



BABY FARM ANIMAL CELEBRATION IS AT BILLINGS FARM

Billings Farm and Museum in Woodstock is hosting a baby farm animal celebration featuring Jersey calves, piglets, turkey poults, bunnies, chicks, goat kids, and lamb guests.

Page 18



MOUNTAIN TIMES TO DEBUT NEW WEBSITE

Check out our new clear design Friday at MountainTimes.info.



VINTAGE MARKET DAYS RETURNS TO RUTLAND FAIRGROUNDS

Vintage Market Days features original art, antiques, clothing, jewelry, home décor, outdoor furnishings, and seasonal plantings, with early buying event April 26-29.

Page 16

Yield bill limits property tax increase to 15%, gov says it's too high

By Polly Mikula

Bill H.887 is advancing in the Vermont Legislature but over stark partisan divisions. Republicans in both chambers and the governor oppose it saying that it doesn't rein in spending.

What is known as the "yield bill," if passed, would increase property tax by 15% for most homeowners.

Taxes on non-homestead properties (businesses and second homes) would increase an average of 18%, if H.887 is adopted.

H.887 sets the property dollar equivalent yield at \$9,846, income dollar equivalent yield at \$10,060, and the non-homestead property tax rate at \$1.442 for fiscal year 2025.

A 15% increase is an improvement from the 20% increase that was predicted in the December 1 letter drafted by Commissioner of Taxes Craig Bolio, but still too high for most Vermonters to afford, according to the governor.

Gov. Phil Scott said in a news release last week

that taxes are "crushing" most residents and that the Legislature has failed for years rein in school spending. "Today, it is clear the House's only plan is to accept an unbearable property tax increase, without any cost containment, while adding other taxes and studying the problem for a couple years," Scott wrote. "That means we'll be in this same mess for years to come. I cannot accept this, I know Vermonters won't."

Yield bill → 10

VHFA awards \$40 million for affordable housing

Rutland and Woodstock are two of the five communities selected for apartment developments

The Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) Board of Commissioners announced April 15, that its annual award of federal housing tax credits will support the construction of 156 in "perpetually affordable" apartment buildings in five communities across the state. The sale of this year's tax credits to investors is expected to yield over \$40 million in funds, covering an estimated 60% of total project development costs.

Two of the five apartment projects will be developed locally, in Rutland and Woodstock. The other three will be located in Middlebury, St. Johnsbury and Waterbury.

These housing construction projects will take place in a uniquely challenging environment. Elevated development costs, interest rates and housing needs among Vermonters heavily influence project planning. The cost of developing a unit of rental housing in Vermont has increased by approximately 50% since 2020.

"It's no secret that we are in the midst of a housing crisis here in Vermont and across the country," said Senator Bernie Sanders. "To my mind: Safe, quality, affordable housing

Housing → 4

From small-town Vermont to Taylor Swift and 'Barbie,' brothers stay busy in creative careers

By Rebecca Olshan, Community News Service

Editor's note: Rebecca Olshan reported this story on assignment from The White River Valley Herald. 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.

Student theater technicians, clad in black, skitter backstage at Randolph Union High School, their spring show about to start. Anthony Fiorillo moves confidently behind the scenes. He has the lighting and sound for the musical all figured out, and he knows it. After all, he's been working shows since he was 11.

Down the road at the Chandler Music Hall, the Green Mountain Youth Symphony

warms up its string section, sound swelling in the chamber. Joe Fiorillo, Anthony's

"It's truly an idyllic childhood in a lot of ways," said Joe Fiorillo, of growing up in Vermont.

younger brother, wields his cello, poised to do what he loves — make music. After all, he's been hooked since he saw Yo-Yo Ma perform on a rerun of "Mister Rogers."

That night — in 2009 — encapsulates the brothers' parallel paths through the creative world. Anthony, now 33, would pursue a career as a lighting technician. Joe, now 31, would go into sound

mixing. And their busy, art-filled upbringings would take them from auditoriums in Randolph to arenas and stages worldwide, working with famous singers and on famous

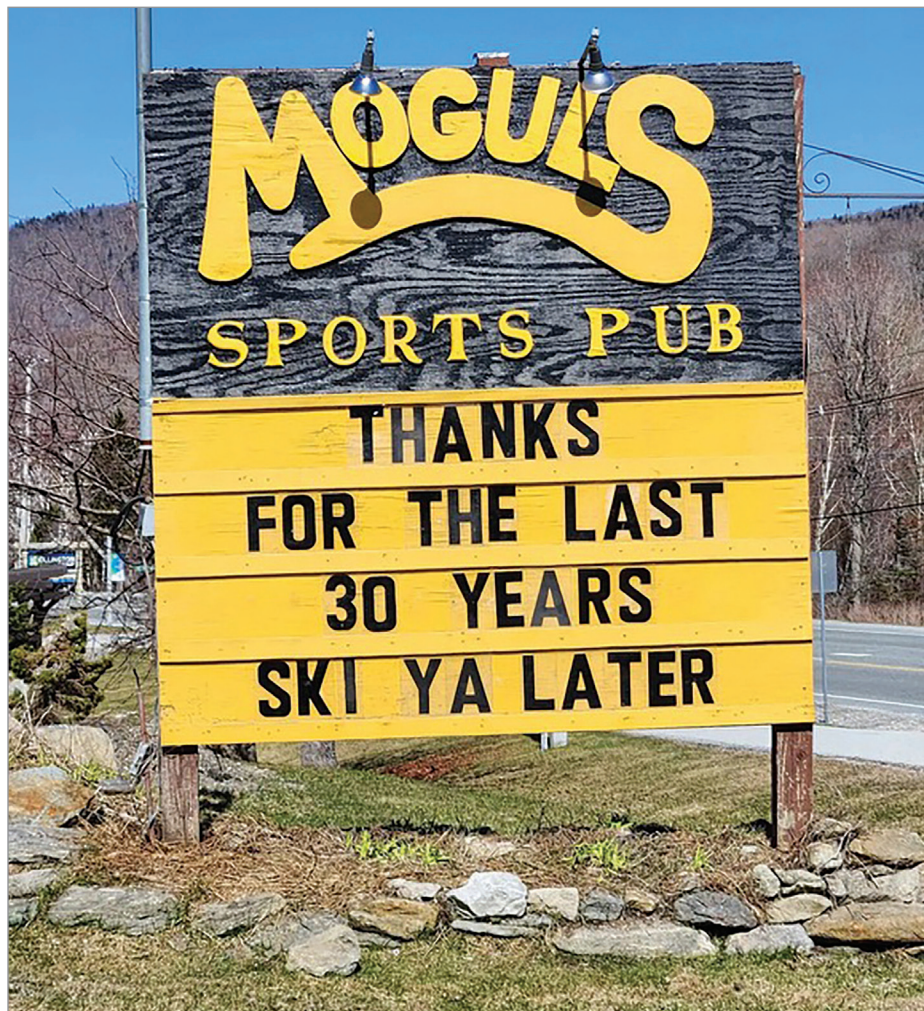
Brothers → 5



100 days of skiing, with more to come

Dozens of 100 Day Club members gathered for a photo last weekend. Killington Resort remains open daily through May 5, then Friday-Sunday as long as snow lasts.

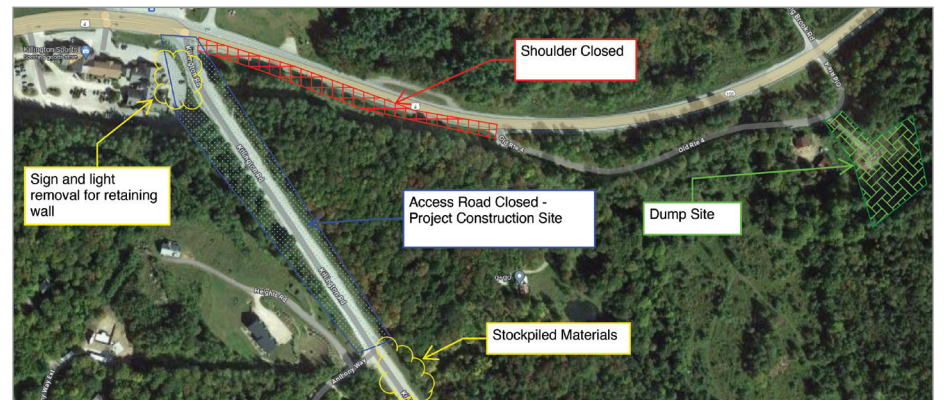
Courtesy Killington Resort



Submitted

Moguls annual pig roast doubled as farewell party

Crowds gathered at Moguls Sunday, April 21, for the annual pig roast party and to celebrate long-time owner Sal Salmeri who billed the event as his "official retirement party."



Courtesy Markowski Excavating, Inc.

Map shows the portion of Killington Road that remains closed while Markowski Excavating continues work to reduce the grade from the intersection of Route 4 to Anthony Way.

Killington Forward update: Killington Road Phase 1B

The closure of the Killington Access Road from its intersection at Route 4 to Anthony way continues with a detour via West Hill Road.

This week the Killington Sports sign will temporarily be taken down along with a few light poles to make room for a future retaining wall. Excavation up the hill will continue and fill will be taken down to the Old Route 4 dump site.

"As excavation up the hill progresses, the hope is to locate any ledge as well as put a shape to the slopes down to subgrade," wrote Markowski Excavating, Inc. who won the bid

for this project, Phase 1B, in a news release April 19.

"Again, once ledge is discovered, expect a drill rig shortly after."

Work of the following week (beginning April 29) will be a continuation of excavation of the road and slopes, Markowski wrote. "Waterline and storm drainage materials will be arriving on site. It is anticipated that some of the waterline will begin this week working from the bottom of the hill and progressing up. If ledge is found the previous week, you can expect drilling and blasting to begin this week as well," the news release continued.



TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

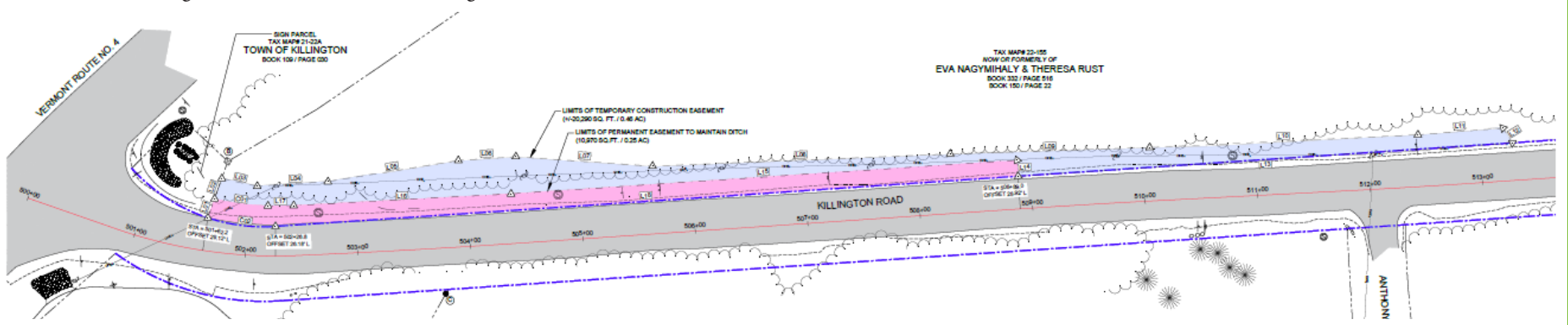
TOWN OF KILLINGTON SELECTBOARD NOTICE FOR LAYING OUT AND ALTERING HIGHWAYS

As part of the Killington Forward Initiative, the Town of Killington is reconstructing Killington Road, a town highway, between U.S. Route 4 and Anthony Way. The reconstruction work requires the Town to acquire temporary construction easements and permanent easements in the manner depicted below, which is excerpted from a two-sheet survey plan entitled "Temporary and Permanent Easements, Killington Road Phase 1B Project, U.S. Route 4 to Anthony Way Segment", prepared by Vermont Survey Consultants, LLC as Project Number 2023-016, dated March 26, 2023, last revised May 27, 2023 (the "Survey"), over the real property identified by the Town as Parcel 22-155, SPAN 588-185-10936 (the "Premises"), which is owned by Eva Nagymihaly and Theresa Rust by deeds dated December 26, 1995 and recorded in Volume 150 at Page 22 and dated November 19, 2012 and recorded in Volume 332 at Page 516, both of the Town of Killington Land Records. The Premises

are located at the intersection of U.S. Route 4 and Killington Road.

This Notice is being provided in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 709. On May 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., the Selectboard will examine the Premises, and on May 20, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. the Selectboard will convene and conduct a public hearing at the Public Safety Building at which the Selectboard will receive testimony from the owners of the Premises and will determine whether the public good, necessity, and convenience of the inhabitants of the Town of Killington require the reconstruction work to proceed as described and, if so determined, to fix reasonable compensation therefor.

Please contact the Town Manager, Michael Ramsey at townmanager@killingtontown.com, or call 802-558-5252, for more information or to obtain a copy of the Survey. The Survey is also available for inspection in the office of the Town Clerk.



Killington Police Chief proposes recruitment/retention plan

Dept. is half size, chief says he needs tools to get applicants

By Curt Peterson

Faced with recruitment and retention challenges, Killington Chief of Police Whit Montgomery asked for the Select Board's approval of a proposed "Recruitment and Retention Policy" Monday night, April 22. According to Montgomery, police departments across the country are having the same problem with recruitment — getting people to join the force, and getting them to stay on the force is challenging.

Currently, the Killington Dept. is down to just two: Chief Montgomery and officer Mike Hoffman.

"The town has budgeted for two more officers, and the town needs them, our call volume is already up over last year," he said.

In the first three months of this year, the dept took 462 calls and responded to 305 cases for a total of 767 incidents — an 18% increase of that same time in 2023.

"Additionally, the nature of the calls for service are

changing, requiring more investigative time and follow up than in past years," Montgomery explained. "Cases range from assaults, alarm response, motor vehicle enforcement, drug cases, service of civil process, alcohol related incidents and animal complaints."

Chief Montgomery and Town Manager Michael Ramsey proposed a plan that included sign-on bonuses up to \$10,000 with \$5,000 awarded after FTO/training and the remainder after a year of employment, following a performance evaluation. A retention bonus after 5-plus years of full-time service garnered \$5,000 and after 10 years of full-time service, an \$8,000 bonus.

Additional bonuses for achieving certification for certain skills and passing a physical fitness test were suggested.

"There's a small pool to draw from," Montgomery said.

"And we need to be competitive among other municipali- Killington police → 4

Jarvis Green announces the closure of JAG Productions

Staff Report

Jarvis Antonio Green, founder of JAG Productions, a White River Junction and New York City based Black theater company, announced that it will close June 15 in a letter to friends of JAG sent Monday, April 22.

"After 8 transformative years, it's with both pride and poignancy that I announce the closing of JAG Productions this June. This decision marks the end of a significant chapter in my life and celebrates the incredible journey we've embarked upon together in White River Junction, Vermont, and beyond," Green wrote.

"As the founder of JAG Productions, my journey to becoming an Artistic Director was as unexpected as it was transformative... Having spent the majority of my life as an actor, I never envisioned leading a theatre company. My move to Vermont in 2011, in search



Courtesy Jarvis Green

Jarvis Antonio Green (founder of JAG Productions in White River Jct.) has announced that the companies last show will be June 15.

he founded BarnArts in Barnard, then developed a theatre program for the Artistree Community Arts Center in Pomfret. In 2016, JAG Productions was born "thanks to a \$250K gift from

contribution to the arts, receiving accolades such as the New England Theatre Conference Regional Award for Outstanding Achievement in the American Theatre, Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Deloitte Global Impact Award, the Native Son Award for Global Impact, and numerous grants from esteemed foundations including the National Endowment for the Arts, Jane Trust Foundation, the Couch Family Foundation, and the New England Foundation for the Arts.

"These awards are a testament to our commitment and the impact of our work on the regional and national stage," Green said.

Despite JAG's successes, however, the broader crisis facing the arts has not spared it. "Last year alone, hundreds of not-for-profit theatres across

"In the most unlikely of settings, JAG Productions has thrived, profoundly altering the cultural terrain of Vermont and New Hampshire. We've celebrated Blackness and queerness, fostering an atmosphere of belonging, joy, creativity, collaboration, and intellectual rigor," Green wrote.

of a place to heal and slow down, marked the beginning of a love affair with the state and a series of ventures that would shape my path in ways I had never imagined," Green wrote.

Before JAG Productions, in 2012,

Kathleen Dolan," Green wrote. "This journey has been a fairy tale; it's been fun, an incredible learning experience, and, undoubtedly, hard."

Over the years, JAG Productions has been recognized widely for its

JAG → 10

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Table of contents

Local news	2
State news	6
Opinion	8
Puzzles	11
Calendar.....	12
Arts, Dining, Entertainment.....	16
Pets	22
Horoscopes.....	23
Columns.....	24
Service directory.....	26
Classifieds.....	29
Real estate	30

MOUNTAIN TIMES

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

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The Mountain Times • P.O. Box 183
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Better Places crowdfunding campaign launched for recovery of the Ottauquechee River Trail

\$10,000 goal to receive a 2:1 matching grant

The Woodstock community will soon be able to again fully enjoy the Ottauquechee River Trail (ORT) thanks to a recently launched crowdfunding campaign. The campaign is sponsored by the Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Development's Better Places program and led by the volunteers at the Ottauquechee River Trail, which is a project within the Woodstock Community Trust.

"Access to outdoor recreation opportunities is essential to the health and well-being of every community," said Dept. of Housing and Community Development Commissioner Alex Farrell. "Rebuilding the Ottauquechee River Trail will redevelop this well-loved, inclusive space for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the outdoors."

If the campaign reaches its \$10,000 goal by May 31 the Flood Recovery Project for the Ottauquechee River Trail will receive a matching grant of \$20,000 from DHCD's Better Places program.

The funds raised will be used to rebuild

the Ottauquechee River Trail after the damaging flooding that occurred in July 2023. During the event ORT's lower field, which is over a mile long and right next to the Ottauquechee River, was submerged beneath 8-10 feet of water. Bog bridges and trail signage were extensively damaged, and benches and picnic tables were lost. In addition, this funding will enable planting of trees to strengthen the riparian buffer along the trail and to improve signage at the trailhead.

"Our goal is to get ORT rebuilt so everyone can enjoy it again," said Tom Weschler, ORT lead volunteer. "We were averaging 500 people per week using ORT before the flooding. ORT is Woodstock's only flat, walking trail that is also universally accessible. This allows older adults, families with very young children, and individuals recovering from injuries or with disabilities to easily enjoy the river and surrounding nature."

For more information visit: [Tinyurl.com/OttauquecheeRiverTrail](https://tinyurl.com/OttauquecheeRiverTrail).



Submitted

A popular trail along the river in Woodstock will be rebuilt once funds are secured.

Killington police: from page 3

ties searching for officers."

On the retention side, Montgomery said officers most often quit because they decide to leave law enforcement altogether. But poaching by other departments occurs as well.

"That's why we have to be more forward-thinking and at least offer what other towns are offering," he said.

He gave the selectmen a list of starting salaries from seven departments: Stowe, Manchester, Dover, Winhall, Ludlow, Rutland City and the VSP. The average pay was \$29.22 per hour. Killington's starting salary for new officers is \$28 per hour. Montgomery said the bonus plan is meant to make joining and staying with his department more attractive.

He plans to hire a professional recruiter to help with the strategy.

The cost of hiring a recruiter, the chief said, will come from the department's budget.

"We are down two officers right now, which gives a little leeway," he said.

The selectmen had a lot of questions, but they agreed on two things: The police department has to do something to obtain and keep officers for the good of the town, and Montgomery should hire a professional recruiter to go over his proposal and bonus plan. Montgomery told the Mountain Times he will be working with Michael Ramsay, town manager, to make sure they have tools ready for the recruiter to use in attracting new officers.

In two weeks they will present a refined plant to the board.

Killington is not alone, the shortage of Vermont State troopers has left many small municipalities, including Hartland, seeking affordable replacement for VSP police coverage that the state has told them they don't have the manpower to provide. Rutland city has also struggled to fill vacancies for many years.



Courtesy VHFA

Rendering of Marsh House in Waterbury, one of the projects approved for tax credit funding.

Housing: from page 1

is a human right — period. I look forward to seeing this federal funding go a long way in providing essential housing for working families, seniors, and those experiencing or exiting homelessness in Vermont."

Of these apartments, 27 will be service-supported homes for people exiting or at-risk of homelessness. Since 2020, the number of people in Vermont experiencing homelessness has more than doubled, even tripling in some parts of the state.

"Affordable housing is an investment in our economy and the wellbeing of Vermonters," said Senator Peter Welch. "These new and affordable homes will help Vermonters plant roots in their community and provide the stability to access the services and job opportunities they need. We fought for these federal tax credits to help Vermont build more affordable housing in five communities at a time of extreme challenges — a housing crisis, high inflation and development costs, and urgently needed affordable housing across Vermont."

Rutland: 30 new apartments

The 133 Forest Street development will create approximately 30 new apartments in the southwest neighborhood of Rutland City, in proximity to the city's Designated Downtown District. Of the 30 apartments, 24 will be housing credit units. The Housing Trust of Rutland County (HTRC), the property manager, employs a resident service coordinator who will provide project-wide on-site services. Additionally, in collaboration with the Homeless Prevention Center, the sponsor will designate six apartments to address the needs of chronically homeless individuals. Finally, eviction prevention and housing retention focused services will be provided by HTRC.

Woodstock: 39 new apartments

Mellishwood will be three buildings of approximately 39 apartments for seniors in the Village of Woodstock managed by Twin Pines Housing Trust. Of the 39 apartments, 37 will be housing credit units affordable to households at or below 60% Area Median Income (AMI). All 39 of the units in this project are eligible for support from Twin Pines' Supportive Service staff. Four of the apartments on site and six off site but within the Twin Pines' portfolio, will be targeted for formerly homeless/at risk of homelessness individuals.

As for the other three towns selected: Middlebury will gain 35 new apartments and St. Johnsbury and Waterbury will each gain 26 new apartments.

"Housing is central to every challenge we face, it is the foundation of support for working families," said Congresswoman Becca Balint. "We are facing a housing crisis in Vermont and these Low Income Housing Tax Credits will allow Vermonters to build more housing to meet our critical need. This will be so impactful for working families, providing the stability children and families need to thrive."

Vermont's federal delegation continues to support legislation increasing the amount of housing credits available to Vermont and expanding eligibility that could create an additional 2,600 affordable housing units over the next 10 years.

In addition to the housing credits awarded by VHFA, other funding sources for these developments include grants and loans from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, federal HOME program, the American Rescue Plan Act, the Federal Home Loan Bank's Affordable Housing Program, the Town of St. Johnsbury, the City of Rutland, Efficiency Vermont, as well as various programs from Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development including the Vermont Community Development Program, Brownfield Remediation program, and Community Partnership for Neighborhood Development. When the apartments come online, Vermont State Housing Authority and Rutland Housing Authority will provide project-based rental assistance, which will further reduce rent for several units, allowing the projects to provide deeper affordability.

With construction of some of the buildings starting in September 2024, the initial occupancy for the apartments is projected in December 2025 through September 2026.

Brothers:
from page 1

sets. Take two of the past year’s biggest pop culture spectacles: Anthony’s been part of Taylor Swift’s “Eras Tour,” and Joe worked on set with Ryan Gosling for the “I’m Just Ken (Merry Christmas Barbie)” music video, which by early April had garnered 5 million views on YouTube.

“When you’re growing up in a small place or a place like Vermont, it’s easy to feel like you’re miserable. But then looking back on things when you’re an adult and you have more context, it’s truly an idyllic childhood in a lot of ways,” said Joe. “Being surrounded by the arts and people who are really supportive of the arts is truly unique, and I don’t think that’s something that every place has.”

Both brothers, just a grade apart growing up, went to Emerson College in Boston, a school known for its history with the performing arts. Anthony studied theater design and technology, while Joe studied sound design and audio post-production.

“When I found out I could be paid to do theater design, instead of work in a restaurant or something, it was a pretty sweet feeling,” Anthony said.

Joe came upon a similar realization: “I had dumb jobs in college. I valeted for a while, I also worked at our equipment center in the rentals department,” he said. “I quit those jobs my junior year and was able to pay rent and bills with just sound mixing work.”

He did so by taking advantage of equipment at the college to employ himself, doing a lot of “extremely Boston” commercial work with businesses like Dunkin’ and the Patriots.

Anthony headed to New York City after he graduated, and a year later Joe flew west to Los Angeles.

“I did some kids’ theater tours when I was younger, but the first concert tour I did was in 2017,” said Anthony. “It’s been pretty consistent with concert tours ever since, minus that little gap in everyone’s resumes between 2020 and 2021.”

He started with series like “Dinosaur Train: The Traveling Exhibit” and “Sesame Street Live,” both based on PBS TV shows, and soon moved to blockbuster events including John Mayer’s “Sob Rock Tour,” the Weeknd’s “After Hours Tour” and then the ultimate jackpot — “Eras,” Taylor Swift’s ongoing phenomenon.

Anthony has worked on that tour since last January. He is not close with the pop superstar: “I’ve met her indirectly — she’s around all the time and very friendly — but it’s sort of taboo for us to say hello.”

But the perks of working for the highest-grossing concert of all time more than make up for it. Anthony has traveled to countries as disparate as Brazil, Singapore and Latvia as the tour moves through its 150 or so scheduled shows.

Joe, too, has trekked across the world through his freelance gigs. His sound work on Red Bull TV’s “Red Bull Drop in Tour” series brought him to Australia, Japan and Europe to film local skateboarders. A job for Food Network’s “Restaurant Impossible” brought him to what he described as “hidden corners of America, in these sort of forgotten pockets of the country.” He helped record dialogue for Billie Eilish’s Apple Music documentary, “Billie Eilish: The World’s a Little Blurry” in 2021.

“One of the first companies I worked with in New York hired a lot of people from Vermont... We would make jokes about how we all sort of stumbled into this together,” said Anthony.



Submitted

Joe and Anthony Fiorillo, brothers from Randolph, each at work.

Then, of course, came the “I’m Just Ken” video shoot, with Gosling and collaborator Mark Ronson performing surrounded by Christmas lights. You can find Joe as the credits roll on the clip.

To add to his freelance work, Joe has recently joined a group of college friends to produce feature films under the name Omnes Films. The collective has two upcoming releases this year: “Eephus” and “Christmas Eve at Millers Point.”

The brothers don’t often work together, and they do live on opposite coasts of the country, but their worlds intertwine nonetheless. “I think we’re a lot closer now because we just fell into similar fields. There are a lot of parallels in our lives, weirdly enough. It’s a very small big world,” said Joe.

While Joe was working on the Billie Eilish documentary, other crew members asked him if he was Anthony’s brother, he said. Camera operators on Swift’s tour have told Anthony they’re friends with Joe.

“I did also get you that one job — so you’re

welcome,” Anthony reminded his brother when the two sat for a recent interview.

The Fiorillo brothers have much gratitude for growing up in Vermont. They agree the state is a place where small towns and eclectic personalities foster something they can identify anywhere.

“It’s fun to find the few Vermonters in the world because there aren’t that many,” said Anthony. “One of the first companies I worked with in New York hired a lot of people from Vermont, and it was always very funny. We would make jokes about how we all sort of stumbled into this together.”

The brothers both keep busy bopping from country to country, job to job. They’re quick to credit folks back home, opportunities in Vermont like the Green Mountain Youth Symphony and Chandler Music Hall’s high school volunteer program.

“To be able to monetize a passion of some kind is hard, but it’s very rewarding,” said Joe. “It just makes for a happy life, you know?”

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'Like brushing your teeth': Bill cuts red tape around sunscreen in schools

Currently, putting on sunscreen in Vt. schools is regulated like medicine

By Holly Sullivan, Community News Service

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

Despite being one of the cloudiest and coldest states, Vermont has the country's second-highest rate of new skin cancer cases per capita. Using more sunscreen could reduce the rate, and lawmakers want to make it easier to start the habit young.

Senators passed S.187 last month to allow students to apply sunscreen freely without its being regulated like a medicine. The bill would let kids carry non-spray sunscreen in backpacks and slather it on whenever they see fit, as long as their parents sign an annual form. A House committee took up the proposal last week.

Right now, putting on sunscreen in Vermont schools is a tall order.

"If I give a Tylenol, if I give an ibuprofen, if I give Benadryl, or if I have a student who has prescription medication — I notify the parent every time I do that," said school nurse Clayton Wetzel, treasurer of the Vermont State School Nurses Association. "Imagine, we have 160 kids, and now I'm helping apply sunscreen for all of these people and then notifying parents about the application of sunscreen. It's not a very good use of anyone's time."

He walked legislators through the

Sunburns during childhood raise the risk of melanoma by up to 80%, state officials say.

ponderous process back in February: A nurse needs to get an annual permission slip signed by a guardian, have a guardian deliver sunscreen in its original bottle and store it in the nurse's office. They need to call students in and put the sunscreen on them, then notify the guardian and write down a list of details for student health records: each date and time they put sunscreen on a student, the dosage, a reason why and any results of the remedy.

If the bill became law, sunscreen could become just another checkbox on a pre-existing health form, signifying, "Hey, if you sign this, we're all set. You can send it in and you don't have to worry about it," Wetzel explained.

Twenty-seven states and Washington, D.C., have similar laws.

Exposure to ultraviolet light, which the sun emits, is closely tied to most forms of skin cancer — especially



Courtesy Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer

A sunscreen dispenser at Living Memorial Park in Brattleboro.

melanoma, the deadliest. That's made sun a damage a hot topic in Vermont, where sunscreen use is low and skin cancer rates are high. In 2013, more than a third of adults here reported having at least one sunburn in the past year, according to state data. In 2015, that number was 65% for high schoolers and 54% for middle schoolers.

The last time the state asked students about sunscreen, in 2013, less than three in 10 middle schoolers said they always or usually wore sunscreen

Joy Benner. "It is thought in cancer research that short bursts may actually be more harmful than long-term exposure because you don't build up that melanin reserve. We are also not as good at wearing sunscreen all year round because we have long winters and cloudy days, so people may not be wearing enough sunscreen during these times."

Efforts to prevent skin cancer in the state have grown in recent years, such as supplying free sunscreen dispensers in state parks and banning tanning beds for people younger than 18.

Vermonters' susceptibility to skin cancer is why so many experts are urging representatives to pass S.187. As for the focus on younger people: Sunburns during childhood raise the risk of melanoma by up to 80%, state officials say.

Ilisa Stalberg, family and childcare director at the Vermont Dept. of Health, said normalizing sunscreen use will

protect kids' skin as they get older.

"It's just a good habit. And we know how influential school and peers are," she said. "So, every

time you go outside, you're putting on sunscreen. It's like brushing your teeth. It becomes a habit, and that is a future prevention strategy."

Generally, S.187 has had little to no opposition. However, the bill's

Sunscreen → 10

CCV announces new certificate programs

Beginning this fall, students will have two additional pathways to high-demand careers through new certificate programs at the Community College of Vermont (CCV).

The new certificate offerings are data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) and manufacturing. These join the college's 24 existing certificate programs to provide a comprehensive offering of high-value credentials that prepare students for the workplace or further education. Most certificates can be completed in just one year.

"Enrolling in a certificate program can be a great way to advance or get started on a career," said CCV Academic Dean Deborah Stewart. "Most of the courses are discipline-specific in order to prepare students for the particular work they'll be performing. In addition, CCV's certificate programs are stackable. This means that students can take the courses they complete in the certificate and apply them to the relevant associate degree program."

The College offers 11 associate of arts and associate of science degrees, and 33 of CCV's 37 certificate and degree programs can be completed fully online.

CCV is Vermont's second-largest college, serving over 10,000 students each year. With 12 locations, plus online options, students don't have to travel far from their communities to access CCV degree and certificate programs, workforce, secondary and continuing education opportunities, and academic and veterans support services.

CCV's fall semester begins Sept. 3. Enrollment is now open for summer and fall.

For more information, visit: ccv.edu.

WHERE CAN TICKS BE FOUND?



Courtesy Vermont Department of Health

Take steps to prevent tick bites, diseases they spread

Rate of illnesses from tick bites continues to rise in Vermont

As springlike temperatures set in and people enjoy more time outside, it's time to start checking for ticks and taking the simple steps to prevent tick bite illnesses. Ticks can be found throughout Vermont whenever temperatures are above freezing, with populations peaking during spring and fall.

Tick-borne diseases in Vermont are spread by the bite of infected black-legged ticks. Since they are active anytime temperatures are above freezing, health officials say people in Vermont can expect to encounter ticks during more times of the year.

Rates of tick bite illnesses in the state have continued to rise over time, with Lyme disease the most common. Cases of anaplasmosis and babesiosis have increased sharply over the last 10 years, and in 2016, the first case in Vermont of hard tick relapsing fever was reported.

Also of concern is Powassan virus disease, a rare but serious illness spread by ticks that is on the rise in the northeast region of the U.S. Since 1999, there have been two confirmed cases of Powassan virus disease in Vermont residents — Windsor County in 2022 and Orange County in 2023. Most people infected do not get sick. But for those

Ticks → 30

To study or not – That is the question

On Tuesday, April 23, the House is expected to vote on the education financing bill, which sets the statewide property tax rate to fund the growth in pre-K-12 spending. The tax bill, H.887, went through at least 10 drafts before it was approved by the House Ways & Means Committee on an 8-4 vote. It was then advanced by the House Appropriations Committee on a 7-4-1 vote.



By Rep. Jim Harrison

Both votes were along party lines with the governor and House Republicans saying the bill does not address cost containment and does little to impact increasing taxes.

House Democrats, meanwhile, argue they were able to lower the statewide average increase to 15% from a previous estimate of 18% by extending the sales tax to online software, a new rooms tax surcharge on short-term rentals and further increases to the non-homestead property tax (estimated 18%). It is important to note that individual town tax rates will vary based on their CLA (common level of appraisal) and per student spending increases.

The bill also included a one-time 15% increase in the property tax credit to those homeowners that qualify.

Earlier drafts of the bill included several cost containment pieces, including an allowable growth spending provision that would cap how much budgets could go up in the future. Most were removed in the final version following pushbacks from the various education groups. In their place, a large task force is established to study various ideas for future legislatures to consider implementing. Proponents argue it is important to consider all the ramifications of any changes, while opponents liken the study to “kicking the can” and virtually guaranteeing additional tax increases again next year.

Meanwhile, six more school budgets were defeated last week, bringing the number of twice defeated budgets to 11. More revotes are scheduled, including Barstow (Mendon and Chittenden) on April 30.

Common sense gun legislation deferred to another ‘study’

Last Thursday, the House began consideration of S.209, that bans so-called “ghost guns” (guns without serial numbers). A provision was added by the House Judiciary Committee to ban firearms at polling locations during elections. Upon questioning on the House floor, election day covers various voting throughout the year (Town Meeting Day, school budget revotes, special town meetings, the August primary, the General Election in the fall, etc.). In addition, each

may have various early voting days, which are also included in the election day ban. The provision, however well intentioned, sets up a town office to change their posting on a regular basis. A community member going into the town clerk’s office to pay their property taxes and carrying a firearm, as they might normally, would be in violation of the law if it was an early voting day.

I suggested that it might be less confusing and help everyone comply with the law if a town could adopt an ordinance to ban firearms at their town office, rather than have an “on today, off tomorrow” type of prohibition law. That’s where it gets interesting. Vermont municipalities can only regulate those things that the Legislature gives them permission to do. In the area of firearms, towns can only regulate discharge, not possession. While the state prohibits firearms (exception for law enforcement) in state buildings, including the State House, Vermont does not allow towns to prohibit guns in their own town offices.

This not quite making sense to me, I offered an amendment on Friday to give towns the option to consider a ban in their own offices every day. The result was a delay in final passage of the bill until Tuesday, with the committee on track to reject my proposal and add yet another study.

This may be seen as an example of

While the state prohibits firearms (exception for law enforcement) in state buildings, including the State House, Vermont does not allow towns to prohibit guns in their own town offices.

sending a relatively simple issue to “study,” rather than just enable towns to have the ability to decide for themselves. Studies can lead to better results in some cases, but they can also serve to put off decisions or not deal with a question.

Other issues of interest:

- The Senate Natural Resources Committee combined the House passed land use bill, H.687, and the Senate housing bill, S.311, and advanced the measure. Scott has indicated that the bill potentially adds unacceptable roadblocks to more housing development in some areas and could face a veto unless changes are made. The Vermont Chamber referred to a provision changing the appeal process under Act 250 as a “poison pill.”
- The House approved Legislation, S.109, which could lead to Medicaid reimbursement for doula services in the future. Doulas are not medical professionals, but can provide emotional and physical support before, during and after childbirth.
- The Senate Appropriations Com-

Harrison → 10

Vermont’s wildland fire season has begun

Vermont’s wildland fire season is now underway, according to a news release from the Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation’s (FPR) April 15. The Wildland Fire Program is geared up to provide daily updates and seasonal tips to Vermonters to keep them informed about fire danger risks and to help them prevent wildfires in their community.

Wildland fires, which include grass, brush, and forest fires, are a particular concern in the spring and fall; however, fires can occur anytime.

Already this year, several

wildland fires have been reported. These early fires serve as a reminder of the ongoing threat and the need for continued vigilance.

activity is crucial,” said FPR Commissioner Danielle Fitzko. “It helps protect lives and property and allows communities to respond

In 2023 there were 63 wildfires in Vermont; all were caused by human activity.

Burning debris is the leading cause of wildfires, underscoring the critical importance of proactive measures. In 2023 there were 63 wildfires in Vermont; all were caused by human activity.

“Monitoring wildfire

effectively to changing conditions. Vermonters play an important role in preventing wildland fires by practicing fire safety and following open burning regulations.”

For more information, visit: fpr.vermont.gov/wildland.

Vermont to study health benefits, program to permit psychedelic therapy

Last month, the Senate passed S.114, which will establish a psychedelic therapy advisory working group. This group will be tasked with continuing to examine the use of psychedelics to improve physical and mental health. They will also make recommendations regarding the establishment of a Vermont state program to permit health care providers to legally access psychedelics under state law, according to S.114.

“Over the years, many institutions have conducted studies regarding the therapeutic benefits of psilocybin, a naturally occurring psychedelic compound found in some species of fungi,” wrote Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman in his newsletter earlier this month. “In one Johns Hopkins study published in 2022, researchers demonstrated substantial antidepressant effects of psilocybin with no reported adverse effects from patients. In another study published in the Journal of American Medical Association Psychiatry, psilocybin combined with psychotherapy resulted in an 83% reduction in heavy drinking among patients with alcohol use disorder. It is important that we begin the conversation of changing our policies on the use of psychedelic therapies to help people with PTSD, substance abuse disorders and more.”

It is estimated that about one in five U.S. adults are living with a mental illness. Vermont (and the nation as a whole) has also seen a steep rise in substance use disorders in the past several years.

“The research on psilocybin has shown incredibly promising results in treating these and other conditions. By creating avenues for psychedelic therapy to be used in Vermont,

we can help thousands of struggling vulnerable individuals,” Zuckerman wrote.

Per S.114, the working group shall be composed of the following members: (1) a representative of the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont, appointed by the dean; (2) a representative of the Brattleboro Retreat, appointed by the president and chief executive officer; (3) a member of the Vermont Psychological Association, appointed by the president; (4) a member of the Vermont Psychiatric Association, appointed by the president; (5) the executive director of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice or designee; (6) the director of the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation or designee; (7) the Vermont Commissioner of Health or designee; and (8) a co-founder of the Psychedelic Society of Vermont.

Timeline

“The Vermont Psychological Association shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur on or before July 15, 2024,” according to the bill. The Working Group shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

“It is important that we begin the conversation of changing our policies on the use of psychedelic therapies to help people with PTSD, substance abuse disorders and more,” wrote Lieutenant Governor Zuckerman.

“On or before November 15, 2024, the Working Group shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary, the House Committee on Health Care, the House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action” the bill specifies.

GUEST EDITORIAL

A broken system

By Ross Connelly

Editor's note: This commentary is by Ross Connelly of Hardwick. Now retired, he was the editor and co-publisher of The Hardwick Gazette from 1986 to 2017. He is a past president of the Vermont Press Association and the New England Press Association.

A quick look at the internet provides ample evidence that a lot of people in Vermont and around the country don't have a place to live or enough food to eat.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports about 653,000 Americans experienced homelessness in January 2023. That's a 12.1% increase from the same report in 2022.

The research shows Vermont has the second-highest rate of homelessness in the U.S., with 50.9 people per 10,000 people. From 2018 to 2023, homelessness in Vermont increased from 20.6 per 10,000 people to 50.9 — the biggest increase in any state. (In 2022, the official poverty rate was 11.5%, with 37.9 million people in poverty, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.)

The data is there. How easy it is to forget real people make up those numbers. People who live in small towns and the state's cities but don't have their own apartment or home, don't have enough money to put needed food on the table. Homelessness and going hungry exist all over Vermont.

Filmmaker Bess O'Brien gives people — who are experiencing homeless and don't have enough food to eat — their voice in her new film, "Just Getting By." The people speak powerfully as they recount their lives living in motels, in emergency shelters, couch surfing, staying with friends and relatives, sleeping in their cars, in tents and on the street.

The people are Vermonters, and their stories are compelling. They are our neighbors, invisible and seen, in all our communities, in Hardwick and beyond.

They comprise the data that policymakers study but too often forget that, yes, those numbers are real people. They are people who are working hard, often holding two or three jobs, but jobs that come with a paycheck too small to pay the rent, if a place can even be found. The money people earn doesn't add up to what it costs to also buy the groceries, fix the car or clothe the kids.

It is too easy to blame people experiencing homelessness for not having a place to live, for not working hard enough to live "like we do." Too easy to worry they are dangerous. Too easy to blame them for making us feel uncomfortable.

Feeling uncomfortable and in danger need to be turned around. Better to feel uncomfortable and in danger living in a society that accepts homelessness and going hungry as normal. That says a lot about us.

The people who spoke with O'Brien had courage to share their experiences with her, with us. They dispel the stereotypes and the easy out of blaming the victim. What they impart is important for all of us to hear, for all of us to consider, for all of us to not ignore.

A system that tells people to make do until more houses and apartments are built is a broken system. Contact legislators and let them know the tax structure is unfair and needs to be changed.

All people need a secure place to live that is affordable, now. Refusing to change needs to be uncomfortable.

The people are Vermonters, and their stories are compelling. They are our neighbors, invisible and seen, in all our communities.



Debt Relief by Gary McCoy, Shiloh, IL

LETTERS

Barstow's local school budget and Vermont's school funding are two separate issues

Dear Editor,

Next week is once again, "Super Tuesday." On April 30, 11 towns will hold their second school budget vote in hopes of getting voters to the polls. It is clear that the people of Vermont are making a statement to Montpelier that the way in which schools are funded is not sustainable. Across the state, there are calls from school administrators and staff pleading with voters to pass budgets. The alternative, they say, will severely impact the education offerings to our future generations.

We are, however, dealing with two separate but interconnected issues and for the first time in a long time taxpayers are paying attention.

One issue is how the state "counts" students and funds education. Ideas have been proposed to raise taxes on short-term rentals and raise taxes on online software. At our Barstow Unified Union meeting on April 22, it was asked how we can find our way out of this mess at a state level. I suggest those

who want to keep taxing the citizens of this state might consider being more business-friendly. Reduce and remove the red tape, tax disadvantages, and building restrictions for commercial entities looking for a place to relocate or housing to build. Attracting businesses would make a positive impact on our declining and aging populations, tax base, declining school enrollment, vacancies in our downtowns, and more. While this is a long-term solution, the problem we're facing on education funding isn't about to go away, so let's plan for the future.

The other issue is the school budget. In the largest voter turnout of recent years, Mendon and Chittenden sent a message. True, the vote failed by only 4 votes, but in a town where the budget typically passes by a large margin, anything close to 50% is a loud statement.

And yet, the school board did nothing. They cut not a single penny from the Barstow budget → 9

Where is the equity?

Dear Editor,

In Morrisville, a recent Front Porch Forum post reads: "Vote down the school budget! They don't want to just survive, they want to thrive."

Is this really where we are in 2024? Are Vermonters really ready to let our most vulnerable children be the victims of state level politics?

The Brigham Decision was predicated on the state providing "equal educational opportunities." For some reason, this seems to have been suddenly forgotten. As the governor and lawmakers scramble to save face with last minute legislation and finger-pointing, it is time to admit that Act 127 has failed to deliver on its promise of equal opportunity. Instead, it has resulted in Vermonters voting down school budgets as, "the only way to send a message to Montpelier."

Can anyone really argue this new formula is just? In Elmore-Morristown, we now face our third budget vote and our tax rate is approaching the lowest possible by law. The new budget reduces a high school English teacher, instructional coaches, our

middle school language program, and behavior supports. It will be devastating to our students, some of the most vulnerable in the state. Meanwhile, we are experiencing higher needs than ever before. The mental health challenges, pandemic, and trauma in our community have resulted in children coming to school with complex needs. We are building in-house programs and training more staff in crisis prevention techniques. We have invested in preschool to provide early intervention and are pulling from our academic areas to provide more behavioral support. We provide after school enrichment to strengthen our community and focus on improving academics for all of our children because they deserve it. All of this is costly and requires a great deal of time and energy. We now find ourselves with a school budget that has been slashed, making our work nearly impossible.

Our district is far below the statewide spending average and projected to be the 7th lowest in the state. The gut Equity → 9

CAPITOL QUOTES

Pro-Palestinian demonstrations gain momentum across U.S. college campuses following arrests at Columbia University. Dozens of pro-Palestinian demonstrators were arrested at New York University and Yale, prompting Columbia to cancel in-person classes and Harvard Yard to shut its gates to the public. Universities face the challenge of upholding free expression while ensuring safety and inclusivity. Disorderly protests at New York University, resulted in police intervention.

“It’s a really outrageous crackdown by the university to allow the police to arrest students on our own campus ... Antisemitism is never OK. That’s absolutely not what we stand for and that’s why there are so many Jewish comrades that are here with us today,”

said New York University law student **Byul Yoon** according to the Associated Press.

“In my 3 years at @BarnardCollege I have never been reprimanded or received any disciplinary warnings ... I just received notice that I am 1 of 3 students suspended for standing in solidarity with Palestinians facing a genocide... Those of us in Gaza Solidarity Encampment will not be intimidated. We will stand resolute until our demands are met. Our demands include divestment from companies complicit in genocide, transparency of @Columbia’s investments and FULL amnesty for all students facing repression,”

said student **Isra Hirsi**, daughter of congresswoman Ilhan Omar according to Independent (UK).

“[There was] an enormous encampment of people... We saw signs indicating that Israel should be destroyed,”

said **U.S. Rep. Kathy Manning**, a Democrat from North Carolina according to Yahoo News.

“As a Jew, as a Yale student, as an American, I feel strongly that I do not want the continued killing to happen in my name and with my money... And so as long as I can, I will be here,”

said student **Miriam Levine** according to NBC News.

← Equity: from page 8

punch is that we may still face opposition with this budget due to the state-level rhetoric espoused by our governor and others that have lumped all districts into one category: high spenders.

As the superintendent of Lamoille South, I have watched over the past eight months as lawmakers have neglected to address the “high spenders” when they had the chance. What they are now attacking is the easy target: vulnerable communities. It was clear in November that some districts had increased their spending by as much as 50%. A few even added millions to their capital reserves or used the education fund to pay down construction bonds. With a statewide healthcare increase, it was the perfect storm and the obvious solution was a spending cap until this could be resolved. We have a shared system and even a cap as high as 15% would have prevented this disaster. This idea was presented to the House Ways and Means Committee in January and the

Senate Finance Committee in February. Unfortunately, it was dismissed as “politically unpopular” and now some of the poorest districts in the state are facing deep cuts and repeated budget failures. Other districts are facing dramatic tax increases that will force people out of their homes. By slowing the growth of the education fund, we could have provided enough for all children and reduced the burden on our taxpayers.

What is most concerning about this moment is that the governor and legislators knew this was likely when Act 127 was signed. In fact, they publicly stated that to avoid this very situation, new revenues were needed before implementation. The solution in 2022 was to design an income-based tax system to fund education. Obviously, that never came to fruition and the solution now? Blame the schools and vote down budgets. Simultaneously, we are funding private schools with public dollars! These schools have lobbyists and

seem to control our state board of education. They are certainly not reducing their budgets as tuition keeps climbing. Some even have full-time faculty members serving on powerful legislative committees. We have been ignoring this attack on public education and asking more of those serving our most vulnerable. Where is the equity?

These schools and communities need our help now — not yesterday or next year but now! I am hopeful at this crisis moment that the governor and others will come out and show their commitment to public education. We need emergency legislation that provides high need schools with the funding they deserve. We need legislators to openly admit Act 127 only made the problem worse. If this doesn’t occur, the courts must step in and take care of our kids. The Vermont Constitution demands it.

Ryan Heraty
Superintendent Lamoille South Supervisory Union, Elmore, Morristown, Stowe

← Barstow budget: from page 8

Barstow budget. They wanted to send back the exact same budget, but were handed a paltry \$29,000 savings from the RNESU board. That \$29,000 was a portion of the roughly \$164,000 cut at the central office level.

To put this in perspective, the central office has had budget increases of \$3 million since FY22. It is now a \$13 million proposed budget. Since FY21 they have managed to be fiscally responsible with respect to spending against that budget and have averaged a savings of \$777,801 per year. It should not be lost on voters that a cut of \$164,000 is a fraction of the amount typically found in budget savings each year.

Put another way, had they done nothing, statistically speaking, we would save that \$164,000 and more.

The cost to educate students at BUU has increased 66% since 2019. In 2019 it was \$16,047 per actual student, against the actual budget. In 2025, it is proposed to be

\$26,697. The administration touts a figure of \$13,555 of ed spending per student, but don’t be fooled. That figure is per LTWADM, an Act 127 formula that drove our “long term weighted average daily membership” student count to 455.19 students. A far cry from the actual expected K-12 enrollment of 235 students.

Understanding the local budget (total) against the actual number of students we’re educating is a great way to see the ever-increasing budget trend. Artificially inflating the number of students and changing the weighting formula every few years to provide a lower “cost per pupil” provides an apples to oranges comparison.

Vermont has the second highest cost per pupil in the nation. And for what? Barstow touts proficiency scores above state averages. Not hard to do when the state average for proficiency in math in 8th grade is 28% (Barstow managed 50% proficient). The numbers in math

are not significantly better as you look across more grades. Across 3rd to 8th grade, 33.6% proficient on a state level, 58% at Barstow. The subjects of ELA fair slightly better, science slightly worse on a state average.

To the board and the administration, to state lawmakers and the DOE, we need change. If the expectation of the schools is to continue the trajectory of ever increasing costs coupled with poor outcomes, please anticipate a tough road ahead. We have tried for years to spend our way out of this problem, and it has only worked against the desired outcomes.

Whether for or against the still \$6.2 million dollar BUU budget on Tuesday, I urge the voters across the state to stay engaged, informed, and educated about the trajectory of school budgets, school funding, and the ever important return provided on your tax investment.

Liam Fracht-Monroe,
Mendon

← **Yield bill:**
from page 1

Democrats point to their work to lower the rate by 5%. That was accomplished in two ways: First, some school districts revised and reduced their budgets. Second, they added new tax increases including a 6% sales tax on cloud-based software, which is expected to raise \$20.4 million, and a 1.5% surcharge on short-term rentals, which should generate another \$6.5 million. That combined \$27 million would be used to “buy down” local property tax increases.

In an effort to blunt the sting a bit more for homeowners, the bill also includes a one-time increase of 15% to each claimant’s property tax credit for FY2025. The maximum credit is \$8,000 so the max increase would be \$1,200. The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) estimates this will cost the Education Fund \$23.7 million in FY2025.

Excess spending thresholds return

Section 18 of the bill establishes an excess spending threshold for per pupil education spending in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to be included in tax rate calculations, according to the JFO.

The excess spending threshold is a provision that adjusts tax rates so that districts spending above it are taxed a second time on the excess spending amount.

H.887 amends the excess spending threshold so that it is calculated as the statewide average per pupil spending in fiscal year 2025, increased for inflation, multiplied by 120%.

Act 127 had previously suspended the excess spending threshold through fiscal year 2029, but this bill repeals that suspension and makes the threshold effective as of July 1, 2025, meaning that it will be used for the calculation of tax rates starting in fiscal year 2026.

Big adjustment to MVSU town tax projections

Prior to the Town Meeting Day vote in March, the Mountain Views Supervisory Union used a projected statewide yield of \$10,250, which some community members ques-

tioned at the time suggesting instead that the more common estimate of \$9,775 ought to be used for budgeting.

The effect on local taxes is significant.

With the yield now set at \$9,846, a homestead in Killington on the Grand List for \$500,000 that will pay \$16,007.64 in education taxes — \$634 more than the district had estimated.

This year a Killington resident will pay \$3,651 more than it did last year on a \$500,000 house, a 29.5% increase. And last year’s education taxes were up over 23% compared to the year prior.

The seven towns that make up the MVSU district — Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading and Woodstock — all will see steep increases (see

A homestead in Killington on the Grand List for \$500,000 that will pay \$16,007.64 in education taxes — \$634 more than the district had estimated.

chart below).

Originally, under Act 127 the state was using an estimated yield at \$9,452 per student, but when the 5% cap was removed from that bill earlier this year, the state revised the number up to \$9,775. That number was again confirmed Tuesday, Feb. 13, at House Ways & Means, according to Nicole Lee, director education finance at the Vermont Agency of Education.

MVSU, however, anticipated the yield would be further revised upward after actual spending approved across the state on Town Meeting Day (or whenever school districts pass their budgets) as is the case every year.

MVSU Finance Director Jim Fenn, told the Mountain Times mid-February, “The yield we are using for our calculations is one that was provided by the Legislature.”

Ben Ford, MVSU board member and chair of the finance committee, added: “Before our emergency meeting on Feb. 2 the state told us to use \$10,250 as the yield... so that’s what we used. Yes, sometime after that I understand they’ve revised it back down to \$9,775. But this number is always an adjustable figure until all budgets are passed.”

Indeed the yield did get revised up from that \$9,775 but only slightly by \$71.

FY25 Tax Rates Calculations - using state's set yield of \$9,846

	Barnard	Bridgewater	Killington	Plymouth	Pomfret	Reading	Woodstock
FY25 Est Equalized Tax Rate*	\$1.6760	\$1.6760	\$1.6760	\$1.6760	\$1.6760	\$1.6760	\$1.6760
CLA	0.6436	0.7432	0.5235	0.6225	1.0053	0.7643	0.6365
Homestead Property Tax Rate	\$2.6041	\$2.2551	\$3.2015	\$2.6924	\$1.6672	\$2.1929	\$2.6332
FY24 Homestead Property Tax Rate	\$1.9933	\$1.8759	\$2.4713	\$1.9765	\$1.4632	\$1.8425	\$2.0198
Increase (Decrease) from FY24	\$0.6108	\$0.3792	\$0.7302	\$0.7159	\$0.2040	\$0.3504	\$0.6134
Percentage Change from FY24	30.64%	20.21%	29.55%	36.22%	13.94%	19.02%	30.37%

Rate has been decreased by 1 cent to 1.6760 from 1.6860 with the application of H.850

Increase over FY24

\$500,000 house edu tax	\$13,020.51	\$11,275.57	\$16,007.64	\$13,461.85	\$8,335.82	\$10,964.28	\$13,165.75
\$500,000 house, increase of FY24	\$3,054.01	\$1,896.07	\$3,651.14	\$3,579.35	\$1,019.82	\$1,751.78	\$3,066.75
Diff from MVSU's est yield (of \$10,250) in dollars	\$515.85	\$446.72	\$634.19	\$533.33	\$330.25	\$434.38	\$521.60
% increase over 24	30.6%	20.2%	29.5%	36.2%	13.9%	19.0%	30.4%

By Mountain Times

Top chart shows the actual education tax rates and increase over last year. Below shows the tax implications for a \$500K home.

← **Sunscreen:**
from page 6

specification of “non-aerosolized” sunscreen sparked some debate.

Brendan Atwood, public health policy advisor for the health department, suggested removing the word from the bill for fear of equity issues.

“Essentially, by restricting the use of aerosolized sunscreens, it just may force some folks to have to purchase sunscreens that may cost more. It just limits the options that are available to some folks,” he told senators Feb. 23.

Atwood acknowledged aerosolized

sunscreens may trigger asthma in some students. But he stood behind the edit, believing schools could easily work around this issue.

On the flip side, Wetzell approved of the bill’s language.

“This is just anecdotally, but non-aerosolized doesn’t put as much product out for the period of time that people are applying it,” he told senators in the same meeting. “And it also uses propellants that could possibly be an irritant. Having an aerosolized product

exploding in a backpack would make an even bigger mess. And just leaking, it could be a little bit dangerous.”

Still, most stakeholders seem to agree the bill would make life easier for students and teachers.

“It breaks down the barriers to utilizing sunscreen because it’s a lot [of stress] on a kid to have to go to the nurse to get sunscreen on,” Stalberg said. “Moving around the school is not simple — teachers need you in certain places at certain times, so it really does help there.”

← **Harrison:**
from page 7

mittee approved its own version of the state budget on Friday afternoon. It is expected to pass the full Senate this week and will then go to a conference committee of House and Senate members to work out the differences between the two chambers.

- The Senate Health & Welfare Committee advanced its version of H.72, safe injection sites, last week. The House version allowed two sites, while the Senate reduced that to one allowable site in Burlington.
- The Senate Finance Committee added a provision to H.546 that would allow all municipalities the ability to add a 1% local option sales tax or rooms and meals tax to raise additional revenue for municipal purposes.
- In the scratching your head category, the Vermont chapter of ACLU gave the nation’s most popular governor, Phil Scott, a “F” on his report card for such issues as to wanting to increase penalties on drug dealers and for blocking efforts to allow individuals up to 22 being charged as minors rather than adults for certain crimes.

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.

← **JAG:**
from page 3

the country were forced to close their doors, victims of a model that increasingly proves unsustainable amid shifting societal support and financial pressures,” Green explained in the letter. “JAG Productions, too, has felt the weight of these challenges, leading us to this juncture.

“The closure of JAG is as much a celebration of our achievements as it is a reflection on the state of the arts. It’s a deliberate choice, made with gratitude for the community that has supported us—artists, audiences, and allies.”

JAG’s final curtain call will be on June 15, after the closing performance of “Sondheimia.” For that performance, Green has invited back past artists, board members, staff, and friends for the “final showcase of reflection and celebration.”

“This moment, while bittersweet, is filled with hope and anticipation for the future,” Green wrote. “The end of JAG Productions is not just about looking back on what we’ve achieved but also about looking forward to the impact we can continue to make.”

“JAG—my initials, my identity—has been more than just a theatre company; it’s been a testament to the power of Black Queer storytelling to foster love, inspiration, and joy,” Green said. “Beyond that, JAG has embodied a vision for the future—a sanctuary for Black creatives, where truth and transparency reign. Here, everyone is invited to come as they are, embraced for the fullness of their identity, and nourished in both spirit and body... In the most unlikely of settings, JAG Productions has thrived, profoundly altering the cultural terrain of Vermont and New Hampshire. We’ve celebrated Blackness and queerness, fostering an atmosphere of belonging, joy, creativity, collaboration, and intellectual rigor. JAG has acted as a village, a council, a committee of minds... Our community has adapted and changed with openness, embracing each moment with the warmth of a family reunion, the depth of fine wine and intimate conversations, all set to the backdrop of an ambiance filled with love and ancestral wisdoms.”

Green is confident that the legacy and learnings of JAG will continue to guide the community into the future.

“As I, and we, step into the next act, the lessons learned, the connections made, and the stories shared through JAG will guide and inspire our path forward.”

What’s next for Green? He plans to pursue an MFA in directing, “a step that is both exciting and daunting” he said.

WORDPLAY

LAWN & GARDEN WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

AMEND
 BLOOMING
 BORDER
 COMPOST
 CUT

DRAINAGE
 DROUGHT
 EDGE
 FERTILIZE
 GARDEN

GREEN
 HEALTHY
 INSECTS
 LANDSCAPING
 LAWN

MOSSY
 MULCH
 POLLINATOR
 PRUNE
 SCENT

SHRUBS
 SUNLIGHT
 TRIMMING
 WEEDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 21

CLUES ACROSS
 1. Excessively theatrical actors
 5. Footwear
 10. A way to disfigure
 14. Exchange rate
 15. Hawaiian wreaths
 16. North-central Indian city
 17. Bungle
 18. Extremely angry
 19. A short note of what's owed
 20. Criminal organization
 22. Mimic
 23. Try to grab
 24. U.S.-born individuals
 27. Some are covert
 30. Order of the British Empire
 31. Don't know when yet
 32. Payment (abbr.)
 35. Winged angelic being
 37. Variety of Chinese
 38. A way to be anxious
 39. Famed wrestler Hulk
 40. Partner to cheese
 41. Slang for sergeant
 42. Canadian flyers
 43. Actress Ryan
 44. Highly unpleasant vapor
 45. Body part
 46. Halfway
 47. Cool!
 48. Consume
 49. Salts

52. Upper bract of a floret of grass
 55. Housepet
 56. Cavalry-sword
 60. Symbol of a nation
 61. Frocks
 63. Used to carry food
 64. Portuguese folk song
 65. Sharp mountain ridge
 66. Ireland
 67. Where golfers begin
 68. Greek mythological sorceress
 69. Fluid suspensions
CLUES DOWN
 1. "Mad Men" leading man
 2. Water (Spanish)
 3. Annoy
 4. Bulgarian capital
 5. Japanese title
 6. Capital of Zimbabwe
 7. Giraffe
 8. A mixture of substances
 9. Midway between south and southeast
 10. Staffs
 11. Turkish title
 12. Type of acid
 13. Thin, flat strip of wood
 21. Russian river
 23. Ribonucleic acid
 25. Partner to flow
 26. Airborne (abbr.)
 27. Earthy pigment
 28. Genus of earless seals

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21		22			23			
			24		25			26				
27	28	29		30			31			32	33	34
35			36			37			38			
39					40				41			
42				43				44				
45			46				47			48		
			49			50			51			
52	53	54			55			56		57	58	59
60				61				62		63		
64					65					66		
67					68					69		

29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman
 32. By or in itself
 33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface
 34. Partner to trick
 36. British Air Aces
 37. Ammunition
 38. Supervises flying
 40. Health care for the aged
 41. Flanks
 43. Millimeters
 44. Where wrestlers perform
 46. Not around
 47. Flightless bird
 49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
 50. Expressed concern for
 51. Satisfies
 52. Flew off!
 53. Wings
 54. Load a ship
 57. Vigor
 58. British title
 59. Whiskeys
 61. ___ Adams: founding father
 62. Body of water



Where the living is easy.

& Independent Assisted Living

Come explore Rutland County's full-service retirement community.

For information or a tour, call our Assistant Director, Juliana Turcotte at 802-770-5275 or visit us online.

- DINING
- HOUSEKEEPING
- TRANSPORTATION
- MAINTENANCE
- PET FRIENDLY
- VARIETY OF ACCOMMODATIONS
- HEALTH SERVICES AND MUCH MORE

The Gables
 AT EAST MOUNTAIN
 200 Gables Place - Rutland, VT
 www.thegablesvt.com



The Meadows
 AT EAST MOUNTAIN
 240 Gables Place - Rutland, VT
 www.themeadovst.com

EAT DRINK SHOP Local

SUDOKU — How to Play

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

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

Level: Intermediate

WEDNESDAY

4/24

RSVP Bone Builders

9-10 a.m. Wednesdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Full, waitlisted. Contact Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP) at 802-774-8680 for a callback.

S.E.A.T. Exercises

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

Senior Bone Builders

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

Killington Active Seniors Lunch

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

Book Club

1:30 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-9765

Bone Builders

3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Improve balance and enhance energy and wellbeing. chaffeeartcenter.org or 802-775-035

Cribbage for Adults

3-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/ or 802-436-2473

Green Drinks: Year-Round Pollinator-Friendly Gardens

5:30 p.m. Woodstock Union High School, 100 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Free. Evidence-based guidelines to sustaining permanent pollinator habitat. Co-sponsored by Sustainable Woodstock and the Woodstock Union High School & Middle School CRAFT program. Sustainable Woodstock, 802-457-2911

Ballroom Dance with Patti Panebianco

Wednesdays. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney
6-6:50 p.m. Waltz for adults
7-7:50 p.m. Cha-cha for adults
For details and cost, contact Patti Panebianco at 516-909-1686 or email pattipdance@gmail.com

Wildflower Program

6:30 p.m. Grace Congregational UCC, Court St., Rutland. Ray Pilcher of the Rutland Audubon Society will discuss wildflowers and show images in the conference room. rutlandcountyaudubon.org/events

TALK: GEOLOGICAL STORY OF VERMONT

WED @ 6:30 PM

Talk: Geological Story of Vermont

6:30-7:30 p.m. Woodstock History Center, 26 Elm St., Woodstock. Free. Dr. Ray Coish of Middlebury College will present a slide program, "A Tale of Ancient Volcanoes and Oceans." He will also take questions about the geology of Vermont from the audience. 802-457-1822, ext. 2

Talk: 'Every Problem is a Tech Problem'

7-8:30 p.m. Rutland Free Library, Court St., Rutland. Free. Author Jessamyn West will speak on the challenges for technology education since the pandemic and the Vermont public library response. 802-773-1860

THURSDAY

4/25

Bone Builders

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

Essentrics Stretch and Strength

9-10 a.m. Thursdays. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$10. No-weights, low impact workout combines principles from ballet, tai chi and physiotherapy to restore flexibility and balance. Bring a mat and water.

Advanced Line Dance

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

Senior Bone Builders

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

Survivors' Support Group

10 a.m.-Noon. Thursdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Flyers available at the Godnick Center or call 802-775-3232. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853

Art at the Chaffee: Artery

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

Ukulele Group

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

Winning Bird Photography on Display

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

Play Bridge!

2-4 p.m. Thursdays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

S.T.E.A.M.

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

Yoga with Kellie

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

Spirituality in Recovery

4:30-5:30 p.m. Live or virtual. Rutland Jewish Center, 96 Grove St., Rutland. Rabbi Shemtov reveals 12-Step themes in the Bible that can aid in recovery. 802-773-3455

Board Game Night

5 p.m. Thursdays. Hartland Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/ or 802-436-2473

WINNING BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY ON DISPLAY

THURS @ NOON

**Downtown Rutland Poetry Walk & Event**

5:30 p.m. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St., Rutland. Free. A walking tour in observance of Poetry Month, with poems to read at storefronts along the way.

6:30-8 p.m. Reception at the Downtown Rutland Partnership, 28 Center St., with a reading and light refreshments. For the poems and locations, go to downtownrutland.com/poetry-downtown-rutland.

Gardening with Charlie Nardozi

7 p.m. Fair Haven Free Library, 107 N. Main St., Fair Haven. Free. Charlie Nardozi, nationally recognized writer and speaker on gardening, will discuss ecological gardening and companion planting.

Open Mic Night

7 p.m. Most Fridays. ArtisTree, 2095 Pomfret Road, So. Pomfret. Free, donation optional. artistreevt.org/artistree-events

FRIDAY

4/26

Vintage Market Days [insert R symbol] is back

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Early buying event. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 So. Main St., Rutland. \$15, children 12 & under free. "Upscale vintage-inspired" merchandise of all kinds and eras, plus home & garden, munchies. Ticket good for all 3 days. vintagemarketdays.com

Yoga & Meditation

10:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853

Bone Builders

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

OLLI Lecture: 'An Artist's Journey' with Liza Meyers

3-4:30 p.m. Fridays to May 10. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$8 per individual program \$25 for series membership. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Lecture Series. Payment at the door no longer accepted. All information at learn.uvm.edu/osher-lifelong-learning/statewide/#rutland

Hildaland Duo Performs

5:30-6:30 p.m. Hayloft, ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, S. Pomfret. \$25. Appalachian and Scottish traditions, melded with contemporary compositions. Tix: artistreecommunityartscenter.thundertext.com/events/226127

Artist's Opening & Reception

5:30-7:30 p.m. Ends May 18. Gallery, ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, S. Pomfret. Free. "Abstractions," paintings by Alan Jacobs, with ceramics by Martha Von Ammon. artistreevt.org/abstractions-exhibit

Beltane Open Mic

6-7 p.m. JAM, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. Free. Beltane or Bealtaine is the ancient Gaelic May Day festival, welcoming in summer. Come share and enjoy poetry, music, and art to celebrate warm weather and new life. Performances will be recorded by JAM to be played on our cable station and YouTube channel. uvjam.org/event/beltane-open-mic/

Community Contra Dance

6-9 p.m. Barnard Town Hall, North Road, Barnard Center. Free or by donation. Music by Blind Squirrel, Kevin Donohue, caller. All ages and experience welcome; bring indoor shoes for dancing. Last dance of the season. Reserve your spot at barnarts.ludus.com/200447293.

'Little Shop of Horrors' onstage

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$25, \$30, \$35+ tax, fees. The Paramount Players present "Little Shop of Horrors," directed by Diane Liccardi. Tix: ci.ovationtix.com/36265/production/1191408

Opening Night: 'Lungs'

7-8:30 p.m. Grange Theatre, ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, S. Pomfret. Adults \$20, seniors 62+ \$15. A drama about a couple contemplating bringing a child into today's world. Tix: bit.ly/lungs24

Sip-N-Paint on Slate

7-9 p.m. Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St., Granville, New York. \$40, includes all art materials, one beverage ticket, and snacks. Darcie Parrott will lead in painting a covered wagon scene on authentic, local slate tiles. Preregistration required. 518-642-1417 or email executivedirector@slatevalleymuseum.org

'Lysistrata'!

7:30 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall Theatre, 35 Marble St. West Rutland. \$20 at the door by cash or check. Aristophanes' famous theatrical comment on the Greek home front during the Peloponnesian Wars between Greek city states, first performed in 411 B.C. Performed in the round in the classical Greek dramatic format. Due to explicit sexual references, under 17 not advised. Directed by Gary Meitrott. actorsrepvt.org@gmail.com or turn to page 23 in this paper.

Baby Animal Day at Billings!

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Members free, general admission \$12-\$19. Calves, piglets and lambs, bunnies, chicks and goat kids! Meet the museum's animal ambassadors up close and learn about them. National Park rangers will also talk about baby animals in the wild, with trail camera footage. Sheep shearing demonstrations, crafts, wagon rides, and story time with a farm friend. Enjoy delicious food truck fare and ice cream from the onsite scoop shop. More info and tix at billingsfarm.org/events/baby-farm-animal-celebration-2024/

Copper Cuff Bracelet Make-N-Take, 2nd session

10 a.m.-Noon. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Members \$60, not-yet-members \$75. Forming, texturing and annealing with a gas torch. Wear gloves and tie back long hair. To register: rutlandmint.org/event-5661784/ Registration

Lego Club

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

Jeanette Fournier: Exhibit of Watercolors

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

The Vermont Winter Farmers' Market

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

Running for Prevention 5k

9:30 a.m. check-in, 11 a.m. start. Rutland County Parent Child Center (RCPCC), 61 Pleasant St., Rutland. \$30 ages 13+, 12 and under free. Parent Child Centers are at the forefront of prevention efforts with vulnerable families, reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect. There will be fire trucks, food trucks, a bounce house, community resources, and much more. rcpcc.org

Imagination Library program

11 a.m.-Noon. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Duncan McDougall, founder of the Vermont Children's Literacy Foundation will entertain with creative storytelling and music. Refreshments will be served. Contact organizer Peg Bolgioni, 353-3696 or pegb0915@gmail.com

Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club

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

50th Annual Bridgewater Raft Race

11 a.m. signup, noon start. Starting line: Bridgewater Corners bridge on Route 100-A, just off Route 4 by the general store & post office in Bridgewater. Finish line: Bridgewater Mill in Bridgewater Center, 3 miles downstream. A hilarious, only-in-Vermont event. Rafts must be homemade. Life jackets recommended. No dogs, no alcohol. woodstockvt.com/the-town/blog/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-bridgewater-raft-race THIS LINK DOESN'T WORK ERROR 1000, something about Cloudflare

Art at the Chaffee: Drop 'N' Paint

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

Art Exhibit

1-3 p.m. Through April 30. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. An exhibition of new work by Jason Mills, who melds images from his other works to reveal "Similarities and Differences." normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

'Lungs'

2 p.m., 7 p.m. Grange Theatre, ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, S. Pomfret. Adults \$20, seniors 62+ \$15. A drama about a couple contemplating bringing a child into today's world. 90 minutes run time. Tix: bit.ly/lungs24



RUNNING FOR PREVENTION 5K

SAT @ 9:30 AM

Botanical Illustration

2-4 p.m. Hartland Public Library, 153 US-5, Hartland. Free. Hartland resident Chiho Kaneko shares her expertise.

Great Chili Cook-Off & Show

6 p.m. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. Free; \$10 entry fee. Corn muffins, honey butter, bowls, napkins, spoons, tables and power strips for keeping the chili warm for attendees to consume. Music follows with 89N with special guests Chicken Slax. mainstreetmuseum.org

Ludlow Rotary's 66th Annual Penny Sale

6 p.m. Ludlow Elementary Gym, 43 Main St., Ludlow. Free. Prizes, raffle, refreshments. Proceeds go to Rotary's annual scholarship program for area graduating high school seniors planning advanced educational programs and to Ludlow area charitable organizations. Raffle tix at portal.clubrunner.ca/2939, from Rotary members, or by check to LARCF, P.O. Box 216, Ludlow, VT 05149.

'Little Shop of Horrors' onstage

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$25, \$30, \$35+ tax, fees. The Paramount Players present "Little Shop of Horrors," directed by Diane Liccardi. Tix: ci.ovationtix.com/36265/production/1191408

'Lysistrata'!

7:30 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall Theatre, 35 Marble St. West Rutland. \$20 at the door by cash or check. Aristophanes' famous theatrical comment on the Greek home front during the Peloponnesian Wars between Greek city states, first performed in 411 B.C. Performed in the round in the classical Greek dramatic format. Due to explicit sexual references, under 17 not advised. Directed by Gary Meitrott. actorsrepvt.org@gmail.com or turn to page 23 in this paper.

Michelob ULTRA Decked Out Days

2:30-5 p.m. Base of Superstar, Killington Resort. Free. Live music by Nick Bredice and Dan Brown, games and swag giveaways.

Of Falcons, Falconry and Falconers

7-9:15 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Nature's Way Quechee. Members \$10, general public \$13. The documentary "Overland" will be screened, beautifully filmed across four continents, that follows a day in the life of three different falconers. A panel of falconers will be present to answer questions. 802-359-5000 ext. 245 or tix at vinsweb.org/event/overland-film-screening/

Vermont Philharmonic at the Chandler

7 p.m. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St., Randolph. Adults \$25, seniors \$20, students \$5, 12 and under free. The Philharmonic's Spring 2024 concert featuring works by Mendelssohn, Nielsen, Stoehr. 802-728-9878. Tix: app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=221245

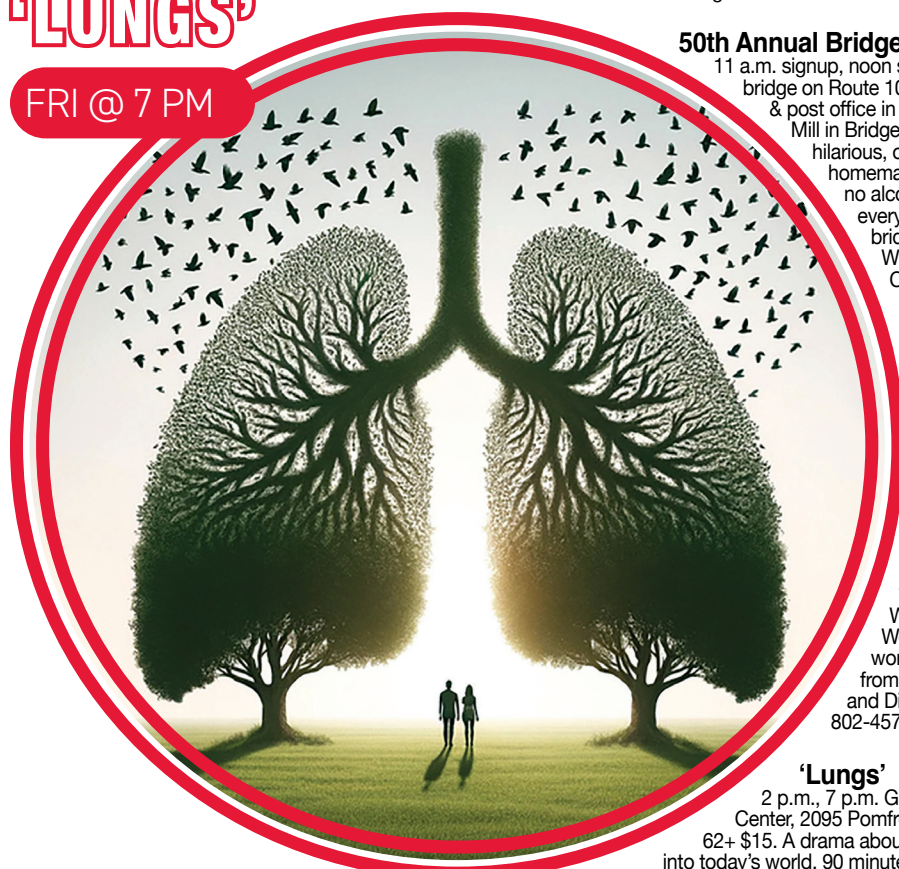
SATURDAY
4/27

Vintage Market Days

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 So. Main St., Rutland. General admission \$15, children 12 & under free. "Upscale vintage-inspired" merchandise of all kinds and eras, plus home & garden. vintagemarketdays.com

**OPENING NIGHT:
'LUNGS'**

FRI @ 7 PM



← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 14

'Monkey Man' (R)

7:30-9:45 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, kids & members \$8. A young man competes in brutal boxing matches for cash until he vows to settle many scores. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

SUNDAY
4/28

Vintage Market Days 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 So. Main St., Rutland. General admission \$15, children 12 & under free. "Upscale vintage-inspired" merchandise plus home & garden. vintagemarketdays.com

Baby Animal Day at Billings!

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, Old River Road, Woodstock. Members free, general admission \$12-\$19. Calves and piglets and lambs, bunnies, chicks and goat kids. Meet the farm's animal ambassadors up close and learn all about them. National Park rangers will also talk about baby animals in the wild, with footage on trail cameras. Sheep shearing demonstrations, crafts, wagon rides, and story time with a farm friend. Enjoy wholesome food truck fare and ice cream from the onsite scoop shop. billingsfarm.org/events/baby-farm-animal-celebration-2024/ or 802-457-2355

Guided Wildflower Walk, Orwell

Noon-2 p.m. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Road, approx. 6 miles west of the village of Orwell on Route 73. Adults \$5, kids 6-14 \$1, free under 5 and for members of the Mount Independence Coalition. A treasure hunt with a horticulturalist for early spring "ephemerals," tiny blooms that will shortly disappear. The Mount Independence State Historic Site, one of the best-preserved Revolutionary War archeological sites in this country, also is well known for its natural resources. 802-759-2412.

'Lysistrata'!

2 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall Theatre, 35 Marble St. West Rutland. \$20 at the door by cash or check. Aristophanes' famous theatrical comment on the Greek home front during the Peloponnesian Wars between Greek city states, first performed in 411 B.C. Performed in the round in the classical Greek dramatic format. Due to explicit sexual references, under 17 not advised. Directed by Gary Meitrott. actorsrepvt.org@gmail.com.

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'Monkey Man' (R)

3-5 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, kids & members \$8. A young man competes in brutal boxing matches for cash until he vows to settle many scores. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

Ex Libris Gala

5:30-9 p.m. Normal Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. \$175. Theme: "The Book, a Story of Resilience." Guest speaker: Priscilla Painton, VP and editor-in-chief at Simon & Schuster. Venue: Woodstock Inn. This library's largest source of revenue for programming and operations. RSVP and tix: 802-457-2295

LiquidArt-Season Finale

6 p.m. Liquid Art, 37 Miller Brook Road, Killington. \$5 Beers all day. Half price entrees. Live music by Rachel Coates of King Margo. liquidartvt.com

MONDAY
4/29

Senior Bone Builders

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

Community Lunch

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

Monday Movie

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

'Monkey Man' (R)

3-5 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, kids & members \$8. A young man competes in brutal boxing matches for cash until he vows to settle many scores. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets



**CONSERVATION
DESIGN WEBINAR**

TUES @ 11 AM

Bridge Club

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

Conservation Design Webinar

11 a.m.-Noon. Virtual. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. Free. Vermont Conservation Design allows users to see patterns in Vermont's forests and waterways, identify the places that connect both into a functional network, and supplies data for Biofinder, a database and mapping tool. Learn how it works with VF&W's planners Jens Hille and David Moroney. Register via vtfishandwildlife.com/event/understanding-vermont-conservation-design-data-behind-biofinder-0

Free Lunch & Learn—Preparing for Retirement in Your 20s to 70s

12-1 p.m. The Hub, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland. Fiduciary Financial Advisor, Carrie McDonnell, will present on personal investing and how to build wealth over time. LUNCH & One Day In July LLC is an SEC-registered investment advisor. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. For info and Sign up, visit: carrie.mcdonnell@onedayinjuly.com

Bridge Club

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

Chess Club

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

Play Chess, Backgammon!

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

Pruned Poetry Gathering

6-7 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. A.k.a. "found poetry," redacted or blackout poetry, it goes back to the time of Benjamin Franklin. The community was asked to share their inventions. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

TUESDAY
4/30

Early Bird Walks

7:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Free. Join Slate Valley Trails and the Rutland Audubon Society for outing at the Poultney River Loop to spot the spring arrivals around Poultney. Meet at the D&H Rail Trail crossing on Main Street, Poultney. 3.3 miles, expect to be out for about 3 1/2 hours. Dress for the weather and bring binocs or camera, water, snack and insect repellent. Locations change each week. Email Joe Tilley at jptilley50@gmail.com for more information.

Bone Builders

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

Line Dance for Beginners

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



**BABY ANIMAL DAY
AT BILLINGS!**

SUN @ 10 AM

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
4/24

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – Rachel Coats

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

POULTNEY
7 p.m. Poultney Pub - Open Mic with Danny Lang

QUECHEE
6 p.m. Public House Pub – Chris Pallutto

RUTLAND
5 p.m. Moose Lodge – Nick Bredice and Liz Reedy

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

SOUTH POMFRET
6:30 p.m. Artistree – Acoustic Jam Session hosted by Kerry Rosenthal

THURS
4/25

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

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS
5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Al's Pals

CHESTER
6:30 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Nate Outer Style

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto
8 p.m. Jax Food and Games – King Margo

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

POULTNEY
6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Vinyl Night with Ken

QUECHEE
6:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Name That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

RUTLAND
7 p.m. Merchants Hall – Deserie & Jim

8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic hosted by Caber Wilson

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

SOUTH POMFRET
7 p.m. Artistree – Open Mic Night

FRI
4/26

CASTLETON
6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Deserie & Jim Gilmour

6 p.m. Thiurd Place Pizza – Music by Cooper

KILLINGTON
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

2 p.m. Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Rivershed – Rob Pagnano

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Rhys Chalmers

9 p.m. Jax Food and Games – King Margo

POULTNEY
6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Nikki Adams

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – John Lackard

RANDOLPH
8 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Modist & Friends

SOUTH POMFRET
7 p.m. Artistree – The Hildaland Duo

SAT
4/27

BRIDGEWATER
11 a.m. Route 4 – 50th Annual Bridgewater Raft Race with Hickory at the start and DJ Dave at the finish

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Headliner Ralph Anthony

CHESTER
6:30 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Sammy B

KILLINGTON
2 p.m. Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Rivershed – Rob Pagnano

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

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

9 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Aaron Audet

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – George Nostrand

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

SUN
4/28

BRIDGEWATER
7 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Headliner Chloe Radcliffe

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS
3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

KILLINGTON
12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Rob Pagnano

2 p.m. Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar – Sammy B

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Season Finale Party with Rachel Coats

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

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

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

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

MON
4/29

KILLINGTON
5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n

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

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

TUES
4/30

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Bredice

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

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

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

PITTSFIELD
6:30 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Jam

POULTNEY
7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

QUECHEE
5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

RUTLAND
6:30 p.m. Vermont Tap House – Trivia Night



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Vintage Market Days is back at the Rutland Fairgrounds

April 26-28, 2024—RUTLAND—Vintage Market Days® will be held at the Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 So. Main St., Rutland. This upscale vintage-inspired indoor/outdoor market will showcase original art, antiques, clothing, jewelry, handmade treasures, home décor, outdoor furnishings, consumable goodies, seasonal plantings, and more.

The event offers a unique opportunity for vendors to exhibit their talents and passions in creative venues. On Friday, April 26, there will be an Early Buying Event from 10-4 p.m. General Admission will be available on Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more info, visit: vintagemarketdays.com



Courtesy Vintage Market Days of Vermont

First annual Running for Prevention is off the blocks

Saturday, April 27 at 11 a.m.—RUTLAND—The Rutland County Parent Child Center (RCPC) announces its inaugural Running For Prevention 5K Walk and Fun Run held at Georgetti Park, Oak St Ext, Rutland.

Recent survey data reveals that 94% of parents receiving support through parent child centers across the state reported feeling stronger and more confident in their parenting roles. Parent Child Centers, established nearly 30 years ago, remain at the forefront of prevention efforts with vulnerable families. PCC prevention programs and services are dedicated to building protective factors within families, enhancing overall well-being, fortifying a child's environment, and decreasing the likelihood of abuse and neglect. All of RCPC's programs are anchored in the Strengthening Families Framework, which

emphasizes five Protective Factors: Parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children. These five protective factors, fundamental to Strengthening Families, significantly contribute to positive outcomes for young children and their families, while concurrently reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect.

The race will begin at 11 a.m., with check-in starting at 9:30 a.m. There will be plenty of fun for everyone from fire trucks, food trucks, bounce houses, community resources and more.

Kids 12 and under run free. Registration check-in starts at 9:30 a.m. and is \$30 per person for ages 13 and up.

To register online, visit: tinyurl.com/4vplkv5. For more information, Visit: rcpc.org.



By JESHOOOTS.com

Ludlow Rotary's Annual Penny Sale is Saturday

Saturday, April 27 at 6 p.m.—LUDLOW—The Ludlow Rotary Club's 66th annual Penny Sale returns to the Ludlow Elementary School's Gymnasium, 45 Main St, Ludlow. This traditional event, one of the largest fundraisers undertaken by the Ludlow Rotary Club, supports college scholarships for area high school students residing in Cavendish, Ludlow, Plymouth, and Mt. Holly. Additionally, proceeds are allocated to local school events and community projects, such as the Cavendish/Proctorsville Greven Field.

Featuring hundreds of prizes donated by area businesses and individuals, plus an exciting raffle, the Penny Sale is free and open to everyone. Attendees can also enjoy refreshments during the event.

The raffle, held at the close of the Penny Sale, will offer the following prizes:

- 1st Prize: \$500
- 2nd Prize: \$250
- 3rd Prize: \$150
- 4th Prize: \$100
- 5th Prize: \$50



Raffle tickets are priced at \$2 for one or 3 tickets for \$5. Winners need not be present, but those in attendance receive an additional \$25 if their ticket is drawn.

Raffle tickets may be purchased from Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) members, accessed through the LRC's website, or by sending a check to LARCF, PO Box 216, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Each round of the Penny Sale will include a hundred various prizes and awards from local businesses and individuals. Before each round, Rotarians will sell special tickets, which will be deposited in a rotating drum where a ticket will be randomly selected for the winner of the announced prize or award. Rotarians will also be selling raffle tickets at various locations in Ludlow on weekend afternoons leading up to the Penny Sale.

Proceeds from the Penny Sale support LRC's annual scholarship program and charitable donations to Ludlow area organizations. Over the past 22 years, LRC has awarded over \$165,000 in scholarship awards, with last year's total reaching \$9,000.

For more information, visit: rotary7870.org/clubinfo/ludlow



Courtesy Ludlow Rotary Club

Pictured above is a scene from the last Penny Sale sponsored by the Ludlow Rotary Club. As indicated from the photo, it was a packed house eagerly waiting to see if they won some of the prizes in the foreground.

BarnArts holds final community contra dance of the year on Friday

All-ages dance and community potluck

Friday, April 26 at 6 p.m.—BARNARD—The last BarnArts Community Contra Dance of the season will be held at the Barnard Town Hall with a potluck beginning at 6 p.m. and dancing will go from 6:30-9 p.m. Participants should bring a dish to share with neighbors and friends to contribute to the range of foods made by dancers and the band. Music will be provided by local favorites Blind Squirrel with calling by Kevin Donohue, who is also an actor with BarnArts. Blind Squirrel features Upper Valley musicians and ardent dancers Erin Smith and Steve Hoffman on fiddle, Suzanne Long on fiddle/cello and Christina Jeske on whistle. They have been an ensemble for nearly a decade and their love of the music and the joy of playing together for dancers keeps them going. Their repertoire draws on French

Canadian, Southern old-time, Celtic, and northern New England traditions.

All ages and experience levels are welcome to join in on the fun! Come with a group, as a couple, or by yourself and be ready for a lively night making new friends. Partners are mixed and matched before each dance and everyone has plenty of dancing opportunities. Community members are also welcome to just come for the potluck, watch the dancing, and see what it's all about.

BarnArts requests participants bring indoor shoes to keep the dance floor clean.

BarnArts Contra Dances are free by donation and reservations.

For donations and further information, visit: barnarts.org or call 802-234-1645 with questions.



Decked Out Days marks the onset of the spring season

Saturday, April 27 at 3 p.m. — KILLINGTON—Decked out Days will be held at the base of the Superstar trail on the Michelob Ultra Deck, which has become synonymous with spring skiing, offering some of the best sights and vibes on the mountain. Whether you're enjoying the spectacle of skiers and riders mastering the bumps on Preston's Pitch or witnessing the inevitable wipeouts, it's guaranteed to be the best seat in the house.

Decked Out Days will feature live music on the deck, exciting games, and numerous swag giveaways. Plus, each week, one lucky winner will walk away with a YETI Flip 12 cooler.

Entertainment:

Nick Bredice & Dan Brown
Time: 2:30-5:30 p.m.

For ore information, Visit: killington.com



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Baby farm animal celebration provides opportunity to meet the animals

Saturday, April 27 at 10 a.m.—WOODSTOCK—The baby farm animal celebration at Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock is an event that provides fun, education, and the opportunity to meet the animals up close. Jersey calves, piglets, and turkey poults will be available to see firsthand. Special farm visitors, including bunnies, chicks, and goat kids, will be present to captivate guests of all ages. Additionally, lamb guests from the Aker Fiber Farm will grace us with their presence.

The animal ambassadors will provide opportunities for up-close interactions. Rangers from the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park will enlighten guests about baby animals in the wild, showcasing their adorable antics captured on trail cameras.

Experience the art of live sheep shearing with experts Philo and Craig Marcotte, who will demonstrate the evolution of sheep shearing tools while educating visitors about the process.

Enjoy a wagon ride around the farm

from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Children can revel in story time with a farm friend and partake in interactive activities, including yard games and crafting hand-print bunnies, peek-a-boo chick-in-egg crafts, and wearable seed buddies.

The food truck fare will be available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Sustainable Eats Food Truck will serve coffee, baked goods, and lunch items, while the Hangry Hogg food truck will offer authentic Southern BBQ. The Farmhouse Scoop Shop will feature Vermont-made ice cream, snacks, drinks, and cotton candy.

Event schedule:

- 11 a.m., 1 p.m. & 2:00 p.m.: Sheep Shearing
 - 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Wagon Rides
 - 12 p.m., 3 p.m. & 4 p.m.: Story Hour with a Farm Friend
 - 3 p.m.: Daily Milking
- Members enjoy free admission to this event and throughout the year.


For more information, visit: billings-farm.org



Courtesy Valeriia Miller
Billings Farm and Museum in Woodstock is hosting a Baby farm animal celebration featuring Jersey calves, piglets, turkey poults, bunnies, chicks, goat kids, and lamb guests.



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Join the celebratory ride or walk at Pine Hill

Saturday, May 4 at 10 a.m.—RUTLAND—Most days the Homeless Prevention Center (HPC) is focused on getting people indoors and keeping them in housing, but Saturday, May 4 that's being flipped as the local nonprofit hosts its third annual Spring Sprockets & Walk-Its fun ride and walk at Pine Hill Park in Rutland.

"This is our celebration of spring, of getting back to those activities we enjoy as a community, and of these fantastic trails at Pine Hill Park," said Angus Chaney, executive director of HPC. "It's been an intense couple of years for the growing number of Vermonters we work with. One thing we notice after people secure housing and have their emergency needs met is the importance of community, fun, outdoor time, a little exercise. Life is more than just stably existing, right?"

Spring Sprockets also marks 25 years of HPC serving the people and communities of Rutland County. The all-ages outdoor event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and features a bike or walk scavenger hunt scramble with prizes, social rides, bike clinic by 350 Rutland County, and bike art from Hearthunder Arts Collective. DJ Bill Moore will keep the music and dancing going.

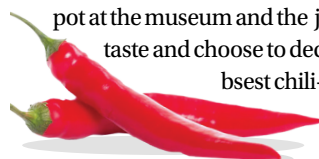
For more information, visit: hpcvt.org.



Courtesy hpcvt.org
The Homeless Prevention Center is launching its 25th annual Spring Sprockets & Walk-Its event at Pine Hill Park in Rutland.

Testing your tastebuds: Things could get hot at the Great Chili Cook-Off at Main Street Museum

Saturday, April 27—WHITE RIVER JUNCTION—Chile chefs; try your luck at the Great Chili Cook-Off at Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. Starting at 5 p.m., contestants will gather with 1 full crock pot at the museum and the judges will taste and choose to decide who the best chili-chef is. Prizes will go to the winners.



The \$10 entry fee gets you in for free to the concert featuring 89-N (Paolo Bentivoglio and friends).

Main Street Museum will provide corn muffins and honey butter, bowls napkins, spoons, tables and power strips for keeping the chili warm so the attendees can finish off your pot once the judges get their share.

For more information, visit: mainstreetmuseum.org

Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash hit, 'Little Shop Of Horrors' hits the stage

Friday, April 26-Sunday, April 28—RUTLAND—The Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash hit, "Little Shop of Horrors" has thrilled theatre goers for over 30 years is coming to the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland.

Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (Disney's "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty And The Beast," and "Aladdin") are the creative geniuses behind what has become one of the most popular shows in the world.

The meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II" - after his coworker crush. This foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down and out Krelborn as long as he keeps feeding it, blood. Over time, though, Seymour discovers Audrey II's out of this world origins and intent towards global domination.

Tickets: \$25, \$30, \$35 + tax/fees

Schedule: Fri., April 26 @ 7 p.m.; Sat., April 27 @ 7 p.m.; Sun., April 28 @ 2 p.m.

For more information, visit: paramountvt.org

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Rutland CO-OP

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killington market

Killington Market

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Solutions

From page 11

Crossword

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

Sudoku

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

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Rutland County Humane Society



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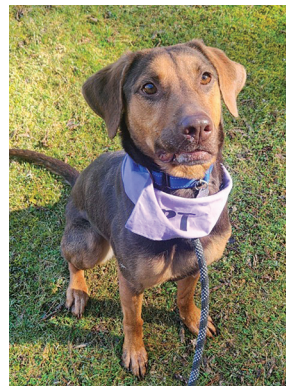
SKIPPER

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

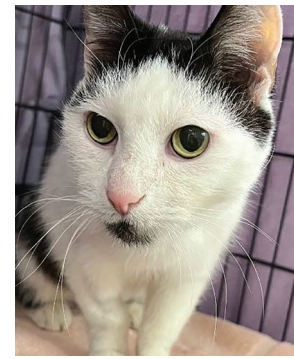
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 *(By appointment only at this time.)
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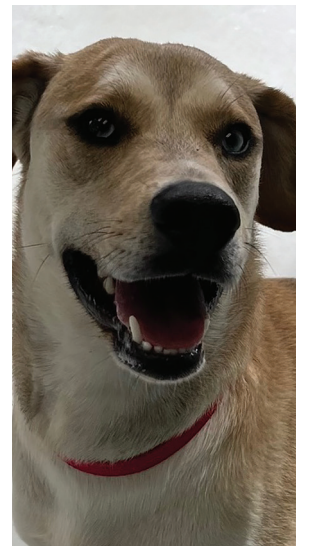
Stardew—10-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Reese—2-year-old. Spayed female. Hound mix.



Precious—12-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Benji—2-year-old. Neutered male. Catahoula mix.



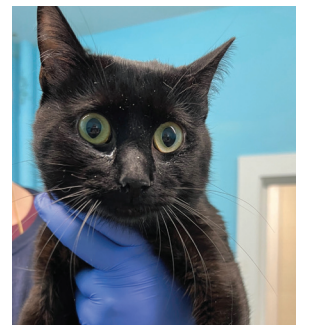
Susie Q—8-year-old. Spayed female. Chihuahua mix.



LUCKY MEOW

Lucky Meow—4-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.

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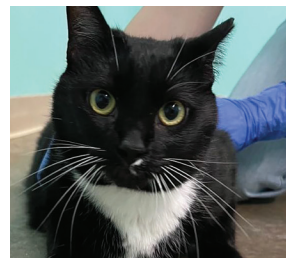
King—1-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Yuri—1-year-old. Spayed female. Shep/Husky.



Mauro—3-month-old. Neutered male. Heeler mix.



Kyra—5-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Mystic—4-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Dotty—1-year-old. Spayed female. Husky/Shepherd mix.

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Cosmic Catalogue



Aries March 21 - April 20

The chance to do what you've only dreamt of arrives this week and through until April's conclusion. Whether it's an issue of confidence or an issue of finance, take a risk. That said, don't forget to make it a calculated one. If you've been thinking of making a significant personal move of some description, the skies are opening for you to make your move. What are you waiting for?

Leo July 21 - August 20

Balancing the dynamic between your family life and your professional life seems like an eternal juggling act. What you want and what you have to do are two different things right now. The longer you continue to do the inauthentic thing, the more irritation and restlessness you will feel. Do that unexpected thing, even if it feels uncomfortable for a while. I mean, aren't you already uncomfortable, so what's the difference?

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

Recent upheavals and choices may have left you reeling. That said, the freedom you're now experiencing is something you so desperately needed. The irritation, the discomfort and the challenges will lead you to a much better place – and that destination will arrive sooner than you think. For now, keeping doing what you're doing and don't forget to dream up your ideal future. It's closer to your reality than you think.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

The storm clouds are building across a key relationship in your life – either personal, professional or the relationship you have with yourself. Unless you face this issue head on, the storm will continue to threaten the stability and security you long for. Sometimes the most difficult move is the one you really need to make. Honesty and authenticity are everything now. You've come too far to only come this far.

Virgo August 21 - September 20

Whatever it is you've been worrying about, toying over and over analyzing, you can now begin to put to rest. What a relief! Now you're clear on the facts and the figures, you can now go back to living your best life. It may also help you a lot this week to ground yourself in the daily routines and rituals you know that do you the world of good. Get out of your head a bit.

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

When you start thinking differently, everything looks different. This can be a blessing as well as a curse. As your perspectives change, you change too. Everyone and everything around you may not appear to be the same as they were before. This week, a Full Moon illuminates your friendships, alliance and connections. You might be reminded that in order to stand for something, sometimes, you must stand alone.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

I was recently reminded of the law of attraction. For some Geminis this really exceeds the realm of logic and reason. But does it have to? Pay attention to your dreams this week, they have something to reveal to you about your future. Things seem still and boring now, but the sky suggests it's not going to stay this way for long. Start thinking that you already have everything you want.

Libra September 21 - October 20

Try as you might to restore peace and harmony to yourself and those around you, sometimes you just have to tell someone how it is. There may be a situation this week where you'll have to either speak now or forever hold your peace. Keeping the peace or pleasing others at the expense of yourself just creates resentment in the long run. That's an emotional situation few can recover from.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

One way or another, it's likely you'll arrive at a decision this week. A Full Moon will light up your career and life direction zone, suggesting your path will be illuminated. The issue is, you need to think differently and take action. The longer you remain locked into old patterns of thinking and being, the longer it will take you to reach the place you have always wanted to go.

Cancer June 21 - July 20

It's OK to admit that something that once was a deep source of joy and pleasure, no longer is. In fact, you're doing yourself a disservice to continue doing what you've always done and expecting that everything will change, because it won't. You have to be the change you want in your life. You may need to take a risk, but not taking a risk is still a risk too.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

Recent events may have resulted in you thinking differently about someone or about a certain situation. You may feel caught between a rock and hard place in terms of the reality of a situation versus how you'd imagine it to be. As the light of the Full Moon shines upon you this week, a new kind of clarity will be revealed. Ask yourself, can you continue with whatever your current status quo is?

Pisces February 21 - March 20

Money has been a bit funny recently. Delays, unexpected expenses or confusion around your self esteem and confidence with cash. As that confusion begins to iron itself out, you'll get the chance to make up for lost time. Before you do though, you may need to take a minute to reacquaint yourself with your dream, goals and visions. Don't lose sight of the things you want just because of a disappointment or two.

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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.

A quiet moment amidst the storm

As the dust begins to settle upon the chaos that April has been, thus far, don't be fooled into thinking the storm is over.

While the skies are quiet comparatively to what they've been, this is simply a chance to calm down, regroup and refocus. In times of war (real or metaphorical), in times of collective and moments of stillness. An eerie get comfortable again.

This isn't to say there cannot even in the depths of unimagined love and hate, joy and despair, of humanity. There is a time for

Right now, the Sun is in Moon in Scorpio invites you to see a situation beyond what surface. If you are confused or from taking action, you have what needs to be said or done. The storm rages on until angels go where they fear to tread.



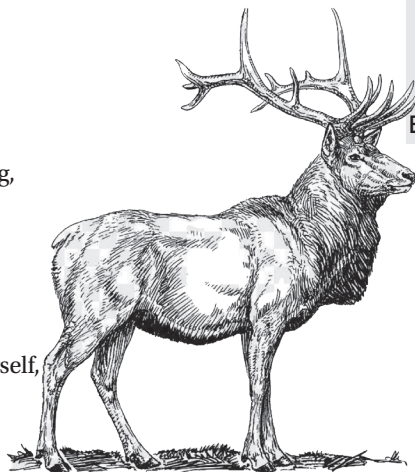
Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

In times of war (real or metaphorical), in times of collective and moments of stillness. An eerie get comfortable again.

be moments of exquisite joy, inable pain. It's the contrast of war and peace that is the reality everything under the Sun. Taurus, a time for calm. The Full pierce through the layers and you think it looks like on the uncertain and it's held you back the chance this week to say or do

The animals are counting on us

The Earth is beautiful,
That should never change,
The earth is natural,
And it should stay that way.
Magical and wild,
The earth has always been,
Sunning and gorgeous,
It should always be.
But our earth is slowly losing,
What is used to be,
Temperatures are rising,
Making ice melt at sea.
Forests are dying,
Making creatures flee,
And I always have to ask myself,
Why could this be?
Making all this damage,
And all of this change,



Poetry Is Power
By Bree Sarandrea

Poetry is Power → 30

Riding over the mountains: an expedition to a rodeo wedding

Building a Killington Dream Lodge, Part 10

As the ski house we were building in Killington grew, I did, too, from age 7 on up. I entered adolescence and continued helping with various tasks. My latest assignment was pretty exciting compared to

repairing our tar paper roof. I climbed a ladder to the top of each beam (where it stuck out in front of the wall), then painted it with creosote while backing up and straddling it. Keeping my balance and holding the paint can was



Mountain Meditation
By Marguerite Jill Dye

tricky and felt like a circus act. At least beams were wider than a high wire, more like a balance beam in gymnastics.

With added responsibilities came

more privileges, so I began to venture further when off duty from building duties. That's how I discovered the Wade Family Stable on the Killington Access Road. It was attached to the red farmhouse where Killington Valley Real Estate stands.

Weekends in summertime, I walked to and hung out, brushing and talking to horses in their stalls. The gentle giants seemed to understand whatever I said and how I felt. They read my mind. I was certain. Getting to know them was my favorite pastime.

I'd officially entered the "I love horses" stage that many adolescent girls go through. I announced to my parents I wanted a horse, and Mom responded, "When we finish the house."

I dreamed of keeping my horse on our property and riding it every weekend in Killington, or it could board on a New Jer-

Meditation → 27

Headwater streams are vital sources of clean water

For nearly 15 years, I have been exploring the headwaters of a river near my home. The entire drainage area, encompassing all the streams, rainfall, and snowmelt that pass into a single river, is called a watershed. Within each watershed, a system of rivers and streams forms a network, in which small first-order streams (headwaters) meet to form second-order streams that converge to form third-order streams, and so on.

While headwater streams are the smallest in this hierarchical network, they comprise a whopping 70% of the drainage area — and nearly 80% of stream length in watersheds. They are the capillaries of the watershed's circulatory system and critical to the health of the entire stream network.

These streams provide cold, high-quality water to the river system; they regulate the downstream flow of nutrients, the transport of sediment, and distribution of organic matter. They also intercept rain and slow flood waters, remove pollutants, and provide fish and wildlife habitat. Additionally, headwater streams serve as

groundwater facilitators, acting both as gathering sites for ground water replenishment after precipitation and as the suppliers of surplus groundwater, surface runoff, and snowmelt downstream.

Headwater streams are the stream network's strongest defense against climate change. For example, headwater streams provide cold water refugia for downstream species during warm periods and provide spawning habitat for species, such as the Eastern brook trout, which is declining drastically throughout its native range.

Temperature is a primary variable in stream ecosystems. Stream ecologists J. David Allan and Maria Castillo

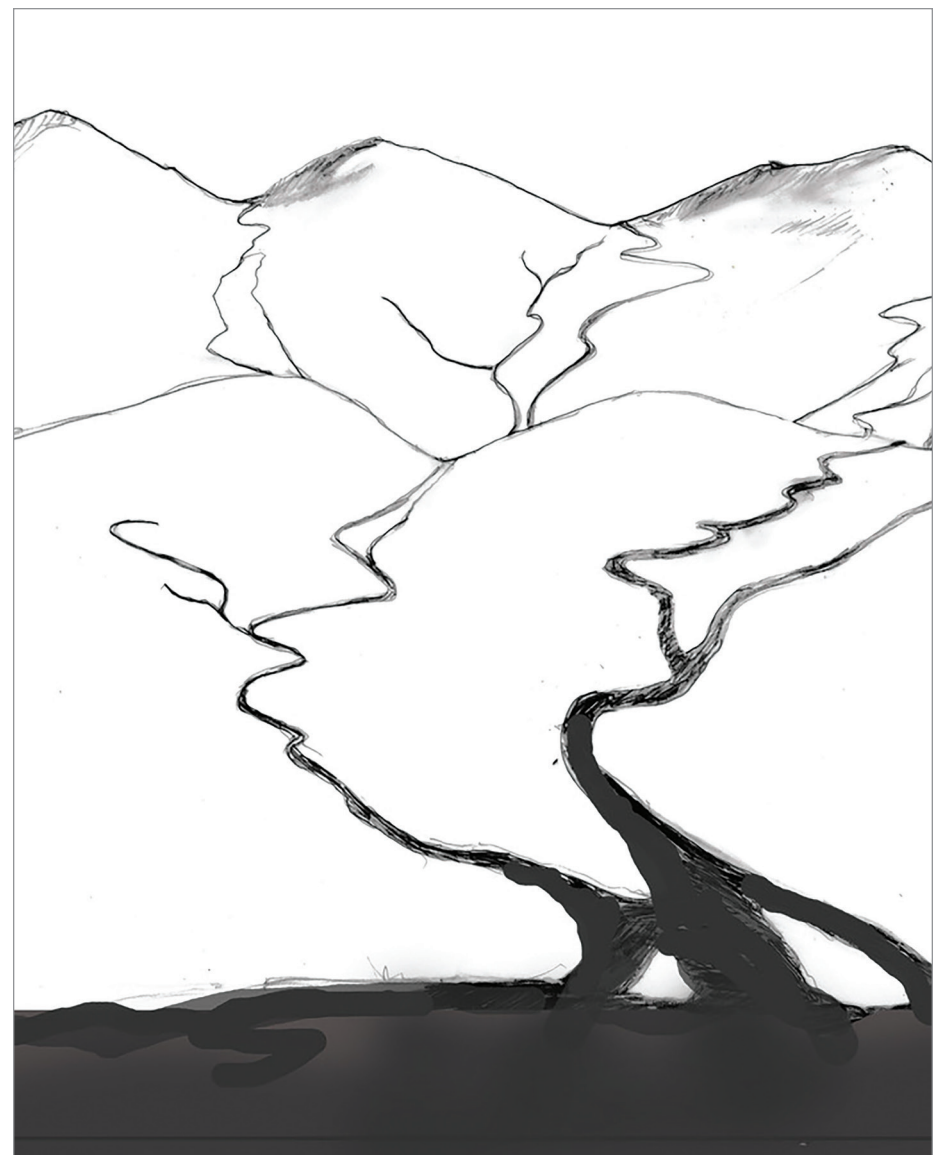
have determined that water temperature influences the distribution, metabolic rates, physiology, life cycle, fertility, and growth of stream species, as well as stream processes such as biological production, leaf breakdown, and nutrient uptake. Self-sustaining populations of brook trout, for example, require water temperatures at or below 64 F.

Outside Story → 27



The Outside Story

By Barry J. Wicklow



A break in the action

When I was in college, my friends and I decided to vacation to Florida during spring break week. One of the guy's parents lived near Ft. Lauderdale, so we made a plan to drive down in one 24-hour stretch, hang out for a few days, and then drive back.

MTV was at its apex at the time and had popularized the annual pilgrimage with live broadcasts from the beach, concerts with top touring acts, and host of other debaucheries. Being avid MTV watchers, we bought into the hype and made a plan to attend. We were all confident that spring break in Florida was a rite of passage that we had to experience.

Things got off to a rough start when we got two speeding tickets on our trip down. The car we were driving wasn't in the best shape either, so the anxiety of breaking down was a constant.

We eventually made it, and after a day of sleeping, we finally got around to hitting the beach. I had never been to a party that big, that loud, that chaotic, or that dangerous. I remember looking around and wondering how all these people ended up in the same spot. And while we had pictured ourselves being swarmed by girls as we frolicked in the surf, the reality was more about avoiding the police and not getting into a drunken brawl.

Apparently, our modern spring break originated in the 1930s when collegiate swim teams from around the country began to train in the warmer weather during the early months of the year. Annual conferences followed, as did the college friends of the swimmers who tagged along for fun.

The burgeoning event gained further popularity after Glendon Swarthout wrote his novel "Where the Boys Are" in 1960. The book followed a group of midwestern college girls as they traveled to Ft. Lauderdale, for fun and mischief. The book was quickly made into a movie that audiences swooned over (the movie also produced the hit song of the same name sung by Connie Francis, who had a co-starring role).

After the movie's release, Ft. Lauderdale saw an amazing uptick in springtime visitors, which they initially loved.

By the 1970s, spring break had evolved into a massive cultural phenomenon, with thousands of college students flocking to Florida each year to partake in the festivities. Cities like Daytona Beach, Miami Beach, and Panama City Beach also emerged as popular destinations, each offering its own unique attractions and experiences for visitors.

However, with the exponential growth in the number of spring breakers came challenges related to overcrowding, rowdy behavior, and concerns about safety. In response, local authorities and businesses implemented various measures to manage the crowds and ensure that spring break remained a fun and safe experience for everyone involved.

By the time my crew arrived, the authorities were just starting to crack down on the craziness. It would still take several years for things to get really out of control, so I feel like we were there just after the heyday had peaked.

We drank more than we should have, but we were smart enough to look after each other. On that trip, I saw my very first wet t-shirt contest as well as my first thong bikini. The thong bikini sighting would seem tame by today's standards, but in the late 1980s, it was otherworldly. I remember specifically that the young woman featured in that first thong bikini sighting was pushing a baby carriage, which resulted in a mental dichotomy for most of us.

After the first day, I concluded that massive amounts of beer and very hot sun were a poor combination. I luckily had dark Italian skin but one of our friends was a pasty redhead and his first-day burns were substantial enough to keep him sheltered for the next couple days.

There's no doubt we had a lot of fun on that spring break, but by our last day, none of us was interested in returning to the beach. Instead, we hung out by the pool and relaxed. We survived the experience, but even as a rowdy college kid, I had no interest in ever returning. That spring break trip also offered an important life lesson: Don't always buy into the hype.

I did buy into the hype over this week's feature, "Civil War," starring Kirsten Dunst. The new film features a dystopian America where the country has devolved into four factions embroiled in a bitter battle for power.

This is an interesting road trip film that will force the viewer to examine their opinions on what is right and wrong. It's certainly filled with disjointed angles, but overall, the ride is worth taking.

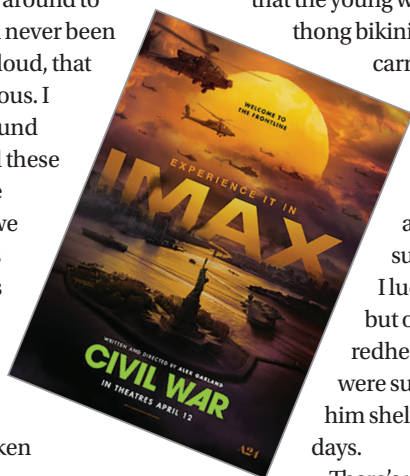
Check this one out if you have periodic concerns that our country is heading in the wrong direction. The future projected in this film may have you pausing any fantasies of social upheaval.

A combative "B-" for "Civil War," now playing in theaters everywhere.

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



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



By Merisa Sherman

Local musician Jenny Porter sits the bow through the reeds on Kent Pond.

Loon vs. Canada goose: A battle for Goose Poop Island

I am pretty sure she was a little disappointed when I turned into the Kent Pond parking lot. Can someone really get excited about the 100 acre pond that you pass by all

year long on the way to the resort or to work? It is definitely not expected when someone says "Will you take me paddling in your canoe sometime?" One probably dreams of the grandiose views of the Chittenden Reservoir, the playfulness of Woodward Reservoir or the solitude of Lake Ninevah.

Anyway, it was 40 F. with flurries. Bodies covered in multiple layers of clothing were then squished into life jackets, because you have to give yourself a fighting chance in the cold of waters of spring. There was ice on the lake just last week!

Within seven minutes of being on the water, we watched as a loon rowed his wings across the lake until he actually had enough momentum to take off! Although the loon didn't soar into the sky like the constantly threatening bald eagles and hawks, it was beautiful. The only other time I have ever seen a loon fly was our first ladies' paddle after Barb passed away. Nature can be really freaky sometimes.

Well today, we got to see a loon fly. One of four grown loons on the lake today. Our assumption was that last year's loonlet found a life partner during the summer months and

brought it back to Vermont to live with her parents. It's the story that I made up, watching the one loon flit back and forth between a couple and a solo bird. A daughter caught between her family and her boyfriend. I had a whole storyline growing in my head.

From there, the loons kept buzzing our canoe. There we were, watching the loons from an appropriate distance when one would just pop right up next to the canoe! And then we have to slam on the brakes, turn the boat around as quickly as possible and flee the newly claimed loon area. I didn't realize at the time, but I think the loon was trying to keep us away from the nesting island, more aptly named Goose Poop Island.

Because, unbeknownst to us, the nesting island is currently in territorial dispute. You see, the loons always nest on that island and have been since they discovered Kent Pond quite a few years ago. But recently, the Canada geese have been arriving earlier and taking the island. One year they decided to each take one side of the island. This is not that year.

Today, the proud goose dad decided that he had enough of the four loons circling the island and decided to dive bomb the four pack. The goose took one of the loons by the neck and the turf war became real. Two of the loons quickly skittered away, while the third performed the famed "penguin dance," standing up as tall as possible and flapping his wings like Satan laughing during War Pigs. It wasn't enough. The attacked loon quickly dove underwater, taking the aggressive goose down with him. For a few moments, we saw nothing of the two,

Living the Dream → 28



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman



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← TOS:
from page 24

The ground water and shade of trees along the banks of headwaters keep these streams cool. Dusky salamanders, two-lined salamanders, and spring salamanders live in headwater streams. Birds, such as the winter wren and Louisiana water-thrush, nest along the stream banks. Mink, otters, and bats use headwater streams as travel corridors. The streams also harbor a unique and diverse aquatic insect community.

I discovered this community early in life. One of my favorite places to sit as a boy was a fallen tree trunk that arched over a small headwater brook. From my perch, I could look through the cool, clear water to see small critters scurry across the sand and over and under rocks. These were cold-adapted aquatic insects that thrive in headwater streams. For instance, many species of stoneflies require cold, clean, highly oxygenated water to survive; a single headwater stream may harbor several stonefly species. (In addition to being an integral part of the food chain, stoneflies, mayflies, and caddisflies serve as important bioindicators of water quality. Stoneflies are now considered one the world's most endangered fauna.)

Because headwater streams are small and have low water volumes, they are extremely sensitive to disturbance. And there are no regulations that protect these vital streams. Development, impervious surfaces, runoff, pollution, loss of the tree buffer along the stream, and loss of connectivity endanger our headwater streams and, as a result, jeopardize larger streams and rivers. Harm to headwater streams echoes

throughout the entire stream network.

In an effort to share the importance of these streams and boost conservation around them, in 2010, my research students and I began a long-term study of 12 tributaries of the Piscataquog River in Franconia, New Hampshire. We recorded hourly air and water temperatures and measured water quality, identified stream insects, and determined the genetic structure of resident brook trout populations. Some of our findings have shown that populations in our headwater streams are wild, native brook trout (without hatchery influence). Moreover, each headwater stream population is genetically distinct. This data has been used to inform landowners and to protect our local headwater streams through conservation.

These days, in my visits to the headwaters of the Piscataquog River, the sound of the flowing waters, the scent of ferns and moss, and the rich life in and around these headwaters give me a sense of well-being. The more I study these streams, the more I understand the importance of their clean, cold waters.

Barry J. Wicklow is an Emeritus professor of biology at Saint Anselm College and an affiliate adjunct professor of biological sciences at University of New Hampshire. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Franconia Land Trust. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

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← Meditation:
from page 24

sey farm. Then I'd ride it weekdays right after school. In my dreams, I galloped along with wind on my face, tousled hair, blowing my horse's mane askance. But in reality, I rarely rode...

Until an exciting opportunity arose, to help ride Wade horses to the rodeo for a wedding. I'd never heard of a wedding on horseback but the happy couple were most likely rodeo regulars.

The Wades must have pitied the girl who hung out in their stables at Killington. So, I was invited to be one of the group to deliver the horses miles away. The other young people were far more experienced but my enthusiasm made up for my ignorance. I was thrilled beyond measurement to relocate a horse to the rodeo and back.

We gathered in Wallingford at the Wade Family Ranch and left our belongings for our return. They gave me a gentle mare to ride who overruled my ignorant commands. She knew better than I where to go and how to return to the ranch again. We rode through valleys, up mountain trails, through stone wall openings dividing neighbors' land like Robert Frost's "Mending Wall" sentiment that "good fences make good neighbors."

Passing through gates in fields and woods was a cinch compared to dealing with loose pebbles and rocks in the stream beds we crossed. The problem was, we had to descend.

I put on my brakes by digging in my heels, pushing the stirrups and clutching the saddle horn. Going downhill felt like I was falling forward, headfirst right off my horse. The steeper the incline, the more anxious I became.

But sweet Molly, my gentle mare, was adept at continuously plodding forward. Mainly she walked, with an occasional trot and rare canter, but she didn't gallop at all. She only sped up when another horse tried to pass her. Otherwise Molly was sweet and docile.

When we arrived at the rodeo event, we dismounted and the horses rested with water and hay to nibble on. The wedding

was first on the rodeo agenda. Invited guests were led to the horses, mounted them and rode into the arena. The bride was adorned in a white bridal gown with pearly white cowboy boots and hat. The groom wore a red Western shirt and leather belt with matching cowboy boots and hat. The couple rode their own white mare and dark stallion. Another calm horse was provided for the preacher. We kids watched from the rodeo fence which we climbed up and sat on. It looked like a Hollywood movie set of a dude ranch out West. I never imagined it would be in Vermont, but I guess horse people are everywhere.

As a country version of the Wedding March played over the rodeo loud speakers, the bride and groom entered on horseback and trotted up to the minister.

They said their "howdy dos" and "I dos" as the audience and their friends let out cheers. It seemed like they were rodeo stars, to me.

Following the ceremony, the rodeo continued but we couldn't stay until the end. We were given refreshments then remounted our horses and headed back to the Wade family home. As evening descended and twilight drew near, we arrived, at last, very hungry and tired. We were in luck. Mrs. Wade had cooked up a feast for us famished riders. My muscles were tired from the exertion of a very long day on the trail.

We camped out that night on the living room floor. The next morning we devoured pancakes and eggs. Then our families fetched us and drove us home.

I had much to report on my riding adventure and rodeo wedding in Vermont. It was my longest journey on horseback, full of excitement in spite of our speed. I don't know how many miles we covered, but to me, it was a grand expedition.

I treasure this memory and will never forget it thanks to the Wade Family.

Marguerite Jill Dye is an artist and writer who resides in Vermont and Florida. She welcomes your comments and requests at jillydystudio@aol.com



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← **Living the Dream**

from page 25

presumably caught in a life or death battle beneath the surface. When finally they come back up for air, the goose calmly flew back to the island and the two remaining geese took off, wing rowing.

It was heart wrenching to watch. Canada Geese must certainly be the most evil and useless birds on the planet. All they do is poop and reproduce and hiss and poop some more. My first lifeguarding job included cleaning up all the poop every morning. No sanitary standards back then, just me, a bucket and a beach shovel. And now we had seen just how evil these geese can be. Also, I am now a little frightened of them because I didn't think they could pull off a dive bomb attack.

But it gets worse — maybe. Another 3/4 lap around the increasingly windy lake and we see a loon scooting its way back into the water. A loon was on land! Loons only go

on shore when they are injured or need to nest. So either the female loon, having accepted the loss of the nesting island, chose to nest on shore, or the loon was so injured from the goose attack...


As I write this, we are still unsure if the fourth loon has survived or if we will soon be seeing a fifth or sixth loon take residence on Kent Pond. But caution reigns because a hawk was looking very hungry today and rumors abound of two bald eagles this year.

It should be a wonderful summer for kayaking on the pond — it's only April and already so much nature!

Merisa Sherman is a long-time Killington resident, local Realtor®, Killington town lister and member of the Development Review Board. She is also Coach PomPom. Share your Killington stories at Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.



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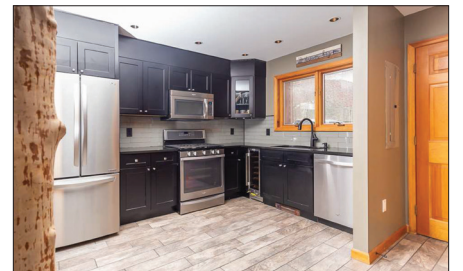
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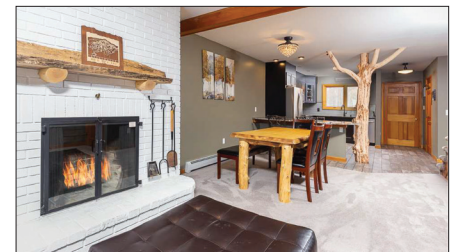
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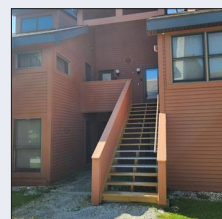
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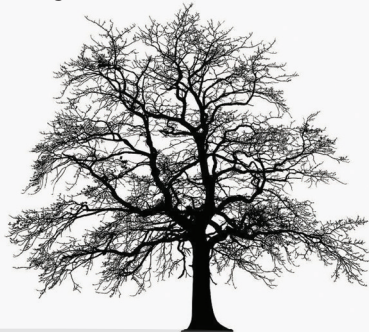


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← Poetry is Power:.....

from page 24

Who is doing this I ask,
 And the answer is as simple as that.
 People,
 That is all,
 That means you,
 That means me.
 But we must protect our earth,
 As very best we can,
 The animals are pleading for help,
 We must protect the land,
 The beautiful land,
 Of hills and streams,
 The one that we call home,
 It needs our help,
 And it needs it fast.
 The animals are counting on us,
 And we know that as a fact,
 So go on and enjoy the world,
 And make sure it stays healthy.
 At that I must go,
 The animals are waiting,
 We must hurry my friends,
 The animals are counting on us.



Courtesy Tick Encounter Resource Center

Growth stages of Blacklegged Ticks or Deer Ticks are important to recognize to keep yourself and family safe, healthy.

← Ticks:.....

from page 6

who do, the disease can be severe, including confusion, loss of coordination, difficulty speaking, and seizures.

“We all love spending time outdoors in Vermont, whether in the garden, in the woods, or on the sports field,” said Dr. Natalie Kwit, the state’s public health veterinarian. “But ticks can be found throughout Vermont, so everyone should know how to prevent tick bites, and recognize symptoms of tick bite illnesses so you can call your health care provider as early as possible,” Dr. Kwit said.

Take these steps to prevent tick bites:

- Avoid where ticks live, such as wooded, brushy areas.
- Wear EPA-registered insect repellent, and protective clothing like pants and long-sleeved shirts. You can treat outdoor clothing, shoes and gear with 0.5% permethrin.
- Check your body, children, pets, clothing and gear for ticks soon after returning inside.

- Take a shower soon after being outdoors to wash away unattached ticks.
- Put clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks carried inside.
- Talk with your veterinarian about tick-prevention products for pets.

Symptoms of a tick bite illness may include fever, chills, rash, headache, joint pain, muscle aches, fatigue, or a rash. Call your doctor if you experience symptoms three to 30 days after a tick bite or spending time in a tick habitat, especially during the spring, summer, and fall. Most people with tick bite illnesses fully recover after a short course of antibiotics, however, there are no vaccines to prevent or medicines that treat Powassan virus disease.

For more information about ticks, the diseases they spread, safe removal, and how to protect yourself, visit: HealthVermont.gov/BeTickSmart.



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