spread gooey tar on the seams and pin holes with our fingers crossed we'd stop all the leaks. Often a crack or leak was nearby, but channeled out of sight to mysterious dripping. We had to be exact, but it was hard to tell, and so the battle with leaks continued....

Mom's friends in New Jersey were very curious about our weekend disappearances to Vermont to build the "Vermontclair" ski lodge.

When they asked her, "Do you have running water?" Mom replied, "Why, yes, when it rains!"

So, we ran around with buckets and pails as fast as we could when we spotted more drips for the years our temporary roof remained.

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



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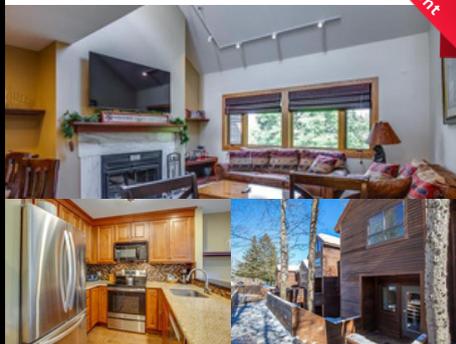
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