



ART AUCTION TO BENEFIT LOCAL FAMILY

This Sunday at 2 p.m. head to Liquid Art for an auction to benefit the Neil family who lost their home in a fire.

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A UNIVERSITY DECIDES TO GET RID OF ITS LIBRARIES?

BOOKS NOT FOUND

VTSU Castleton students to debut their documentary "Error 404: Books Not Found," on failed effort to digitize libraries, April 24.

Page 5



By Jerry LeBlond

KILLINGTON'S POND SKIM WAS WET, WILD

The annual spring pond skim—a rite of passage—was a soaker!

Page 28-29



By Jason Mikula

The base of Killington Road has closed for reconstruction. A detour is in place until after July 4.

Select Board to possess right of way off Killington Road by eminent domain

By Polly Mikula

On Tuesday, April 16, the Killington Selectmen held a 20 minute meeting where they unanimously approved a motion to warn an eminent domain hearing May 20.

The town was able to secure easements for the necessary reconstruction of Killington Road from its intersection with Route 4 to Anthony Way on the west side of the road (via The Heights condominiums and S&S Associates LLC, which owns the building that houses Killington Sports,

according to town officials); however, it was unable to reach agreement with the property

The pursuit of eminent domain was a choice of last resort, Selectmen Jim Haff explained.

owners on the east side. That land is owned by Eva Nagymihaly and her sister, Theresa Rust.

The pursuit of eminent domain was a choice of last resort,

Selectmen Jim Haff explained. "Eva told me, Jim Haff, that she'd doesn't want to discuss the matter with the town anymore and to proceed with eminent domain," Haff said at

Eminent domain → 4

Toasted Pecan restaurant closes after a year

Clear River Tavern will be back May 31

By Katy Savage

The Toasted Pecan restaurant in Pittsfield closed last month after just over a year since it opened.

A March 27 post on the restaurant's Facebook page announced it would close on March 30.

"The why is difficult and we have struggled with what to say exactly — so we will leave it with — we wish you ALL the best," the post read. The Facebook page and website has since been deleted. Attempts to reach the owners weren't successful.

Husband and wife team Joseph Hofmann and his wife, Blair, opened their southern-inspired eatery, in December 2023, in the building of the former Clear River Tavern.

The menu featured Southern dishes with a New England twist and included items like jellies, jams and maple syrup, along with apple butter grilled cheese and shrimp and grits.

Some people on the Killington Locals Facebook group praised the restaurant's service and food, but scoffed at the high prices. Some said they missed the former Clear River Tavern. Another person wondered how long the restaurant would last given its challenging location.

This was the Hoffmanns' first time opening a restaurant, they said in a former interview with the Mountain Times. They combined Joseph's long history of working in restaurants and Blair's background in event management after they moved to Stockbridge in 2022 to embrace the Vermont lifestyle and "smaller public schools... more community feel," Blair had said.

Clear River Inn and Tavern owner Mark Stugart said he plans to spend the next two months preparing for the Tavern to reopen. "We heard you've missed us..." he posted on the Clear River Tavern Facebook page, April 2. "It will take some time for us to get everything back in order, licensing, etc. ... If all goes according to plan, we will be open the first weekend of June (5/31) & will be here to stay!"

Trophy trout are being stocked in local waters

Vermont's trophy trout stocking program for 2024 includes nine river sections and 37 lakes and ponds receiving the 2-year old trout, some over 18 inches long.

"The Trophy Trout program provides exciting fishing opportunities for anglers of all ages and skill levels," said Vermont's Director of Fisheries Eric Palmer. "Trophy rainbow and brown trout will be stocked in the Black, Winooski, Lamoille, Missisquoi, Walloomsac, and Passumpsic Rivers as well as East and Otter creeks while trophy brook trout will be stocked into the Deerfield River. Large 2-year-old brookies and rainbows will also be stocked in many lakes and ponds."

Trout harvest season opened last Saturday, April 13 and will continue through Oct. 31. There is no length limit and the daily creel limit is two trout for the trophy trout stream sections listed below.

Lake and pond stocking will begin in April as ice clears while river stocking will begin in May and continue through the month. Anglers can check Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website (vtfishandwildlife.com) to see the stocking that has occurred and see the lakes and ponds that are now being stocked with trophy trout. Click on "Fish" and then "Fish Stocking Schedule."

Trophy trout → 12



Courtesy VTF&W

Anglers can improve their chances of success by fishing slowly along the bottom. Vermont's trout season opened Saturday, April 13. Above, a large rainbow trout, caught on a fly rod last season.

Killington Forward update: base of Killington Road is closed, reconstruction begins

Staff report

Monday, April 15, the base of Killington Road at its intersection with Route 4 closed to all vehicular traffic. The road is closed just a short distance from Route 4 up to Anthony Way —about ¼ of a mile. Barrels and barricades mark the closed road on either end of the project, according to a news release by Markowski Excavating, Inc. who won the bid for the project.

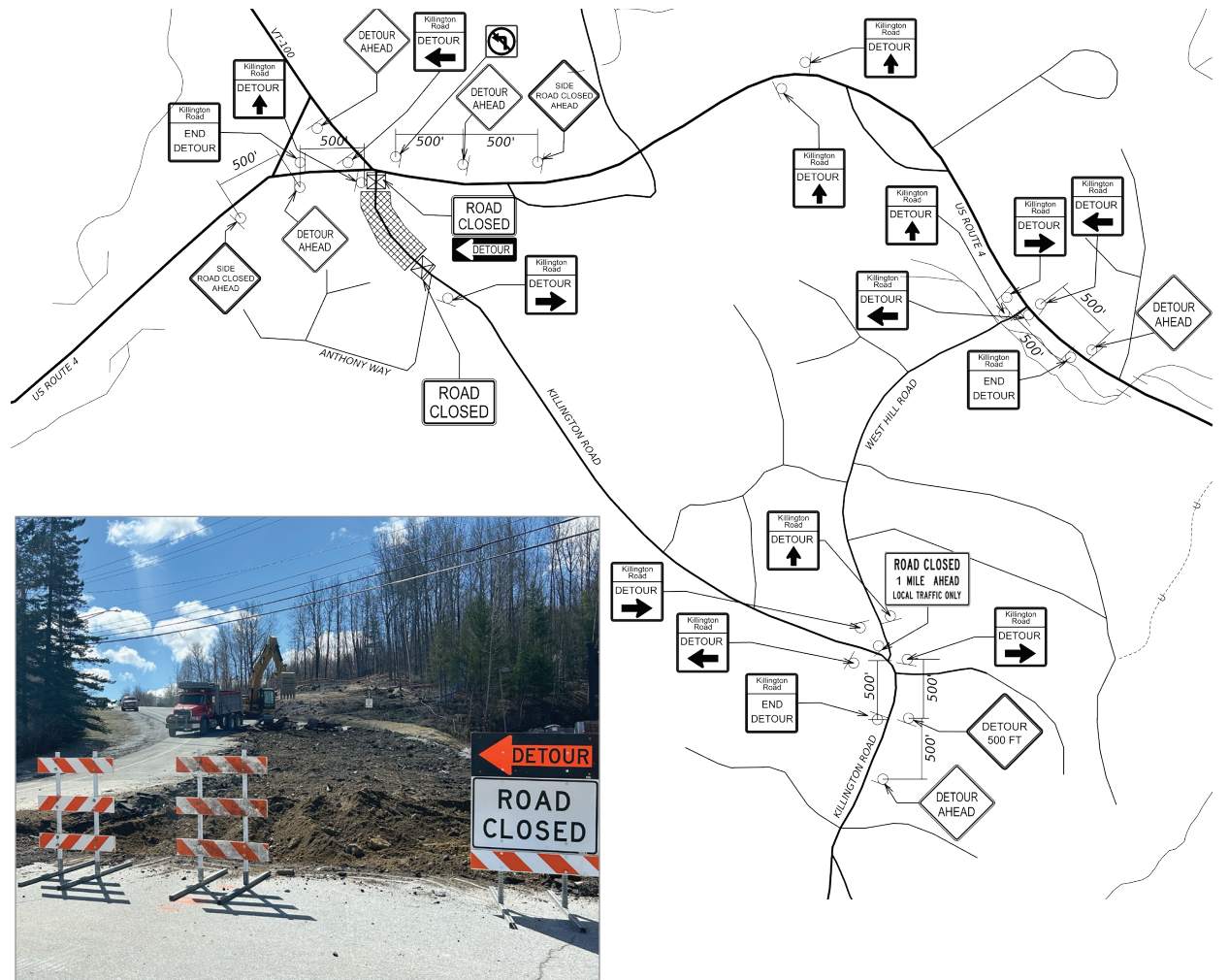
Detour signs direct traffic to West Hill Road, about a mile to the east. This detour is expected to remain in place through the Fourth of July weekend.

“Be aware of construction vehicles entering Route 4 at the intersection,” Markowski’s news release cautioned. “The shoulder along Route 4 will be closed down to Old Route 4 in order to keep the majority of construction equipment off of the road. There will be a 5-foot lane from the white line on Route 4 to the closed shoulder barriers to accommodate bicycle and pedestrians walking the road.”

Killington Sports signs will also have to be removed temporarily to accommodate a new retaining wall, the news release stated.

The following week (starting April 22) Markowski Excavating will continue the excavation of the road and slopes. “We anticipate to find solid rock at some point during the week,” the release stated. “Capital Rock out of New Hampshire is hired to perform any drilling and blasting. They will be reaching out to local property owners within 500-feet of the job site to perform pre-blast surveys... Some roadbed materials may also be placed in the new road elevation, along with this backfilling, drainage and waterline placement.”

For more information about the project and its timeline visit: KillingtonTown.com.



By Jason Mikula

Courtesy Markowski Excavating, Inc.

The base of Killington Road closed Monday for reconstruction.

Map shows the detour and its signage, in effect into July.



TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

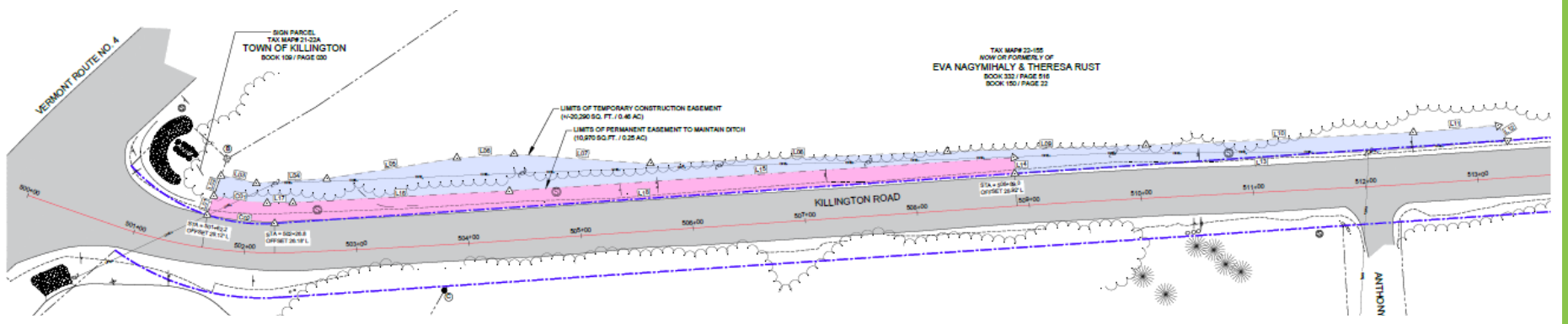
TOWN OF KILLINGTON SELECTBOARD NOTICE FOR LAYING OUT AND ALTERING HIGHWAYS

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.



Dennise Clark to lead RRMCC board of directors

Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) held its 2024 annual meeting of the corporators, on Tuesday, April 9. The meeting took place at the hospital in the CVPS/Leahy Community Health Education Center.

In addition to receiving a variety of updates, corporators at the meeting elected new members of the corporation and voted to renew existing director terms and elect new directors to serve on the hospital's board of directors. The meeting also marked a transition in board leadership as Mark Foley, Jr. completed his two-year term as volunteer board chair. Longtime board member, Denise Clark, who served most recently as vice chair, will succeed Foley to lead the board of directors for the next two year term.

"I have appreciated the opportunity to work closely with Mark in my role as vice chair. We have enjoyed a strong partnership, and I am grateful to Mark for his steady and thoughtful leadership," said Clark. "The board of directors, the leadership team, and staff at Rutland Regional, gratefully thank Mark for the hours and extraordinary support he has dedicated to keeping our community hospital strong and focused on the future."

Speakers at the annual meeting included Dr. Phil Lapp, vice president of medical affairs, who introduced the providers who joined RRMCC in 2023. Joan Gamble, volunteer chair of the Bows Health Trust also presented and shared information about the non-prof-



Courtesy RRMCC
Pictured: Incoming RRMCC Board Chair Denise Clark (left) with outgoing chair Mark Foley, Jr. (seated) and RRMCC President and CEO Judi Fox (right).

it organizations selected last year to receive Bows Health Trust grants.

President and CEO Judi Fox shared information about the hospital's 2024 strategic plan, including the organization's new vision and mission. Fox outlined the plan's five strategic priorities, or pillars, identified as long-term focus areas with clear impacts on Rutland Regional's success.

The five pillars came out of the strategic planning process that began last year to engage the hospital's board of directors, leadership, medical directors, staff, and community members. Each pillar has specific priority areas that

will be measured to demonstrate the effectiveness and success in meeting the hospital's goals.

"From the beginning of this process, our objective was to develop an aspirational, multi-year strategic plan that focuses our work, is easy to broadly communicate, and links to specific, measurable outcomes," said Fox. "Our work resulted in a plan focused on five strategic pillars: Access to care, quality care delivery, financial & resource stewardship, transformation, and employer of choice. Each of these pillars will help guide our organization in the months and years to come."

Rutland Regional Medical Center is the largest community hospital in Vermont and is supported by a medical staff of 256 physicians, nurse practitioners and advanced practice providers trained in 37 specialty areas. The 144-bed hospital is supported by 1,700 employees.

Volunteer board member Joe Kraus was recognized as he completed his nine-year term on the board of directors. Kraus served as board chair from 2020-2022. Joan Gamble was also acknowledged for her nine years of service to the Bows Health Trust Committee, spending the last six years as committee chair. Renee Bousquet, Public Health Services district director at the Vermont Dept. of Health, will succeed Gamble as volunteer chair of the Bows Health Trust Committee.

RRMC's 2023 annual report is available at: rrmc.org/about/annual-reports.

Rutland teen earns national award from Civil Air Patrol

David Burch of Rutland was awarded the Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award, joining a select group of cadets in the state. The award is given to cadets who have demonstrated sustained excellence in all aspects of cadet performance: character, leadership, aerospace education and fitness. Only 15% of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets achieve the Mitchell Award, according to the release.

C/2Lt Burch joined CAP in 2021 and attended basic encampment in 2022 and subsequently was on encampment staff in 2023. In 2024 he placed in the Top 4 in the Wing for cadet competition earning a spot on the Wing color guard and competition team. He is cur-

rently serving as operations officer for Rutland Composite Squadron.

The ceremony was held at the squadron's headquarters on the grounds of the Rutland Regional Airport in Clarendon. It was attended by squadron members and family as well as the Wing Commander for the state of Vermont, Col. Richard Beach.

This award honors the late General Billy Mitchell, an aviation pioneer, advocate, and staunch supporter of an independent air force for America. The award is the first milestone of the cadet program in CAP, and is earned after the completion of the first eight achievements of the cadet program, which includes physical fitness,

character development, and other training. In addition, the cadet must pass a comprehensive 100-question test covering leadership theory and aerospace topics.

Civil Air Patrol is the all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary. CAP operates a fleet of 560 aircraft and performs about 90% of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. CAP's 60,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. In addition, CAP plays a leading role in aerospace/STEM education, and its members serve as



By TSgt Jeremy Bishop
David Burch, of Rutland, received the Billy Mitchell Award for his Cadet training.

mentors to over 25,000 young people participating in CAP's cadet programs.

The Vermont Wing of CAP has squadron locations throughout the state.

For more information, visit: vtwug.cap.gov.

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MOUNTAIN TIMES

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Bear ambassador program aims to foster coexistence with bears

Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife, a leading conservation organization that works to educate landowners and others about sound forest management and wildlife stewardship, announced the launch of its new bear ambassador program. Sixteen “Coverts cooperators” completed the program earlier this month.

This innovative initiative is designed to equip Coverts cooperators with the knowledge and tools necessary to address human-bear conflicts and promote strategies for coexistence in their communities.

Partnering with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept., Coverts Bear Ambassadors course is tailored to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of bear biology, behavior, and strategies for mitigating conflicts. Through a combination of interactive sessions and expert-led discussions, participants gained valuable insights into bear ecology, habitat management, and community engagement.

Seeing a black bear in its natural surroundings is exciting. But when bears end up in human territory like our yards,

problems can occur.

“Vermont Coverts recognizes the importance of community outreach promoting coexistence between humans and bears. If neighbors share about taking in bird feeders, securing garbage, and taking other bear aware measures, we can help reduce nuisance bear issues,” noted Lisa Sausville, executive director of Vermont Coverts.

The curriculum of the bear ambassador program emphasized practical strategies for reducing human-bear conflicts while promoting safe and sustainable coexistence. Participants learned how to effectively communicate within their communities about implementing proactive measures to mitigate conflicts.

“With the Bear Ambassador Program, we aim to empower Coverts peer leaders to become informed advocates to reduce human bear conflicts,” added Sausville.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife bear biologist Jackie Comeau was excited about the opportunity to train cooperators in community outreach. To learn more about living with bears, visit: vtfishandwildlife.com or vermontcoverts.org.



Courtesy Vermont Coverts

The first cohort of Bear Ambassadors hold up a poster that shares tips for how to “Help Keep Bears Wild.” The new program aims to protect bears and people.



TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

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

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

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

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

The full text of the proposed Town of Killington Zoning Bylaw Amendments may be found at the Town Clerk’s office, 2706 River Road, Killington and on the Town’s website at: killingtontown.com.

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

Donate your eclipse glasses

The Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) is collecting the special glasses used to observe the recent solar eclipse to provide children in South America and elsewhere the valuable tool for viewing. In October an annular eclipse will occur in Latin America.

According to Kim Lampert, LRC treasurer, the glasses may be dropped off at three locations in Ludlow:

1. Benson’s Chevrolet, Inc. 25 Pond Street
2. M&T Bank, 213 Main Street
3. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street

Donations can also be made at the LRC’s



Submitted

Special glasses used to safely view the eclipse can be reused! The Ludlow Rotary is collecting them.

Penny Sale on Saturday, April 27 at the Ludlow Gymnasium starting at 6 p.m. Members of the LRC will collect glasses through April 30. For more info, call: 802-228-4000.

← Eminent domain: from page 1

the meeting Tuesday.

The town had been in negotiations with Nagymihaly for nearly a year prior.

Eminent domain (protected by the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution) is the power of government to take private property and convert it into public use, provided it pays market value compensation to the owners for the land.

Markowski Excavating, Inc. won the bid for the reconstruction work at the base of Killington Road and began Monday, April 15. The section up to Anthony Way is currently closed and will remain closed through the Fourth of July weekend.

The work requires the town to acquire some temporary construction easements (up to 32 ½ feet from the road) as well as permanent easements, about 18 ½ feet off the road.

The eminent domain hearing is not expected to delay the project.

On the west side of the road (where easements are secured) there will also be a sidewalk along the roadway that ends in the back parking lot of Killington Sports.

The hearing

On May 20, 2024, the Select Board will meet at 9 a.m. to inspect Nagymihaly’s and Rust’s land in question. Then at 9:30 a.m. they’ll convene and conduct a public hearing at the Public Safety Building to receive testimony from the owners 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,” according to the warning (published on page 2).

A copy of the survey, outlining the road construction plans and easements, is available for inspection at the town clerk’s office.

For more information and additional charts visit: mountaintimes.info.



Courtesy VTSU Castleton

Next Wednesday, April 24, VTSU Castleton students will debut a documentary that's been 18 months in the making. It documents the state's failed effort to digitize VTSU libraries.

Student debut documentary on how books were saved

VTSU Castleton students to debut documentary "Error 404: Books Not Found," on failed effort to digitize libraries

For 18 months, Vermont State University Castleton Communications students have been working on a documentary film detailing 2023 efforts by university leaders to digitize libraries — and basically get rid of most of the books.

Now, after numerous interviews, hundreds of hours of footage and hundreds more hours in the edit bay, the documentary, "Error 404: Books Not Found," is ready to be screened to the public free on April 24 — and the students are excited to share their work.

"I love Castleton. I've wanted to go here since I was a kid and I wanted something to show the hurt and the frustration that the community has and that's what this means to me," said student co-producer Will Smith.

The nearly 40-minute film is the product of a Spring 2023 Documentary Workshop class led by Communications Professor Sam Davis-Boyd. In years past, the class has produced films on issues including homelessness in Rutland and Vermont's burgeoning craft beer industry.

When choosing a topic for the semester's documentary, Davis-Boyd raised the library controversy as a possibility. Despite the potential of controversy, she said students were immediately passionate about it.

"The email [announcing the library decision] was sent out

and our next class was the next day. The students were very upset. I had a whole semester's worth of projects we were going to do, but I floated the possibility of whether we should follow this story instead. It seemed like an important story to follow," David-Boyd said. "They were excited, and we just jumped right in filming everything that was going on."

The project was led by co-directors/producers Smith and Lily Doton and edited under the leadership of Jacob Gonzalez with assistance from classmates Maddie Lindgren and Jacob Ruben. And although Doton and Gonzalez have both since graduated, they remained fixtures in the edit bay in recent months to see the project through.

"The fact they decided to stay on speaks volumes to how important they feel the story is," Davis-Boyd said.

Doton said leaving the project she had invested so deeply in just wasn't an option.

"I don't like starting something and not finishing it. But it's also because we were so close to the issue — the emails, the protests. After seeing all that, it would have been a disservice to not finish the documentary and tell the story we wanted to tell. I didn't want to give up on this."

Doton said she hopes Herrick Auditorium is packed with people on April 24 to see the screening.

"We want to get a lot of eyes on it, and we also just hope this can inform people who maybe weren't very aware when these decisions came out," she said. "There's a lot of information in it that I don't think the public is aware of."

The film captures the raw emotion of students and faculty who vehemently opposed the cost-saving library measure pitched by since-resigned VTSU president Parwinder Grewal. Student film crews brought cameras to protests, to the statehouse, to VTSU Board of Trustees meetings and to the offices of several outspoken professors.

It also includes data from professors that suggests other cuts — like to the chancellor's office — would provide much more relief than what was touted from digitizing the library.

In the months since work on the documentary began, Grewal was replaced by interim VTSU President Mike Smith, who reversed the library decision. Although efforts are still underway to reduce the number of less-used books in the collection, plans to totally digitize have been scrapped.

Smith, who only agreed to serve as president basically until the merger of Castleton, Johnson, Lyndon and Vermont Technical College was complete last July, has since been replaced by another interim president, David Bergh.

Documentary → 12

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Caught flat-footed, Legislators rush to mitigate ed tax increase

By Curt Peterson

The Vermont House Ways and Means Committee is rushing madly to solve a crushing education tax problem.

Early in January, several state representatives warned colleagues that an education fund issue would cause severe pain property taxpayers across the state. Many of the elected, and Governor Scott, chanted, “Cut your budgets!” as their answer to the crisis.

Unfortunately, lots of people adopted that mantra, accusing school officials of irresponsible spending and budget fat. About 30% of district budgets were defeated on Town Meeting Day in March.

School boards, also aware of impending doom, discussed possible remedies at public board meetings which no members of the public attended.

So, when prospective tax increases became public, taxpayers were both surprised and angry. A frequently repeated example of effect on Hartland property taxes cited an \$1,100/year increase in ed fund taxes for a house assessed at \$250,000.

“Covid refugees” and a vibrant general housing market over the past three years increased the statistical market value of Hartland properties. The ed fund applies a “Common Level of Appraisal” (CLA) to the ed tax rate, representing the difference between Hartland’s Grand List evaluations and the true market value of properties — which had the effect of increasing the ed tax rate locally by 31%.

Hartland School Board chair Nicki Buck told The Mountain Times that, without the CLA, the original school budget wouldn’t have increased the basic ed tax rate at all.

Nonetheless, the school board rescinded the \$11,500,000 original budget, slashed about \$500,000, and put to voters on April 2. It passed by 9 votes out of more than 600 plus cast. The budget amendment sounded like a reasonable reaction to the tax increase, but, Buck pointed out, it didn’t make a dent in the proposed ed tax rate.

Bottom line? Neither the original nor the amended version of the budget had any effect on the ed tax rate.

“96% of a school budget is determined by the state,” Windsor County representative Elizabeth Burrows told The Mountain Times. “Local boards control only 4%.”

“And the CLA is not going to go away. Not this year,” she said. “The best we can hope for will be a dampening the CLA effect.”

Burrows thinks the various state mandates for unfunded services now

foisted on schools — such as mental health services, special education and universal lunch — should be assumed by the state to cover their costs. That would help make the school budgets look more reasonable.

Clinging to the Legislature’s and governor’s accusation of budget fat, residents petitioned for a revote on the budget, incorrectly implying that school spending caused the tax increase. Buck said the board is now paying for legal advice regarding the petition, and a probable revote, will cost more money without providing the desired result.

Windsor County representative Elizabeth Burrows, also a local school board member in the Ascutney Supervisory Union, reported on last-minute progress made by the Legislature as of Monday, April 15. She said the dream is to eliminate the tax increase, but that is not going to happen.

Burrows was one of the representatives who warned colleagues about the tax debacle, and she is monitoring all negotiations over the education tax issue.

“We’re not going to see elimination of the ‘CLA,’” she warned, “but I suspect Hartland’s 31% may become around 15%.” That would cut the expected tax increase on the \$250,000 home to about \$550.

Hartland Board of Listers chair Stacey Bradley answered Select Board chair Phil Hobbie on Monday evening, when he asked if the town could get a faster reappraisal in view of a shortage

“Without a clear vision of what public education should be in Vermont and a strategy to achieve that vision, we will continue to fumble along looking for a quick fix,” said Sousa.

of licensed professionals.

“We can put out a Request for Proposals among various professionals,” Bradley said, “but a reappraisal isn’t going to help — the properties will still be taxed at or near the estimated market value, it just won’t involve application of the CLA.”

A final house floor vote on the final proposal may come as early as Thursday, April 18. It will then go to the senate for consideration.

Burrows said public opinion matters a lot at this time — individual emails should be written to Representative Kornheiser, chair of the Ways and Means Committee, and to state senators. Dick McCormack and Alison Clarkson are Windsor County senators. David Weeks and Terry Williams are

senators for Rutland County.

Rutland County representative Jim Harrison agrees with Burrows that nothing permanent is likely to be in the final proposal.

“There have been several suggestions for changing the method for ed fund financing,” Harrison told The Mountain Times, “including using all income tax, or maybe diverting other revenue, or adding taxes — such as taxing on-line downloaded software, an increased tax on short term rental income, or increasing the tax rate on non-residential properties. The administration suggested spreading the CLA effect over a couple of years instead of all at once.”

“No matter what the change is going to end up being,” Harrison added, “there will be winners and losers, and some people are going to be unhappy.”

“I agree that our method of funding education needs to be reevaluated,” said Sherry Sousa, Mountain Views Supervisory Union Superintendent. “The source for funding education, to me, is not as significant as addressing the causes for these increases. These include schools assuming greater responsibility in meeting the mental health needs of students, inflated health care costs for employees which is a significant portion of our budgets, the impact of supporting private schools with public dollars, and the use of the Educational Fund by the Legislature for initiatives without a dedicated funding source. Until and unless, we have these conversations with all parties this crisis will continue.”

Sousa continued. “The discussion of how we fund public education in Vermont has been a topic of discussion in Montpelier for many years,” she wrote to the Mountain Times. “We have had multiple studies and outside groups offer their best thinking on how to move forward in an equitable and sustainable manner. There are extremely difficult decisions that need to be made but I feel that few have stepped up to that responsibility. This leaves individual School Boards, administrators and communities to make decisions in this void of leadership. Without a clear vision of what public education should be in Vermont and a strategy to achieve that vision, we will continue to fumble along looking for a quick fix.”

EPA finalizes first-ever national drinking water standard

\$1 billion aimed at removing harmful PFAS from drinking water

On April 10, the Biden-Harris Administration issued the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to harmful per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as ‘forever chemicals.’ Exposure to PFAS has been linked to deadly cancers, impacts to the liver and heart, and immune and developmental damage to infants and children. This final rule represents the most significant step to protect public health under EPA’s PFAS Strategic Roadmap. The final rule will reduce PFAS exposure for approximately 100 million people, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious illnesses.

Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, EPA is also making unprecedented funding available to help ensure that all people have clean and safe water. EPA is announced nearly \$1 billion in newly available funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help states and territories implement PFAS testing and treatment at public water systems and to help owners of private wells address PFAS contamination. This is part of a \$9 billion investment through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help communities with drinking water impacted by PFAS and other emerging contaminants — the largest-ever investment in tackling PFAS pollution. An additional \$12 billion is available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for general drinking water improvements, including addressing emerging contaminants like PFAS.

“Drinking water contaminated with PFAS has plagued communities across this country for too long,” said EPA
PFAS national standard → 11

Bill to ban PFAS and other toxic chemicals advances in the Vermont House

April 10, the same day new national standards were set, the Vermont House advanced legislation (S.25) on a strong voice vote to ban per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) and other toxic chemicals from personal care products and menstrual products, and to ban PFAS from apparel, cookware, artificial turf, and children’s products. An earlier version of the bill passed the Vermont Senate unanimously in 2023, and the bill is supported by Vermont small businesses, public health experts, children’s advocates, and environmental groups. The amended bill will now return to the Senate for their consideration.

Lauren Hierl, executive director of Vermont Conservation Voters, noted: “Today, the Vermont House took important action to protect Vermonters’ health by advancing a bill to restrict the use of toxic chemicals like PFAS in a range of products we use every day, including cosmetics, cookware, clothing, and children’s products. Chemicals like PFAS are linked to cancer and other harms to human health, and this bill continues Vermont’s leadership role in acting to reduce Vermonters’ unnecessary exposure to dangerous chemicals.”

The chemicals banned by this bill are linked to numerous negative human health impacts. PFAS chemicals are linked to kidney and testicular cancers, high blood pressure, thyroid disease, and suppressed immune system function. Phthalates are a class of hormone-disrupting chemicals
PFAS Vt bill → 11

Now you see it, now you don't

Last Tuesday, the House Ways & Means Committee unveiled a proposal to make significant changes to Vermont's education financing system, including limits on how much school budgets could go up going forward. The plan even garnered some support from the Scott Administration. However, by Thursday, April 11, when organizations representing various education sectors came out in opposition to the plan, the committee shelved most of it in favor of a "study" of the ideas.



By Rep. Jim Harrison

In testimony Friday morning, Tax Commissioner Bolio urged the committee to "don't give up" on making necessary changes. He also pitched an idea of spreading out some of the expected double digit property tax hikes with incentives to school districts to limit spending and reward better educational outcomes. While the committee chair seemed intrigued with the concept, she indicated it might be too late in the process to fully evaluate the notion.

In the meantime, several school budgets were voted down for a second time last week, including Slate Valley (Fair Haven), South Burlington and Essex-Westford.

Locally, voters in Chittenden and Mendon will be revoting on the Barstow budget on April 30. The school board trimmed approximately \$29,000 (less than 0.5%) off the original budget of \$6,273,856, which was defeated by just four votes on Town Meeting Day. There is an informational session at Barstow on Monday, April 22 at 6 p.m. Voting will take place at the Chittenden town office, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and at the Mendon town office, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. on April 30.

Voters in Chittenden and Mendon will be revoting on the Barstow budget on April 30.

The Ways & Means Committee is considering adding a sales tax to online software and an additional tax on short-term rentals. Even with those new taxes, the latest estimates still forecast average property tax increases of 15.5% for homesteads and 18.5% for non-homesteads. These are average increases, which will be adjusted up or down depending on local school budgets and changes in the common level of appraisal (CLA) for each town.

With just four weeks left until the planned conclusion of the 2024 session, much still needs to be done. There are potentially wide differences between the House and Senate as well as the governor on

spending, taxes, and certain policy agendas. Some of those differences will become clearer next week when the Senate unveils its state budget plan and what tax increases, if any, it relies on.

State Senator Dick Mazza of Colchester resigned his post last Monday due to deteriorating health. Mazza, a Democrat, was a friend of fellow senators, prior governors, state office holders and especially of Governor Scott, who described him as the "conscience of the Senate." Mazza was one of those rare politicians that left his party label at the door and did his best to apply common sense to the various issues before him. On a personal note, I have known Sen. Mazza throughout my career with the Vermont Retail & Grocers Association, of which he was a member, as well as serving in the Legislature. I have taken advantage of his wisdom and guidance many, many times. He will be missed at the State House. I will be keeping him in my thoughts as he deals with his health issues.

Other issues of interest:

- Senate leadership has concluded they do not have the votes to override the governor's veto of the flavored tobacco ban, S.18, and has sent the measure back to committee.
- Perhaps another sign that the 2024 session is in the home stretch, the Senate Transportation Committee advanced its version of the annual transportation bill, H.868. It is one of the key bills that must pass every session that allocates available resources to highway maintenance, construction, snow plowing, train, and state airports.
- The Legislature completed the work of H.543, which allows Vermont to join the interstate Social Work Licensure Compact. The compact is one of several health-related interstate compacts allowing professional licensees to operate in participating states without having to get new licenses in each state.
- The House approved S.25 on a unanimous vote. The legislation bans the use of PFAS chemicals in several products. For the most part, the future bans are in line with several other states that have taken up similar bills. The legislation now goes back to the Senate to consider the changes the House made.
- The Senate Natural Resources Committee continues to work to merge a housing bill, S.311, and the House passed Act 250 legislation, H.687.

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.

Four weeks to pass or bills are 'dead' until 2025

The State House is an extraordinarily busy place at the moment. The Legislature is in the last month of its two-year 2023-24 Biennium.

Which means, that if bills don't pass in the next four weeks, they are "dead" until January 2025, when they can be re-introduced. So, for many issues and bills, this is crunch time. As a result, most of our big bills are in negotiation.



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

For example, both the Senate's big housing bill, S.311, and land use bill, S.308, are being incorporated into the House's Act 250 (land use) update bill, H.687. This represents a substantial amount of time and effort by three committees. The action at the moment, on all three of those bills, is in Senate Natural Resources and Energy. If you are interested in following the developments in these areas, H.687 will be voted out of that committee in the next week. It will then go to the Senate Finance and Appropriations committees (as it has spending and tax proposals in it) and then to the Senate Floor to be voted on. Following that, a conference committee will be named (made up of three members of the House and three of the Senate) and it is in this committee that the final negotiations on two of the Legislature's top priorities:

housing and land use planning (updating Act 250) will take place.

Another bill generating quite a bit of interest is this year's Ethics Bill, H.875. Vermont had been one of the only states without some form of an Ethics Commission and without a state code of ethics. For the last eight years the Legislature has worked to rectify that. We now have both an Ethics Commission and a state code of ethics. Here is a link to their website which has lots of information, including the code: ethicscommission.vermont.gov.

Each year we work to update and add to aspects of the code of ethics. This year, we are addressing municipal ethics. In response to last year's legislative request for a

Evidently almost 50% of the complaints lodged at the Ethics Commission are municipal in nature. Most frequently cited concerns are conflicts of interest, preferential treatment, retaliation and financial impropriety.

report from the Ethics Commission on how to implement a municipal code of ethics, the House Committee on Government Operations crafted this bill, which is now being considered by the Senate Government Operations Committee on which I serve. Evidently almost 50% of the complaints lodged at the Ethics Commission are municipal in nature. Most frequently cited concerns are conflicts of interest, preferential treatment, retaliation and financial impropriety.

Clarkson → 12

VTrans awards \$8.6 million to municipalities for transportation, highways, stormwater

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) announced Wednesday, April 10, the recipients of more than \$8.6 million in federal funds for municipal grant projects through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Municipal Highways and Stormwater Mitigation Program. "These diverse projects will help continue to enhance and expand Vermont's transportation infrastructure," said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. "Improvements to sidewalks, bike paths, and shared-use paths provide Vermonters more transportation options and improve their quality of life."

Local projects selected in include:

- Bridgewater: Construction of a new sand/salt shed
- Fair Haven: Additional funding

to install lighting along the town green

- Fair Haven: Additional funding for rain gardens and sidewalks at the new Park & Ride
- Proctor: Additional funding to widen and replace existing sidewalk along South Street
- Rutland: Scoping study of bike/ped travel for the Rutland City schools

For more info visit: vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects.



GUEST EDITORIAL

Baby Bonds would empower Vermonters to improve their lives

By Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield

As the founders of Ben & Jerry's, we know firsthand the power of investing in Vermont's communities. Since opening our first location in downtown Burlington, we've used our platform to support economic and social justice. That's why we wholeheartedly support the proposal to create a Baby Bonds program in Vermont.

The status quo isn't working for regular people, both in Vermont and nationwide. High costs of higher education and housing, coupled with systemic barriers to capital, prevent many from overcoming cycles of generational poverty and achieving upward social mobility.

We know these challenges disproportionately impact BIPOC Vermonters. In 2020, White Vermonters had a home-ownership rate of 72%, compared to 21% for Black Vermonters, a wider disparity than the national averages of 70% for White individuals and 41% for Black individuals.

Over the past several decades, America's wealth gap between the richest and poorest families more than doubled. The wealthiest Vermonters currently earn over 10 times more than the bottom 20%.

While education is commonly viewed as "the great equalizer," through which anyone can be successful if they work hard, the cost of higher education only widens the wealth gap. Vermont recently ranked ninth in the nation for the amount of student debt per borrower (\$38,071).

Economic struggles are often mistakenly tied to personal shortcomings, but a more accurate explanation is the lack of access to capital. In Vermont, lacking financial resources makes it harder to attend college, purchase a home, or launch a business. This obstacle severely limits the ability to accumulate wealth and break free from inherited economic hardships.

A statewide Baby Bonds program seeks to address just that.

The proposal would establish a birthright to capital for every child in Vermont born on Medicaid. Initially, \$3,200 would be deposited for each child and invested by the Treasurer's Office, growing over time. Individuals could access their Baby Bond between age 18 and 30, with the initial investment projected to grow to over \$10,000 by age 18 and nearly \$25,000 by age 30.

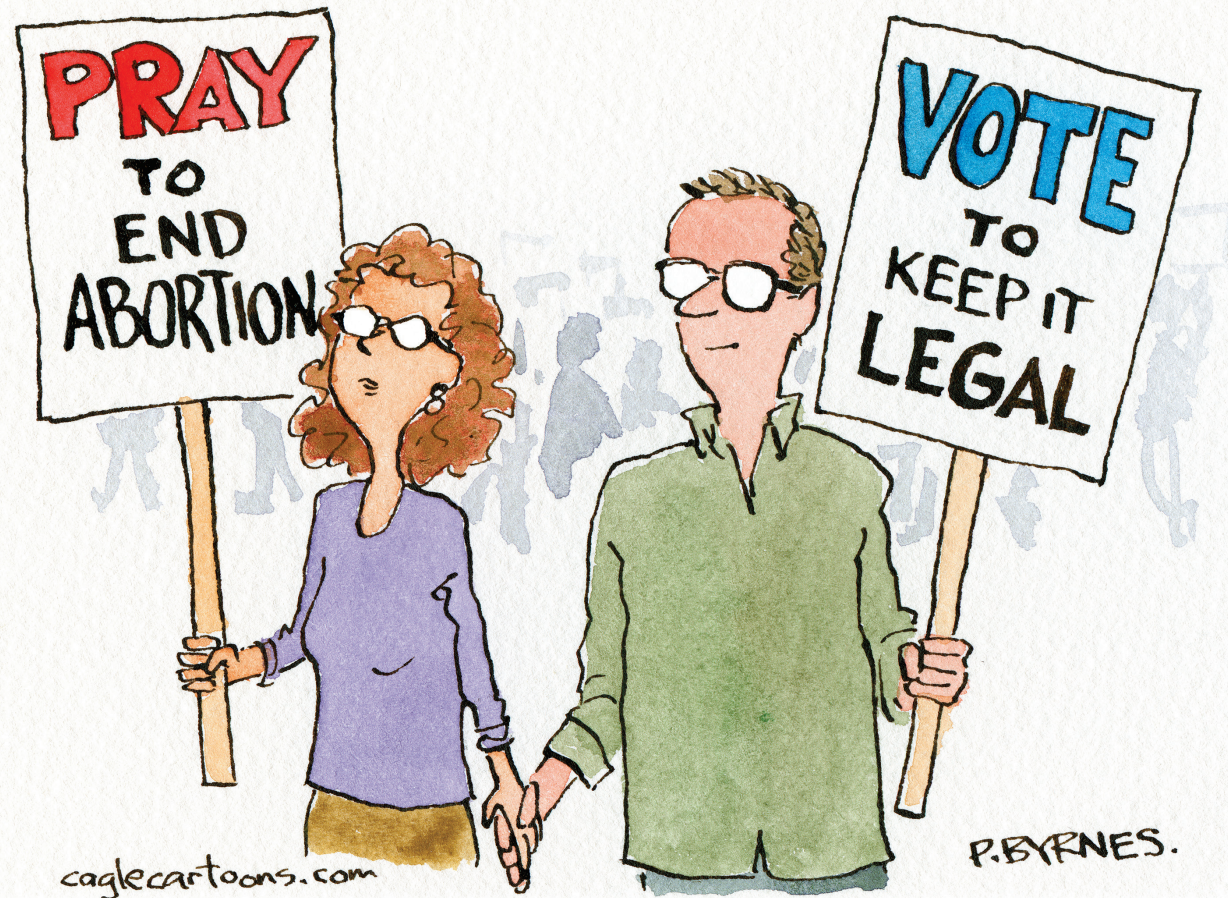
The funds would be dedicated to wealth-building purposes like buying a home in Vermont, starting or investing in a business in Vermont, pursuing higher education or job training, or saving for retirement.

Vermonters enrolled in the program would have access to capital at a critical moment in their lives, providing opportunities to start their own financial futures. This would have a massive economic output and benefit to our communities.

We know firsthand the impact of having startup capital for a business. It was thanks to a \$12,000 investment that Ben & Jerry's opened its first location. We need to ensure all Vermonters have a hand up so they can fulfill their dreams of starting a business, owning a home, or being the first person in their family to go to college.

We urge lawmakers to support Baby Bonds, an investment to address intergenerational poverty and empower people to improve their lives.

It was thanks to a \$12,000 investment that Ben & Jerry's opened its first location.



Pray, Vote by Pat Byrnes, PoliticalCartoons

LETTERS

Act 127 was overdue and is good law

Dear Editor,

Vermont stands as a beacon of community values. Yet, beneath this facade, our education system has harbored inequities for decades that undermine these very principles. Enter Act 127 — a legislative commitment to Vermont's constitutional guarantee for equity, opportunity and fairness for every child in our state.

For decades, Vermont's education funding system, while well-intentioned, has inadvertently perpetuated inequities across our diverse landscapes. Rural, impoverished and diverse districts have borne the brunt of this outdated model, struggling to provide the same level of education as their more affluent counterparts. This isn't just a funding issue, it's a matter of the constitutional guarantee Vermont makes to our children about the value of their education.

Act 127, informed by comprehensive research and community advocacy,

Act 127 → 10

S.258 is a very bad bill

Dear Editor,

Under political pressure from animal rights groups, in coordination with a national organization, Senate bill S.258 was passed and is now in the House. This bill would remove the authority for rulemaking from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife board (Board) and transfer it to the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. This moves a democratic forum to tech-

nocrats. Worse yet, the ANR, being part of the administration, is subject to powerful influence by whoever the sitting governor may be at

This would be like putting right-to-lifers on the board of Planned Parenthood.

the time — either personal or partisan influence.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife board was created when the Vermont Legislature, after some disastrous

S.258 → 10

Great job highway and roadway

Dear Editor,

The Killington highway and roadway workers did an excellent job all year long maintaining my road and area roads. Innsbruck Lane is a steep road that intersects Merrill and George Streets. Snow plowing is difficult on most narrow roads but particularly challenging here. The team plowed early, often, and skillfully to maintain a clear roadway. Nice job, Thank you!

Jeff Bruell, Killington

Gov. Scott's veto of a flavored tobacco ban is a win for small businesses, the economy, and adults' right to make choices

Dear Editor,

Governor Phil Scott's decision to veto S.18, legislation that would ban the sale of flavored tobacco and nicotine products in Vermont, is a win for small businesses, the economy, and adults' right to make their own choices.

Proponents of bans like this argue they are necessary to protect public health by

preventing the attraction of young people to nicotine use. The truth is, these products are already illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase, and efforts from responsible retailers and strong enforcement policies have driven youth tobacco use to historic lows.

For flavor → 10

Make Vermont affordable!

Dear Editor,

It's time to change our state government's archaic tax system and truly make it fair for every single Vermonter. Vermont's current tax system employed by the Legislature needs a true and absolute overhaul!

First, it is exclusive.

Second, they want to tax everything, and in some cases they are. We need Consumption tax → 12

CAPITOL QUOTES

The trial involving former President Donald Trump's alleged hush money payment to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels began in New York this week. The jury selection process is under scrutiny from the judge and legal representatives. Trump was present in court to observe the proceedings, which are anticipated to extend possibly until the following week. The charges against Trump pertain to accusations of falsifying business records in connection with the hush money payment to Daniels made in 2016.

“Everyone and their mother has an opinion about this case, and what the right outcome should be... We need jurors who can set aside strong feelings and focus on evidence... This case has nothing to do with your personal politics.....is really not about whether or not you like Donald Trump.....It is not a referendum on the Trump presidency or a popularity contest... This case is about whether this man broke the law,”

Said prosecutor **Joshua Steinglass** to NBC News.

“Arguing before the Supreme Court is a big deal... A trial in New York Supreme Court... is also a big deal. I will see him here next week.”

Said **Justice Juan Merchan** according to BBC.

“You walked in and you felt like history was happening which was a really, really cool sensation... I wish I could have stayed for the entire trial. It's fascinating, it's unprecedented.”

Excused potential juror **Kara McGee** told a crowded field of reporters according to USA Today.

“Prosecutors love obstruction statutes, and they love conspiracy statutes, because those statutes are so broad and can be applied in a variety of circumstances to encompass all sorts of conduct,”

said **Thomas Dupree**, a leading appellate attorney and former top Bush Justice Department official according to Fox News.

COMMENTARY

New Secretary of Education sees opportunity in Vt schools

By Zoie Saunders

Editor's note: The following is a message addressed to Vermont educators, students and families from incoming Education Secretary Zoie Saunders, who was appointed to the position on March 22 and began April 15, the Senate is expected to take up her confirmation hearing April 23.

I am delighted and honored to be joining this incredible community, and I'm eager to begin the work to build lasting relationships with our students, families, educators, and civic leaders. As I step into this role as

the new Secretary of Education for Vermont, I'm confident that together we will build upon a strong foundation and lift Vermont's public schools to new heights. On a deeply personal level, this new role provides me an opportunity to be near family and to lead a state education agency that my own kids will count on.

I have spent my entire career working to improve student outcomes, open pathways to post-secondary education and training for all students, and to make sure that every student has access to a great public school. I was raised with rural roots in a union family that valued collective action and community support. This upbringing helped shape my

To our parents, I pledge to bring my perspective as a Vermont public school parent into every meeting I attend and every policy we consider.

personal and professional outlook. From the start of my career, I have been unwavering in my commitment to foster and expand an environment where equity, access, and opportunity are at the forefront of our educational agenda.

I do not expect the work ahead of me to be easy: nothing worth doing is.

Like many other states, Vermont faces challenges — some of which were exacerbated by the pandemic and others that are compounded by national and regional economic challenges.

Working collaboratively, I'm confident that we can turn challenges into opportunities and provide every child in Vermont with pathways to a bright future, every educator with support and resources to grow in their profession, and every district leader with the empowerment and trust to lead.

I promise to be all in with you on this important work and to commit my professional time and energy on priorities that center around students.

To our students, you are the reason we are here. You will be a central part of my focus and my most important advisors.

Secretary of Ed → 9

NAR Settlement: What it means for home buyers and sellers in Vermont

By Steven Foster

Editor's note: Steven Foster is president of the Vermont Association of Realtors, a statewide association of over 2,000 real estate practitioners.

On March 15, 2024, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) announced a \$418 million settlement that would resolve litigation over claims in a national class action lawsuit brought on by home sellers related to broker's commissions. Much of the reporting surrounding this and what it means for the Vermont housing market has been inaccurate.

It's important to note that NAR does not set commissions or fees, and the proposed settlement would not change that. Realtors' professional service fees would continue to be negotiable among buyers, sellers, and their brokers. Sellers and buyers may decide to work with a Realtor for many reasons, including helping to understand local market conditions, interpreting information found on the internet, negotiating the best price and terms, and

navigating an often complex financing and closing process.

Highly trained real estate professionals offer client advocacy and insights with required disclosures and regulations. They connect buyers and sellers with other reputable real estate-related professionals such as lawyers, lenders, contractors, and inspectors — any of which can make or break a transaction.

The commitment of Vermont Realtors to their clients and the value they deliver has not wavered through market cycles and other industry changes.

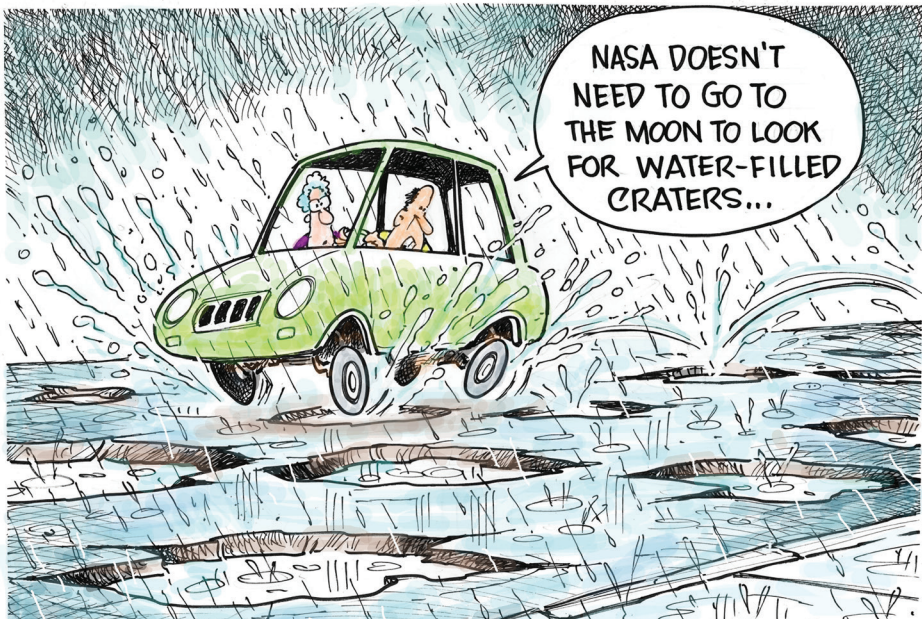
NAR's settlement is simply an attempt to increase communication and transparency in an ever-evolving real estate industry. The settlement would preserve consumers' choices regarding real estate services and compensation.

NAR and the Vermont Association of Realtors (VAR) have long encouraged their members to use written representation

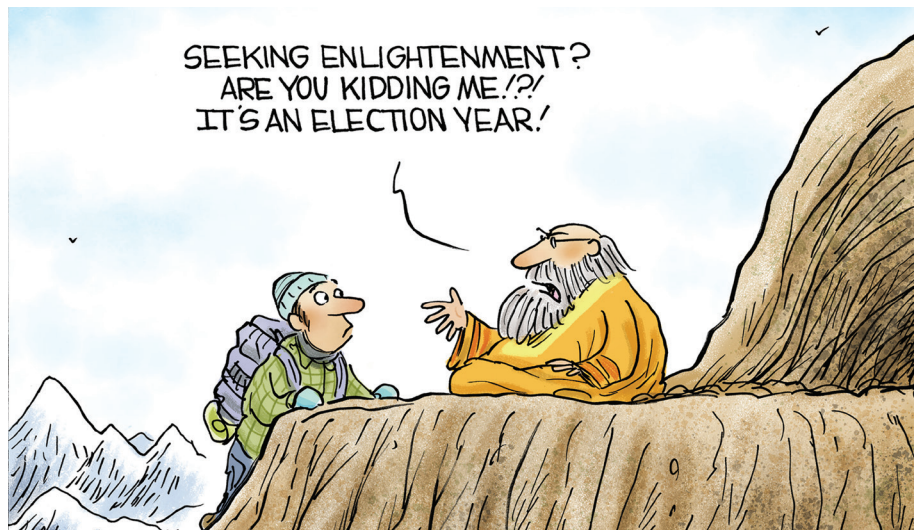
Vt real estate → 11

Vermont currently has a 6,800-unit housing shortage.

CARTOON

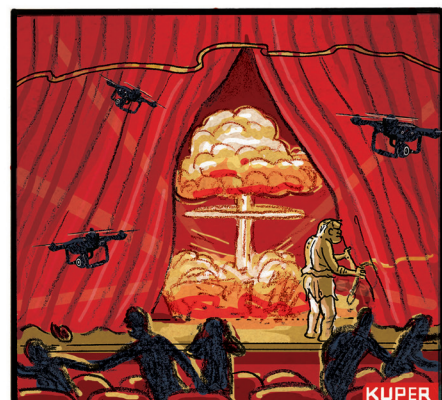
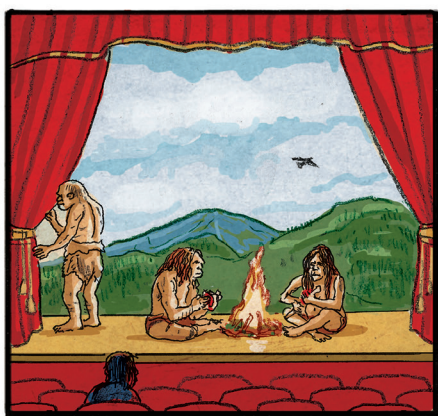


Road craters by Dave Granlund, PoliticalCartoons



Enlightenment Skips A Year by Christopher Weyant, The Boston Globe, MA

ANTHROPOCENE?



The Anthropocene Epoch is an unofficial unit of geologic time, used to describe the most recent period in Earth's history when human activity started to have a significant impact on the planet's climate and ecosystems.

Is This Our Play? by Peter Kuper, PoliticalCartoon

Act 127:
from page 8

introduces a more equitable approach to school funding. By revising the weighting factors that determine financial allocations, it ensures that additional resources are directed where they're most needed — to the students facing the greatest challenges and to the schools that serve as their lifelines.

Some may question the timing or specifics of Act 127, especially in a period marked by financial uncertainty and social challenges. However, it is precisely during such times that our commitment to equity and justice must be strongest. Act 127 isn't just a piece of legislation, it's a declaration of our collective values, a testament to our

belief in the transformative power of education.

As we navigate the implementation of Act 127, the Coalition for Vermont Student Equity (CVTSE) calls upon educators, policymakers and community members to engage with this process actively. This isn't a time for complacency but for vigorous advocacy and thoughtful dialogue. We must work together to ensure that the promise of Act 127 becomes a reality for every student in Vermont. Addressing these issues is integral to the overall goal of educational equity.

Marc B. Schaubert, West Dover, is the executive director for the Coalition for Vermont Student Equity.

For flavor:
from page 8

When products are removed from licensed retailers, these safeguards disappear as people turn to the illicit market and unregulated online vendors who don't bother to check IDs. We've seen this happen before in Massachusetts, where a ban on all flavored tobacco products led to an uptick in cross-border purchases. Fortunately, Gov. Scott and a bipartisan group of legislators in both houses of the Green Mountain State's Legislature recognize that flavor bans are the wrong approach.

Governor Scott also understands the importance of Vermonters' right to choose. In his veto letter he states: "We have an obligation to protect our children, but it must be balanced in such a

way that we honor the rights and freedoms of adults to make decisions about their individual lives." This thoughtful consideration of the implications and consequences of such legislation is the equitable approach Vermonters deserve so that both the public health and economic prosperity of the state are preserved.

I commend Governor Scott's willingness to listen to various perspectives and make decisions that prioritize the well-being of Vermont's citizens, while also respecting personal choice and the economic interests of the state's small business community.

Peter Brennan, Boston, is the exc. director of the New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Assoc.

Secretary of Ed:
from page 9

To our educators and school staff, I cannot overstate how important you are to Vermont's educational success and economic competitiveness. Your commitment to our students is a foundational investment that drives our state's workforce creation, job growth, and every other measure of quality of life. I promise to support your work and to celebrate your success.

To our school building and local district leaders, I promise to always be accessible and to be a trusted partner in your leadership. I firmly believe that Vermont cannot be successful unless every school

S.258:
from page 8

decisions concerning the deer herd, decided it did not have the expertise, experience, or firsthand knowledge for setting hunting and fishing rules and regulations. Thus, they created a separate citizen-populated board, the Board, to handle the task. This was a very important step for bringing decision-making closer to rule by citizens, the essence of democratic government. The Board has done an outstanding job with what they were tasked to do.

Years ago the Water Resources board underwent this same transformation, to the detriment of Vermonters, in the decisions that have been made since then. Recently there was a demonstration of the role of the governor in proposed rules on wake boats against the wishes of almost all feedback from Vermonters.

All of this has come about due to the political pressure from animal rights groups whose goals, for the most part, would be to end all hunting and trapping — notwithstanding their claims to the contrary.

Those goals are what keeps those organizations alive. Their strategy is to do anything that would weaken the influence of hunters and trappers on rulemaking. This would be like putting right-to-lifers on the board of Planned Parenthood.

Please oppose it.
Ray Gonda, South Burlington

and every district in our state is successful.

To our parents, I pledge to bring my perspective as a Vermont public school parent into every meeting I attend and every policy we consider.

And to our education partners, I commit to working with you to prepare our students for success throughout their educational journey, from early childhood to career.

I cannot wait to start working with you. I know that when we come together as a community, our students' potential is limitless. I look forward to earning — and keeping — your trust.

Windsor County Sheriff Dept wins federal grant

By Curt Peterson

A federal Dept. of Justice grant for \$1.24 million should help Windsor County sheriff Ryan Palmer in his promised efforts to improve services provided to county residents his department serves.

Senator Peter Welch made the announcement last week on social media. The grant is to fund “Upgrading and modernizing of emergency communi-

cations radio network,” and was awarded March 8 as part of the latest government spending bill.

The sheriff’s office will learn from the Dept. of Justice what the process is in order to receive the grant funds.

Palmer’s department was one of the contenders for a proposed policing contract in Hartland, which has historically

relied on the Vermont State Police (VSP) for law enforcement coverage.

The VSP notified the Select Board they can no longer fulfill their service contract due to a shortage of available officers, which led to formation of a “policing committee” to decide what the town would do for enforcement going forward. The grant will help toward the efforts.

← VT real estate: from page 9

agreements because these help consumers understand exactly what services and value will be provided and at what cost. While this practice has not been universally adopted across the U.S., we are proud to say that it has been in place in Vermont for many decades. Compensation will continue to be negotiable and should always be negotiated between real estate brokerages and the consumers they serve.

Many news stories focus on how the proposed changes in the settlement will make homes more affordable. This perspective fails to consider the most basic tenet of economics: supply and demand. The increase in home prices can be attributed to interest rates, inflation, and

the lack of inventory. Vermont currently has a 6,800-unit housing shortage. Naturally, when few properties are available, the high demand from buyers causes prices to rise.

Ultimately, consumers will continue to be able to choose the real estate professional they want to work with and, through a written agreement, determine how much and how they will pay for that expertise, value, and guidance. NAR’s proposed settlement and the associated practice changes will not change what makes Realtors incredibly valuable: specialized knowledge, diligence, advocacy, and fiduciary responsibility to their buyer and seller clients.

← PFAS national standard: from page 6

Administrator Michael S. Regan. “That is why President Biden has made tackling PFAS a top priority, investing historic resources to address these harmful chemicals and protect communities nationwide. Our PFAS Strategic Roadmap marshals the full breadth of EPA’s authority and resources to protect people from these harmful forever chemicals.”

Deputy Assistant to the President for the Cancer Moonshot Dr. Danielle Carnival added: “The reductions in exposure to toxic substances delivered by EPA’s standards will further the Biden Cancer Moonshot goal of reducing the cancer death rate by at least half by 2047 and preventing more than four million cancer deaths — and stopping cancer before it starts by protecting communities from known risks associated with exposure to PFAS and other contaminants, including kidney and testicular cancers, and more.”

EPA is taking a signature step to protect public health by establishing legally enforceable levels for several PFAS known to occur individually and as mixtures in drinking water. This rule sets limits for five individual PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (also known as “GenX Chemicals”). The rule also sets a limit for mixtures of any two or more of four PFAS: PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and “GenX chemicals.”

EPA estimates that between about 6% and 10% of the 66,000 public drinking water systems subject to this rule may have to take action to reduce PFAS to meet these new standards. All public water systems have three years to complete their initial monitoring for these chemicals. They must inform the public of the level of PFAS measured in their drinking water. Where PFAS is found at levels that exceed these standards, systems must implement solutions to reduce PFAS in their drinking water within five years.

The new limits in this rule are achievable using a range of available technologies and approaches including granular activated carbon, reverse osmosis, and ion exchange systems. Drinking water systems will have flexibility to determine the best solution for their community.

“For decades, the American people have been exposed to the family of incredibly toxic ‘forever chemicals’ known as PFAS with no protection from their government. Those chemicals now contaminate virtually all Americans from birth. That’s because for generations, PFAS chemicals slid off of every federal environmental law like a fried egg off a Teflon pan — until Joe Biden came along,” said Environmental Working Group President and Co-Founder Ken Cook. “We commend EPA Administrator Michael Regan for his tireless leadership to make this decision a reality, and CEQ Chair Brenda Mallory for making sure PFAS is tackled with the ‘whole of government’ approach President Biden promised. There is much work yet to be done to end PFAS pollution. The fact that the EPA has adopted the very strong policy announced today should give everyone confidence that the Biden administration will stay the course and keep the president’s promises, until the American people are protected, at long last, from the scourge of PFAS pollution.”

Final PFAS drinking water standards:

- For PFOA and PFOS, EPA is setting a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), a non-enforceable goal, at zero. This reflects the latest science showing that there is no level of exposure to these contaminants without risk of health impacts, like cancers.
- EPA is setting enforceable Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) at 4.0 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS. This standard will reduce exposure from these PFAS in our drinking water to the lowest levels that are feasible for effective implementation.
- For PFNA, PFHxS, and “GenX Chemicals,” EPA is setting the MCLGs and MCLs at 10 parts per trillion.
- Because PFAS can often be found together in mixtures, and research shows these mixtures may have combined health impacts, EPA is also setting a limit for any mixture of two or more of the following PFAS: PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and “GenX Chemicals.”

← PFAS Vt bill: from page 6

that have been found to threaten reproductive harm, lower fertility, increase the risk of testicular and prostate cancer, and add to “brain drain” symptoms like increased ADHD. Formaldehyde is a known carcinogen that is widely understood to cause allergic skin reactions and rashes.

Also April 10, the U.S. EPA finalized rules to set the first national drinking water standard for PFAS chemicals. The EPA estimates the rule will prevent nearly 10,000 deaths over decades and significantly reduce serious illnesses. They acknowledged that these chemicals can harm human health at extremely low levels.

Despite the harm they can cause, toxic chemicals continue to be used in a variety of products.

“Vermonters shouldn’t have to worry about carcinogens and forever chemicals every time they shop for essentials like clothing and personal care products. This is a complex and technical arena, and it isn’t fair to expect Vermonters to avoid toxic chemicals on their own. We as a state can and should tell companies selling these products that they need to be doing what is right for the health and safety of Vermonters,” said Representative Dane Whitman (D-Bennington), a member of the House Committee on Human Services.

Whitman added: “By addressing cosmetics and other personal care products, including menstrual products, textiles including clothing and other apparel, artificial turf, cookware, and products marketed to kids, we continue to close the gap on the products of highest concern for public health. S.25 is another big step in the right direction, and we have much more work to promote public health and prevent disease by controlling toxins in our homes and communities.”

From production to transportation, use, and disposal, toxic chemicals pose threats to communities throughout their lifecycle. As recently demonstrated by the spill of thousands of gallons of PFAS-laden leachate at Vermont’s landfill, throwing away toxic products can result in downstream contamination issues.

S.25 targets several different areas of consumer products that are major sources of exposure and environmental contamination:

- Bans a list of chemicals and chemical classes from personal care products and menstrual products
- Bans PFAS from: all textiles, including apparel; artificial turf fields; children’s products; and cookware

“It is Vermont’s responsibility to act swiftly to protect its people from these toxic products — especially when other states have already done so, which is the case for many of the products targeted by this bill,” said Marcie Gallagher, environmental advocate at the Vermont Public Interest Research Group. “When it comes to ‘forever chemicals,’ every exposure pathway matters.”

For each of these product categories, there are safer and cost-comparable alternatives already available. This bill aligns Vermont more closely with states like California, Minnesota, and Washington, which have already taken action to address toxic chemicals in these products. Further, many retailers are already starting to move away from the use of these toxic substances in the products they sell. This bill will protect Vermonters, help spur the market, and support other states in taking action to restrict harmful chemicals in consumer products.

Elena Mihaly, vice president of Conservation Law Foundation Vermont, stated: “This marks an important step forward for Vermont’s continued efforts to protect our communities and our environment from daily exposure to PFAS and other poisonous chemicals. Stopping PFAS and other toxics upstream is the only long-term solution to widespread contamination, and we commend the House Committee on Human Services for pushing this critical legislation forward.”

For more information, visit the Vermont Natural Resources Council webpage: vnrc.org.

Documentary: from page 5

Gonzalez, the lead editor of the film, said seeing the film come to fruition is “surreal.”

“For the past 18 months, all of us have been working really hard on something that’s bigger than ourselves,” Gonzalez said. “To finally have that moment of presenting it and seeing people’s reactions as they visit the situation, it’s just huge for all of us.”

Gonzalez said he hopes the film sends a message that the library issue was more of an “administration problem” and that it prompts efforts to move the university in the right direction.

He also spoke about the feeling of working so closely with classmates on something they all felt was so import-

“For the past 18 months, all of us have been working really hard on something that’s bigger than ourselves,” Gonzalez said. “To finally have that moment of presenting it and seeing people’s reactions as they visit the situation, it’s just huge for all of us.”

ant and said this might not be their last project together. “The three of us have talked about making, like, a production studio. We don’t want this to be the end all,” he said. “It’s been a huge blessing to be working with Lily and Will.”

Smith wanted to also give praise to the efforts of Davis-Boyd, saying he appreciated her technical guidance and hands-off approach to the film.

“She never put an editorial spin on this piece. She let us design the story and tell it the way we want to tell it,” he said.

The screening will begin at 6:30 p.m. in VTSU Castleton’s Herrick Auditorium. It will be followed by a Q&A with Davis-Boyd and students and light refreshments in the lobby with more opportunities to meet the student filmmakers.

Consumption tax: from page 8

changes under both the current tax systems and the thinking under the Golden Dome. They are taxing on income, payroll, property, consumer goods, vehicle use, commercial vehicles, gas, diesel fuels, airplane fuels, recreational vehicles and fuels, all forms of entertainment, and our fun, hotels — you get it, everything under the sky. They are trying to tax it all. All in the name of BIG government control. Soon, they will try to tax our thinking process.

Third, their system is not fair to Vermonters, especially young Vermonters and seniors.

Let me concede right here, that I despise taxes, especially the over-taxation and the government involvement or control over all programs that could be better run and more efficiently managed in the private sector. Like S.56, which aims to take control of childcare in our beautiful state. And the Home Heating Act and school funding. School spending is out of control and taxing property is unfair and unjust.

We appreciate the need for some taxation in our government to pay for “reasonable” governmental spending, including helping the vulnerable in our communities.

Under my plan, every business transaction taking place in Vermont, whether as an individual consumer

or a business or a non-profit doing business, will pay the same fair tax at point-of-sale at the marketplace, period. And every tax in the VSA (Vermont Statutes Annotated) will be repealed, eliminated, and gone. This tax will be spread around all people to cover every dollar raised to fund state government. We call it “Make Vermont Affordable.”

The plan is simple based on a complete consumption tax. A consumption tax is a point-of-sale tax or added value on the purchased consumer goods, products or services that individuals purchase. In our estimate gross sales across Vermont exceed \$100 billion dollars annually. These sales incorporate every and all business transactions in the Green Mountain state borders, with no exemptions, no credits, no adjustments. Just a straight tax that everyone’s consumption on every single purchase in our borders are taxed at this rate, including all on-line purchases inside a Vermont-base internet operation’s platform. We know that the gross sales cited above are real, and at a reasonable rate, between 8% to 12%, we will realize the same budgetary revenues needed to fund state government’s current budget. However, we believe that government spending will decrease under this new taxation plan, and that government will become more efficient and

effective for Vermonters.

I reached out to the Vermont Dept. of Taxes, the Joint Fiscal Office, the Legislative Council and others for real total gross sales figures here in Vermont. No one would help with the request. They said that they only keep figures on current sales type tax compilations. I disagree. That said, any Legislator can get those figures because a couple of these offices work for the Legislature. It’s pretty simple, businesses must file quarterly or monthly business transaction returns, some are only required to file sales figures annually. When every business organization, nonprofits, and individual files as sole proprietorship (Schedule C) they file their gross sales data, hence we have the total and complete information of gross sales figures in our state. They just need to dig for it a little deeper.

Every business, big or small files its, corporation’s taxes on a 1120 or 1120S; partnerships, 965-S; nonprofits 990-S; and self-employed, a sole proprietors filing their 1040 Schedule C must file taxes with the state tax dept. In its tax filing there is a section for Cost of Goods Sold on every return filed with the IRS and the Vermont Dept. of Taxes. In there tax return their gross sales figures for the year, are included, equating to the \$100 billion that I cited

above. And this total gross sales amount, taxed at a reasonable rate of say 10% (less or higher) will completely fund state government.

This consumption tax is a new found source. Currently millions of dollars in gross sales goes un-taxed annually. There are millions of illegal money that is not taxable for obvious reasons, but with this consumption tax all that money will be captured when these people go to the marketplace to purchase a pack of cigarettes or purchase a new 72” huge screen TVs or use a lawyer or accountant. Only these point of sales transactions will be taxed. Remember, no Vermonters will be paying all the other taxes imposed under current Vermont law; no property taxes, no income or payroll, no death tax, nothing. Some taxes will be traded for this new current consumption tax.

This new system will save state government millions of dollars in different departments, with salaries and various antiquated and useless tax system platforms that just don’t work and are expensive to maintain.

Now we are working with some legislators to introduce this into the legislative process. This is a fair and just taxing source, it’s bold, but deserves a solid discussion. Stay tuned for additional information.

Gregory M. Thayer,
MBA, Rutland

Clarkson: from page 7

Currently all three branches of state government: the Legislature, Judiciary and the Executive branches, have established codes of ethics. Most ethics complaints are funneled through the Ethics Commission to the appropriate state body which, in their turn, has a system designed to address these issues. Most of H.875 seeks to strengthen the code of ethics at the state level and the last third of the bill establishes one at the local level. It is not meant to target any size of town or area of the state. We are continuing to work on this bill — trying to make sure we don’t place undue burdens on towns. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns is helping us appreciate what is realistic for most municipal governments. In all this work, our objective has been to create a standard, clear and consistent code of ethics, one that all public servants are required to abide by. Vermonters expect nothing less.

Sen. Clarkson can be reached by email: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at the State House (Tuesday-Friday) 802-828-2228 or at home (Saturday-Monday) 802-457-4627. For more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: legislature.vermont.gov.



By John Hall/VTF&W

Trophy trout like these are being stocked this spring in nine Vermont river sections and 37 lakes and ponds.

Trophy trout: from page 1

Local stocking sections:

- Black River: Along Route 131 in Weathersfield and Cavendish, from Downers covered bridge upstream, approximately 4 miles, to the next bridge across the river, the Howard Hill Bridge
- East Creek: In Rutland City — from the confluence with Otter Creek upstream, approximately 2.7 miles, to the top of the Patch Dam in Rutland City
- Otter Creek: In Danby and Mt. Tabor — From the Vermont Railway bridge north of the fishing access upstream, approximately 2 miles, to the Danby-Mt. Tabor Forest Rd. Bridge (Forest Road No. 10)

Vermont fishing licenses are available on Fish & Wildlife’s website and statewide from license agents. For more information visit: vtfishandwildlife.com.

WORDPLAY

LOTS OF LAUGHS WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

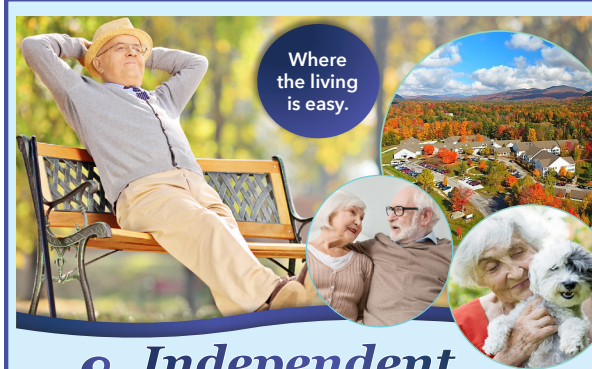
APRIL FOOLS
BELLY
BRAY
BRIGHT
CAKLE

CHEEKS
CHUCKLE
COMEDIAN
COMEDY
CONTAGIOUS

CRYING
FUNNY
GIGGLES
HAHA
HICCUP

JOKING
LAUGH
LOL
MOOD
POSITIVE

RELIEF
SMILE
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SNORT



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 23

CLUES ACROSS

- Midway between south and southeast
- For each
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Photographs
- They ___
- It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- Monetary unit
- Cool!
- A son of Jacob
- Cut off
- Devour
- Agent of one's downfall
- Best
- Network of nerves
- Partner to "oohs"
- Origins
- Sewing utensil
- Alias
- Swiss river
- Greek mythological figure
- Type of whiskey
- Lay to rest
- "Rule, Britannia" composer
- Select jury
- Feeling
- Action regarded as morally wrong
- Makes angry
- Act incorrectly
- Defensive nuclear weapon

CLUES DOWN

- Class of escort aircraft carrier
- To what degree
- Buzzing insect
- The human foot
- "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
- A place to stay
- Sun up in New York
- An involuntary muscular contraction
- Earnest
- Cuts out surgically
- Can't move
- Baseball stat
- British soldier
- Traditional medicine plants
- Political party controlled by managers
- Hebrew prophet
- Supporter
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Liberty Mutual mascot
- Georgia rockers
- A place where building is done
- Large, deep-bodied fish
- Clothing retailer
- Supplement with difficulty
- Annoy constantly
- Founder of Babism
- Indigenous person in parts of Asia
- Sea eagle
- Leave behind
- Time of day
- Colorless crystalline compound
- They lay out course requirements
- A diamond has three parts of Asia
- Algerian coastal city
- Remove cover
- Rechristened
- Distinctive practice
- Defunct phone company
- Turkish officer of high rank
- Eliminate from the body
- Witness
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Founding Father Franklin

		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						
										46								
47	48	49								50				51	52	53		
54										55								
56								57	58					59				
			60						61					62				
				63					64					65				

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

WEDNESDAY

4/17

Graphic Novel Book Club for Kids

3-4 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Learn about new graphic novels, talk about your favorites, and maybe create your own. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

Jam Session

6:30 p.m. ArtisTree, 2095 Pomfret Road, So. Pomfret. Free, donation optional. Bring your instrument and some tunes, take turns playing in a friendly circle led by Kelly Rosenthal of Rose Hip Jam. Not an open mic. artistreevt.org/artistree-events

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.

Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St., Castleton

Noon. Wednesdays. Community Center dinner. Day-before reservations: call 802-468-3093.

1:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Great Courses curriculum. castletoncsi.org

Book Club

1:30 p.m. Last Wednesday of the month. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 Riverz Road, Killington. Free. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-9765

Cribbage for Adults

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

Graphic Novel Book Club for Kids

3-4 p.m. Weekly on Wednesdays. Norman Williams Public Library 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Learn about new graphic novels, talk about your favorites, and maybe create your own. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

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 802-775-0356

Rutland Regional Planning**Commission Final Open House**

5-8 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Free. Your input is sought as the RRPC is gearing up to update the future of the 27-town Rutland planning district. Learn about your hometown's needs, get your questions answered, and get a chance to win a door prize! rutlandrrpc.org/plan2026

OVRCC April Mixer at Ludlow Health Center

5 p.m. Ludlow Health Center, 1 Elm St, Ludlow. Join Okemo Valley Chamber Members for an April Mixer at Ludlow Health Center. Enjoy refreshments and delicious snacks while exploring the Health Center and connecting with friends, colleagues, and members in the region. For more info, visit: uschamber.com/co/chambers/vermont/ludlow

JAM Equipment Orientation

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

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 pattidance@gmail.com

Tik Tok Tech Talk for Parents, Guardians

6:30-7:30 p.m. Sharon Academy, 205 Academy Dr., Sharon. Free. Discussion about digital wellness for teens and navigating the "technological ecosystem." Facilitated by TSA staff. 802-763-2500

THURSDAY

4/18

TUSK PERFORMS
PARAMOUNT

FRIDAY, 7 PM

**Bone Builders**

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

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

Homeschool Club: Climate Farmers

10-11:30 a.m. Monthly on Thursdays. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Student, \$20; member student, \$15. Ages 7-11. Hands-on educational activities centered around farm life. Join up for the whole series or individual classes. For monthly topics and dates, go to cart. billingsfarm.org/patronEducation.aspx?pid=1473

TIK-TOK TECH TALK
FOR PARENTS AND
GUARDIANS

WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM

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

Play Bridge!

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

S.T.E.A.M.

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

Board Game Night

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

Yoga with Kellie [cancelled]

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

FRIDAY 4/19

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

Howard Coffin: Vermont Women and the Civil War

1 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. What did Vermont women do when the men were away at war? Noted Vermont historian and authority on the Civil War Howard Coffin will speak on the topic, drawing from their original letters and diary entries. A Vermont Humanities Council program, hosted by the Sherburne Historians. For more info, contact Sheila Pilsmaier at 802-770-9776, skvthistorians@gmail.com., or the Sherburne Killington Historians Facebook page.

Planning with an Advance Directive

1:30-3 p.m. Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St., Castleton. Free. Taylor Murray, Advance Care Planning Program Manager at the Vermont Ethics Network will conduct a "Planning for Future Health Decisions with Advance Directives" program to explain best practices for completing your advance directive. Call 802-468-3093 to reserve a seat.

Piano & Poetry: 'Byron Reads Byron'

6 p.m. Weekly. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. By donation. Host Byron Breese observes the bicentennial of the death of the Romantic poet Lord Byron. Join him to read Byron or one of your own. Mainstreetmuseum.org or 802-356-2776

Tusk at the Paramount

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$35+ tax, fees. Premier Fleetwood Mac tribute band. paramountvt.org

JAG Underground: 'The Lesson'

7-8:30 p.m. AVA Gallery, 11 Bank St., Lebanon, N.H. \$30. Solo play, written and performed by Tyrone Davis Jr. and directed by Henry Gottfried. A schoolchild's question ignites a community controversy over sex education. Monthly series of Black theatre, cabaret, and film presented by founder and artistic Jarvis Antonio Green's Vermont-based theatre company for Black creatives. (Content Warning: This show contains sexual language, descriptions of sexual behavior, and brief mention of sexual assault.) Tix: jagproductionsvt.com/thelessonjagunderground

WOH WRESTLING EVENT

SATURDAY, 7 PM



8th Annual Solo Jazz Piano Festival, Day 1

7:30-9:30 p.m. Headliner concert & master class. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro. Sliding scale, \$85-\$130; individual concert tix also available. For tix and complete information about the festival, turn to p. 22 in this paper or go to vtjazz.org or the Vermont Jazz Center ticket line at 802-254-9088, ext. 1. Request disability access by emailing elsavjc@gmail.com.

'Lysistrata'!

7:30 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m., 2 p.m. on Sunday. April 19, 20, 21. 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. actorsreptv.org@gmail.com or turn to page 23 in this paper.

SATURDAY 4/20

Copper Cuff Bracelet Make-N-Take

10 a.m.-Noon. 4/20 & 4/27. 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

Chittenden Historical Society Hike

9:30 a.m. Meet at 124 West Road, No. Chittenden. Free, public is welcome. First outing of the season, to the Mitchell ore bed iron mine and Granger's Furnace, both active in pre-Civil War local production of ironware. Wear sturdy footwear, bring water and layered clothing. To confirm, email info@chittendenhistory.org.

Lego Club

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

Quick Doc Filmmaking Workshop with JD Hawks of NBC5

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Junction Arts & Media, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. Free. Non-fiction storytelling with video, using broadcast journalism principles but applicable to other forms. To register: uvjam.org/event/quick-doc-filmmaking-workshop/

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

Dazed and Defrosted Spring Festival

1:30-5:30 p.m. K-1, Killington Resort, Killington. Free. Celebrate the season with soft bumps, cold brews, and of course, great live music from from SixFoxWhiskey and Mihali. It's also Killington Passholder Appreciation Day. See the schedule at killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar/dazed-and-defrosted

Comic Mime Program: Spring Has

Sprung!

11 a.m.-Noon. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Comic mime Robert Rivest celebrates springtime with entertaining, interactive stories. Learn to act out your favorite things to do and see in spring. 802-773-1860

Acrylic Painting for Kids

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monthly, 3rd Saturday. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25 covers all supplies. Ages: 6-10. Attendees follow along with instructor Kristen Partesi. Min. 5 students. max. 12. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.square.site or 802-775-0356

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

BIRDING WALKS

TUESDAY, 7:30 AM



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

'Dungeons and Dragons' for Tweens

Noon-4 p.m. Next meeting: May 4. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Ages 10 to 13. Snacks and supplies provided. 14 spaces available. To register: rutlandfree.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/dungeons-dragons-tweens-ages-10-13/

Birds and Climate Change

1-2 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Nature's Way, Quechee. What can we learn from birds about surviving climate change? Admission \$19.50, youth 4-17 \$16.50, members and 3 & under free. 802-359-5000

Acrylic Painting for Teens

1-2:30 p.m. Monthly, 3rd Saturday. \$25 covers all supplies. Ages: 11-15. Attendees follow along with instructor Kristen Partesi and leave with a finished acrylic painting. Min. 5 students. max. 12. To register: 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

Big Night Potluck Social & Movie Premiere

4 p.m., 5:15 p.m. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. \$10 OBO at the door. Share a meal and watch "Custodian," directed by Loren David Howard. Mainstreetmuseum.org or 802-356-2776

Pro Wrestling in Brandon

7 p.m. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square, Brandon. \$20, \$25 and \$75. Former UVM basketball star-turned-pro wrestler Ben Crenca ("Big Trouble Ben") headlines this major wrestling multievent put on by the WHO (World of Hurt), Glens Falls. 518-260-8759 facebook.com/wohwrestling

Spring Mud Fling in Mt. Holly

7-11 p.m. Odd Fellows Hall, 29 Lake St., Belmont. Early birds \$12, \$15 at the door. Good old style dance hall jamboree to shake off the winter blues to the twanging of Frydaddy. Tix & info, 802-345-1740 or email: mhcavt@gmail.com

David Sedaris at the Paramount

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$30-\$45+ tax, fees. Essayist, novelist, playwright, Sedaris is noted for his wry humor and satirical view of human affairs, the author of such far-out titles as "When You Are Engulfed in Flames" and "Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls," as well as more mainstream fare. paramountvt.org

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

JAG Underground: 'The Lesson'

7-8:30 p.m. AVA Gallery, 11 Bank St., Lebanon, N.H. \$30. Solo play, written and performed by Tyrone Davis Jr. and directed by Henry Gottfried. A schoolchild's question ignites a community controversy over sex education. Monthly series of Black theatre, cabaret, and film presented by founder and artistic Jarvis Antonio Green's Vermont-based theatre company for Black creatives. (Content Warning: This show contains sexual language, descriptions of sexual behavior, and brief mention of sexual assault.) Tix: jagproductionsvt.com/thelessonjagunderground

'The Taste of Things' (PG-13)

7:30-9:45 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, kids & members \$8. French, subtitled. A female chef and her patron fall in love over food. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

SUNDAY
4/21

Free Community Day at Billings Farm and Museum

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free and accessible to all. This working dairy farm and museum of farm life is all yours! Visit the prize-winning Jersey herd, tour the 1891 farm manager's house, take in the quilt exhibit and "Portraits of Resilience" gallery photos, sample food products, join educational and milking programs, and enjoy a children's story time. 802-457-2355

Wildlife ER

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Nature's Way, Quechee. Admission \$19.50, youth 4-17 \$16.50, members and 3 & under free. A day in the life of a wild bird rehabilitator at VINS. 802-359-5000

Sal's Official Retirement Moguls Pig Roast

1 p.m. at Moguls, 2630 Killington Road, \$20. Live Music, free food. Drink & Beer Specials available. Kid-Approved Fun: Piñata, Toys, Event Candy & Games. Raffle, and Giveaways. Free t-shirt for first 100 guests for the first 100 PEOPLE. For more information, call (802) 422-4777

April Art Auction by Liquid Art Benefits Neil Family After Tragic Fire

2 p.m.—KILLINGTON—Tyson Andrews and Liquid Art, 37 Miller Brook Road, Killington, invite the community to an April Art Auction dedicated to supporting the Neil Family, who faced a devastating loss when their home was consumed by fire earlier this year. Participation not only offers attendees a chance to own a piece of extraordinary art but also helps turn a new page for the Neil family who will receive all proceeds dedicated to rebuilding their future. For more info, visit: liquidartvt.com

'The Taste of Things' (PG-13)

3 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, kids & members \$8. French, subtitled. A female chef and her patron fall in love over food. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

Organist James D. Hicks in Concert

4 p.m. Grace Congregational UCC, Court St., Rutland. Free. Concert organist and musicologist James D. Hicks performs selections from "Nordic Journey," his extensive collection of new and old Nordic music, some previously unpublished. gracechurchvt.org

MONDAY
4/22

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

Poetry Group

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

JAM Scriptwriters' Group

5:30-7 p.m. Biweekly, next session May 6. Junction Arts & Media, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. Free. Meet local writers, learn new script writing techniques, and receive peer feedback on your work. To register: uvjam.org/event/scriptwritersgroup-2/2024-04-22/

'The Taste of Things' (PG-13)

7:30-9:45 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, kids & members \$8. French, subtitled. A female chef and her patron fall in love over food. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

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

Bridge Club

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

Bridge Club

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

Chess Club

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

Play Chess, Backgammon!

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

Rutland Area Toastmasters

6 p.m. Courcelle Building, 16 N. St. Ext, Rutland. Rutland Area Toastmasters convenes every first and third Tuesday at the from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Capture the essence of public speaking mastery with Laurel Poli as she engages in an off-the-cuff address during a recent meeting. For more information, please call 802-558-3245.

Laura Waterman: 'Calling Wild Places Home'

6-7:30 p.m. Normal Williams Free Library, The Green, Woodstock. Free. Back-to-the-lander, conservationist and author Laura Waterman talks about her new book, "Calling Wild Places Home: A Memoir in Essays," with Mary Margaret Sloan of Woodstock. Seating is limited, please RSVP to programs@normanwilliams.org.

CHESS CLUB
NORMAN WILLIAMS
PUBLIC LIBRARY

TUESDAYS, 4 PM



TUESDAY
4/23

Bird Walks

7:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Free. Join Slate Valley Trails and the Rutland Audubon Society for a leisurely outing to spot the spring arrivals around Poultney as friendly birders share their knowledge. 3-4 miles in 3-4 hours. Dress for the weather and bring binocs or camera, water, snack and insect repellent. Locations change each week, go to drive.google.com/file/d/1u-qLr0yoLmcVM0T-CzDgonJSxySISpyq/view for the schedule and leader to contact.

Bone Builders

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

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3.99 Shirley Hills Savory Bread 12 ct. individual breads	4.29 Beverly's Organics Kale, Tomato, Cucumber Salad
4.49 Mama's Organic Yogurt 6 oz. containers	2/\$9 Plain-Flavored Milk 1/2 gal.
5/\$5 Beverly's Organics Cream Top Yogurt	5/\$5 Four Seasons Organic Peanut Butter 1/2 lb. jars
5.49 Beverly's Organics Peanut Dip 8 oz. tub	2/\$7 Huge Foods Organic Tiramisu 1/2 gal.
2/\$7 C10 Coconut Water 1/2 gal.	2/\$7 C10 Coconut Water 1/2 gal.
2/\$8 C10 Coconut Water 1/2 gal.	11.99 C10 Coconut Oil 1/2 gal.
3/\$4 C10 Coconut Oil 1/2 gal.	

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Rutland, Vermont
rutlandcoop.com

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED

4/17

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – Sammy B

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 – Kim Wilcox

RUTLAND
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

4/18

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

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS
5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Sammy B

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

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto
7 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

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

LUDLOW
6:30 p.m. The Killarney – Irish Sessions with Gypsy Reel
7 p.m. Off the Rails – Nick

Bredice & Jenny Porter

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

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

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

FRI

4/19

BRIDGEWATER
6:30 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Trivia Night

CASTLETON
6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Scott Forrest

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – The Joneses
6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Liz Reedy

7 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – Season Finale Party with The Chunky Seltzers and special guest opener Andrew Dimarzo

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Gubbulidis set featuring Zdenek Gubb and Mihali Savoulidis

POULTNEY
6 p.m. Poultney Pub – George Nostrand

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

RANDOLPH
7 p.m. Underground Listening Room – DJ Dagon Dance Party

SAT

4/20

BOMOSEEN
5:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Scott Forrest

KILLINGTON
1:30 p.m. K1 Base Lodge (Outside) – Dazed and Defrosted Concert with music by SixFoxWhiskey

4 p.m. K1 Base Lodge (Outside) – Dazed and Defrosted Concert with music by Mihali & Friends

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – Season Finale Party with The Chunky Seltzers and special guest opener Andrew Dimarzo

6 p.m. Rivershed – The Joneses

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Sammy B

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Mihali & Friends

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Em & Nat

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

WOODSTOCK
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night

SUN

4/21

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS
2 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Carl Anton

KILLINGTON
12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with The Joneses

1 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Moguls Pig Roast and Sal's Retirement Party with music by DJ Dave, Duane Carleton, Super Stash Bros, Last Chair Band and more guest musicians

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Nick Bredice

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

2pm - Art Auction to benefit the Neil Family with music by Tee

Boneicus Jones

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

RUTLAND
4 p.m. Grace Congregational Church – Organ Recital

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

MON

4/22

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

4/23

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

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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Sherburne Historians

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

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

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



Courtesy Killington Resort

Killington Resort will hold passholder appreciation day and Dazed & Defrosted featuring a free BBQ lunch, live music by SixFoxWhiskey and headliner Mihali, and the annual 100 Day Club photo and raffle drawing on Saturday, April 20.

Dazed & Defrosted plus Killington Resort's passholder appreciation day fun

Saturday, April 20 at 11 a.m.—
KILLINGTON—Killington Resort's passholder appreciation day, which features a free BBQ lunch at K-1, will happen in conjunction with Dazed & Defrosted. Beast 365, Winter 23/24, and Midweek passholders will be eligible to receive the free lunch after presenting their pass to a guest services member.

The resort will also be taking their annual photo with all the members of the prestigious 100 Day Club at 1 p.m. near the outdoor stage. Additionally, season passholders should stick around after lunch, as everyone who receives a free lunch will also be entered into a free raffle, the drawing for which will take place at 3:15 p.m. by the stage.

Opening act: SixFoxWhiskey

"We'll play for free, we'll play if no one's listening, we just want to play," says SixFoxWhiskey's drummer, Tyler Davis.

Thankfully for SixFoxWhiskey, people are listening, and it is their unique intersection of jazz, jam, funk, and rock that has propelled them into becoming one of the fastest growing bands in New England.

SixFoxWhiskey has held featured spots at major festivals like

Levitate Music & Arts Festival, Rhode Island Music & Arts Festival, and Strangecreek, and they've performed at venues like the Stone Pony, Toad's Place, and Brighton Music Hall. They've shared the stage with national touring acts like Ripe, The Magic Beans, Kitchen Dwellers, Kung Fu, and The Elovaters.

Zach Bloomstein of 37 Productions aptly describes what makes the band stand out: "I've worked with a lot of bands and seen a lot of music, and these guys are doing something a little different. They're being themselves, which is part of what makes them unique and special." In the end, it's feel-good music, think-hard music, get-down music, and their latest album, *Naughty Air*, is the manifestation of these sensations.

Headliner: Mihali

For Mihali, music behaves much like a living being. It grows, it matures, and it changes with a sentient consciousness and with whims of its own. The Vermont-based singer, songwriter, guitarist, and co-founder of rock outfit Twiddle closely follows reggae's evolutionary ebbs and flows, and now funnels that enthusiasm into his new record, *Effection* [released July 22, 2022 on Ineffable Records]. The 10-track body of work intertwines reggae spirit, fluid soundscape architecture, and invigorating mantras meant to be chanted aloud in a packed venue.

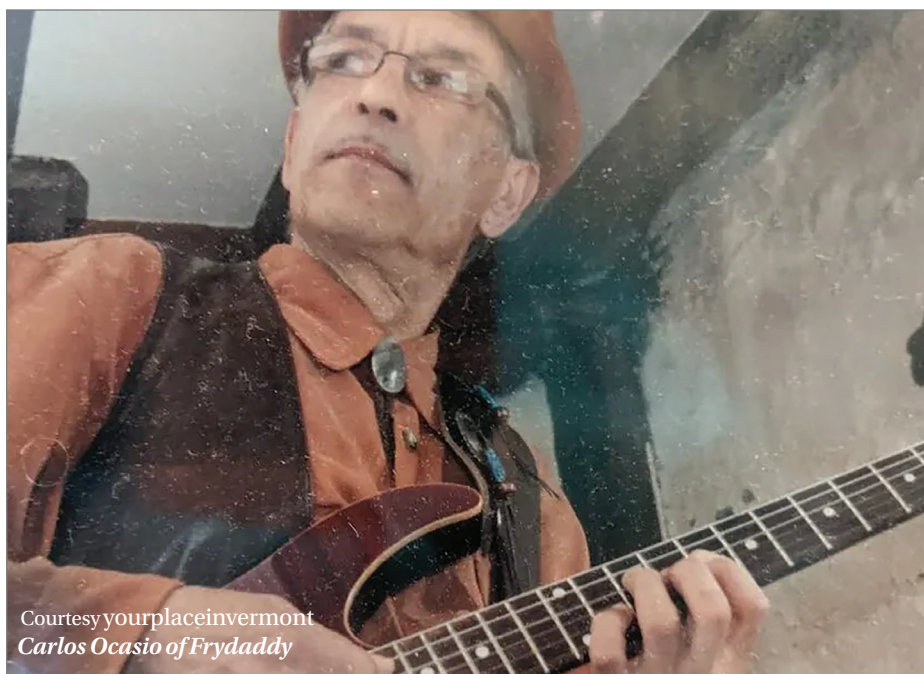
"Effection," a word meaning creation, is a fitting name for a project produced remotely with the help of longtime friend and collaborator Nathan Aurora. Working together from afar, the two traded demos, lyrics, bass lines, piano riffs, and guitar tracks back and forth to create the 10 songs that comprise the record.

When all is said and done, Mihali's music continues to transform with him. "On this record, I tried not to go super heavy or deep on the emotional side of things. Instead, there is a lot of happiness and hope on *"Effection."* I'm incredibly proud and excited to be releasing this music, and as always, evolving with it."

Schedule:

- Season Passholder appreciation lunch—11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. K-1 Lodge patio
- 100 Day Club photo—1 p.m. Dazed & Defrosted stage
- Live music from SixFoxWhiskey—1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Dazed & Defrosted stage (slope side of K-1)
- Season Passholder raffle—3:15 p.m. Dazed & Defrosted stage
- Mihali—4 - 5:30 p.m. Dazed & Defrosted stage

For more information visit: killington.com



Courtesy yourplaceinvermont
Carlos Ocasio of Frydaddy

Spring Mud Fling with Frydaddy: An old-style roadhouse dance hall jamboree

Saturday, April 20 at 7 p.m.—BELMONT— Get ready to kick up your heels and embrace the spirit of spring at the Spring Mud Fling, an old-style roadhouse dance hall jamboree with Frydaddy. The event is hosted by the Mount Holly Community Association (MHCA) and promises an evening of foot-stomping fun and live music at the historic Odd Fellows Hall, 29 Lake Street, Belmont

Event Details:

Social Hour from 7-8 p.m.; Band kicks off from 8-11 p.m.

Description: Join us for an old-style roadhouse dance hall jamboree featuring the infectious tunes of Frydaddy! Whether you're a seasoned dancer or just looking to let loose and have a good time, this event is sure to lift your spirits and get you moving.

Early bird tickets are available for \$12, and tickets will be \$15 at the door.

For more information or to secure tickets, call 802-345-1740 or email: mhcavt@gmail.com.

Howard Coffin presents 'Vermont Women and the Civil War' at Sherburne Memorial Library

Friday, April 19 at 1 p.m.—KILLINGTON—Howard Coffin, a seventh gener-

ation Vermonter and the author of four books on the Civil War with a focus on Vermont and the Champlain Corridor will visit the Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Sherburne Historians will host the noted historian presenting "Vermont Women and the Civil War," from 1 - 3 p.m.

Vermont's remarkable Civil War battlefield record is well documented, but little is known of how Vermont women sustained the home front. Coffin explains, with nearly 35,000 of the state's able-bodied men at war, women took on farming, worked in factories, served as nurses in the state's military hospitals, and more. And at least one Vermont woman appears to have secretly enlisted and fought in a Ver-

mont regiment! Drawing from letters and diaries, Coffin tells their story in their own

words, describing life during the Civil War in the Green Mountain State.

This talk is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities.

For more information, contact Sheila Pilsmaker at 802-770-9776 or skvthistorians@gmail.com, or visit the Sherburne

Killington Historians Facebook page. "Vermont Women and the Civil War" is a Vermont Humanities Council program hosted by Sherburne Historians. (Supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or VHC.)

For more information, visit: sherburnelibrary.org



Courtesy Sherburne Killington Historians
Howard Coffin

Organist James D. Hicks in concert in Rutland

Sunday, April 21 at 4 p.m.—RUTLAND— Organist James D. Hicks will perform at Grace Church Sanctuary, 8 Court St., Rutland. Hicks is a concert organist living and working out of Califon, NJ. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Yale University, and the University of Cincinnati, Hicks has also studied at the Royal School of Church Music in the UK. James held liturgical positions throughout the USA over the course of 35 years and now devotes himself to concert, publishing, and recording.

Over the past 15 years, James has researched the music of the Nordic lands and the result is an ongoing venture entitled "Nordic Journey." The endeavor places emphasis on new music; he has commissioned over sixty compositions from Nordic composers, as well as researching repertoire from the past that has hitherto never been recorded or published. With the December 2023 release of "Nordic Journey Volume XV," "Baltic Sojourn," the series will now comprise 24 discs, all produced for the American label Pro Organo as well as being distributed by Naxos and the usual digital streaming platforms.

A parallel aspect of the "Nordic Journey" project is the production of hardbound editions that include premiere publications of many of the works Hicks has commissioned as well as several previously unavailable compositions from earlier eras. The Norwegian firm Cantando released the "Nordic Journey Series" Volume I in 2018 (now available at musikforlagene.no) and Norsk Musikforlag published "The Nordic Journey Series" Volume II in 2020 (musikforlagene.no). Norsk Musikforlag has most recently produced the third volume in October 2022. A fourth volume of this series is set for a mid 2024 release. In addition, James has collaborated with the Finnish publisher, Edition Tilli (editiontilli.fi), in the production of premiere editions of Finnish and Baltic organ music.

Upcoming recording projects include the double-disc "Nordic Journey XVI-North Atlantic Voyage," an August 2024 recording of music from Norway, mainland Scotland, the Hebrides, Orkney, Shetland, Faroe, Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland. This endeavor will be produced in northern Norway at Bodø Cathedral. This recording will include a new piece by Alastair Stout called "Skylark Variations," commissioned by James Hicks. Hicks will give the world premiere of the "Skylark Variations" on the church's Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ.

Free admission.

For more information, visit: gracechurchvt.org



Courtesy gracechurchvt.org

James D. Hicks, a concert organist, will perform at Grace Church Sanctuary in Rutland, showcasing his extensive Nordic music research and releasing a new commissioned work.

It's time again for the 8th annual solo jazz piano festival

Friday, April 19-Saturday April 20—For music lovers interested in the lyrical and technical aspects of jazz and improvised music, six brilliant pianists perform and discuss their musical passions and the development of their personal styles. The Vermont Jazz Center (VJC), 72 Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro, invites music lovers to participate in a festival that showcases artists who have invested their lives in the pursuit of creativity using the piano as their medium.

Headliner artists will each offer a 50-minute solo piano set and a masterclass, open to pianists and music lovers alike. Each emerging artist will offer a 25-minute set. All pianists will participate in a Q and A panel session where questions will be accepted from the audience.



Jacky Terrasson

Submitted

The artists headlining this year's festival are Hey Rim Jeon, Aaron Parks, Alfredo Rodriguez, and Jacky Terrasson; emerging artists are Yujin Han and Mathew Mueller. On the evenings of April 19 and 20, starting at 7:30 p.m., two headlining pianists will present back-to-back solo sets. April 19 will include performances by Hey Rim Jeon and Aaron Parks, and on April 20 we will hear Alfredo Rodriguez and Jacky Terrasson. Saturday, April 20 is a full day of educational and concert programming. The day begins at 10 a.m. with a sequence of workshops led by all four of the

headlining musicians. These presentations are designed to be accessible to all music lovers, not just pianists. Saturday will also include short sets from the two emerging artists as well as a round-table discussion with all six artists, moderated by VJC Director Eugene Uman.

The Solo Jazz Piano Festival, now in its eighth year, is one of the cornerstones of the VJC's programming. The festival has presented some of the world's top pianists and most important musical innovators of this generation, including NEA jazz masters Toshiko Akiyoshi and Joanne Brackeen, acknowledged luminaries Stanley Cowell, Benny Green, Sullivan Fortner, Kenny Werner, and many others. The Solo Jazz Piano Festival continues to be a unique opportunity for audiences to communicate directly with the artists as they share their spiritual and historical sources of inspiration, and offer tips on their methods of learning, teaching and practice routines.

Each of this year's headliners is highly regarded by jazz lovers around the world. They are all virtuosic in their abilities and have released numerous celebrated recordings as leaders and side people. But what sets this group of four apart is how each artist conveys a completely distinct approach to the instrument, demonstrating an instantly recognizable stylistic, rhythmic, and harmonic palette. It is this diversity, combined with the artists' rich depth of knowledge and ability to connect with the audiences, that will assure a fascinating show.

The artists

- Hey Rim Jeon's style is characterized by rhythmical precision, graceful melodic lines and adroit technical facility. Ms. Jeon also embraces long-form improvisation. She teaches courses in piano technique and the solo improvisations of Keith Jarrett at Berklee College of Music; the depth of her ability in both of these skill sets shines through in her solo performing.
- Aaron Parks' creations are reflections of his search for beauty. Whether they're original compositions or swinging standards, his approach is all about heart. He conveys emotion without being saccharine by using expressive phrasing and captivating arrangements that encourage spaciousness. He is also a master of timekeeping (he speaks of developing one's own "inner drummer" by feeling rhythm in his body and playing games with a metronome), and of creating reharmonized renditions of tunes from the Great American Songbook on the fly.
- Alfredo Rodriguez brings a vast knowledge of the Latin American piano tradition, replete with the virtuosic ability necessary to convey that style. His Cuban roots saturate his sound, which is also strongly influenced by classical music. Rodriguez began studying classical music seriously at the age of seven years and realized at the age of twelve that playing the piano would be his lifelong endeavor. He feels that the "message of music is about expressing unity and about being together, knowing where we are coming from, and trying to help each other."
- Jacky Terrasson is yet another virtuosic player. A major presence in the vibrant New York jazz scene during the early 1990s, he chose to reside in his native France, where his star continues to rise. Terrasson plays in the tradition, and he loves to swing hard with lots of dynamic emphasis, emulating players like Ahmad Jamal. He also has a

knack for folding unexpected pop tunes (like those of Michael Jackson) into a jazz set. The VJC's Solo Jazz Piano Festival is a tribute to Mike McKenzie who, for the last 27 years has provided artists performing at the VJC with the finest pianos possible, including the beautiful Steinway D Concert Grand upon which this festival was founded.

Schedule

Friday, April 19-Headliner concert

- 7:30 p.m. – Hey Rim Jeon performance (50-minute set)
- 8:30 p.m. – Aaron Parks performance (50-minute set)

Saturday, April 20, 2024 Workshops

- 10:00 a.m. – Hey Rim Jeon - Embodying Your Inner-ensemble in Solo Piano Jazz
- 11:00 a.m. – Aaron Parks - Awakening the Music Within
- 12:00 p.m. – Alfredo Rodriguez - TBD
- 1:00 p.m. – Jacky Terrasson – Questions and Answers 2 p.m.

Emerging Artist Presentations

- 3:30 p.m. – Matthew Mueller
- 4:00 p.m. – Yujin Han panel discussion
- 4:45 p.m. – Panel discussion with all pianists (juried questions)

Headliner Concert

- 7:30 p.m. – Alfredo Rodriguez performance (50-minute set)
- 8:30 p.m. – Jacky Terrasson performance (50-minute set)

In-person tickets for the Solo Jazz Piano Festival are offered on a sliding fee scale from \$85-\$130 for the entire event; single concert options are also available. Visit the VJC website at www.vtjazz.org to purchase. Contact Eugene for educational group discounts eugene@vtjazz.org. Reservations can be made by calling Vermont Jazz Center ticket line at 802- 254-9088, ext. 1. Handicapped access for the in-person event is available by emailing elsavjc@gmail.com. The online streaming of this concert will be offered free of charge, but donations are welcomed and just a click away.

Access to the on-line event can be found online at vtjazz.org. Note: there will be no Facebook access to these concerts.



Courtesy aaronparks.com

Aaron Parks will perform at the 8th annual solo jazz piano festival this Friday, April 19. His music showcases his expressive phrasing and captivating arrangements while also mastering timekeeping and reharmonizing tunes from the Great American Songbook.

Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre will present 'Lysistrata'

WEST RUTLAND—Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre presents "Lysistrata" by Aristophanes (411 B.C.) and translated by Sarah Ruden on April 19, 20, 26, 27 at 7:30 p.m. and April 21, 28 at 2 p.m. at the troupe's home at the West Rutland Town Hall Theatre at 35 Marble St.

The play has been called a "play on legs." "Lysistrata" is a play that both promotes peace and the strength of women. In ancient Greece, Sparta and Athens are at war and the women are tired of their husbands being away for months at a time. Lysistrata comes up with an idea that will bring about a peace treaty. The women left at home will no longer engage in intimacy with the men, until they put down their swords.

Director for the play Gary Meitrott said, "There has never been a better time in history for women and men to come

together and support women's rights. With this play, we will be able to share theatrically the importance of helping all people who have been minimized by our current society. Through humor and bold dialogue and action, 'Lysistrata' brilliantly speaks of a timeless challenge for all mankind".

A group of over 20 actors will present the show in the round with the audience surrounding them on the auditorium floor. The use of platforms will provide a place for both the men and women to present their individual choruses and united ones. The verbal chorus is an integral part of Greek plays and helps the audience to understand both the story and the point of view for the two genders.

Tickets for \$20 may be purchased at the door the day of the performances by cash or check. You can also go on-line

at Paramountvt.org. For more information, please contact ART at: actorsrepvt@gmail.com The play has sexual references and is suitable for 17 years and older. The door opens 30 minutes in advance.

Six shows:

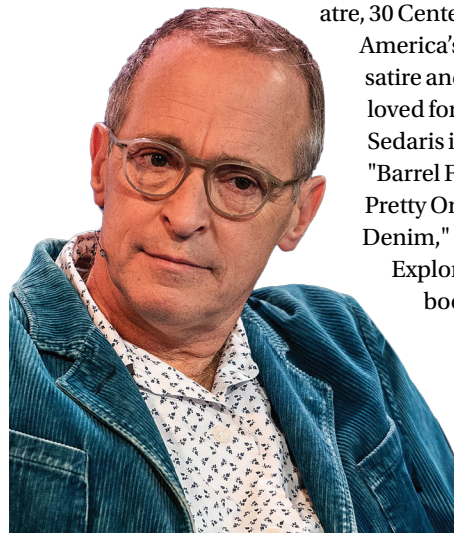
- Friday, April 19 @ 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 20 @ 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 21 @ 2 p.m.
- Friday, April 26 @ 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 27 @ 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 28 @ 2 p.m.

The play has sexual references and is suitable for 17 years and older. The door opens 30 minutes in advance.

For more information email actorsrepvt@gmail.com.

Writer David Sedaris comes to Paramount Theatre in Rutland

April 20, at 7 p.m. —RUTLAND— Writer David Sedaris comes to the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland this Saturday. Sedaris is one of



Submitted
David Sedaris

America's preeminent humor writers. He is a master of satire and one of today's most observant writers. Beloved for his personal essays and short stories, David Sedaris is the author of the New York Times bestsellers "Barrel Fever," "Holidays on Ice," "Naked," "Me Talk Pretty One Day," "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim," "When You Are Engulfed in Flames," "Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls," and "Calypso." His book "The Best of Me," collects 42 previously published stories and essays. Sedaris also wrote "Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary," a collection of fables with illustrations by Ian Falconer. He is the editor of "Children Playing Before a Statue of Hercules: An Anthology of Outstanding Stories." His pieces regularly appear in The New Yorker and have twice been included in "The Best American Essays."

His two volumes of his diaries, "Theft By Finding: Diaries (1977-2002)" and "A Carnival of Snackery; Diaries (2003-2020)" were New York Times bestsellers. An art book of Sedaris's diary covers, "David Sedaris Diaries: A Visual Compendium," was edited by Jeffrey Jenkins. His most recent book, "Happy-Go-Lucky," debuted at No. 1 on the New York Times bestseller list. The audio version of "Happy-Go-Lucky," written and narrated by Sedaris, won the 2023 Audie Award. His next book will be a short graphic novel for children with illustrations by Ian Falconer titled "Pretty Ugly" (TOON Books, February 27, 2024).

Sedaris and his sister, Amy Sedaris, have collaborated under the name "The Talent Family" and have written half-a-dozen plays which have been produced at La Mama, Lincoln Center, and The Drama Department in New York City. These plays include Stump the Host, Stitches, One Woman Shoe, which received an Obie Award, Incident at Cobbler's Knob, and The Book of Liz, which was published in book form by Dramatists Play Service.

Sedaris has been nominated for five Grammy Awards for Best Spoken Word and Best Comedy Album. His audio recordings include "David Sedaris: Live for Your Listening Pleasure" and "David Sedaris Live at Carnegie Hall." A feature film adaptation of his story "C.O.G.," was released after a premiere at the Sundance Film Festival (2013). Since 2011, he can be heard annually on a series of live recordings on BBC Radio 4 entitled "Meet David Sedaris." In 2019 David Sedaris became a regular contributor to CBS Sunday Morning, and his masterclass, "David Sedaris Teaches Storytelling and Humor," was released.

There are over 16 million copies of his books in print and they have been translated into 32 languages. He has been awarded the Terry Southern Prize for Humor, Thurber Prize for American Humor, Jonathan Swift International Literature Prize for Satire and Humor, Time 2001 Humorist of the Year Award, as well as the Medal for Spoken Language from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In March 2019 he was inducted as a member into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2020 the New York Public Library voted "Me Talk Pretty One Day" one of the 125 most important books of the last 125 years.

Tickets for the event are \$30-\$45.

For more information, visit: paramountvt.org.



TUSK performs Paramount

Friday, April 19, at 7 p.m.—RUTLAND— TUSK is the number one tribute to Fleetwood Mac in the world. On Friday they will perform at the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. Rutland.

No fancy tricks, no gimmicks, just five musicians recreating the music of Fleetwood Mac to perfection with note for note renditions that no other Fleetwood Mac tribute on the touring scene today can come close to duplicating.

Tusk covers all the great hits of Fleetwood Mac, which has featured the talents of Mick Fleetwood, Christine and John McVie, Lindsey Buckingham, Stevie Nicks and others over the years. The five seasoned, well-respected

musicians comprising Tusk have been making music together in various combinations and styles, in original outfits and in cover bands, for over twenty-five years. It seemed only fitting that they should come together to form the Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute, and pay homage to a group that dominated the charts during the band members' formative years. Authentic-sounding and always respectful, Tusk leaves no stone unturned in replicating the sounds of one of the world's best-loved, top-selling bands.

Tickets for the event are \$35 + tax/fees.

For more information, visit: paramountvt.org.



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Rutland CO-OP

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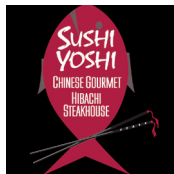
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TAKE OUT

Solutions

From page 13

Crossword

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Sudoku

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



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ig Trouble in Brandon": Former UVM basketball star turned pro wrestler Ben Crenca headlines WOH wrestling event

Saturday April 20 at 7 p.m. —BRANDON—The "Big Trouble in Brandon" event hits Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square, Brandon on Saturday at 7 p.m.. Headlining is former UVM star basketball player Ben Crenca who is now known as "Big Trouble Ben" in the world of pro wrestling. Ben stands over 7 feet tall and weighs just under 300 pounds. He has been featured by the WWE, AEW and appeared on NBC's "Young Rock TV" series. He called Vermont home for many years while leading UVM on the basketball courts.

WOH wrestling is an independent wrestling organization that has been operating since 1998 mainly in New York and New England. It's currently operated by journeyman wrestler Shane Alden who doubles as a wrestler for the organization and has performed for the WWE and Ring of Honor previously. The promotion has hosted some of the biggest wrestling stars of all time including Bret Hart, Ric Flair, Scott Hall, Mick Foley and has been the start up for many wrestlers you are currently seeing on tv today.

The event will be WOH's second time in Brandon, as it sold out the same venue last April with WWE star Fandango appearing and meeting fans. You can expect to see eight matches, women wrestlers and some of the best wrestlers will be on the scene. Fans will get to meet and greet the stars and there will be food and vendors available.

General admission is \$20. Front row: \$25.

VIP special meet and greet pass (includes a front row priority seat) is \$75.

For more information, contact 518-260-8759 or follow facebook for updates at: facebook.com/wohwrestling.



Courtesy WOH Wrestling

The "Big Trouble in Brandon" event, featuring former UVM basketball star Ben Crenca, will take place on April 20 at 7 p.m. in Brandon. The promotion, operated by Shane Alden, has hosted major wrestling stars since 1998.

April art auction at Liquid Art benefits Neil Family after tragic fire

Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m.—KILLINGTON—Tyson Andrews and Liquid Art, 37 Miller Brook Road, Killington, invites the community to an April art auction dedicated to supporting the Neil family, who faced a devastating loss when their home was consumed by fire earlier this year. Participation not only offers attendees a chance to own a piece of extraordinary art but also helps turn a new page for the Neil family who will receive all proceeds dedicated to rebuilding their future.

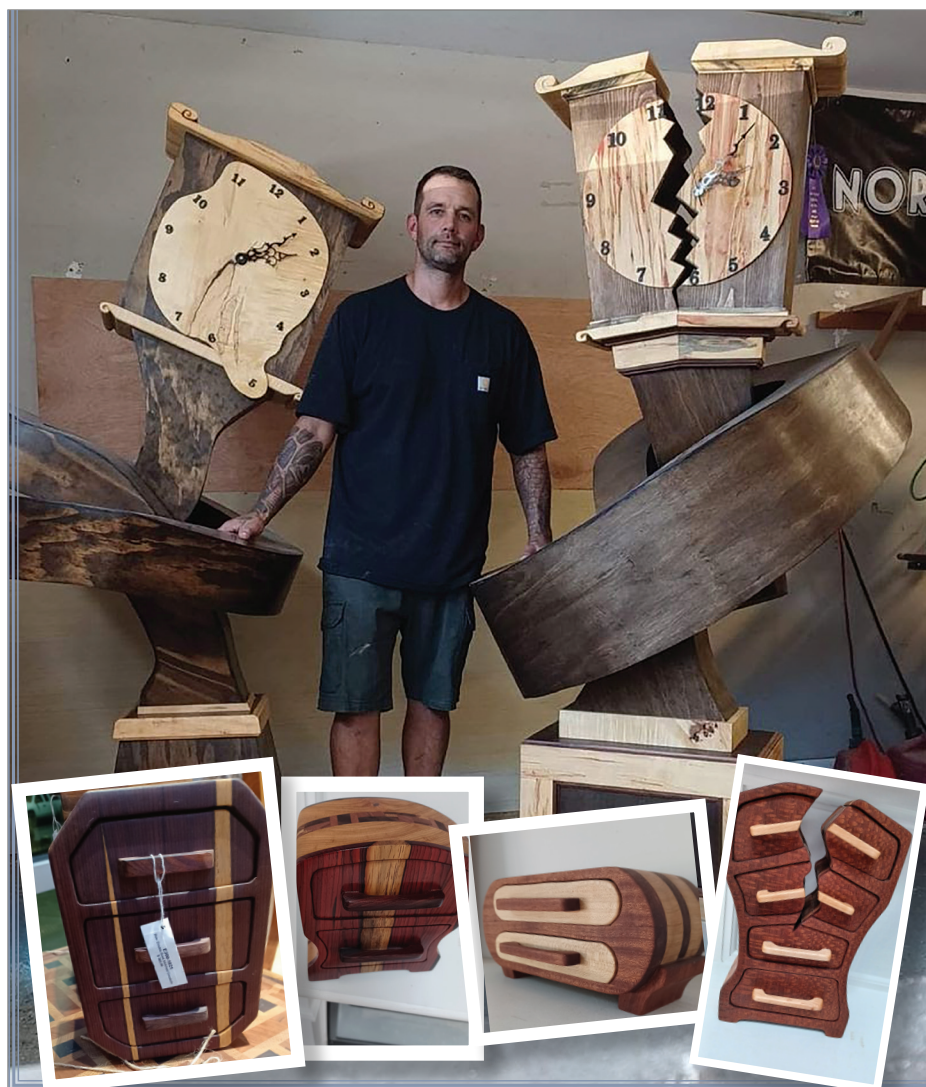
Inspired by compassion

Tyson Andrews, who was a former neighbor of the Neils and went to Sherburne Elementary School, returns to Killington after 25 years. He heard about the Neil fire and it inspired him to create an event that would let him and others give back to the family that was so good to him. Andrews, now a visionary woodworker and the talent behind North Star Wood Art, carries with him not only his artworks but also a heart full of empathy. The Neil family was like his second family while he was here. Andrews journey back to Killington with his whimsical woodworking art is a special reminder of the enduring spirit of our community.

The art of giving

Andrews transition from building homes to crafting eye-bending, whimsical wood art allows Liquid Art to offer you with pieces that encapsulate joy, wonder, and unparalleled craftsmanship. Each piece is a labor of love and innovation, from being sawn and kiln-dried to being sterilized and shaped with minimal waste. Tyson's approach is a testament to resourcefulness, imagination, and a relentless pursuit of quality.

Alongside Andrew's captivating creations, numerous local artisans will be showcased, each contributing their unique talents to support the Neil family. Each artist brings their own unique palette of creativity. From the serene landscapes captured by Judy Dardeck to the vibrant and soul-stirring watercolors of Maurie Harrington, this auction offers a journey through varied artistic realms. Pottery from Dawn Gaffney, photography from Beth Weinberg and funky colors in nature-inspired works from Kelly Gearwar. Brian Hewitt, known for his "Kind Art," brings a splash of joy and positivity with his colorful creations, while Nancy Kapp, "KDS Art" and "Wander on Words" each offer a glimpse into their imaginative worlds through their respective mediums. Toss in a few great items from KMS Camp and we are sure there is something for everyone.



By Tyson Andrews

Tyson Andrews, a woodworker and founder of North Star Wood Art, returns to Killington after 25 years, creating an event to give back to the Neil family who lost their home to a fire.



VINS: A trio of educational events

QUECHEE—Venture into the fascinating world of birds and wildlife with the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) through a series of engaging events designed to enlighten and inspire nature enthusiasts of all ages. From understanding the impact of climate change on bird populations to learning the intricacies of bird identification, VINS offers a diverse range of educational opportunities aimed at fostering a deeper connection with the natural world.

Birds and climate change

Saturday, April 20 at 1 p.m. In Vermont, the effects of climate change are already being felt by more than just humans. Birds, scientists know, are indicator species whose populations fluctuate with the health of the ecosystem as a whole.

Come learn what birds can teach us about coping with these dramatic shifts and how important it is for all species that we move towards clean energy and sustainable practices.

Anna Morris is the director of wildlife ambassador programs at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. She received a master's degree in raptor biology from Boise State University in 2016 and earned her certification as a professional bird trainer from the International Avian Trainers Certification Board in 2019.

A recording of this in-person event will be released to the public on Earth Day, Monday, April 22.

Price included with general admission.

Wildlife ER

Sunday, April 21 at 11 a.m. Ever wonder what it is like to be a wild bird rehabilitator? What does it take to care for and treat the injured birds at VINS? This program will provide a window into daily life at the VINS Center for Wild Bird Rehabilitation & Ambassador Care. Learn how patients are admitted, diagnosed, treated, and released, and even meet some of our former patients, who are now education ambassadors. Hear the stories of how we get these amazing creatures back on their wings in the wild and learn how you can be a wildlife superhero by identifying when animals need help and what to do to help them.

Pre-registration is required, while registration for the event is free, general admission is due upon arrival.

Birding for Beginners: Introduction to Bird ID
Tuesday, April 23 at 5:30 p.m. Have you

ever noticed a small flash of color high in the treetops and wondered what species of bird you are looking at? Or have you awoken to the dawn chorus of songbirds and wished you could identify who was singing outside your window?

If you want to get better at identifying birds by sight and sound then join VINS for a workshop that will give you the skills to get outdoors and start birding.

Topic: Birding By Ear

When foliage is thick and birds are hidden deep within the forest canopy, one way to identify them is by listening to their calls. A spring or summer soundscape in Vermont is full of wonderful bird calls, and being able to identify a single bird amongst the many sounds can seem a daunting task. This class will hone your ear to some of the most common bird calls to start building your birding-by-ear foundation. No materials are required.

For those who wish to get into birding, suggested materials include a notebook or journal and binoculars as well as field guides. Journals and field guides are available for purchase at the VINS Nature Store. View a selection of products available online at: store.vinsweb.org.

This workshop is designed for beginner to intermediate birders and is open to all ages. Kid/family-friendly materials will be provided as a follow-up to each class for those interested in further engaging in these materials with young birders.

VINS Field Guide Recommendations:

- National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America
- Peterson Field Guide to Birds of East/Central North America
- The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America
- Sibley's Backyard Birds of the Northeast
- Vermont Birds Pocket Guide

The cost for this event is \$15 for the general public; \$12 VINS members.

Cancellation policy: No refunds will be offered if you cannot attend one or more of these virtual classes. VINS will send participants a recording of each class for which they are registered so if you cannot attend the live event, you can still view the recorded class.

For more information on these events, contact 802-359-5000 or info@vinsweb.org.

Local Artist Patrick Wise

Watercolor Print

To see more work,
visit me on Instagram
@patrickcawise



Signs of spring



- **The Robin**
Robins

(*Turdus migratorius*) are often associated with the arrival of spring, as they are one of the first birds to return from their wintering grounds. These birds are known for their cheerful and melodious song, which consists of a series of clear, whistled phrases.



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Rockin the Region with Breanna Elaine

Local musician Breanna Elaine has a new project and could use your help in making it succeed. Breanna has launched a crowdfunding campaign, which is off the Indiegogo platform, to produce a full band recording and make a music video for "Where The Snakes Live," a song she wrote. She wrote this after her friend, Jeremy Theriault, died of a heroin overdose on April 14, 2022. She is dedicated to raising money and awareness for addiction support. Breanna urges, "We may not have been able to save Jeremy and so many others who have died from this terrible disease, but we can come together now and help others like them get the help they need."



Rockin' the Region
By Dave Hoffenberg

Please read the article to find out why it's so important, but the campaign can be found at: indiegogo.com/projects/where-the-snakes-live-project#. Breanna understands that not everyone is in a place right now where they can donate and that's okay. You can still make a difference by sharing this project with your friends, family, and your connections in the community who can help her get the word out about this project. The more people who know, the better. You can use the hashtags #ForJeremy and #WhereTheSnakesLive when you share. You can also support the project by checking out Breanna's YouTube and Spotify at "Breanna Elaine" and by visiting her social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok at "Breanna Elaine Music," and sharing her music. If you prefer to donate directly, please message Breanna through social media.

Breanna wrote a different song that she sang at his funeral but said, "This is the more uncomfortable, edgy song, like the other side of things. I decided I wanted to use this song to make some sort of a difference. It kind of snowballed. At first I thought I would use the song to make a music video, honor Jeremy, raise awareness about the drug epidemic and start the conversation. That's all great but I wanted to do something more tangible in the community, so I discovered Turning Point Center in Rutland. I chose to work with them and promote them in partnership with this project." Turning Point is a non-profit that provides resources and support for people in recovery.

Breanna is donating 5% of the crowdfunding campaign

to Turning Point whether the goal is met or not, she made special edition t-shirts and that money goes to Turning Point and she's helping to promote their annual event, "Stomping out Stigma" which is held on September 14. She's going to play for the event and bring some fellow musicians to play with her.

The song and music video will be released by August 17 because that's when Breanna is playing a benefit concert at Merchant's Hall in Rutland. All proceeds from the concert will go to Turning Point. Stripping the criticism and stigma away from discussions about addiction is one of Breanna's main motivations behind "Where the snakes live." She said, "If I can be another advocate and help fight some of the stigma, that would be great. The more I thought about how judgmental people are, the more I wanted to get involved. We're opening this conversation for people and we're bringing attention to it because we want to facilitate change."

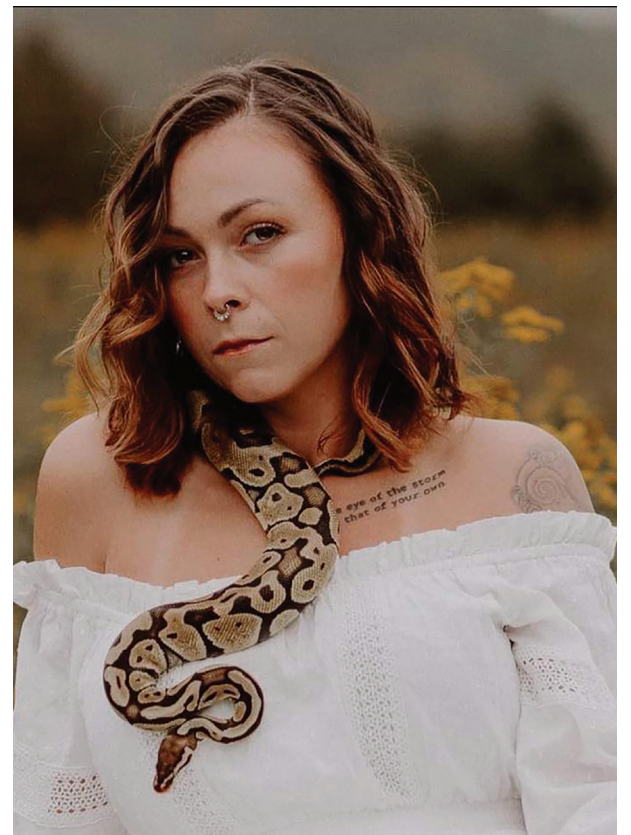
The song is like a metaphor with "snakes" being drugs and the possibility of an overdose. Breanna said, "You can only f*ck around so much before you're inevitably going to die, or overdose, or get bit by the snake. That's the metaphor. The song opens talking about his funeral and how he overdosed in a bathtub. It's a very raw, very jarring, uncomfortable song."

Breanna enlisted the help of local music legend Bow Thayer (7 League Boots, The Benders) to not only play on it but produce it as well. She said, "Now the song has this gritty, haunting feel but with the instruments they added, it has that down-home Vermont Bow Thayer style gritty nature to it but it's also dynamic. The verses have this jazzy, rounded swing to it and then the chorus is bitey. The song credits go to Breanna Elaine on guitar & vocals, Jeff Berlin on drums, Jakob Breitbach on Fiddle, Bow Thayer on back up vocal, organ, banjo, bass, guitar and as producer and Vincent Freeman of the Underground in Randolph as studio engineer.

Breanna has spent the last month recording at The Woodshed, Bow Thayer's studio in Vermont. She noted they connected over both having lost friends to overdoses. Breanna admired Thayer's work prior to the collaboration and knew he was the right producer for the project. She said, "He really got into it. He added vocals and a sh*t ton of instruments. He was running around like a mad scientist, saying "This is great, this is great. I'm very happy. I'd already been thinking of ways to entice Bow into being my mentor.

I'm a total Bow Thayer fan girl."

Breanna Elaine is a full time musician, singer/songwriter based out of Brandon. Her first studio album 'Seedlings' was released in January 2023. Breanna's music is dripping with plenty of earthy folk sounds, but has undertones of rock, bluegrass and even punk. She performs a mix of originals as well as a wide array of covers on both guitar and banjo. Comparisons have included singer/songwriter Jewel, as well as legends Alanis Morissette and Stevie Nicks. I've had the pleasure of seeing Breanna perform a few times and I can agree with those comparisons. This is a really great thing that Breanna is doing so please support this any way you can.



By Martin VanBuren, Pine Fox Photo

Local musician Breanna Elaine is launching a crowdfunding campaign to raise awareness for addiction support, with 5% of the proceeds going to Turning Point Center in Rutland, and the song and music video set to release on August 17.

Laura Waterman to discuss her book; 'Calling Wild Places Home'

Tuesday, April 23 at 6 p.m. — WOODSTOCK—Mountain climber, conservationist and author, Laura Waterman will visit Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock to talk about her new book, "Calling Wild Places Home: A Memoir in Essays," with Mary Margaret Sloan.

This new collection of essays discusses themes of wild places and mountain stewardship, books and reading, and building a new life after loss.

Laura Waterman writes, "I began writing these essays in my late seventies. By then much had changed in my relation to mountains. I wanted to capture that, too: how aging had increased my joy of being in the mountains at the same time it had limited what I could accomplish. And how this limiting of ambitious mountain days had focused me on explorations from my door, my own home territory, where I found unexpected beauty and experienced a sense of discovery."

Laura Waterman grew up in New Jersey and was an editor in book publishing in New York City where she met and married Guy Waterman. In 1973, they moved to Vermont to establish an off-the-grid homestead. For the next nearly 30 years, Laura and Guy collaboratively wrote books about mountain ethics and stewardship, subjects that grew out of their own climbing life until Guy's death in 2000. Guy's

choice to take his own life steered Laura to write "Losing the Garden: The Story of a Marriage," a memoir about their homesteading, writing, and climbing years, and her attempt to understand

her own role in her husband's decision. Laura, and posthumously Guy, were awarded the David Brower Conservation Award from the American Alpine Club in 2012, and in 2019, Laura was inducted into the AAC's Hall of Mountaineering Excellence.

Mary Margaret Sloan and her husband grow flowers and wine grapes at their historic farm at Gilbert's Hill in Woodstock, the site of the first ski rope tow in the country. Before retiring last year, Mary Margaret led and supported nonprofit organizations, ranging from Vital Communities and the Student Conservation Association based in the Upper Valley to the American Hiking Society based in Washington, DC. Currently, she serves on the board of the Children's Literacy Foundation, volunteers and subs at the Norman Williams Public Library, and plays pick-up volleyball.

This event is free and open to all.

Yankee Bookshop is co-hosting and will have books for purchase and signing.

Visit: NormanWilliams.org to RSVP as seating is limited. For more information, email: Programs@NormanWilliams.org.



Courtesy Norman Williams Public Library
Laura Waterman

The Killington Pond Skim was a cold, wet success

Photos by Jerry Leblond

Participants in colorful costumes attempt to ski or ride across the pond water during the Killington Pond Skim held at the K-1 base area. Amidst the many failed attempts and cold splashes into the frigid water, there were some successful attempts that made it all the way across, showcasing both daring and comedic moments.





Photos by Jerry Leblond

Rutland County Humane Society



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SKIPPER

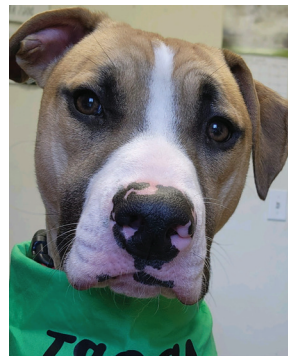
Hi, I'm Skipper. I'm an 8-year-old neutered male German shepherd. I came to Lucy Mackenzie when somebody found me on the side of the road all on my own. I'm an older and sometimes anxious fellow that would love a caring and calm home. I'm a little on the hefty side. I can be intimidating at first. I 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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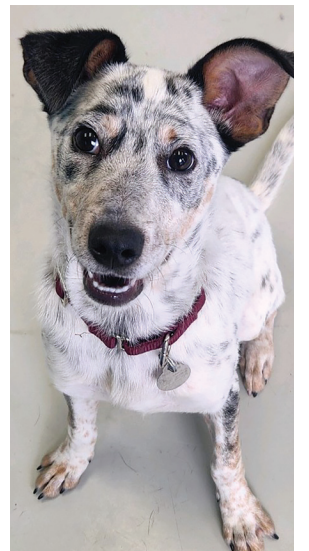
Dotty—1-year-old.
 Spayed female. Husky/
 shepherd mix.



Bentley—8-month-old.
 Neutered male.
 Pitbull.



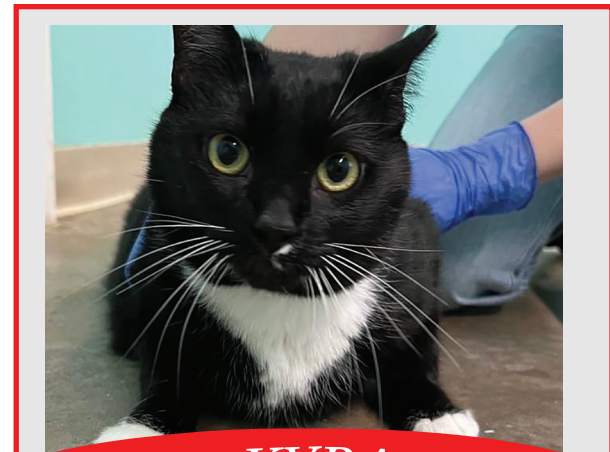
Stardew—10-year-old.
 Spayed female. Domestic
 shorthair.



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



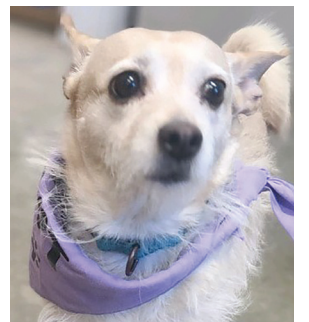
Bear—7-month-old.
 Neutered male. Shepherd
 mix.



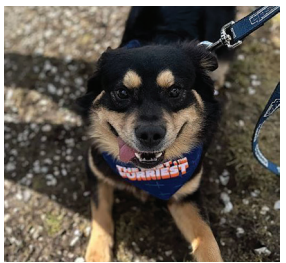
KYRA

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

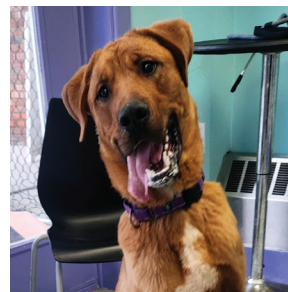
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 Closed Sun. & Mon. • www.rchsvt.org



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



O'Malley—4-year-old.
 Neutered male. Aussie mix.



Chico—1-year-old.
 Neutered male. Mixed
 breed.



Tiger Lilly—2 Years
 old. Spayed female. Do-
 mestic shorthair.



Payton—2-month-old.
 Spayed female. Shepherd
 mix.



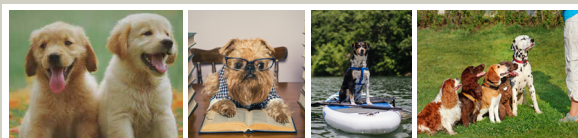
Precious—12-year-
 old. Spayed female.
 Domestic shorthair.



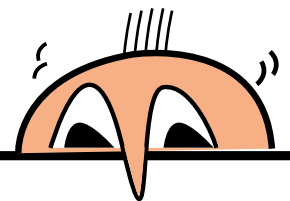
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GOT NEWS?

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Cosmic Catalogue


Aries
March 21 - April 20

No doubt, you're ready to make a significant move of some description when it comes to your money. You might be surprised to discover that you're quite conservative and reluctant to change in terms of your finances. Though, nothing ventured nothing gained. Sometimes the biggest risk of all is to take no risk. If a chance or opportunity arrives this week, it may be well worth your while going for it.




Leo
July 21 - August 20

It's your career and life direction that Lis under the cosmic spotlight now. You tend to cling on to stability in this area of life, but how has that been working for you? If you've chosen security over authenticity, then you may be feeling quite stressed and restless now. If stability is what you want, then you may need to make the most radical and out of character choice in order to obtain it.




Sagittarius
November 21 - December 20

Just when you get to the top of the mountain, there is another one you need to climb. One obstacle after another is what life has felt like for quite a while now. Alas, the breakthrough is on its way. While things may not calm down initially, the end is in sight. The rewards are coming and it will be worth it. A little bit more of nose to the grindstone is necessary but it won't be like this for very much longer.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

For some time now, you've been trying on the idea of authenticity for size. You may have shocked some people by the changes you've made. Heck, you may have even shocked yourself. One thing is for certain, if you've been avoiding this task, you won't be able to for much longer. Do the thing you've been reluctant to do. If you don't the price you'll pay will be more than you can afford – your peace of mind.



Virgo
August 21 - September 20

The world can really open up for you now. Whether it's literal, metaphorical or both, just crack that oyster right open! Let your natural curiosity explore new possibilities outside your current perspective of the world and on life. Travel, study, philosophy and religion are topics that you may be interested in now. Sometimes the best choices we make are those that defy logic, but still feel right. Open your mind and change your life.




Capricorn
December 21 - January 20

A creative project you've been working on is set to come to life. Breakthroughs are possible in all areas of joy, happiness and creativity. This also includes your love life. If you've been single for a while, things could change. If your relationship has got a little dull in routine, then shake things up. Good things will happen to you when you're willing to do things differently. Shake a little sugar on things




Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Hang in there, Gemini. It's always darkest before dawn. Big changes are coming your way, but first, you do have to wrangle with your inner landscape. Shifting your mindset around ingrained habits and patterns will do you the world of good now. Whatever it is that has become the lynchpin of your existence has to go. If you don't let go of who you are, how can you be all that you can be?




Libra
September 21 - October 20

Fears and phobias – perceived or real, can really take a toll on you. Stress about a relationship, your debts or financial status have reached a point of no return. This area of life does have the chance to change, though. You may need to make an out-of-character choice or do something you thought you'd never do. But when you do, life has the propensity to be more than you could have imagined.




Aquarius
January 21 - February 20

Your home and family life has been quite topsy turvy for a while now. Family relationships and dynamics or having to renovate or relocate has created an atmosphere of instability. That said, there may be more of this to come yet. You may or may not like it. Regardless, there will be some kind of benefit or pay off if you can just embrace the changes and flow along with them.




Cancer
June 21 - July 20

If you've wanted to breakthrough into a new social group or circle, exciting possibilities may be thrust upon you now. It's the company you keep that is your source of luck and opportunity now. If the five people you spend the most time with aren't where you want to be in life, some authentic choices may be required. Change your friends and community and you may just change your life!



Scorpio
October 21 - November 20

It's hand on your heart time now. Ask yourself, deep down, is the relationship you're in right for you, or not? It doesn't matter what you do with your answer, it's just that you need to get to the truth of what you're doing. Right, wrong or indifferent, you're not one who is comfortable in falsehoods. Be honest with yourself and you'll be amazed by how much better things will become. Authenticity is everything now.



Pisces
February 21 - March 20

Keeping life closer to home will be strangely satisfying to you. In fact, you don't have to go to far flung destinations or exotic locations to see the best of what life has to offer. It's probably right under your nose. This week, don't stray too far from your neighborhood. The opportunities you seek and the change you want are much closer than you'd otherwise think! Also, a good week to expand on a topic you've been curious about.

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Empowering you to lead a divinely inspired life.

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

New seeds are planted

Arguably 2024's most dynamic astrological event occurs this week — yes, I remember the Eclipse from last week. But this week, Jupiter and Uranus conjoin in Taurus. Renowned for its exciting, expansive and innovative potential, this combination can also bring turbulence and discomfort, too.

You don't have to be a Taurus to feel this. Somewhere in your horoscope, there is an area of life that is ruled by the bull. On the one hand, you might be easy going and flexible in one area. While on the other, obstinate, persevering and quite possibly, recalcitrant.

This makes this week's astrology a

mixed bag. If you've been feeling stuck or stagnant and need your cage rattled a bit, you may get the breakthrough you've been waiting for. If you're tired of the turbulence and long for a return to stability, you may have to endure more changes before you reach calmer pastures.

As often happens with larger planetary configurations, events may not happen this week but a seed, nonetheless, will be placed within the soil. Just when you think the potential and promise of what you planted isn't going to manifest,

the seed germinates. Late May and early June is likely to reveal exactly what kind of seed that has indeed been planted.



Cosmic
Catalogue
By Cassandra
Tyndall

Bears are wild forever

Bears,
Big beautiful creatures,
Wandering through the forests,
And fields of flowers.
Beautiful sweet flowers.
And it is not only the flowers
that are sweet,
But the bears, too.
They are misunderstood
creatures,
Big gentle giants,
They don't want to hurt you,
They just want to protect their families.



Poetry Is Power
By Bree Sarandrea

They are amazing creatures,
And you can help them, too, you know?
Help them by leaving them alone.
Don't try to feed them.
Just quietly observe them.
Watch these wild creatures,
Because that is what they are
meant to be,
Wild,
And they should stay that way.
Beautiful in nature,
Because, bears are wild forever.



Submitted

Eclipse

We look into the sky at the wonder above us, the damp ground squishing beneath our feet. The moon slowly moved in front of the sun, covering it completely. The warm sun rays left our faces and were replaced with cold darkness.

For a few minutes, day turned to night as we peered up at the bright ring in the sky. It was beautiful. Then, the sun rays slowly came back, poking through the trees until the moon was completely gone and the sun was back to giving us light. Birds chirped around us as we put back on our glasses.

How beautiful I thought.



Green Mountain
Tales
By Izzy Gieder

American Bittern



Elphick

Hérons, egrets and bitterns: Stalkers of the shallows

If you take to the water this spring, there's a good chance you'll spot a great blue heron, New England's most recognizable large wading bird. But you might also see one of several other similar species that breed in or pass through our region's wetlands. Telling these large waders apart can be tricky. What distinguishes a heron from a bittern from an egret? All three have long, stilt-like legs; extendable, serpentine necks; and skulk through aquatic habitats plucking prey from the shallows like trained assassins.

Distinctions between these birds are minimal and, in some cases, go no further than terminology. "In a general sense, they [herons, egrets, and bitterns] are all 'herons' — that's the best simple descriptor for the group of birds in the family that goes by the scientific name *Ardeidae*," said Chris Elphick, a conservation biologist at University of Connecticut who specializes in wetland birds and ecosystems. Especially with herons and egrets, he said, "The two names don't align with the evolutionary groups. There are no clear aspects of habitat, diet, or ecology that distinguish egrets from herons."

The distinctions are a bit clearer for bitterns, which Elphick noted "nest near the ground and are not colonial" like herons and egrets. These behavioral differences, he said, help to make bitterns an "evolutionarily and biologically distinct group."

Three heron and one bittern species breed in northern New England.

The great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) is the largest heron in North America. Its slate blue body and impressive size are a familiar sight in both fresh- and saltwater habitats throughout the year in northern New England. Within a few miles of feeding sites, you might discover a breeding colony, which can contain 500 or more individual nests high up in the trees.

Great blue herons are opportunistic hunters: Elphick recalled once watching herons catch rats fleeing from flooded fields. Red-winged blackbirds alighting to eat grain also became meals.

The green heron (*Butorides virescens*) is smaller than the great blue. This heron's shorter legs restrict it to shallower waters than its longer-legged counterparts. A dark green head and wings and a chestnut breast help to set the green heron apart from similar species.

But like other herons, the green nests communally in large, elevated colonies. Elphick pointed out that green herons will occasionally demonstrate tool use when fishing, employing twigs, insects, and even bread crusts as bait. They have also been known to dive and swim for prey.

The black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) behaves true to its name. While other herons roost when the sun sets, the black-crowned night heron sets out to hunt at nightfall. This heron, the most widespread in the world, is a summer resident in our region's fresh-, salt-, and brackish water. It can be identified by its black cap and back, grey belly, and striking red eyes. It is also stockier than its relatives. The black-crowned night heron tolerates human disturbances well and, as a result, biologists use its presence in urban aquatic environments as a bellwether of water quality and environmental conditions.

The American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) sticks to "densely vegetated wetlands — think big cattail marshes — where they both nest and feed," said Elphick. "They tend to be fairly secretive and, because of the dense vegetation, can be hard to see." Unlike herons and egrets, the American bittern shuns communal roosting and nests alone, close to the ground. Its impressive camouflage disguises it among

TOS → 36



The Outside
Story
By Colby Galliher

A stroke of bad luck

The Masters ended this past weekend, and like so many other golf fans, I was glued to my phone and television for four days as the pageantry and competition unfolded. The event did not disappoint as the world's No. 1 Scottie Scheffler struck precision golf shots for four days, outlasting any challenges his competitors made.

I traveled to Augusta National in Georgia several years ago to witness the tournament firsthand. It had been a bucket list item for decades, so when a work colleague mentioned he had a spare ticket, I jumped at the chance.

I didn't know this person well, but my rapport with him was solid so I wasn't concerned. However, on the day before leaving, he mentioned that two other people would be joining us, which did concern me. Traveling with three strangers in a car for hours was not how I pictured this fantasy unfolding. Nevertheless, I shook off the anxiety and convinced myself that my three compatriots were likely golf fans who were equally excited to attend and, therefore, would be fun to be around.

On the morning of our trip (we attended the Friday round), I met everyone at the appointed location before sunrise. The goal was to beat the traffic and get there early. Everyone was on time, so we were off to a solid start.

After a few niceties, we piled into the car and headed out. The early conversations were guarded; we talked business for most of the time. But as we got closer to the event, I purposely turned the conversation to golf. After all, it was The Masters, and I was growing increasingly excited at what was about to unfold.

That's when it became apparent that none of the other three passengers were golf fans. In fact, two of the three admitted that they only agreed to go because other people pushed them to do it.

I did my best to throw out some Masters history and current insights thinking it might pique their curiosity. Unfortunately, it had little effect. Two of them had never golfed and the one who did mentioned that he regularly drank a 12-pack during his round...

My dream was to walk all 18 holes of Augusta National so I could put the images I'd been seeing on television into perspective. However, it became apparent once we got through the gates that this was never going to happen. First of all, the three other gentlemen weren't built for traversing a hilly golf course in high heat. And secondly,

they seemed more interested in buying merchandise and alcohol than they were in watching the players.



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi

Once they all had their drinks, we walked down a couple holes and watched several groups play through. It was apparent they were bored so we worked our way back up near the clubhouse where they proceeded to drop hundreds of dollars on Masters apparel. I love the tournament and the history of the club, but there was no way I was buying a logo golf shirt for \$130.

I did enjoy walking around the shop looking at the multitude of items, and the people-watching was spectacular, but it was the most un-masterful part of the event as far as I was concerned.

Eventually we made our way over to the food court where we each purchased the famed pimento cheese sandwiches. The food at The Masters is priced ridiculously low so a sandwich and drink only cost \$3.50 (compare that to the \$19 beer I bought at my last NBA game).

After we ate, we headed back out onto the course, but then tragedy struck. Clouds had been rolling in and there was a hint of thunder on the horizon. Soon enough, the horn blasted to signal a stoppage in play due to lightning and impending storms. The guys decided that this was a sign to leave, so we headed to our car, piled in, and started driving away just as the rains arrived.

I was dejected but didn't let on.

My dream of walking Augusta National was mostly dashed, but I was happy to have been at the hallowed location, if for only a short time. I'm intent on returning again one day — but I'll be doing it my way on that occasion.

This week's documentary feature, "David Foster: Off the Record," is about an individual who has done it his way for his entire life — and made no excuses about it.

David Foster is not a household name but his indelible mark on the music industry is profound. As a writer, producer, and performer, Foster has been the creative force behind some of the most memorable music of the last 50 years. I promise that David Foster has been involved in at least one music composition that you love — guaranteed!

If you appreciate music documentaries, then give this one a shot. I knew very little about this man, but I found his life story to be fascinating for a multitude of reasons.

A rhythmic B+ for "David Foster: Off the Record," now streaming on Netflix.

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



Spring slush, it's fun to ski and paddle through



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

Settling into my lawn chair in the parking lot, I extend both legs outward. My toes are pointing straight up, my forward lean angle set by my ski boots — super soggy and full of water. I don't want to even think about touching my wet socks. And the aroma that wafts through the parking lot as end-of-season feet get pulled out of end-of-season boots and placed into flip flops or sandals so they can breathe.

It's an experience, that spring parking lot boot removal. Completely the opposite of frozen shells that won't open, as you rip a barely functioning frozen foot out of its tight casket. No longer worried about frostbite, by April we are worried about suffering the indignity of trench foot while everyone is finally exposing their feet to the outdoors after months without having seen the sun.

But I love playing in the slush. Still white, but slightly more water logged than your fall or mid-winter snow. The snow is no longer beautiful six pointed snowflakes but sharp, pointy shards or needles, ready to slice you with road rash if you manage to slip and make contact with the surface. It doesn't seem playful or friendly when you look closely at the jagged edges, but these spring crystals create some of the best (and silliest) moments of spring.

It is in springtime where we learn to skim over puddles over water, noticing that the darker snow is massively faster than the bright white, sticky snow that eats at the small twitch muscles in your quads. The waterier the snow, the more fun, the more hero like, and the faster to melt. It's almost like reverse patches, where you have to play in the darkest slush first before it's all gone. Ski it before it melts. The end is coming.

Paddling does it backwards. Daily, I drive by Kent Pond, peeking through the trees to see if the darker spots have finally exposed themselves until there is open water peeking through. Looking at the water, I can't wait for the snow to melt so that I can get out onto the water. But you don't want the pond to unfreeze too quickly, because then there won't be any slush to play in! That's right, if you can ski slush you can certainly paddle slush!

Living the Dream → 37



By Merisa Sherman

Paddling through spring slush on Kent Pond in Killington is a unique adventure.

Quotes that seniors can relate to

"Old age comes at a bad time!"

— Sam Banducci

I think retirees will agree with that statement. We work all our lives and once we retire we finally have time to do all the things we dreamed of doing. But after awhile bad knees, backs and feet may put some restrictions on activities such as running, downhill skiing, etc. But we can often make some adjustments and find another way to get our outdoor exercise. Running can be replaced by walking at a brisk pace. Cross country skiing can take the place of downhill. Snowshoeing can replace cross country. You learn to do whatever works!

"Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what the hell happened."

— Jennifer Yane

As we age we often say that we are turning into our parents. I remember my mother

telling me not to put my "stuff" on the dining room table. She kept it nicely polished with

a pretty centerpiece. As an adult I have never liked to see "stuff" on our dining room table either. A nice centerpiece is all it needs! My father used to tell me to mow the lawn in different directions each week: up, down, diagonally, and in a square. I just wanted to get it done so I could go back to spending time with my friends. The "adult me" mows the lawn exactly as I was told almost 70 years ago. Research says that doing that will allow the blades of grass to grow straighter and healthier. My father was "onto something".

"I'm at the age where my back goes out more than I do" — Phyllis Diller

Fortunately, my back (so far!) hasn't stopped me from doing most things but some

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Looking Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw



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Two guys, Ives and Quinn, and the end of Baseball's color barrier

By Bruce Bouchard

John Turchiano, a retired union official and a close friend of 50 years, and I often talk baseball. What follows is from a chat we had recently about Jackie Robinson and the reversal of the color barrier in baseball, which happened 80 years ago this week — April 15, 1947 — when Robinson first took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Bruce Bouchard: John, I have been thinking about Jackie Robinson and the upcoming 80-year anniversary of the reversal of the color barrier. I know nothing about the root of the reversal. Was it a movement or the brain child of like-minded, right-thinking people?

John Turchiano: It has a surprising evolution. This is a story that even your father, Gene Bouchard, one of the great baseball fans of all time, didn't know!! Blacks may have been freed from slavery as a result of the Civil War, but they certainly weren't free from discrimination. Jim Crow reigned throughout the South and elsewhere, and miscegenation laws abounded. Bigotry was everywhere, including baseball, which banned Blacks beginning in the 1880s. But a gradual change began.

BB: Who initiated the change, who manned the wheel?

JT: So many progressives were involved. As examples, In the 1930s New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia demanded the integration of the city's police department. The country's First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, spoke out in favor of civil rights. Rabbi Stephen Wise famously campaigned for equality. Other progressives joined the chorus for change.

When World War II broke out more than one million Blacks joined the U.S. military. They comprised 10% of America's armed forces but to our country's everlasting disgrace they were segregated from White soldiers and often given menial jobs to do. This nevertheless was followed by quiet progressive steps. Broadway's Stage Door Canteen and the West Coast's Hollywood Canteen, clubs dedicated to having celebrities entertain and personally serve our troops during World War II, treated Blacks and Whites equally.

BB: Not to digress, but the canteens were such rich and textured stories. A great idea for a 21st Century dive back into that culture, including artists leading the way to full integration.

JT: Yes! There were a number of films that highlighted the canteens, mostly as boulevard entertainments, but the story could be told today in a different light of full exposure.

These venues were fully integrated. There was no separation of the races at the canteens or in Broadway theaters. But baseball's color line continued to bar Blacks from playing the national pastime and the U.S. military continued its segregation of troops.

At the same time, it is important to note that Blacks weren't the only group suffering from bigotry. In fact, it was not discrimination against Blacks that eventually dismantled



Courtesy John Turchiano
Rachel Robinson and John Turchiano at the dedication of the Jackie Robinson-Pee Wee Reese monument outside MCU Stadium in Brooklyn, New York on Oct. 1, 2005. Rachel Robinson is 101 years old and still active in various causes.

baseball's color barrier. It was anti-semitism. Until 1945 the country's medical community conspired to limit the number of Jews allowed to become doctors. An immeasurable number of bright Jewish students were denied admission to medical schools. And then, the littlest known big event happened. As Roger Kahn pointed out in his book "Rickey & Robinson," when a dean of Cornell's Medical College testified before the New York State legislature in 1944 and said a quota in admissions indeed existed, there was outrage. He said that regardless of how many Jewish students applied to the school no more than 5 percent of the freshman class "could be followers of the Hebrew religion." This was not welcome news in New York City, where Jews were a large and powerful voting bloc, and this led to the 1945 passage of the Ives-Quinn Act, which was a real game changer — quite literally.

BB: Perhaps I slept through this class, but I find this to be a stunning reveal. I knew absolutely nothing about the linkage between anti-Semitism and the end of the color barrier.

JT: You are not alone, and I can't imagine you sleeping through any class. No one talks or even knows about the Ives-Quinn Act today but it surely deserves an honored place in the halls of history. Its significance is undeniable. It made job discrimination a crime in New York State. It set up the State Commission against Discrimination, now called the New York

State Division of Human Rights. The law's impact was immediate, and not just on Jews who wanted to become doctors. When the Ives-Quinn Act was passed, it led Jackie Robinson of the Negro League's Kansas City Monarchs to tell his wife, Rachel, that it could give him a chance to play in the Major Leagues.

Robinson was right. At the time of its enactment, the Ives-Quinn Act became the strongest ban on racial and religious discrimination in the United States. It should be noted that it was enacted by an overwhelming bipartisan vote, and signed into law by a Republican, New York State Governor Thomas Dewey. Not only did it bring about more Jewish doctors and other big changes, it led Branch Rickey, the general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, to immediately prepare for the integration of his team. Rickey had wanted to integrate baseball for a very long time and the Ives-Quinn Act gave him the chance to do so. On Oct. 23, 1945, a few months after the Ives-Quinn Act was passed, Rickey signed Jackie Robinson to a Brooklyn Dodgers minor league contract, officially breaking baseball's color barrier. Robinson made his Major League debut on April 15, 1947.

BB: And that's when teams in the National and American Leagues began finally signing Blacks?

JT: Yes, but even after the debut of Jackie Robinson many of the Major League team owners remained bigoted. According to Roger Kahn, although Jackie Robinson was signed by the Dodgers the team's owner, Walter O'Malley, told Daily News sports columnist Dick Young, "I want to leave Brooklyn because the area is getting full of blacks and spics." O'Malley kept his word, too. He shepherded his team out of Brooklyn in 1957.

And while the signing of Jackie Robinson opened the door to Blacks playing in the major leagues, the integration of baseball was still slow. The New York Yankees didn't sign a Black player until 1955. The Boston Red Sox waited until 1959, a full 14 years after Jackie Robinson was signed. And it took baseball 28 years after Jackie Robinson won the National League's 1947 Rookie of the Year award for the Major Leagues to have its first Black manager, Frank Robinson.

The integration of the national pastime turned out to be a monumental step in civil rights. It really shook up our country, and in a very good way. The year after Jackie Robinson first played for the Brooklyn Dodgers President Harry Truman ended segregation in the U.S. military. The U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation in public schools six years later. The Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act followed in the 1960s.

BB: Any other interesting notes about the end of baseball's color barrier?

Oh, yeah. The Yankees should have signed a Black player
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← TOS: from page 32

the reeds and stalks of its environs. While you might have trouble spotting this bird, stick around a marsh in the spring and you may hear its unique pump-er-lunk vocalizations, which the Cornell Lab of Ornithology likens to “the gulps of a thirsty giant.”

Beyond these four species, you might spot other herons, egrets, and bitterns passing through. Three heron species (the little blue, tri-colored, and yellow-crowned night heron), three egret species (the snowy, great, and cattle egret), and the least bittern have all been documented in northern New England.

← Color barrier: from page 35

much earlier than 1955. But outright racism prevented that. We know this from Kahn and other baseball writers.

It seems in 1949 the Yankees sent one of the team’s scouts, Bill “Wheels” McCorry to look at Negro League games in Alabama. McCorry, a racist, reported that among other players for the Birmingham Black Barons was an 18-year-old that didn’t impress him very much.

His scouting report said, “He can run some and can throw a little, but the boy isn’t worth signing because he can’t hit a good curve ball.” In subsequent years that scouting report has come under intense scrutiny. Many believe the Black youth the bigoted McCorry scouted was a far better player

than his report indicated — a player the Yankees could have signed for a small bonus. Relying on the biased McCorry’s scouting report, however, the Bronx Bombers made no offer to the youth. Today, there’s a good lesson in this story. Yes, racism is reprehensible. But it’s also pretty damn stupid. You see, if the Yankees had signed that 18-year-old Black kid in 1949, their outfield for the 1951 season would have been baseball’s holy trinity: Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle and Willie Mays.

From the seat of your kayak or canoe this upcoming paddling season, keep an eye out. You might have the pleasure of observing one of these elegant, skilled hunters stiling through the shallows or hiding among the reeds, ready to spear its next meal.

Colby Galliher is a writer who calls the woods, meadows, and rivers of New England home. 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.

BB: DiMaggio, Mantle and Mays... quite a distinctive ring. Thanks for yet another great talk about one of our favorite subjects. And thanks for the shout-out to my Dad, who gave me the game. I miss him every day.

Crêpe breakfast tradition at sport hill Building a Killington Dream Lodge: Part 9

Dad was on a mission to build our ski lodge so wasn’t thrilled by invitations to escape our Killington work camp. But Mom and I were elated and ready to get off “the reservation” whenever we could.

When our friend Ann relayed an invitation from Walter and Emile to their Sunday crêpe breakfast, Mom and I, of course, said “yes!” We didn’t know what to expect but anything with crêpes sounded quite fancy. We dressed up for the occasion in the best work clothes we’d packed for the weekend. Most everything in Vermont, we were learning, is very likely jeans informal. Dad reluctantly agreed to attend but hated to lose the best hours of the day for making progress on our ski lodge.

Ann and her friends shared an old farmhouse across Route 100 from the Ottauquechee River. They named the house they purchased “Sport Hill” and divided the costs among themselves. Ann hand colored photos for a living soon moved from New York to Killington. That’s when she bought her very own cottage just up the road from Sport Hill where her close friends still arrived every weekend.

Sundays were special at Sport Hill. Walter and Emile, both Ukrainian, hosted the crêpe breakfasts which became the high point of our weekends.

Walter was a Merrill Lynch broker and had an apartment in New York. He was tall with a broad chest. I got the feeling he was wealthy and the leader of the group ski house. His friend, Émile, an eccentric artist, made colorful circular whirly-gigs and various inventions at home in New Jersey. He cared for his ailing father there.

Every weekend they drove to Sport Hill and invited friends to their grand event. Émile made a stack of delicate French crêpes and kept them coming throughout the meal. Each guest arrived with a special topping—homemade fruit jams and apple butter, maple syrup and maple cream, fresh berries from nearby orchards and farms with dollops on top of just-whipped cream. Mom’s “Ooh la la hot fudge sauce” was a big hit over ice cream and Émile’s crêpe. The toppings were served on a long buffet so we popped up and down with each crêpe we ate.

We all sat together around a large table where everyone could participate in the same lively conversation. It was always exciting and stimulating.

Bob Denkwalter (who was nominated for a Nobel Prize in science) extolled the virtues of peanut butter, which he most likely carried on expeditions up the world’s highest mountains. He, his wife Betty, and their houseful of kids filled their sprawling, historic log cabin perched above the Ottauquechee River Valley. They drove up from New Jersey like we did.

Two more new friends we met at Sport



Mountain Meditation
By Marguerite Jill Dye

Hill were Alice Sciore and her mother, Helen. They moved to Vermont from New Jersey, as well. Alice, a lively fine and graphic artist, struck me as being talented and prolific—like an Italian Georgia O’Keefe—tall, lanky, a natural beauty, but with wild fantastic curly black hair. Her dramatic voice and presence later remind me of Cher.

Helen was short and rather rotund. She dressed in dark colors like Italian grandmothers and wore her hair pulled back in a bun. Helen seemed quiet, sweet and demure but when engaged in conversation, her hands flew through the air and brought out her pure Italian-ness. She excelled in tasty Italian cuisine. Alice and Helen always arrived with Italian specialties like fresh ricotta cheese, sweet hazelnut or fruity cream spread, and home-grown tomatoes and herbs like basil from the garden they cultivated in their driveway. Whatever they sowed in their raised garden bed flourished like Jack’s reveled beanstalk.

You never knew who you’d meet next at the weekly crêpe breakfast. The conversations were diverse and fascinating with stories and discussions on multiple topics with differing opinions from Killington Mountain goings on to art, history, science and world travels.

Bob shared his arduous climb up Mt. McKinley and other explorations in Alaska where some of his family later moved. Killington hikes were described in detail, like to Plymouth’s abandoned silver mine, Deer Leap, No Town above River Road, and the best gold panning streams around. Everyone told of their animal encounters, and with several artists, creative projects were presented. One day Ann took me aside to show me the delicate wildflower border she was painting atop the walls of Walter’s bedroom for his birthday.

Dad liked attending when Bob Denkwalter was there to get the low down on heaven-knows-what, probably regarding construction. Mom and I loved dining on crêpes and the colorful people who gathered there. It was a Bohemian Parisian salon that may have inspired the salons in our home. As a young girl, I felt very grown up being included with all the adults. They made me feel accepted and special. I soaked up their creativity like a thirsty sponge.

Vermont is known for its independent thinkers and brilliant creative characters who are either born or flock here. It’s no wonder we’re all crazy about Vermont, the very best place in the nation, our beloved Green Mountain State!

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

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Looking Back:

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friends are not so lucky. Shoveling snow is a problem for them and living in Vermont we do plenty of that, although not much this winter until March 23rd! Gardening can be difficult when your plants are growing in the ground. Using raised boxes solves that problem. I grow veggies both in the ground and in boxes. I have to admit that not bending down to the ground makes life a whole lot easier. Saturday nights used to be a time for listening to music and dancing. Some of the fast dances from yesteryear would not be "back friendly" today. That could be one of the reasons why "staying in" eventually becomes the preferred way for seniors to spend their Saturday nights. When it came to dancing back in the '70s and '80s we had a lot of choices such as: The Fairmont Restaurant Lounge, 19th Green Restaurant, Holiday Inn and Pheasant Lounge. My husband, Peter, and I danced at all of them back in the day!

"Nice to be here? At my age it's nice to be anywhere." – George Burns

As my age group reads names in the obituaries we realize that we know too many of the people. That fact makes us feel very fortunate to "be here" and enjoying good times with our friends and family. As long as we are reading

obituary names and are not one of the names in the paper we are having a good day.

"Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get." – Robert Orben

There is definitely some humor in that statement! A health food choice for me is a bag of potato chips that says "reduced salt." Peanut butter cups are a weakness of mine so if the bag says "snack size" as opposed to "full size" they must be healthy, right? I have another food choice that might actually be a winner. I buy popcorn kernels in a bag and air-pop them. I drizzle just a little butter over the popcorn and no salt. That means fresh popcorn every time with no preservatives! When I am in search of "preservatives" I head to the beauty section of a store and I buy face creams with hyaluronic acid. That works for me!

"You don't stop laughing because you grow older – you grow older because you stop laughing." – George Bernard Shaw

I think this last quote is the one I want to live by...even if it means laughing at myself. I was pleased to see that medical research shows that laughing boosts your physical and psychological health. So find something to laugh about today!

Living the Dream:

from page 33

Both slush on the mountain and on the pond make the same tinkling noise. Like a fairy getting her wings or a sprite leaping through the forest. Those shardy snow crystals get blown around in the wind, pushed together into a cove. And the crystals bounce around each other, like a high pitched wind chime. The same noise that you hear as you smear a turn across a pile of slushy snow, only you're usually moving too fast to hear it.

Once again, skiing and paddling end up floating along on the same surface, making the same movements and the same sounds. You can feel the canoe getting jagged by the crystals, same as your bases through the slush. You can just feel your skis getting beat up by the shards. These are not gentle crystals. Or soft, fragile ones that evaporate at the faintest change in the weather. These are the stubborn crystals, the ones that don't melt right away. The ones that fight for us to make turns down Superstar in June or paddle through in April.

I love slush. Like, really love it. I don't care that my feet are soggy because of skiing or frozen ice cubes because I'm paddling. I have always felt like slush is the magical snow, the snow that is not supposed to be there. The snow that should have melted by now. The snow that would have melted if it were anywhere else but Killington. The snow that survived. The snow that endures.

So I will continue to play in the slush for as much as I can, stealing a moment here or there to be a kid again and splash around. To cut my canoe though the slush or float my skis across it. I think the next step is to mix some maple syrup with it for a maple slushee. That could be pretty awesome if I can find some clean slush. Which is potentially an oxymoron... Unless you have a Slush Puppy machine!

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, local Realtor, Killington town lister, member of the Development Review Board and "Coach PomPom." She can be reached at merisa.sherman@sothebysrealty.com.*



TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

The Town of Killington's Selectboard is seeking requests from residents who are interested in serving on:

**THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM
&
THE DRB AS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR A 3 YEAR TERM**

A letter of interest can be sent directly to Michael Ramsey, Killington Town Manager at townmanager@killingtontown.com by April 30th, 2024.



Vermont State Parks

Coolidge, Gifford Woods, Silver Lake, and Camp Plymouth State Parks are hiring for fun, rewarding summer jobs!

- Entry level positions
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• Starting wages range from **\$16.65-\$17.46/hr.**

For more info and to apply, go to www.vtstateparks.com/employment.html for a quick, paper-free process.

"Hiring is happening NOW, so don't delay... apply today!"



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EDGEMONT - SKI HOME - SHUTTLE OUT

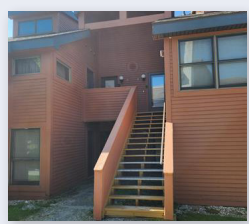
3 BR/1.5 BA, 2-Level condo, 1168 sq. ft.



- *Electric heat, 2 decks
- *Seller offering some financing
- *Furnished & equipped
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- *Great rental history
- *Woodburning fireplace
- *Includes 1BR ensuite that can rent separately
- *Activity center: Pool, hot tub, sauna, game room & exercise room.
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*Strong rental income. \$199K



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*1BR/BA
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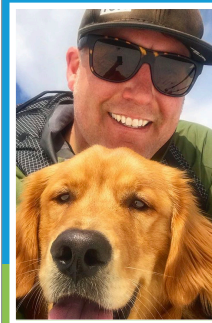
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Patrick Bowen

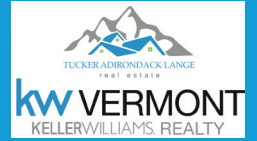


Carolyn Bianchi



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Bookstock cancels summer event after 14 years

After 14 years of annual literary festivals, Bookstock is closing down. Its festival planned this summer for June 21-23 will not take place.

The festival began in 2009 as a collaboration among six organizations in Woodstock: The North Chapel, Norman Williams Public Library, Yankee Bookshop, the History Center, Pentangle, and the Thompson Senior Center.

Over the years the event has hosted over 400 authors, ranging from nationally known Pulitzer awardees to local emerging authors. The used book sale in a massive tent on the Town Green sold over 70,000 used books. Artistree's Unbound Exhibit usually kicked the weekend off, followed by some 30 author events and a fun, lively festival on the Green. Each year about 60 volunteers participated in creating and running the festival. All author sessions were free and open to all.



Book lovers seen at a recent Bookstock event selecting from a wide variety of literature. Bookstock, the summer literary festival in Woodstock, cancels its annual event after 14 years.

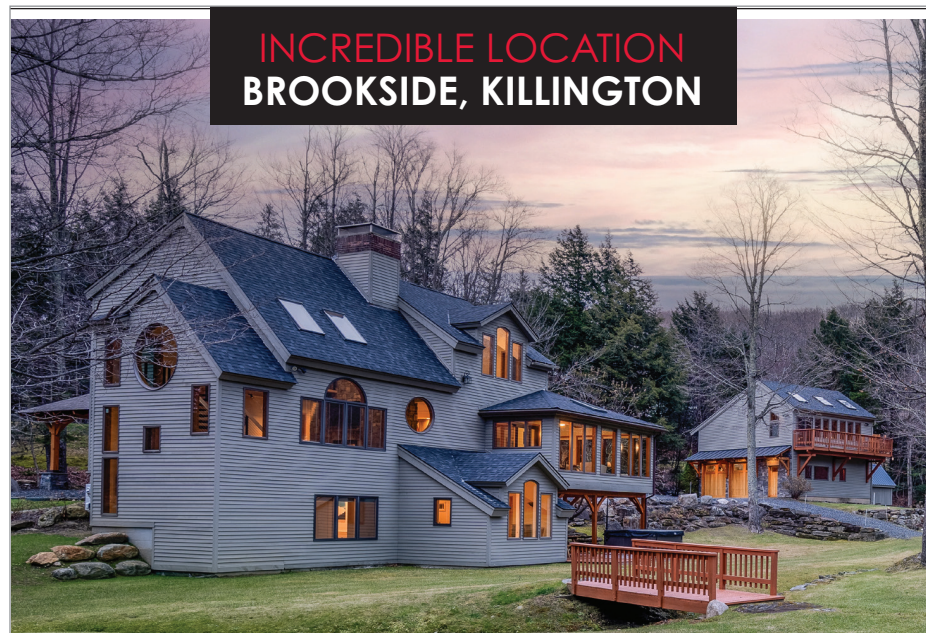
Courtesy Bookstock

Originally run informally entirely by volunteers, the festival reorganized in late 2021 as a formal non-profit corporation. It received crucial start-up funding in 2022 and 2023 from Woodstock's Economic Development Commission, with the goal of serving the local community and attracting town visitors and persons considering moving into the area.

Some organizations and individuals envisioned Bookstock as a large event that drew many attendees from the region and out of state. Others preferred an excellent program but more modest in size.

Peter Rousmaniere, a co-founder and board chair, said that he was grateful for the many individuals whose vision and energy made the festival an inspiring experience for upwards of 1,500 attendees each year. Over two dozen local organizations have participated, providing venues and staff, selling books, and more.

Rousmaniere said, "Bookstock originated as a collaboration of organizations and depended on them for help such as providing venues, staff and book selling resources. We asked a lot from them. Over the years, the participating organizations varied, and some have moved on. This development is understandable. But this makes the festival not viable."



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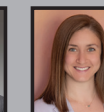
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Scan code or visit killington.com/events for more information.

