



KILLINGTON GOLF TO OPEN SATURDAY

The golf course at Killington Resort will open Saturday, May 18, a week ahead of schedule. Opening day will be reserved for passholders only. Then, Sunday through Thursday, play for just \$40 greens fees in honor of the course's 40th anniversary. The resort's bike park is scheduled to open May 24 and the Adventure Center on May 25.



SIP & SHOP RETURNS DOWNTOWN

The popular Rutland Sip & Shop event kicks off Thursday. Dynamic pairings will delight.

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CHERRY TREE ECOLOGY

Native cherry trees are ecologically valuable in regenerating disturbed forests and supporting wildlife, with their modest flowers, cherry smell and bitter taste.

Page 24

Stockbridge resident makes World Masters Fly Fishing team

U.S. team of five will compete in the Czech Republic May 19-24

By Katy Savage

A Stockbridge resident is casting up to test his fishing skills at the 2024 World Masters Fly Fishing Championships.

Matt Stedina is one of five people who made the U.S. team. He's currently in the Czech Republic preparing for the competition, where he'll go head-to-head with participants from 15 other countries May 19-24.

Stedina will be joined by teammates Sean Crocker of Pennsylvania, Roman Matusinsky of Pennsylvania, Christopher Smith of Colorado, and Glade Gunther of Utah. Together, they have 50 years of experience.

"We've curated a talented and accomplished group of anglers to represent the U.S. at the upcoming World Masters," Gunther said in a press release. "This championship attracts the finest masters anglers globally, and we're confident in the abilities of Sean, Christopher, Roman, Matt, and myself to deliver standout performances."

Stedina, 54, started fishing when he was 10 years old and growing up in Pennsylvania.

"That's kind of all there was to do in North Central Pennsylvania after school," he said. "There wasn't much going on but hunting and fishing."

He also found solitude and peace in fishing.

"There's nobody around, you pretty much have the river to yourself," he said.

Stedina moved to Vermont in 1992 for skiing. He drove his truck through a snowstorm to Killington with \$200 in his pocket.

"I took off and never went back," he said. He now has about 30 years of experience



Courtesy FB

Matt Stedina holds a large brown trout he caught in a favorite local river.

teaching fishing on the White River. He started working at fishing schools for Orvis before starting his own guide business. He guesses he's taught 20,000 people over the years.

"After 30 years of doing this, I've established quite a clientele," he said. "I don't even look for new business or post a lot of information."

He tries to keep the waters in the area a secret. "I certainly don't want to see lots of people here fishing based on my big mouth, so I don't have my name on my truck and I don't

Stedina → 3

Killington Cup to return in 2024

Killington Resort is slated to kick off the 2024-25 Audi FIS Ski World Cup races in the U.S., hosting the Stifel Killington Cup for the eighth time over Thanksgiving weekend. Over 40,000 fans are expected to cheer on the fastest female ski racers in the world, including six-time Stifel Killington Cup Slalom champion and winningest skier of all time Mikaela Shiffrin and last season's overall World Cup winner and two-time Stifel Killington Cup Giant Slalom victor Lara Gut-Behrami.

The event will take place

Nov. 29- Dec. 1, 2024, but the announcement is pending the official confirmation of the FIS schedule on June 6.

Mike Solimano, president and general manager of Killington Resort and Pico Mountain said, "Hosting the Stifel Killington Cup is a great way to kick off the ski season in Vermont. Having the fastest female ski racers in the world compete on our slopes is a source of great pride for our entire team here at Killington and Pico.

We look forward to having Killington Cup → 10

Robert Hecker appointed to Killington Select Board

By Curt Peterson

Robert Hecker has been appointed to take Steve Finneron's seat on the Killington Select Board. The announcement came after an executive session Monday night May 13. The position lasts until next Town Meeting Day vote, when voters will choose the person to fulfill the remaining year of Finneron's term.

Hecker was one of five candidates who submitted a qualified letter of interest to the town manager. The others were Andrew Gieda, Bill Vines, Dave McComb and



Submitted

Robert Hecker

Patrick Cushing. Each had an opportunity to speak to the board Monday night.

Hecker, who has been on Hecker → 10

Vermont Legislature adjourns after a contentious 2024 session

Session was shaped by debates over property taxes, housing shortages, flood recovery and public safety

By Sarah Mearhoff and Shaun Robinson/VTDigger

After a tumultuous day of dealmaking on housing, land use and property tax measures, the Vermont Legislature adjourned its 2024 session in the early hours of Saturday morning, May 11. The Senate gavelled out at 1:18 a.m. and the House at 2:07 a.m.

The session was shaped by existential debates over the future of the state. Lawmakers grappled with projected double-digit property tax increases, a persistent housing shortage, the aftermath of a catastrophic summer flood, an outcry over public safety and more.

The relationship between the Legislature and Republican Gov. Phil Scott at times grew contentious — shaped by Democrats' theoretically veto-proof supermajority and Scott's willingness to spurn the bills they passed.

As they adjourned early Saturday morning, legislative leaders said they were proud of how they rose to the occasion.

"This has been a dark year," Senate President pro tempore Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden Central, said in a closing speech on the Senate floor. "But it has been an amazing biennium."

Budget

In their final actions of the session, lawmakers signed off on an \$8.6 billion state budget, which would take effect July 1. Unlike the

intense budget debates of recent years, this year's negotiations — completed earlier this week — were relatively quiet. Republican Gov. Phil Scott has even signaled a willingness to sign the bill into law.

End of session → 6

Legislators will have a chance to override any gubernatorial vetoes when they return to Montpelier for a veto session on June 17.

Town resolves eminent domain Deal with landowner called 'win-win'

By Polly Mikula

The town of Killington will not pursue an eminent domain hearing scheduled for May 20, having recently resolved the case with the landowner.

Eva Nagymihaly and her sister, Theresa Rust, own land on the east side at the base of Killington Road to the intersection with Route 4 and the town needed to secure an easement for the reconstruction work that is currently underway.

The pursuit of eminent domain was a choice of last resort, Selectman Jim Haff explained. But when an agreement couldn't be reached after 10-12 months of discussions, the town had no choice.

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.

Shortly after the town began to pursue that track, however, Nagymihaly and Rust, signed an agreement with the town that Zoning Administrator Jim Haff calls a "win-win for all," noting the money saved in legal fees for both parties and a faster timeline.

"I've been working with Eva for 10-12 months, she's been a pleasure to work with all along it's just been a matter of getting to

a complete understanding," Haff explained. "She sought engineering and legal advice and came back to us to sign the deal."

The easement deal includes the town putting a driveway in for her at the southerly side of project (farther up the road) and paying her \$10,000. If she subdivides her property the town will put up to two more driveways for her.

"This is a better deal for the town and for Eva and her sister," Haff explained. "We don't want to have to rip up the new road right after it's all been completed, and eminent domain could have caused delays for the project, plus we'd also be fighting to cover legal cost," he said. "For Eva, under eminent domain she wouldn't have gotten the driveway(s), and only would have received \$18K-\$19K maximum minus the cost of legal fees."

"Eva and her family have always worked with the town for improvements, including a past easement for the welcome sign at the base of the road. This was just a matter of coming to a complete understanding, which took longer than we hoped but we're glad to move forward in this way now."

For updates on the Killington Forward project visit: KillingtonTown.com or MountainTimes.info/tif.

Logging company fined for wetland and water quality impacts in Bridgewater, Thetford

The Agency of Natural Resources Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) announced May 8 that Thomson Timber Harvesting and Trucking LLC (Thompson Timber), a company that performs logging activities in Vermont, was fined \$32,550 for violating the Vermont Wetland Rules and failing to follow acceptable management practices (AMPs) for maintaining water quality on logging jobs in Vermont.

Between 2017 and 2020, Thomson Timber engaged in logging activities on two properties in Bridgewater and Thetford. During site visits, several discharges caused by the failure to properly install stream crossings, construct waterbars, smooth ruts, and seed and mulch exposed soils was observed. Additionally there were alterations

to wetland and vernal pool habitat and hydrology from excessive brush and rutting.


Thompson Timber completed remediation of the sites in the summer of 2021 (with agency oversight) as well as a fine of \$32,550 for the violations. This agreement was incorporated into a Final Judicial Order of the Vermont Superior Court, Environmental Division on May 1, 2024.

Healthy forests, wetlands, and waterways provide valuable and necessary services to the public and environment such as wildlife habitat and water quality protection. Vermont's laws aim to improve water quality over time, protect wetland functions and values, and reduce existing risks, all while maintaining a working forest-based economy. AMPs for maintaining water quality on logging jobs in Vermont

are designed to protect water quality and ensure that loggers are in compliance with the Vermont Water Quality Standards by providing measures to utilize before, during, and after logging operations.

"Being a responsible logger entails prioritizing the health of our forests and waterways," said Danielle Fitzko, FPR commissioner. "By adhering to the acceptable management practices, loggers play an essential role in safeguarding water quality."

"Companies engaging in activities that have the potential to impact wetlands and waterways are responsible for complying with applicable regulations," said Jason Batchelder, DEC commissioner. "It is important to hold responsible those who do not take required measures to minimize impacts on the environment"



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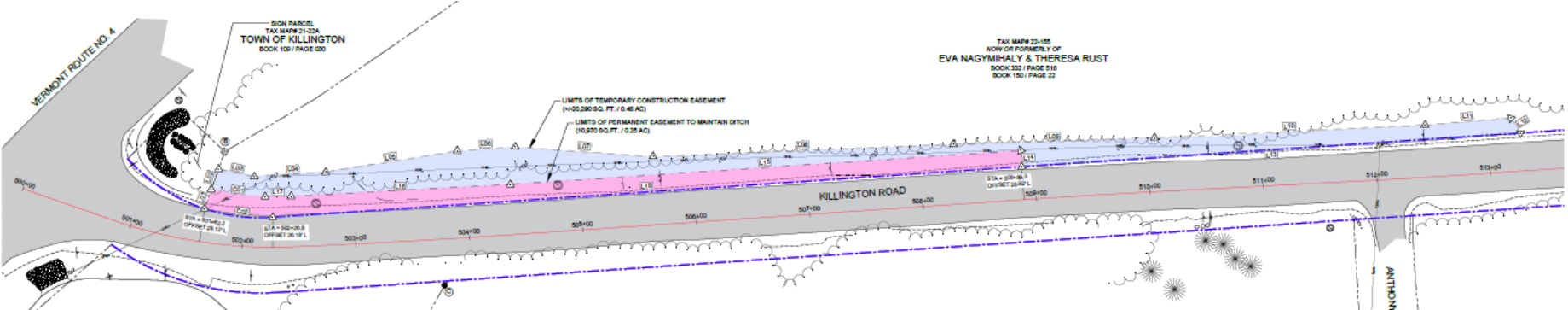
TOWN OF KILLINGTON SELECTBOARD NOTICE FOR LAYING OUT AND ALTERING HIGHWAYS

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.





By Liam Prior

First day, first Walleye

Jacob Prior, 11, caught a walleye on Chittenden Reservoir Saturday evening May 1, the first day that Walleye season opened for the season (catch and release). His 8-year-old brother, Liam Prior, captured the moment on camera.

← Stedina: from page 1

release much information," he said.

Stedina said most of his knowledge comes from helping others.

"It's been a pleasure to learn on this river for the last 30 years or so — that certainly has helped," he added.

Regarding the upcoming competition, he said: "Being a teacher, I like to make money when I fish, but this forces me to fish more. You fish more and become a better guide."

Stedina has taught many locals, like Mark Stugart, the owner of the Clear River Inn, who became a client of Stedina's about 15 years ago.

"He's obviously an excellent fisherman, but he's also a great teacher," Stugart said. "I'm relatively inexperienced in fly casting, so it helped to have someone with Matt's patience and knowledge to help me get the fly in the right spot and land some trout. He knows a lot about local rivers and streams as well as the mountains, where he is an avid hunter."

Stugart was excited to see Stedina make the world team.

"He's been involved with the U.S. Fly Fishing team for a long time and it's been on his bucket list to get a chance to represent the U.S. in the worlds," Stugart said.

"It's a great accomplishment for him and well deserved. He's also one of the most competitive guys I know. So I know he's going there with the attitude that he's going to do very well."

While in the Czech Republic, the anglers will compete in three river sessions and two lake sessions (one on a boat and one on a bank).

Each person competes in their own 300-gallon area of water for three hours and tries to catch as many fish as they can.

"I used to be able to not stand

lakes but now I've learned to have a good time out there and I've got some giant trout and had some great days fishing on lakes," Stedina said. "There's a lot to it and that's been part of the learning processes, how

"He's been involved with the U.S. Fly Fishing team for a long time and it's been on his bucket list to get a chance to represent the U.S. in the worlds," Stugart said.

to figure out how to keep up with the other guys on the lakes, but it can be a lot of fun."

Stedina said in addition to catching fish, he's in search of "the medals that hang around your neck" while in the Czech Republic.

For more information or to follow the action at the Master's Fly Fishing event, visit: ffch.cz.

Wonderfeet Kids' Museum celebrates expansion

By Polly Mikula

Saturday, May 11, Wonderfeet Kids' Museum held a grand opening celebration from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Merchants Row downtown. While the museum relocated to its current location (66 Merchants Row) last spring, this was the first time the organization has celebrated that expansion. The move allowed Wonderfeet Kids' Museum to triple in size with new exhibits to serve more families across Rutland County and beyond.

Saturday's block party filled Merchants Row with vendors, bounce houses, face painting, bubbles, street performers, a magician, the unveiling of two new exhibits and a seven-tier birthday cake from Dream Maker Bakers.

New exhibits included a 7-foot-tall Green Mountain Power Robot and a forest escape, complete with a woodland bear cave, elevated treehouse and slide. These join a mountain-themed playscape sponsored by Killington Resort that was added in January, along with many other long-time favorites.

The event coincided with the Farmers Market's first outdoor in Depot Park off Merchant's Row, expanding the outdoor offerings downtown Saturday.

At noon key supporters of Wonderfeet made brief remarks before cutting a ribbon — and the cake.

Wonderfeet Board member Paul Gallo was the first speaker and gave a brief history of how Wonderfeet came to be.

"In April of 2010, the Rutland creative economy held an open forum to see what Rutland wanted for a new community project. With nearly 500 people in attendance, the No. 1 vote that night was the Children's Museum. A volunteer group was formed," Gallo said. "Myra Pepper was the visionary having the experience and a long history of working in science museums... In 2013 it became a non profit. In 2014, Myra took a leap of faith and left her full time position in state education and stepped in as Wonderfeet's first employee. She was soon joined by a volunteer fundraising

Wonderfeet → 10

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Killington Road reconstruction update: what to expect this week

Staff report

Drilling and blasting will continue in Killington this week, starting at the intersection of Route 4 and Killington Road. A detour remains in place via West Hill Road.

“Last week we did blast higher up to get a feel for the process, but also limited any delays along adjacent roads,” Markowski Excavating, Inc. explained May 10.

This week, motorists should again expect traffic to stop during blasting activities, but only for about 10 minutes.

A temporary sewer line will be installed along the east side of Killington Road this week, Markowski added.

Looking ahead to the week of May 20, work will include the continuation of drilling and blasting rock. Dump trucks will enter and exit the site to load out the rock and debris.

Once the temporary sewer line is completed, Markowski Excavating will begin remov-



Courtesy KPAA

The base of Killington Road will be closed until July.

ing the existing sewerline and sewer manholes.

“Haul trucks will take out any additional fill, at a slower rate than previously observed, but will remain in the closed shoulder of Route 4,” Markowski reported.

A water truck will also continue actively working to keep dust under control and will pull in and out of the site every 1.5 to 2 hours.

East Mountain Rd closures

Mosher Excavating has resumed their work on East Mountain Road for flood recovery repairs

from the intersection with Route 4 (Skyship) to Bear Mountain Road. Beginning Monday, May 13, that section of East Mountain Road will be closed from 7 a.m. until the afternoon. One lane will reopen to traffic by the afternoon and the road will be completely open in the evening hours, reported Abbie Sherman, public works director for the town of Killington in a news release May 9.

That schedule will continue week days for the next three weeks until May 31.

Woodstock Avenue to change traffic configuration

State repaving has begun, upon completion four travel lanes will be reduced to two lanes with a center turning lane

Staff report

At the Board of Aldermen meeting on Monday, May 6, Mayor Michael Doenges addressed the so-called “road diet” on Woodstock Avenue that will change the road from four travel lanes to two lanes with a center turning lane. He told the board he was committed to the new configuration for about a year before the city discusses

changing the configuration back, which would be at the city’s expense.

In 2014, this configuration was attempted but was quickly abandoned amid a public backlash. Some said it made the road safer, while others complained that it caused congestion.

The state has already begun grading Routes 4 and

7 in order to repave them, but the lane reconfiguration won’t be done until the project is complete and new striping is applied, likely late in the summer or early fall, Doenges has said.

A mile and a half of Rutland city sidewalks are also scheduled for replacement this summer, according to the public works dept.

TOWN	AWARD	LOCAL SHARE	TOTAL
WEST RUTLAND	\$50,400.00	\$12,600.00	\$63,000.00
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS	\$40,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$50,000.00
PITTSFORD	\$36,200.00	\$9,050.00	\$45,250.00
BETHEL	\$29,200.00	\$7,300.00	\$36,500.00
SHARON	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
IRA	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
HUBBARDTON	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
POMFRET	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
READING	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
RUPERT	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
STRAFFORD	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
TUNBRIDGE	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
EAST HAVEN	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
WOODSTOCK TOWN	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
MENDON	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
WALLINGFORD	\$19,200.00	\$4,800.00	\$24,000.00
CHESTER	\$17,900.00	\$4,475.00	\$22,375.00
CLARENDON	\$14,800.00	\$3,700.00	\$18,500.00
SALISBURY	\$12,400.00	\$3,100.00	\$15,500.00
WELLS	\$9,500.00	\$2,375.00	\$11,875.00

Courtesy AOT

Towns in Rutland and Windsor counties that have received 2025 VTrans Better Roads award.

AOT: Expect delays due to local road construction this week

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) reports a list of planned construction activities that will impact traffic on state highways and interstates throughout Vermont each week. Here is the report for Rutland and Windsor Counties the coming week beginning May 13.

I-91 Springfield-Hartland: Daily, partial lane closures will be in place on the I-91 southbound on and off ramps at Exits 7, 8, and 9 for guardrail work associated with a paving project.

Hartford: Monday, May 13, through Friday, May 17, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., motorists can expect minimal traffic impacts on Bridge 7 over the White River and Town Highway 98 in Hartford.

Hartford: From Monday, May 13, to Friday, May 17, motorists should expect minimal traffic impacts and might encounter possible lane closures and on Route 5 near the Hartford and Hartland town line. Flaggers and uniformed traffic officers (UTOs) will be present to assist motorists through the work zone. Motorists are encouraged to use caution while traveling throughout the work zone.

Ludlow: The removal of Bridge 57 and the installation of a pedestrian bridge is underway on Mill Street. Pleasant Street at its junction with Mill Street is closed to all vehicle traffic. A detour routes vehicles from Pleasant Street along Elm Street, Main

Street, to Pleasant Street Extension.

Pittsford: A bridge replacement project on Route 7 at the intersection of VT 3 is underway. Motorists can expect traffic control present on Route 7, allowing for intermittent one-way of alternating travel between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Quechee Gorge Bridge: The eastbound travel lane of the Quechee Gorge Bridge is closed through October and November of 2024. New travel patterns include alternating travel controlled by a traffic signal and a concrete barrier to separate motorists from workers.

Rutland: A Class I highway resurfacing project is in progress. Sunday, May 12, through Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., motorists can expect lane closures, uneven surfaces, and delays on Route 4 between Gleason Road and Route 7, and on Route 7 within the project limits. Flaggers and UTOs will be on-site to assist with traffic control, including intermittent alternating one-way traffic.

Rutland: Work is continuing on the signal replacement taking place at Route 7 and Cold River Road. Motorists can expect daily lane closures as needed with a UTO and flaggers assisting traffic. New concrete curb has been installed on the west side of the intersection with continuing work on new curb for the east side the rest of this week and early next followed by new sidewalk.

Local towns receive 2025 funding for municipal road projects

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) announced Tuesday, May 14, more than \$1.6 million in awards for the 2025 Better Roads Program to support municipal road projects that improve water quality and result in maintenance cost savings.

The grant funds totaling \$1,598,100 are provided by AOT in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and are sourced from state transportation funds and the state’s Clean Water Fund. The Vermont Better Roads Program promotes the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing water quality around the state.

The application scoring of the Better Roads Program is intended to be in line with the state’s Clean Water Act (Act 64 of 2015) and the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). In an effort to prioritize funding for projects that provide significant water quality improvements, applicants were required to indicate whether their projects will be in full compliance with the MRGP. Clean Water Fund dollars were awarded only to projects that bring road segments into full MRGP compliance.



A Rutland welcoming: New resident opens new business downtown

By Victoria Gaither

Art lovers rejoice—a new art supply store is opening in downtown Rutland. Kaleidoscope Art Supply’s grand opening is Thursday, May 16, on the second floor of 37 Center St.

Founder and curator Raven Crispino always wanted to open an art store. After leaving New Jersey and moving to Vermont, she decided to take a chance on Rutland and open her business with the Rutland community in mind.

“My thought process for what I was going to buy for the store was very much centered around the people I met in Rutland, what they like, what they are into, and other local businesses where I can collaborate,” said Crispino.

Crispino’s journey to becoming a part of Rutland’s fabric is a testament to the welcoming spirit of the community. She was visiting the area on vacation and stumbled upon a CEDRR mixer online. This monthly event, hosted by the Chamber of Economic Development of the Rutland Region, is a platform for local business owners, residents, and newcomers like Crispino to connect over food and cocktails.

“I went to that mixer, and I was welcomed with open arms as if I weren’t a stranger, and it was a good feeling. That is what I get here in Rutland: a good feeling, and I nev-

er forgot that it will always be a part of my lineage story,” she said in an interview at Kaleidoscope.

The shop is stocked with all kinds of cool items. You can find soap with a picture of American painter and art instructor Bob Ross on it, candles, and a bag with a picture of Mexican artist and feminist icon Frida Kahlo. Paint, brushes, writing materials, decomposition books—all the things that make up an art shop and more.

The front of the store is where you buy materials, but the back of the art store opens to a gallery, a room for art classes, and a studio for artists.

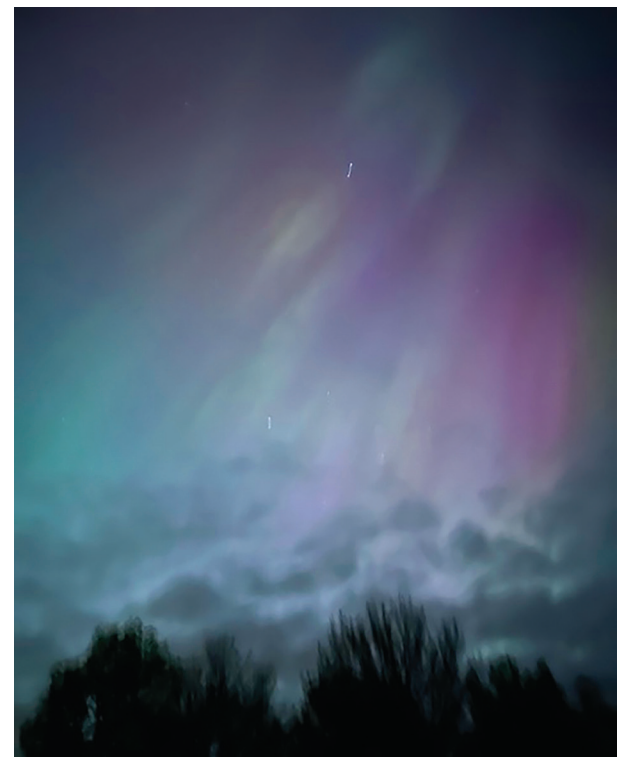
Crispino’s vision for Kaleidoscope is to create a space where everyone feels welcome, regardless of their artistic abilities. She envisions Kaleidoscope as a no-judgment zone, a place where people are encouraged to explore their creativity without fear.

“In Kaleidoscope, it’s a no-judgment zone. I believe people should just go for it,” she passionately shared.

One to take her own advice, Raven Crispino “went for it” and landed in downtown Rutland, a place that already feels like home because she took a chance on that mixer and a community that welcomed her as their own.



By Victoria Gaither
Raven Crispino has opened a new downtown art shop.



By Andrea Ambros

Aurora borealis makes rare appearance

Seen locally in a number of towns including Hartland

By Curt Peterson

Also called “northern lights,” an aurora borealis display lit up the skies in selected parts of the state this weekend, and at least two Hartlanders got to enjoy the event.

Auroras occur when charged particles are sent into space during a “storm” on the sun’s surface. When they reach us, the particles react with Earth’s magnetic force by lighting up in various colors and waving about in the night sky.

Mary Ann Van Buren was excited to see the predicted aurora, and, accompanied by her dog Zuzu, she stood outside her Jenneville home Friday night, May 10. She saw nothing, but, undaunted, she tried again Saturday night.

“Holy cow!” Van Buren said. “What I saw was the reflection of the lights on the clouds, but it was magical. At

Nothern lights → 11

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By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

The members of the House of Representatives work on legislation at the State House in Montpelier on Friday, May 10. The session adjourned officially at 2 a.m. Saturday morning.

← End of session:

from page 1

Property tax increase

When they convened in January, legislators were staring down a projected statewide property tax increase of about 20%. By March, pressure to overhaul the state's education funding framework — or, at the very least, soften the blow of this year's hikes — reached a fever pitch when one-third of the state's school budgets failed on Town Meeting Day.

Lawmakers ultimately approved a yield bill — which sets property tax rates for the following year — establishing an average statewide property tax increase of 13.8%, thanks in part to a \$25 million buy-down. H.887 also establishes a committee to study options for a long-term solution to Vermont's K-12 funding woes.

Though the House and Senate reached a deal in the final hours of the session, the bill is almost certain to be vetoed by Scott, who insisted that the Legislature do more to protect Vermonters from property tax increases. Legislators will have a chance to override any gubernatorial vetoes when they return to Montpelier for a veto session on June 17. To override a veto requires a two-thirds vote in both chambers.

Housing

Lawmakers spent much of the session reckoning with the state's persistent housing shortage. At a January press conference, a number of legislators joined Scott in pledging to work together to overhaul Act 250, the state's 50-year-old land conservation law, in hopes of easing strict zoning rules governing new housing development.

Over the following months, lawmakers debated how to strike a balance between the state's dire housing needs and a desire to conserve Vermont's landscape and natural resources. Late Friday night, May 10, they settled on H.687, which they touted as a grand bargain — though some Republicans opposed it.

In a sarcastic speech delivered to his colleagues early Saturday, Senate Minority Leader Randy Brock, R-Franklin, quipped that constituents were sure to appreciate “how we've created fast, easy-to-use solutions to the housing crisis.”

Flood recovery

At the start of this year's session, many Vermonters were still reeling from last summer's devastating floods and called on lawmakers for a helping hand — not only to help them emerge from crisis, but to think big and reimagine how the state prepares for future natural disasters.

“We listen when a Vermonter in Barre shares their story of watching their child's college fund wash away with the flooding that destroyed their home,” House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, said in closing remarks to the House early Saturday morning. “Our members showed up at their door — muck boots on, sleeves rolled up, shovels in hand — because that's how we do it in Vermont.”

“And once those waters receded and the roads were repaired, we focused on our legislative action,” she said.

The Legislature's most tangible response to last summer's floods was in the form of state dollars. It allocated \$40 million to help communities rebuild, close gaps in municipal budgets, offer interest-free aid to businesses and raise homes likely to flood in the future.

Lawmakers also passed S.310, a bill outlining the role of state government in responding to future natural disasters, as well as S.213, which would establish a new state permitting

system for building in river corridors. Vermont not only needs to rebuild from last year's floods, lawmakers have said, but think ahead to prepare for those sure to come as natural disasters become more frequent and severe.

Crime, opioids

From the outset of the session, Scott urged the Legislature to address widespread concerns over crime and safety. Members responded by passing S.58, a bill that would increase the number of crimes for which juvenile offenders can be charged in court as adults and — at the request of the Scott administration — again delay the next phase of an initiative to increase the age at which nonviolent offenders are referred to family court. The bill would also create harsher penalties for drug-related offenses.

Both chambers also approved S.195, a bill that would increase supervision of people who are accused of crimes before their day in court; H.534, a bill that would create new retail theft penalties; and H.563, which would make it a crime to “trespass” in someone's vehicle.

“I don't think it's a tough-on-crime session,” Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, told his colleagues on Friday. “It's a smart-on-crime session.”

Those bills did not have universal support. Legislative leaders came under criticism from Progressive lawmakers and criminal justice reformers for passing measures that could result in more people being sent to prison.

Simultaneously, lawmakers took a new approach to addressing a stubborn and deadly opioid crisis. H.72 would pave the way for the state to establish an overdose prevention site, to be located in Burlington. At the site, Vermonters with substance use disorder could use drugs and would be offered clean supplies, medical supervision and emergency medication in case of overdose. Visitors would also be referred to recovery services.

Proponents of the measure say such a facility would save lives by offering a safe, sheltered location for Vermonters struggling with dependence, where they are less likely to fatally overdose. Scott remains opposed to the bill, but it appears to have the two-thirds support from legislators required to override a veto.

Governor vs Legislature

Throughout all of the heady policy debates, the 2024 legislative session was punctuated by bitter disagreement between the Legislature and governor's office. Scott frequently pointed a finger at the Democratic supermajority for plowing ahead with legislation despite his opposition — and that, he has said, of the 71% of Vermont voters who elected him.

Meanwhile, lawmakers repeatedly accused the governor of overstepping his executive authority, impeding on the Legislature's role as a co-equal branch of government. That critique was especially pronounced last month, when the Senate voted 19-9 to reject Scott's pick for secretary of education, Zoie Saunders. Within minutes of her defeat, Scott appointed Saunders to serve as interim secretary, circumventing senators' opposition.

In his final address to lawmakers early Saturday, Scott softened his tone, telling them, “I think most of us want the same thing.”

“Vibrant neighborhoods full of families, breathing life back into communities; healthy and safe kids filling classrooms and reaching their fullest potential; great jobs with solid employers; entrepreneurs from all walks of life in a thriving, growing economy,” Scott said.

“We just have a different vision of how to get there.”

Safe bet

After a week of long days and late nights, the regular session of the 2024 Vermont Legislature adjourned early Saturday morning just after 2 a.m. My best guess in the annual adjournment pool was 6:30 p.m. Friday evening, which turned out to be way too optimistic.

When the Legislature finishes its work for the session, it does so with an adjournment resolution. It states that if the governor vetoes any bill after the Legislature leaves, it will return to consider those vetoes. If he doesn't, the full Legislature is adjourned *sine dine*, which means the 2023-24 biennium is done until a new Legislature is seated in January.

While I may have lost the adjournment pool, it is a very safe bet there will be gubernatorial vetoes over the next several weeks and the Legislature will be back on June 17.

The closing days of the session are inevitably a roller coaster ride with some bills seemingly dead for the year, only to come to life again as a deal with the other chamber materializes. The deadline of getting a bill passed or it goes away can be a significant motivation for the House and Senate to settle their differences. Such was the case with a major data privacy bill, H.121, where a late Friday compromise was reached to allow both chambers to agree and send the bill on to the governor.

Different from this session (in a positive way in my view) was the willingness of House and Senate negotiators to work with the governor to find a path forward to craft the final budget bill that will likely receive Scott's approval. Last year the Legislature overrode a gubernatorial veto to enact it into law.

However, there is a list of bills being sent to Scott that could be veto candidates. Chief among them is the education finance legisla-

tion, H.887, which contains the yield number to set the statewide property tax rate.

The bill includes an average 13.8% property tax increase (local rates will vary depending on individual school spending and a town's CLA, common level of appraisal). It also includes a study about potential future changes to the education financing system and ways to reduce costs. While the overall tax increase was less than the 18% estimate at the beginning of the session, the legislation lowered that rate by adding the sales tax to online software, increasing the rooms tax on short term rentals by 3% and utilizing surplus funds.

The danger in using one-time surplus money to "buy down" rates is that it could exacerbate the increase next year when those funds are unavailable. The governor has been critical of the lack of any cost containment measures in the bill. If vetoed, legislative leaders will need to either work with Scott to find a compromise or muster the votes to override the veto.

A few other bills that could face additional scrutiny from the governor include:

- H.72, safe injection sites
- S.259, climate superfund cost recovery fund
- S.213, river corridors
- H.766, prior authorization for health care
- H.289, renewable energy standard

With safe injection sites, Scott does not support enabling illegal drug use, while supporters believe it will save lives. On other bills, Scott's focus has been on whether they increase costs to Vermonters. It is unknown whether the Act 250/housing bill, H.687, will receive his approval. The administration has been critical of some of the Act 250

Harrison → 10



By Rep. Jim Harrison

A lot accomplished this Legislative session

Vermont's 2023-24 Legislative Biennium ended in the wee hours of Saturday morning May 11. The Senate gavelled out at 1:18 a.m. and the House about 2 a.m. This has been a hard session. It was begun in the wake of a natural disaster, with a state recovering from terrible flooding. Despite these challenges we managed to accomplish a lot.

We made real progress further protecting Vermont from future natural disasters, improving flood safety by protecting our river corridors, updating Act 250 as we plan for greater density in our smart growth areas while protecting our natural resources and reducing sprawl, and improving government's response to natural disasters. We passed a Climate Superfund bill which holds the largest fossil fuel companies liable for the cost of repairing the damage to our environment through climate change. We updated our renewable energy standard to ensure that the energy Vermonters use will be 100% clean by 2035 — which will put us on track to be one of the first states whose energy will be fully decarbonized.

And we passed one of the most comprehensive data privacy bills in the country designed to protect Vermont consumers from having their data used in inappropriate and harmful ways. It includes a "kid's code" which protects children's privacy and prohibits certain code designs which increase use and create on-line addictions.

So many bills were passed in the last two weeks it is hard to keep track. We passed bills to improve literacy, public safety measures to reduce retail theft and increase firearm safety, and, in a new attempt to ad-

dress the opioid crisis we established a pilot "overdose prevention center" in Burlington to help those with substance abuse disorder

use safely under medical supervision and get help with recovery if they choose. We updated our open meeting law, we created a municipal code of ethics and we saved the Salisbury fish hatchery. And, there is so much more.

In many ways the most important thing we did was to pass the \$8.6 billion FY25 Vermont state budget — every line of which represents a real value to someone. Whether it's supportive housing for our developmentally disabled or our state parks, new bridges or the renovation of our historic sites, housing the homeless or workforce development — this budget funds much of what we take for granted — our courts, our schools, our state employees, transportation — it funds all of state government which supports so much of our life in Vermont.

I am proud of how the Legislature works together to help improve and support Vermonters and the beautiful state we are lucky enough to live in. It's easy to forget that the vast majority of our decisions are unanimous. When we do disagree on an issue, we tend to come together and continue to work productively on the next issue facing us. I still feel we are a model for how democracy, at its best, works.

Sen. Alision Clarkson appreciates hearing from you. She can be reached by email: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone 802-457-4627. For more information on the bills which have been proposed and passed, visit: legislature.vermont.gov.



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

New data shows first decrease in Vermont opioid deaths since 2019

Overdose deaths in Vermont have decreased for the first time since 2019. According to the Dept. of Health's newly released Annual Fatal Overdose Report, opioid-related overdoses resulted in the death of 231 Vermonters in 2023, a 5% drop from 2022 when 244 Vermonters died.

The overdose report includes data on Vermonters who died of any drug overdose in 2023. According to the report, 90% of the drug overdose fatalities in Vermont involved opioids. The annual data is preliminary. At the time of the report there were 15 pending death certificates that could change the final figures.

"While the decrease is not statistically large, it is significant where it matters most — fewer families have lost a loved one to opioids," said Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD.

Dr. Levine said that even with this bending of the curve, Overdoses decrease → 28

Vt Legislature passes bill to create uniform ethical standards in local government

By Shaun Robinson/VTDigger

Vermont lawmakers have passed a bill that would create new uniform ethical standards for many local government officials — a change that proponents said is long overdue.

H.875 would establish a "municipal code of ethics" that's similar to one for state officials that went into effect two years ago. The new code would apply to local officials such as Select Board members, clerks and planning commissioners, among others.

Specifically, the code would set baseline standards for cities, towns and villages to adopt around conflicts of interest, preferential treatment, gifts and other potential issues. Some municipalities already have robust ethics policies in place, lawmakers said, but others don't — and the bill would create more consistency.

Other measures in H.875 would require county officers, such as sheriffs, to file financial disclosures both while campaigning for and holding office. The bill would also require state-level officials to disclose some additional information, such as stock holdings.

The bill "doesn't give towns or cities any recourse to deal with unethical behavior," said Ted Brady.

Reporting the bill on the Senate floor Thursday, Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Addison, said Vermont ranks in the bottom 10 states nationwide for the strength of its government ethics laws and is last among its New England neighbors. She said passage of H.875 would bump the state's national rank up to 23rd.

"Members of the public that we heard from were very adamant, and very concerned, to make sure that we had a

Ethics → 30

GUEST EDITORIAL

The magical mythical equalized pupil

By Tom Evslin

Editor's note: Tom Evslin, of Stowe, is a retired high-tech entrepreneur. He served as transportation secretary for Gov. Richard Snelling and stimulus czar for Gov. Jim Douglas.

The Vermont Legislature is playing an expensive shell game — and planning worse. The “equalized pupil” is the shell under which the pea is hidden.

There are only two ways to avoid gargantuan property tax increases

1. Raise other taxes and create new taxes to support education. But there are many claimants for new revenue, and few people want to pay new taxes just so they will have a slightly smaller increase in property taxes.
2. Reduce spending on education. Legislators say they can't because school budgets are set locally. However, the odds are stacked by statute against local thrift. Because of the way education funding currently works, all the gain of an extra dollar spent is local and the pain of paying that extra dollar is spread statewide. The pain of a dollar saved is local and the gain is statewide. How can a responsible local school board ever cut a program?

How do we change incentives so school districts become thrifty?

We can't go back to having each district use its own tax base to pay for whatever education it wants to provide. In 1997 the Vermont Supreme Court ruled:

“...we decide that the current system for funding public education in Vermont, with its substantial dependence on local property taxes and resultant wide disparities in revenues available to local school districts, deprives children of an equal educational opportunity in violation of the Vermont Constitution...”

It's acceptable that it is a state responsibility to give every student an opportunity for a good education. Let's assume that those dollars will largely come from property taxes and be assessed (as they are now) so the burden is apportioned strictly by the value of individual real estate. A half-million-dollar residence pays the same rate for education no matter what district it's in.

Outcomes must be monitored to make sure extra money results in better-educated students.

A suggestion, which preserves some local control, is that the Legislature determine the cost per student for a quality education and give that amount to each district. A district that wants to spend more must raise the extra money locally.

If you don't listen closely, it sounds like many legislators are proposing exactly this. But most are not! You have to look for the fine print: it's the word “equalized” before the word “pupil”. This little modifier makes all the difference.

What's an equalized pupil?

Vermont has 84,000 actual students; it has 132,100 equalized pupils! Stowe and Winooski have about the same number of actual students; Winooski has almost twice as many equalized pupils. The concept of equalized pupil was introduced to account for the higher cost of educating a highschooler than a kindergartener. Then small adjustments were added for poverty and students for whom

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EVEN MORE RARE
THAN A SOLAR STORM!!!



PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM GAZING UP IN UNISON!!!

Northern Lights by Jeff Koterba, patreon.com:jeffreykoterba

LETTERS

Tell the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to protect the Connecticut River

Dear Editor,

It has been 12 years since the relicensing process began for five hydroelectric facilities on the Connecticut River, and until May 22, there is an opportunity to comment to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The last time these hydro facilities were licensed was in 1979, and once the new licenses are issued, they will stay in place for the next 30-50 years! Why does this matter? These licenses will impact 175 miles of the Connecticut River — including 16 towns in Vermont, 14 towns in New Hampshire, and five towns in Massachusetts. These facilities impact habitat for migratory fish and other native species, public access to recreation, historical and cultural resources, and water quality.

The Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon dams in Vermont and New Hampshire (owned by Great River Hydro), and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Station and Turners Falls dam in Massachusetts (owned by FirstLight Power), currently have license applications under review

by the FERC. Through this federal process the public has a right to express their concerns about how we want to access our river, how the projects operate, and what should be done to mitigate impacts. This final federal comment period on the license applications is open until May 22.

The Connecticut River is a public trust resource, which means that it must be preserved and protected for public benefit. The federal license is a contract with the people to allow use of our river to generate electricity. The Connecticut River has been dammed for over a hundred years, and we only have this one opportunity, when these 30 to 50-year licenses expire, to be heard about what should be done to protect the river and support our river communities. We all have a say in how companies like Great River Hydro and FirstLight Power use the river and *now* is our chance to tell the FERC what we care about.

It's time for these hydro facilities to take responsibility for the impacts caused by their operations. As part of their federal license to op-

erate, they can be required to make improvements to protect natural resources, provide access to the river, and support local communities in return for the privilege of using our river to generate power. Specifically, FERC should require both companies to:

- Have erosion control plans to address bank erosion, stabilize banks, and compensate landowners for loss of land;
- Establish long term monitoring and assessment of how sediment will move in the river due to operational changes over the next license;
- Create comprehensive improvements to recreation access and provide state of the art ADA compliant recreation amenities along the entire 175 miles of river;
- Set the shortest possible licensing term (30 years as opposed to 50);
- Make immediate upgrades to fish

River health → 10

UVM, don't punish student protesters

Dear Editor,

As a pastor, I feel it is my professional and moral responsibility to speak to the crisis of conscience facing our nation and state.

As of this writing, the civilian death toll in Gaza stands at around 34,654 according to Gaza's Ministry of Health. A third of these casualties are children.

I do not say this without hesitation, and I thank my Jewish sisters and brothers who have already spoken up in support of peace. The systemic and targeted military operation the nation of Israel is conducting against the people of Gaza cannot be called anything other than genocide. It is our moral failing as a nation that we continue to stand on the sidelines of this humanitarian atrocity while profiting from our relationship with Israel. Is “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” solely an American right? Can we call ourselves peacekeepers when we look the other way as our ally murders and pillages the ordinary people in Gaza? The October 7th Hamas attack on innocent Israeli citizens was an act

Student protests → 9

CAPITOL QUOTES

The Biden administration has unveiled plans to impose new tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, advanced batteries, solar cells, steel, aluminum, and medical equipment. The move is set to escalate tensions between the world's two largest economies.

The tariffs are being introduced amid a contentious campaign between President Joe Biden and his Republican predecessor, Donald Trump, with both candidates striving to demonstrate their toughness on China.

“China’s factory-led recovery and weak consumption growth, which are translating into excess capacity and an aggressive search for foreign markets, in tandem with the looming U.S. election season add up to a perfect recipe for escalating U.S. trade fractions with China”

said **Eswar Prasad**, professor of trade policy at Cornell University according to The Associated Press.

“We do not seek to have global domination of manufacturing in these sectors, but we believe because these are strategic industries and for the sake of resilience of our supply chains, that we want to make sure that we have healthy and active firms,”

Treasury Secretary **Janet Yellen** said according to ABC News.

“It will harm the world’s green economic transition and climate action...We urge the U.S. to stop repairing and digging up the road at the same time, so to speak, and create enabling conditions for China-U.S. climate cooperation and global green transition.”

said **Wang Wenbin**, a spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to USA Today.

“We’re still reviewing the tariffs to understand exactly what’s affected and how,”

said **Russell Datz**, spokesman for Volvo, according to AOL.

← Student protests: from page 8

of war, but the innocent citizens of Gaza do not deserve to pay the price for that attack!

Not only does this atrocity intensify the lingering hatred of the West in the Arab world, but it also damages America’s objective to bring about a lasting peace to the region and any credibility that we ever hoped to achieve.

This brings me to the student protests on college campuses, including Middlebury College and the University of Vermont. UVM is moving to initiate disciplinary action against student protesters who set up a camp on its grounds. I would faithfully offer this advice to the UVM administration and any college administration seeking to punish student protesters exercising their First Amendment rights: Don’t — you do not command the

moral high ground.

Our nation is struggling as Israel goes down a path we cannot follow. The voices of our young people echo a moral call we all know must be heard, but we refuse to hear because it is too painful. It is not profitable to hold Israel accountable for this war

We cannot punish those willing to put themselves on the line to bring compassion into the world.

against innocent people.

When Russia invaded Ukraine, our nation imposed sanctions immediately, offered military assistance and funding immediately and made it very clear how much power and influence we still have in the world. Likewise, through sanctions and the reduction of military aid, we could make it clear to Israel that we do not support the senseless destruction of Palestinian homes, schools, hospitals, infrastructure and

lives. These are just people who want to live their lives as we do. They do not deserve to die for living in Gaza.

College students are justifiably outraged that our nation contributes to this genocide. They are also justified in forcing us to pay attention when we refuse to

listen. By taking disciplinary action against students outraged by such atrocities, we are sending

the message that we don’t respect freedom of speech when it is hard to hear and threatens financial gain.

We must listen to the moral call to love those who suffer most. We cannot punish those willing to put themselves on the line to bring compassion into the world. It is unjust and immoral.

Rev. Devon Thomas, South Burlington
Editor’s note: Rev. Devon Thomas is the pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church.

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English is a second language.

With Act 127, whose implementation caused this year’s chaos, the Legislature made these weightings into a hidden welfare system. They declared that it costs more than twice as much to educate a student from a family below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level as a wealthier student, and that it costs 2.5 times as much if a student is not a native English speaker. One actual student from a poor immigrant family counts as 4.52 equalized pupils when doling out funds from the statewide pool.

If the cost for a good education in Vermont is \$20,000 per actual student and each district receives this much per actual student, and must tax itself to spend more, no student is denied the chance of a good education, and each district has an incentive to save, but none has an incentive to spend less (they would not be allowed to put unspent money to other town uses). Stowe would receive \$15,400,000 for 770 students and Winooski \$15,720,000 for 786 students.

However, that’s not what will happen if the money is allocated per equalized pupil. \$20,000 per actual student is \$1.68 billion statewide. The Legislature would divide the \$1.68 billion by 132,100 equalized pupils and declare a cost of \$12,718 per equalized pupil. Stowe then gets \$12,921,488 for 1,016 equalized pupils and Winooski gets \$25,715,796 for 2,022 equalized pupils. Stowe receives only \$16,781 per actual student and must tax itself to reach the

\$20,000/student cost of a decent education. Worse, most legislative proposals and current state law (temporarily suspended) penalize districts which elect to spend more than the declared statewide cost per student. Meanwhile Winooski has \$32,717 to spend on each one of its actual students and no incentive at all to be frugal nor any requirement to deliver good results with this windfall.

It’s hard to feel sorry for Stowe (where I live); but, the education tax is already levied on a statewide basis. Stowe has more valuable property than Winooski and will and should contribute much more to the statewide fund. But, if property taxes are higher in Stowe per dollar of assessed valuation because Stowe must make up for a shortfall in educational funding, it means that someone in Stowe in a \$500,000 house pays more than someone in Winooski in a house with the same value.

It does cost somewhat more to educate students for whom English is a second language. It arguably costs more to educate students living in poverty. If state education dollars are allocated per actual rather than per equalized student, it may be necessary to make some extra allocation to districts with many such students, but that should be by honest appropriation rather than the shell game of the equalized pupil, and outcomes must be monitored to make sure extra money results in better-educated students.



By Polly Mikula

← Wonderfeet:

from page 3

team that raised over \$200,000 to land the full-time museum at 11 Center Street with all the new exhibits.

“Our current Executive Director Danielle Monroe came on board in 2019. Danielle understood the value of the visitor experience as a priority. Danielle has expanded programming and it created strong alliances with social service agencies of the region,” Gallo continued.

In 2022, the Wonderfeet board negotiated a lease agreement for the new space on Merchants Row (formerly the Green Mountain Innovation Center).

“The wonderful team rallied to raise nearly a million dollars to make this happen,” Gallo said.

Wonderfeet Board President Susanne Engels next introduced U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, saying: “There’s nothing like getting visited by a U.S. Senator to remind you about how important your work is. Senator Welch has popped into Wonderfeet and supported us from afar and up-close for many years and I’m honored that he’s here. It just validates the good work that we’re doing and the importance of this Vermont community.”

Wonderfeet is a testament to the “strength of Rutland” U.S. Sen. Welch said, adding, “this children’s museum is where our kids are going to thrive, they’re going to be together, they’re going to start exploring and learning and getting a sense of how to be creative, and how to interact with one another and how to be the future leaders of Rutland, the future leaders of Vermont, so it is terrific!”

Rutland City Mayor Mike Doenges spoke next.

Wonderfeet is “a resource for families. We didn’t have places for parents to sit down so their kids could go play. They set up the museum so that the parents would be able to spend time with their kids, interact with the children and always be connected... that’s what we’re about here. We’re about building relationships and building our city,” Doenges said.

Since Wonderfeet moved into the current larger location, its had 30,000 visits. In the past decade, it’s tallied over 150,000 visits, Doenges said. “So to say that wonderful is a success is an understatement,” he concluded.

Casella Chairman and CEO John Casella, one of Wonderfeet’s earliest supporters, added “There’s so many people in this community that have been involved with this. It’s just absolutely amazing. And it’s a clear indication of the fabric of our community. What an investment in the rebirth of downtown. But most importantly, what an investment in the next generation and the kids of the future. What an investment to get them off of screens to get them playing together to get them out to get looking at different aspects of innovation was a wonderful way for us in this community to really embrace the next generation.”

For more information, visit: Wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org.

← River health:

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ladders to protect American shad, American eel, sea lamprey and short-nose sturgeon — 16 to 20 years is too long to wait;

- Prioritize protective land management, which includes conservation easements, management of terrestrial and aquatic invasives, and improvements to habitat and riparian buffers;
- Develop education about and protection of indigenous cultural resources related to the river.

Great River Hydro has proposed a change in how the facilities will operate over the coming license which will help the river return to a more natural flow while not impacting their revenues. A real win-win! While we’re not against these companies making a reasonable return on their investment,

they should get that only after making a better deal with the public and our local communities. That means comprehensively supporting our communities and the health of your river over the next 30-50 years.

Comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by local communities, the states, and individuals are needed by May 22 to ensure that the new license requires improvements to increase the health of our river, enhance our communities, and protect our migratory species. We won’t have this opportunity again for a generation. Act now! We are holding online hydro-power office Hours to help you comment. Learn how to get involved at: ctriver.org/hydropower.

Kathy Urffer, Brattleboro
Editor’s note: Urffer is the director of policy and advocacy and Vermont river steward for Connecticut River Conservancy.



Courtesy U.S. Ski Team

Alpine racer Mikaela Shiffrin is the winningest skier of all time.

← Killington Cup:

from page 1

the athletes and fans back again in 2024.”

Sophie Goldschmidt, president and CEO of U.S. Ski & Snowboard said, “While we will not have a final calendar confirmation from FIS until early June, we are extremely excited at the prospect of returning to Killington Mountain for the Stifel Killington Cup in November. This event has been a massive success since it started in 2016 and we know the East coast community will continue to come and cheer on these amazing women ski racers.”

← Hecker:

from page 1

the Planning Commission for nine months, told the Mountain Times he is looking forward to contributing to the town as a selectman in any way appropriate.

“I just want to help,” he said. “I have no agenda, and I’m not an influencer.”

At 50, Hecker decided to end his 21-year career with ADP in New Jersey and moved to Killington in 2021. He and his wife Tiffany have four children, and he’s started a small construction company called Peak Construction, LLC, which he says, is more fun than the corporate rat race. His wife works as an administrator at Woodstock Elementary School.

The new selectman will be sworn in by Town Clerk Lucrecia Wonsor before the next Select Board meeting in two weeks.

Hecker said he is no longer serving on the Planning Commission.

“We’re the newbies in town,” he said Monday night introducing himself to the board and the residents in attendance. His career and educational background is mainly in business and corporate strategy and leadership. He holds an MBA with a focus in entrepreneurship.

“I think I can really

contribute here as part of the Select Board,” he concluded.

After years of service to the town, including his recent stint as Select Board chair, Finneron, 72, vacated his seat for health reasons.

“Chris and I were pleased that five candidates were interested in the interim position on the board,” Selectman Jim Haff said in an interview Tuesday. “We chose Hecker because we think he’ll bring a fresh perspective to town.”

“This town is changing and it’s really great to see folks with energy stepping

“I just want to help,” Hecker said. “I have no agenda, and I’m not an influencer.”

up...I hope that the enthusiasm continues,” Haff said after executive session Monday night.

Haff, who was just re-elected to a three-year term in March, stated that he’s 63 years old and doesn’t know if he’s going to see another term.

Next Town Meeting, March 3, 2025, there will be two Select Board seats up for vote. Chris Karr’s 3-year seat and the remainder of Finneron’s term (1-year) after which the three-year term schedule will resume.

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changes that make it more difficult to build in rural towns, but support changes easing some of the housing restrictions in downtown areas.

In closing, thank you for your interest in my legislative updates during this past session. This concludes my regular reports, but I will provide updates as pertinent information becomes available in the coming months.

I plan to seek re-election this fall as the state representative for the Rutland-11 district (Chittenden, Mendon, Killington, and Pittsfield) and will be collecting petition signatures to get on the ballot in the coming weeks.

In the category of life after the legislative session is over, I had to laugh recently when we offered to help out with our three Atlanta grandsons so their mom and dad could enjoy a break for their June anniversary. It turned out that even before we could offer, Graham, who is 12, had already checked out the Red Sox schedule and pointed out that the Sox were playing the Atlanta Braves during that period...and, yes, tickets were available. Just a little hint to his grandparents... Looking forward to the summer ahead!

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.

WORDPLAY

MEDITATION WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back

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

- ASHRAM AWARENESS BODHI BUDDHISM CHAKRA
- CHANT CREATIVE DHARMA ENERGY ENLIGHTENMENT
- GROUNDING HINDUISM KARMA MANTRA MEDITATION
- MENTAL MINDFULNESS NIRVANA PEACEFUL REST
- SANSKRIT TRANQUILITY VISUALIZATION ZEN



By Mary Ann Van Buren

Northern lights: from page 5

about 10-11 p.m. the aurora sneaked up on me, but it lasted a half hour.”

She had set her phone camera on “dark mode,” a trick she learned from internet chatter, and got some interesting photos.

Andrea Ambros lives in the Lull Farm Road area. One might call her an “aurora veteran,” as she has seen major displays quite often when working in the Poker Flats area near Fairbanks, Alaska.

“But having the northern lights come to Vermont is a rare and special gift,” she

told the Mountain Times. “It’s only the third time I’ve seen it happen here — the last time was 40 years ago.”

Ambros planned to get up to see the aurora, but forgot to set her alarm.

“We have a skylight right over our bed,” she said. “I woke up because there was suddenly more light in the bedroom than normal. It was the aurora.”

It was about 2:30 a.m. She ran outside to their upper field and caught images with her phone camera.

“It was impressive!” she said.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →21

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Geological time
- 4. Ooze
- 9. A set of eight
- 14. Obstruction
- 15. Swiss mathematician
- 16. Philosophy
- 17. The night before
- 18. A timid person
- 20. Unifies
- 22. Gangs
- 23. Alternative name
- 24. Acumen
- 28. Cathode-ray tube
- 29. Tantalum
- 30. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 31. Humiliate
- 33. Earthy pigment
- 37. Air Force
- 38. Adult males
- 39. Stiff untanned leather
- 41. Before
- 42. Atomic #18
- 43. Beer mug
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Type of chef
- 49. Midway between north and east
- 50. They ___
- 51. Splits
- 55. Walk in a timid manner
- 58. Preserved animal skin with hair

- 59. Popular donut shop item
- 60. You smear it on bagels
- 64. Don’t know when yet
- 65. Equal to 10 amperes
- 66. Synthetic acrylic fiber
- 67. One point south of due east
- 68. Of mixed ancestry
- 69. Home of the Pyramids
- 70. A way to change color

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 2. Untangle
- 3. One from the U.S.
- 4. Academic terms
- 5. San ___ Obispo, in California
- 6. Not healthy
- 7. Self-assessment questionnaire (abbr.)
- 8. Arugula genus
- 9. VIII
- 10. Makes a monarch
- 11. Tormentor
- 12. Commercials
- 13. Sprinkle
- 19. Make a mistake

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
20			21					22						
23						24	25					26	27	
			28					29				30		
31	32					33		34	35	36			37	
38				39	40								41	
42				43						44	45			
46		47	48					49		50				
51				52	53	54				55			56	57
			58							59				
60	61							62	63				64	
65								66					67	
68								69					70	

- 21. Freshwater fishes
- 24. Vermont town
- 25. Man-made device
- 26. Entrap
- 27. Places to store important things
- 31. Accumulate
- 32. Greek mythological nymph
- 34. Gregory ___, American dancer
- 35. Denotes past
- 36. Becoming popular again
- 40. Indicates position
- 41. Came before
- 45. An extra seed-covering
- 47. Cheerful
- 48. Deli sandwich staple
- 52. Skateboarders love them
- 53. Mandela’s party
- 54. Sierra lake
- 56. Nickname for Elizabeth
- 57. Remove from record
- 59. Employee stock ownership plan
- 60. Former NFLer Newton
- 61. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 62. Work unit
- 63. Town in Cambridgeshire

SUDOKU

Solutions →21

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

Level: Intermediate

WEDNESDAY

5/15

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-GEL. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853

Senior Bone Builders

10 a.m. Wednesdays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Rd., 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.

Harlem Wizards Game

4 p.m. Saturday, West Rutland School, 73 Main St, West Rutland. \$2-\$35. The World-Famous Harlem Wizards invite you and your family for a night of tricks, hoops, and alley-oops! Doors open at 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$2 for students to \$35 for Courtside Plus. Purchase tickets in advance. For more information, visit harlemwizards.com.

Cribbage for Adults

3-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Hartland Public Library, 135 Route 5, Hartland. Free. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar or 802-436-2473

Bone Builders

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

Figure Drawing with Live Model

5-7 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. chaffeeartcenter.org

Sip and Shop in Downtown Rutland

5-8 p.m. — Downtown Rutland. \$25 for All-Inclusive Ticket, \$15 for Non-Drinking Ticket. Enjoy an evening of shopping and tasting as Downtown Rutland hosts its popular Sip & Shop event. Sample spirits, beer, cider, mead, and wine from vendors hosted at various locations. Must be 21 or older to sample alcoholic beverages. For more information, visit: downtownrutland.com.

MINT Makerspace Reopening with reMake Creative Reuse Shop

72 Merchants Row, Rutland. On the evening of Thursday, May 16 The MINT Makerspace reopens its downtown location with a new feature: reMake Creative Reuse Shop. reMake operates as a thrift store for art supplies and aims to make creativity more affordable and accessible in Rutland. After reMake's opening at Rutland Downtown Sip + Shop, the store will be open for business and accepting donations on Wednesdays from 2-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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 at pattidance@gmail.com

THURSDAY

5/16

Art at the Chaffee: Artery

10:30am-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. Pre Register at chaffeeartcenter.org

Essentrics Strength and Balance

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.

Bone Builders

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

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

10am-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 802-775-1853.

Ukulele Group

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

Play Bridge!

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

S.T.E.A.M.

3-4 p.m. Thursdays. Hartland Public 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@hartlandlibrary.org/calendar or 802-436-2473

Yoga with Kelly

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



Board Game Night

5 p.m. Thursdays. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. hartlandlibrary.org/calendar or 803-436-2473

'Jaws'

7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults, \$10. Seniors, \$9. Kids and members, \$8. Second in our Throwback Thursday Series is the Original Blockbuster; Steven Spielberg's 1975 masterpiece "Jaws." When a small island town is threatened by a man-eating shark at the peak of beach season, putting the town folks' livelihoods and lives at risk. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

FRIDAY

5/17

Storytime at the Library

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Fridays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. sherburnelibrary.org

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

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

Pride Fused Glass

5-7 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Members \$45, non-members \$65. In this introductory class we will be making rainbow or other pride flag variations on glass. This class will teach you the basic knowledge and skills needed to begin glass fusing. You will learn how to work safely, use tools and you will create one to 3 pieces that can be picked up that same week after they come out of the kiln. You will learn about COE (coefficient of expansion) of glass, kiln firing, and how to choose glass and prepare it for firing. By the end of this fun class you will know: How to cut glass. What COE means and why it is relevant to this work. How to achieve different glass effects with different firing schedules. How to layer glass for certain effects. How to respect the glass and related science to get the best fusing results. For safety we ask that all participants wear shoes with closed toes. The glass shop is in the back so please come to the second driveway and enter through the left door. To register: rutlandmint.org/event-5695890/Registration

Scott Garren's Total Solar Eclipse Overview

7 p.m. — Shrewsbury Library, 98 Town Hill Road, Shrewsbury. Free. Join Scott Garren for an overview of the recent total solar eclipse of April 8, at the Shrewsbury Library. Participants are encouraged to share their stories and impressions and to bring their photos to be displayed on a projector. shrewsburyvt.org

SIP AND SHOP IN DOWNTOWN RUTLAND

WED@ 5 PM





MUSIC ON THE MOUNTAIN

SAT @ 2 PM

Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club

11a.m.-3 p.m..Saturdays. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. Free. Maintained by the Rutland Railway Assoc. Inc., the historic depot is now a museum that houses an operating HO scale model railroad set up 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

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 with a fee. All ages. Supplies and images to paint are provided. Must pre register by Friday noon at: chaffeeartcenter.org or 802-775-0356.

Copper Cuff Bracelets, 2nd session

11 a.m.-1 p.m..The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Members \$60, non-members \$75. In this "make and take" class, participants will explore fold forming and texturing copper to create a copper cuff bracelet. Participants will force the copper to patina, choosing from a variety of techniques, and finish their bracelet with a wax sealant. We'll be using a mapp gas torch to anneal our pieces. Participants should be comfortable with the idea of holding and firing a torch. This is a two-session class. Key learning points: Cutting copper base metal, Annealing, Fold forming, Using texturing (and other) hammers, and Exploring patina. SAFETY: Participants should bring gloves to prevent cuts from sharp metal. Long hair should be tied back. Instructor: Christine Harris. rutlandmint.org/event-5667836/Registration

Starlights Dance Academy: Reach for the Stars

1 p.m..Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Adults \$35 + taxes/fees. Children 17 and under \$25 + taxes/fees. paramountvt.org

Sean-nós (Old Style) Irish Dance with Kieran Jordan

1-3 p.m. Saturday Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd, Pomfret \$20. Kieran Jordan will lead a sean-nós Irish dance class featuring close-to-the-floor footwork and a playful dialogue with traditional Irish music. Suitable for all levels, the class includes warm-up, instruction, demonstration, and cool-down, with time for video-taping step sequences. artistreevt.org.

Music on the Mountain

2-8 p.m..111 Jackson Gore Rd. Ludlow. \$20. Music on the Mountain, a concert created to celebrate recovery, will be held directly after Divided Sky Foundation's Fun(d) Run on Saturday, May 18, 2024. Doors open at 2 p.m. Will feature performances by Anders Osborne, Dogs in a Pile, and Saints and Liars. Music on the Mountain has a suggested donation of \$20, and participants in the Fun(d) Run are automatically registered (runners can show race bib for entry). Vendors will offer food and zero-proof beverages. Music on the Mountain is family-friendly and guests are encouraged to bring chairs, picnic blankets, etc, and enjoy the sights and sounds of the concert. All proceeds from ticket sales and other donations benefit Divided Sky Foundation. dividedskyfoundation.com

Compost Workshop

2:30-3:30 p.m..Mission Farm VT, 316 Mission Farm Rd., Killington. Free. missionfarmvt.org

Harlem Wizards Game

4 p.m. West Rutland School, 73 Main St, West Rutland. \$2-\$35. The World-Famous Harlem Wizards invite you and your family for a night of tricks, hoops, and alley-oops! Doors open at 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$2 for students to \$35 for Courtside Plus. Purchase tickets in advance. For more information, visit harlemwizards.com.

'The Fall Guy'

7:30-9:30 p.m..Woodstock Town Hall, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults, \$10. Seniors, \$9. Kids and members, \$8. A down-and-out stuntman must find the missing star of his ex-girlfriend's blockbuster film in this Explosive Action Comedy. https://pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

SUNDAY

5/19

Sport Climbing Clinic

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 223 Woodstock Ave, Rutland. Ever wondered what quickdraws are? Learn sport lead climbing, anchor setting, anchor cleaning, and rappelling in this two-day clinic. Limited to six spots. Claim yours now by emailing haley@vermontclimbing.com or calling for more information.

Gathering at Mission Farm

9:30-10:30 a.m. Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. Sunday gatherings built around connection and community. We welcome your participation as a reader or greeter or bell ringer or simply your presence with us. We gather outdoors when possible. missionfarmvt.org

Race Around the Lake

10:30 a.m.5k Race starts at 11 a.m.Silver Lake State Park, 250 North Road, Barnard. 10k Run: Adults, \$45. Children 12 & under, \$35. 5k Run/Walk: Adults, \$35. Children 12 & under, \$25. Virtual: Adults, \$25. Children 12 & under, \$15. After-Race activities include Chef's Table lunch, live music and awards ceremony along the lakefront. Can't attend but still want to participate? Sign up to race Virtually wherever you are. Registration: https://runsignup.com/Race/VT/Barnard/BarnArtsRaceAroundtheLake

Laurel Glen Open House

12-2 p.m. — Laurel Glen, 98 Town Hill Road, Shrewsbury. Free. Explore Laurel Glen, the property of John P. Bowman, during an open house event. Uniformed docents will share stories of Mr. Bowman's remarkable life. For more information, email Freddie.monder@gmail.com.

Rutland - Phoenix Fables Fantasy Book Club

featuring "Legends and Lattes" 2 p.m. 2 Center St, Rutland. Join our our booksellers in Rutland for Phoenix Fables, a fantasy book club. May's selection is Legends & Lattes by Travis Baldree. Grab your copy at the Rutland store or online, and come prepared for a lively discussion (including spoilers)

Organ Recital by Vaughn Watson

3 p.m. Our Lady of Seven Dolours, VT Route 22a, Fair Haven. Free will offering. In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Our Lady of Seven Dolours parish, Vaughn Watson will present an organ recital featuring works by J.S. Bach, Robert Schumann, Louis Vierne, Marcel Dupré, and Eugène Gigout on the church's historic 1853 E. & G. G. Hook organ. A reception will follow. For more information, call (802) 759-2453.

Bach's St. John Passion by Upper Valley Baroque

3 p.m. The Chandler Center for the Arts, Randolph Ticket prices vary. Upper Valley Baroque presents Bach's St. John Passion performed by a professional choir and orchestra. Celebrate the 300th anniversary of this masterpiece in Leipzig, Germany. For tickets and information, visit: upervalleybaroque.org.

Trumpet and Organ Recital

4 p.m..Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St., Rutland. Free. Trumpet recital featuring Andrew Loose, trumpet, and Alastair Stout, organ and piano, May 19 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. gracechurchvt.org or 802-775-4301

48 Hour Film Slam Screening and Awards Ceremony

7-9 p.m..JAM, 5 So. Main St., White River Junction. Free. Gather to watch locally made shorts and see how our brave filmmakers fared against the clock. Register at uvjam.org

JAM SCRIPTWRITERS' GROUP



EVERY OTHER MONDAY @ 5:30 PM

48 Hour Film Slam Kick-Off

5-6 p.m..JAM, 5 So. Main St., White River Junction. Free. Fight against the clock to write, shoot, and edit a short film in under 48 hours. Competition details here: https://uvjam.org/film-competitions/48-hour-film-slam/ Register at: www.uvjam.org Screening May 19th, 7 p.m..

SATURDAY

5/18

Intro to Birding - Advanced Bird Walk

7:30-9:30 a.m.VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$28 General Public. \$23 VINS members. A birding adventure through the varied habitats at the VINS Nature Center, culminating in the treetops on the Forest Canopy Walk. of VINS staff. Field guides and binoculars are recommended for this event.This workshop will be held outdoors, rain or shine. Participants should dress appropriately. info@vinsweb.org

Divided Sky Fun(d) Run

9 a.m.-12 p.m..111 Jackson Gore Road. Ludlow. Join us in beautiful Ludlow, VT for the third annual Divided Sky Fun(d) Run! The 3rd Annual Divided Sky Fun(d) Run will be held on Saturday, May 18th, in the scenic Okemo Valley of Ludlow, VT. The run benefits the Divided Sky Foundation and the Springfield and Rutland Turning Point Centers. info@dividedskyfoundation.com

Sport Climbing Clinic

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 223 Woodstock Ave, Rutland. Ever wondered what quickdraws are? Learn sport lead climbing, anchor setting, anchor cleaning, and rappelling in this two-day clinic. Limited to six spots. Claim yours now by emailing haley@vermontclimbing.com or calling for more information.

Alice in Wonderland Garden Party

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, Medway Road, 125 Medway Rd, Rutland. Free. Enjoy a delightful morning of delicious treats and amazing entertainment inspired by Alice in Wonderland. Spaces are limited, so book early by emailing events@thechasecarehome.co.uk. thechasecarehome.co.uk.

Vermont Outdoor Farmer's Market

9 a.m.-2 p.m..Saturdays. Depot Park, downtown Rutland. Free. One of the largest farmers markets in the state and the first to operate year-round. vermontfarmersmarket.org

Lego Club

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



Courtesy Upper Valley Baroque
Filippo Ciabatti

Upper Valley Baroque presents two performances of Bach's St. John Passion

Sunday, May 19, at 3 p.m. —RANDOLPH—Upper Valley Baroque and its Artistic Director Filippo Ciabatti will present Bach's "St. John Passion" on Saturday, May 18 (7 p.m.) at the Lebanon Opera House in Lebanon, New Hampshire and Sunday, May 19, at 3 p.m. at The Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph.

This masterwork will be performed by the professional Upper Valley Baroque Choir and Orchestra. The orchestra will play on period instruments. These performances celebrate the 300th anniversary of the premier of this masterpiece in Leipzig, Germany in 1724.

Artistic Director Filippo Ciabatti brings his immense energy and artistic creativity to Handel's wonderful music. He continues to make his mark on the regional music scene, serving as Music Director of the Opera Company of Middlebury, Director of the Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra and the Handel Society of Dartmouth, and Assistant Conductor of Boston Baroque. He is a frequent guest orchestral and opera conductor throughout the United States and Europe.

For tickets and info, visit: uppervalleybaroque.org.



DRUM JOURNEYS OF EARTH

Reserve your spot in one of our classes!

West African Afro-Latin
Heart & Ritual of the Medicine Drum

Other forms of ethnic percussion w/
private instruction available!

Classes held at Building #5, Howe Center, Rutland

Contact Gary @ 802-282-2581

← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 13

'Darkness & Light' Concert by Upper Valley

Voices

7 p.m. — United Church of Strafford, 232 Justin Morrill Memorial Hwy, Strafford. \$15 pre-order, \$20 at door. Join Upper Valley Voices for an evening of music addressing the darkness of our times and offering a call to manifest our own healing light. For more information and pre-orders, visit: thetfordchambersingers.org/new-page-1.

'The Fall Guy'

7:30-9:30 p.m..Woodstock Town Hall, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults, \$10. Seniors, \$9. Kids and members, \$8. A down-and-out stuntman must find the missing star of his ex-girlfriend's blockbuster film in this Explosive Action Comedy. <https://pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets>

MONDAY 5/20

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

11:30am-12:30 p.m..Mondays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Over 60, \$3.50. Under 60, \$6. Donations welcome. In partnership with the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, the Godnick Center hosts congregate meals. Make new friends, connect with pals. Call 802-773-1853 and leave a message with your name and phone number the Thursday before. rutlandrec.com/godnick for the menu.

Monday Movie

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

JAM Scriptwriters' Group

5:30-7 p.m..Every other Monday. JAM, 5 So. Main St., White River Junction. Free. Adults 17+. Gather bi-weekly with a dedicated group to meet talented local writers, learn new script writing techniques, and receive peer feedback on your work. Meetings are free of charge and not mandatory, but we encourage consistent participation to get the most out of this group! For more information and to register: uvjam.org/scriptwritersgroup/

Contemporary Modern Dance for Adults

6-7:15 p.m..Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Adult, all levels. 6 week session \$78, \$15 drop in. This class begins with a warm up to focus on increasing flexibility, core strength and body alignment with established modern dance techniques. We will explore moving in space in a variety of ways and learn short dance phrases. This class introduces diverse approaches to modern dance and supports individual creativity. Instructor: Erika Schmidt, MFA. vitalsparkperformancegroup.com.

'The Fall Guy'

7:30-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults, \$10. Seniors, \$9. Kids and members, \$8. A down-and-out stuntman must find the missing star of his ex-girlfriend's blockbuster film in this Explosive Action Comedy. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

Nature Observations Presentation by Tom Estill

7 p.m. Monday Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland Free. Tom Estill, a retired science educator and expert on the American Chestnut tree, will discuss his 10-year project of nature observations in Rutland's Pine Hill Park. For more information, visit rutlandrec.com.



SPRING BIRD WALKS

TUESDAYS @ 7:30 AM

TUESDAY 5/21

Spring Bird Walks

7:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Free. Join Slate Valley Trails and the Rutland County Audubon Society for weekly slow-paced (3 to 4 miles, 3 to 4 hours) bird & wildflower hike in the Poultney area, Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome. No worries if you can't identify many birds. There will be friendly birders in the group who will happily share their knowledge with you. Bring water and a snack (and insect repellent if you use it), binoculars, cameras, field guides, if you have them. Contact Joel Tilley for more information: jtilley50@gmail.com. Locations will change each week.

Bone Builders

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

Line Dance for Beginners

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

Bridge Club

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

Bridge Club

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

Chess Club

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

Play Chess, Backgammon!

5-7 p.m..Tuesdays. Norman 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

Working with the Wheel, 3rd Session

6-8 p.m..The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Learn to use the potters wheel in our new Pottery Lab while you make your own one-of-a-kind drinking vessel. At the end of this class you will walk away with either the perfect gift or your new favorite mug! rutlandmint.org/event-5678544/JoinWaitlist

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
5/15

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

THURS
5/16

BRANDON

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

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS
5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic with Host Josh Cote

8 p.m. Center Street Alley

– Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T

FRI
5/17

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Aaron Audet

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Nancy Johnson

KILLINGTON

9 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Red Daisy Revival

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – George Nostrand

QUECHEE

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

SAT
5/18

RUTLAND

10:30 a.m. Rutland Town School - RTS Color Run Fundraiser with music by DJ Dave

SUN
5/19

BRIDGEWATER

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

BRANDON

7:30 p.m. Town Hall – The Gallison Hill Band

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with headliner Mike Toohy

KILLINGTON

9 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Red Daisy Revival

LUDLOW

2 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Music on the Mountain Concert for Charity with Anders Osborne, Dogs in a Pile, and Saints and Liars

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Aaron Audet

QUECHEE

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

RANDOLPH

7 p.m. Underground Listening Room – wolves & wolves & wolves & wolves, Miracle Blood w/ Lungbuster and SUS

STOCKBRIDGE

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Jason Cann with Jeff Davis

KILLINGTON

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

RUTLAND

4 p.m. Grace Church – Andrew Loose (Trumpet) and Alastair Stout (Organ)

STOCKBRIDGE

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

MON
5/20

KILLINGTON

5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Jam Session with Ben Kogan

TUES
5/21

KILLINGTON

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

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

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

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170 S Main Street, Rutland, VT



Sip & Shop held in Downtown Rutland

Thursday, May 16 from 5-8 p.m.—RUTLAND—The popular Sip & Shop event returns to downtown Rutland, Thursday. Sip & Shop is an evening that event pairs Vermont beverage and food producers with downtown Rutland businesses, offering you a unique opportunity to explore and indulge.

More than 20 stops await, where attendees will have the chance to shop, enjoy exclusive sales and raffles, taste something new, and catch up with friends. Check-in begins at 4:30 p.m. Pick up a map and bag, then embark on your adventure to all the participating locations at your own pace.

All-inclusive tickets are \$25. With the ticket, you can sample spirits, beer, cider, mead, and wine from vendors hosted at downtown Rutland businesses. Ticket holders aged 21 and over will receive a wristband at check-in, along with a shopping bag containing a map of all

participating businesses.

Additionally, each ticket includes one entry into a raffle for items from vendors and businesses. Ticket holders are also eligible for additional door prizes and raffle prizes throughout the event!

Attendees must be 21 or older to sample alcoholic beverages and must present a valid ID at check-in. A wristband is required for alcohol sampling.

Non-drinking tickets are also available for \$15. If you prefer not to drink alcohol or are serving as a designated driver, this ticket option allows you to enjoy the Sip & Shop experience. With this ticket, you can sample food and taste non-alcoholic drink vendors, receive one entry into the raffle, and be eligible for door prizes.

For more information, visit: downtownrutland.com.

Businesses and Vendor Pairings

DownValley Bikes and Apparel + von Trapp Brewery
 Mountain Music + Rutland Beer Works
 Diamonds and More + Killington Distillery
 Divine + Appalachian Gap Distillery
 Speakeasy Cafe + Lawson's Finest Liquids
 GreenSpell Plant Shop + Golden Rule Mead

Artists, Crafts, Activities and More

Loose Loona Tea House + Miralasku Jewelry
 Fruition Fineries: Catamount Radio live with Terry Jaye
 Wild Kind Toys: photo booth
 REWIND: gift certificate raffle
 The MINT - Rutland's Makerspace Pop-Up Shop
 McNeil & Reedy
 Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center
 True Yoga Vermont

Non-alcoholic

Kaleidoscope Art Supply + Sarilla (non-alcoholic sparkling tea)
 Rutland County Pride Center: mocktail drinks
 Mountain Girl Cannabis + Upstate Elevator Company (CBD beverage)

Food

Prouty's Parlor for Ice Cream: ice cream samples
 Phoenix Books Rutland + inspired cookies
 Hop'n Moose + Vermont Pepper Project
 Hand Carved by Ernie + Fairy Tale Farm (sheep's milk gelato)
 Taso on Center: food samples

FAQ's

I've purchased a ticket! Now what?

Attendees will check in after 4:40 p.m. on Thursday, May 16 at their choice of two locations, the Downtown Rutland Partnership's (28 Center St.) or at Merchants Hall (40-42 Merchants Row).

For those who purchased a ticket that includes alcohol sampling, you must present a valid ID at check-in. You must be 21 or older to sample alcoholic beverages. Drinking responsibly is highly encouraged, and we strongly suggest pre-arranging safe transportation.

I don't drink alcohol. Can I still attend?

Of course! If you don't drink alcohol or are a designated driver, you can still enjoy the Sip & Shop with a \$15 non-drinking ticket option. This ticket allows you to sample food and taste non-alcoholic drink vendors, receive an entry into the raffles, and be eligible for door prizes!

Will I be able to buy a ticket on the night of the event?

Certainly! While it is possible to purchase a ticket at the Downtown Rutland Partnership office at the event, we highly recommend securing your ticket online in advance. This way, you'll have extra time to enjoy the event and minimize the time spent waiting in line!



Rutland locals enjoy a recent Sip & Shop, sipping beverages while shopping, adding a delightful touch to their downtown experience. The Sip & Shop event returns to Downtown Rutland Thursday, May 16 from 5-8 p.m.

courtesy downtownrutland.com

MINT Makerspace unveils new offering downtown at Sip & Shop

Thursday, May 16 — RUTLAND — On Thursday evening, May 16, The MINT Makerspace will reopen its downtown location with a fresh new feature: reMake Creative Reuse Shop. Essentially a thrift store for art supplies, reMake will operate in the same storefront that offers handmade wares for sale and hosts STEAM workshops for local youth.

Second-hand art stores (also called “creative reuse centers”) make sure that art supplies, tools, and other upcycle-able creative materials don't get thrown into the trash — and, instead, get into the hands of makers and artists.

Community members and businesses can donate gently used creative materials to be sold at a fraction of retail

price — making creativity more affordable and accessible in Rutland.

After reMake's opening at Rutland downtown Sip + Shop, the store will be open for business and accepting donations on Wednesdays from 2-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information visit: RutlandMint.org.



Courtesy Upper Valley Voices

Upper Valley Voices, established in 1978, will perform a live concert in Strafford, Sunday May 19 at 7 p.m. addressing darkness and encouraging healing light, with Matthew Wiencke as accompanist.

'Darkness & Light,' a live concert performance by Upper Valley Voices, formerly Thetford Chamber Singers, held in Strafford this Sunday

Sunday, May 19, at 7 p.m.—STRAFFORD—The Upper Valley Voices (formerly the Thetford Chamber Singers) is holding a May concert at United Church of Strafford, 232 Justin Morrill Memorial Hwy, Strafford. It will be an evening of music that addresses the darkness of our times and offers a call to manifest our own healing light.

History

The Upper Valley Voices was formerly called the Thetford Chamber Singers (TCS). This group was organized in the fall of 1978 by founding director Valerie Miller. The first meeting brought more than 20 singers, far too many for the space available in her home. The Thetford Elementary School was approached and agreed to allow the group to use space at the school for rehearsal. Their first musical performance was a combined effort with the Parish Players at the Thetford Grange in which the chorus sang chants and madrigals. That same fall, the First Congregational Church of Thetford gave permission for the group to use the church as its official performance "home". In January 1979, the group was formally organized as a non-profit organization named The Thetford Chamber Singers and Children's Chorus. With the help of Elizabeth Ballard, connections were made at the Dartmouth Music Department, which very generously allowed the group ac-

cess to their choral library for research and borrowing. The children's chorus eventually became a part of the regular school program at Thetford Elementary School. Bylaws for The Thetford Chamber Singers were adopted in 1989 and the group received 501(c)(3) status from the IRS in 1999.

After the 2010-2011 season, Valerie Miller decided to retire from her position as director. At the same time, accompanist Maureen Burford stepped down and was replaced by Annemieke Spoelstra. In 2011-2012 two members of TCS, Anna Alden and Kevin Quigley, stepped in to co-direct a very impressive year, and Lindsey Warren joined the group to direct with style and energy for the 2012-2013 season. Kevin Quigley returned to the director's podium for the 2013-2014 season, and has led the group to wide acclaim since then.

In 2020, the rehearsal location was changed to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley (UUCUV) in Norwich, Vermont, while performing in various locations (and streaming during the Covid years). Matthew Wiencke was hired as accompanist in 2013. A much-beloved addition, he stepped down in Spring 2022.

Henry Danaher served as accompanist from Spring 2022-Spring 2024. The current accompanist, Steven Ionov joined in Spring 2024.

For more information, visit: thetfordchambersingers.org.

Attend the Laurel Glen open house

Sunday, May 19, 12-2 p.m.—CUTTINGSVILLE—Laurel Glen, the property of John P. Bowman, a wealthy businessman who made his fortune during the Civil War, invites the public to an open house. Located across from the cemetery on Route 103 where Bowman interred his beloved wife and two daughters, will be open for exploration. Uniformed docents will share stories of Mr. Bowman's remarkable life. Park available in the lot near the Post Office.

For more information, email Freddie.monder@gmail.com.



Race Around the Lake is this Sunday

Sunday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m.—BARNARD—Races begin and end at Silver Lake State Park, 20 State Park Beach Road, Barnard, with courses encircling Silver Lake on town roads, dirt roads and single-track wooded trails with intermittent views of the lake. The challenging 10K route pops out of the woods on Royalton Turnpike and loops back to the state park via Tower Road.

After-race activities at Silver Lake State Park include a Chef's Table lunch (free to all racers) with items provided by Twin Farms, Barnard Inn, Heartwood Farm, Plym-

outh Cheese, Red Hen Bakery, Strafford Creamery & others. An award ceremony and live music with Mountain Dog will take place along the lakefront.

Can't attend but still want to participate? Sign up to race virtually wherever.

Registration Fees

10K Adults: \$50, 12 & under: \$30; 5K Adults: \$40, 12 & under: \$30; Virtual 10K & 5K: \$30

10K Race begins at 10:30 a.m.; 5K Race begins at 11 a.m.

For more information and to sign up, visit: barnarts.org/mainstage/race-around-the-lake

Andrew Loose plays Grace Church

Sunday, May 19 at 4 p.m.—RUTLAND—There will be a trumpet recital featuring Andrew Loose, trumpet, and Alastair Stout, organ and piano at Grace Church, 8 Court St., in Rutland on Sunday at 4 p.m.

Originally from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Andrew Loose is an accomplished jazz and classical trumpet recitalist, building a performance career in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Miami. He has performed alongside renowned musicians, Sean Jones, Tim Warfield, Dennis Mackrell, John Secada, Christine Jensen, and Brian Lynch and has accompanied Gloria Estefan, Kristin Chenoweth, Steve Miller, Matthew Morrison and John Williams. Loose has also performed as a soloist and bandleader at a variety of locations and for several different events, including the prestigious opening gala of the Frost Science Museum.

What truly sets Loose apart is his compositional abilities. He has been commissioned by some of the most prestigious ensembles at the Frost School of Music, such as the Stamps brass and woodwind quintets and the Frost Studio Jazz Band. Loose also performs many of his own compositions as well as winning a student downbeat award in the category of graduate blues/pop/rock for his work in the Funk Fusion Ensemble, for which he wrote the music.

Loose's recital at Grace Church will feature a diverse selection of music, from Eduardo Batiste to Alexander Arutunian and will include Loose's own transcriptions of works by Bach and Dvorak.

Loose will open the concert with the fantastic Concerto in F minor by Oskar Böhme. Grace Church Director of Music Ministries Alastair Stout will accompany on the church's magnificent Steinway grand piano and Aeolian-Skinner organ.

For more information, visit: gracechurchvt.org.



Andrew Loose

Submitted

NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS?



WE DON'T THINK SO.

WHAT'S THE WORD ON THE STREET?

Tell us about it:
editor@mountaintimes.info

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- 2/\$7 CIO Coconut Water
- 2/\$8 Huggo Foods Organic Mustard
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rutlandcoop.com

Rockin' the Region with Anders Osborne

There's some great music this Saturday at Okemo, which I highly recommend. Music on the Mountain, a donation-based concert celebrating recovery, presented by The Phoenix, will be from 2 - 7 p.m. in the Jackson Gore Courtyard with performances by Anders Osborne, Dogs in a Pile, and Saints and Liars. I had the pleasure of speaking with Anders, whom I have not seen perform since 1999 in New Orleans at the Dream Palace, an amazing music venue no longer there. Anders said, "It's been a minute." That was during Jazz Fest, which Anders just finished up with 2 weeks of gigs.



Rockin' the Region
By Dave Hoffenberg

Anders hails from Sweden but has called New Orleans home since 1985-86. I asked what brought him to New Orleans and he said, "The same thing that probably drew you to New Orleans. You get there and it's good food, the people are nice, they live in the moment. It's an easy town to just drift off and live. I was young, I was a teenager. There wasn't anywhere else you needed to go after getting here."

Anders took up music when he was young, in Sweden. His first instrument was the pump organ but he said he wasn't very talented at it. He tried the flute but it wasn't his thing. He always wanted to play the saxophone but guitar and drums are his thing. He connected with the singer/songwriter part. He was 9 or 10 when he first started guitar.

He wrote poetry and some melodies when he was that age too. He said, "I got better at it, wrote more songs, better songs and then I joined a band, as a drummer. I played on the streets, I was busking. I got some gigs but worked odd jobs for many years." Anders was 23 when he decided to not have any more day gigs and see if he could make it as a musician. "I was working on a horse farm in Folsom, Louisiana and as a dishwasher in the French Quarter. Those were not the jobs I was aspiring for," Anders said, laughing.

It worked because Anders is still making music, and has been playing music for 40 years. There wasn't one gig that got him discovered, it was his hard work that did it. Anders said, "It's thousands of gigs and each thing adds up and one thing leads to another. I wasn't looking to make it, or break it. It didn't work like that, I just played music. You don't have any specific aspirations, you just play. You try to make a record, to get a gig, try and make a living, try to get better, hone your craft. You work on songwriting, on guitar playing, you work on learning other instruments. It just grows. People start showing up and asking questions like "You want a record deal?" Well, what do you got? Or, "I have a festival in NJ, come play there." How much do you pay? It just leads to things and before you know it, it's what's called a career. You're making a living and you're touring. You're popular and then 6 years later, you're not popular. You figure out how to survive during that time and then you're popular again. It's definitely not a moment that made anything specific happen. That's like an American Idol thing, that's not what we do. We just play music."

For Anders, music covers so many parts of life. He said, "When people need to relax, or connect, they're heart broke or somebody's passed away or they're getting married, that's when they need music. There has to be somebody that plays at all these different situations of life. That's what we do."

"The Four Seasons by Vivaldi" is one of the first records Anders heard and is an early musical influence of his. John Coltrane is another. He listened to a lot of jazz and classical and then started listening to Bob Marley in the late 70's and Black Sabbath for a little bit. Once the singer/songwriter entered the picture, people like

Van Morrison, James Taylor, Joni Mitchell and CSNY were folk musicians he could identify with. Anders said, "They're speaking a simple language that's similar. Those types of artists made it more accessible for me to take my stuff and not think I had to write these extended compositions, and pieces like classical stuff"

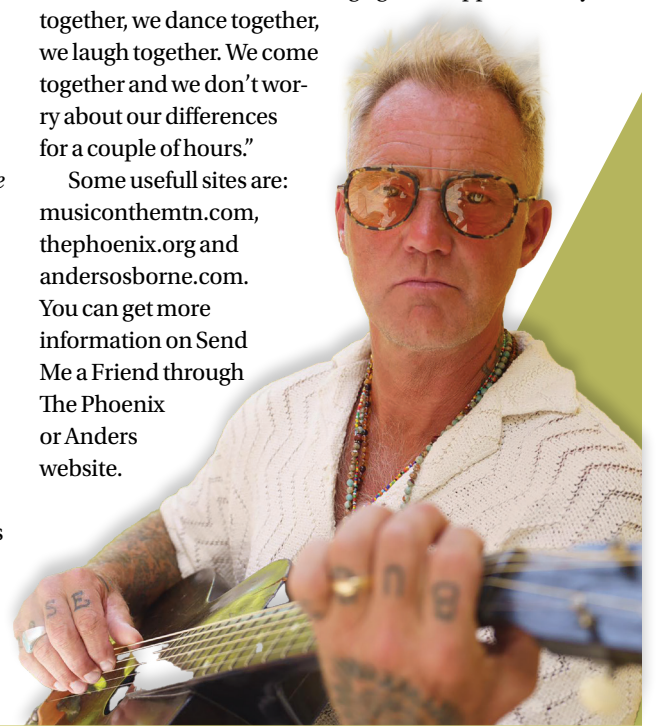
Back then it wasn't classic rock, it was just rock. Anders said, "Everything I listened to was interesting. It was all fresh back then. You wouldn't listen to someone in '74 and say they sounded like... Today that's all you hear, 'You sound like this'... I'm like, OK." They had an advantage the first 20-30 years of rock 'n' roll because there was no comparison. Now you can't do anything but copy, I copy. That's all there is, it's already been done. You can be slightly different but it's pretty well documented what can be done."

Anders has 17 albums to his name and four or five live albums, which is impressive but what blew me away is the fact that he has a couple hundred albums he's been a part of, or produced. His latest album is "Picasso's Villa," which has received rave reviews. He'll be playing some of that at Okemo accompanied by Chad Cromwell (drums) and Jimmy Earl (bass). Anders spoke about them and said, "Chad is a monster drummer and a friend of mine for the past 30 years. He toured for 15 years with Neil (Young). He was part of the writing for 'Rockin' in the Free World'. He's toured with Joe Walsh, Mark Knopfler, Bonnie (Raitt). He's been my drummer for 7-8 years and makes me sound better, I like him. Jimmy was in the Jimmy Kimmel House Band for 20 years. The three of us like to play and pretend we're still 16."

Anders, who has been sober for 15 years and loves it, has his own Recovery Foundation "Send me a Friend" which he started 8 or 9 years ago. Anders said, "We're now under the umbrella of The Phoenix, which is a huge foundation that does great work. They help us out. It's an effort to raise awareness around that topic. My foundation sends people out to people in the music industry who have recently got sober. We have a huge data bank of names, of volunteers, friends as we call them, they come out and keep you company so you can go back to work and feel more stable, sane and not be too tempted in that environment."

Anders' favorite part of his musical journey is the writing and recording but as far as playing live he said, "I love seeing the excitement and making the connection with the audience where we all feel like we're merging into this universal consciousness. We're becoming lighter, happier. We cry together, we dance together, we laugh together. We come together and we don't worry about our differences for a couple of hours."

Some useful sites are: musiconthemtn.com, thephoenix.org and andersosborne.com. You can get more information on Send Me a Friend through The Phoenix or Anders website.



Anders Osborne

Submitted



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, June 1, 2024

National Cancer Survivors Day®

Foley Cancer Center is pleased to be celebrating the 2024 National Cancer Survivors Day with our first in-person event since 2019!

RSVP required by May 22
to Missy Williams at 802.747.6501

Foley Cancer Center
A Department of Rutland Regional Medical Center

Divided Sky fun run is Saturday in Ludlow

Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m.—LUDLOW—The third annual Divided Sky Fun(d) Run is a morning filled with fitness and community spirit. This event aims to support the Divided Sky Foundation and the Springfield and Rutland Turning Point Centers. Lace up your running shoes and meet at Jackson Gore, 111 Jackson Gore Road, Ludlow.

For more information and to register for the event, visit: raceroster.com/events/2024/84514/divided-sky-fund-run-2024.

Schedule:

Friday, May 17

- 3-7 p.m.-Early shirt/Packet Pick-up and vendor set up

Saturday, May 18

- 7: a.m.- Shirt/Packet pick-up and vendor set up
- 8:40 a.m.-Yoga/Pre run announcements
- 9 a.m.- Run!
- 9:30 a.m.-Vendor village and post-race events
- 10:15 a.m.-post-run awards & celebrations
- 2 p.m.-Music on the Mountain Festival



Library event held to discuss the total eclipse

Friday, May 17 at 7 p.m. — SHREWSBURY— Scott Garren will present an overview of the recent total solar eclipse of April 8, at the Shrewsbury Library, 98 Town Hill Road, Shrewsbury. This is a follow-up to his program last December.

Participants are encouraged to share their stories and impressions and to bring their photos to be displayed on a projector.

For more information, visit: shrewsburyvt.org.



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LIQUID ART *Liquid Art*

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SUGAR & SPICE *Sugar and Spice*

Stop on by to Sugar and Spice for a home style breakfast or lunch served up right. Try six different kinds of pancakes and/or waffles or order up some eggs and home fries. For lunch they offer a Filmore salad, grilled roast beef, burgers and sandwiches. Take away available. www.vtsugarandspice.com 802-773-7832.

BACK COUNTRY *Back Country Café*

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MOUNTAIN TOP INN & RESORT *Mountain Top Inn*

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

killington market *Killington Market*

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

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Solutions From page 11

Crossword

E	R	A		S	L	I	M	E		O	C	T	A	D		
D	A	M		E	U	L	E	R		C	R	E	D	O		
E	V	E		M	I	L	Q	U	E	T	O	A	S	T		
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Sudoku

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

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Marley—Marley has gentle purrs to go with his playful antics



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



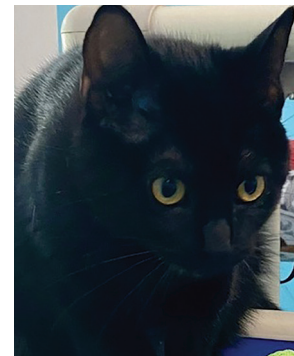
Rain—2-year-old. Spayed female. Retriever mix.



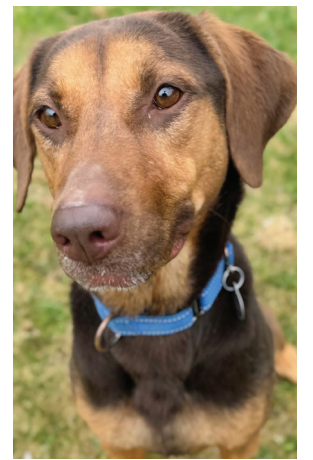
Ash—2-3-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Hattie—1-year-old. Spayed female. Hound mix.



Luna—10-12-month-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



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



DOTTY

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

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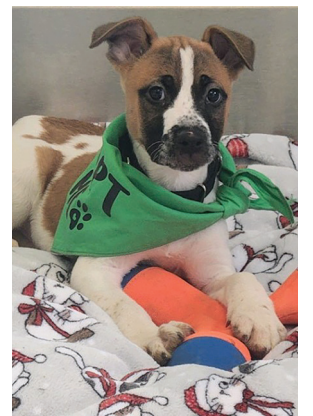
Oxbow—2-month-old. Neutered male. Pit bull mix.



Rue—5-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Crash—2-month-old. Neutered male. Pit bull mix.



Bernie—2-month-old. Neutered male. Pit bull mix.

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Cosmic Catalogue



Aries March 21 - April 20

Everyone has their own idea about wealth creation. Some people are scrappers, some people are savers. While others make risky investments, some prefer a safe bet. At the end of the day, it matters not so much how you get to a place of comfort, but the fact you get there. The tricky part is the decision making process. Whatever you choose to do, make sure you do what it is you want, and what you want only.

Leo July 21 - August 20

You were born to be a leader, not to be a sheep. So with that in mind, if you've been making choices based on popularity rather than policy – either at work or regarding your reputation, then you need to think twice. People tend to gravitate naturally to those who know who they are. Are those who bask themselves in your light fawning you or do they respect you? A few strong choices will separate friend from foe.

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

Everyone reaches their tipping point eventually. This week, you might just have to put your foot down about something. You have to be the adult in the room and say enough is enough. Sure you can do more, add a little something extra to your to-do list. Then what? Have a tantrum when you're exhausted and frustrated? You do have the option to either delete or delegate what you don't want to do. You'll feel better for it.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

Do you want to be liked or do you want to be happy? The price of conformity is that everyone likes you except yourself! This week, you have a rare opportunity to stand alone, to stand in truth and do what is right for you or what matters most to you. It's you that has to walk in your own skin. Shut out the noise, put your hand on your heart. Ask whomever it is you pray to for the most divine of guidance.

Virgo August 21 - September 20

It's totally OK, in fact, it's to be expected, that you might change your mind about something you said you once wanted. Maybe it's something to do with a study pathway, a destination you wanted to travel to or maybe it's spiritual or religious awakening that's prompting significant changes. Whatever is going on now, don't judge it. If you weren't changing, you wouldn't be growing and evolving. That is something you're meant to do.

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

It's OK to give yourself permission to try something new. After all, variety is the spice of life! How will you know what you even like unless you give it a go? As you explore new options and possibilities, you only open yourself up to new avenues of happiness and joy. Who doesn't want that? While you may be a traditionalist at heart, everything that is a tradition to you now was once a radical new idea.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

The best decisions don't always derive from logic and reason. More often than not, it's the inkling inside you, your intuition that speaks the loudest. This week, you may get the opportunity to make a choice that you can think about or the one that you simply feel guided by, for no other reason than you know it's right. Sometimes the best choices are made when you can't even explain why you made them.

Libra September 21 - October 20

A new move with your money is required this week, especially that of which is tied up with someone else. Whether you've joined forces in marriage with your soulmate or the marriage you're in has reached the end of the road, some decisions need to be made. This isn't the time to go with the flow and go along to get along. Stand up for yourself, what's right for you and what you feel comfortable with, even if that's short term discomfort.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

You've had your fair share of upsets and change on the home front. Much of this has certainly upset the foundation and comfort to which you grew accustomed. But, as we all know, comfort is rarely akin to progress. Seeing as you're in such a massive phase of personal change and transformation, your family life was destined to be extension of that. It's time for you to make some authentic choices based on these new realizations.

Cancer June 21 - July 20

It's not an easy realization to make when the authenticity of your friendships come into question. You value loyalty and longevity when it comes to those inside your circle. Sometimes though, ages, stages and situations in life reveal features you had never seen before. One the one hand, you don't have to throw out the baby with the bath water. On the other, a little distance might be wise at least for a while until you figure out your feelings.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

Once again, relationships are on your radar. If you're tired of the drama and just want a simple life, then it's up to you to either pull the pin or do something different. You may upset the apple cart initially, but ultimately, this is about finding fields which you can both graze upon together. You don't have to do things the way everyone else does when it comes to love. Do what's right for the two of you.

Pisces February 21 - March 20

It can be a good thing to break up some ingrained patterns and habits that you do on a day-to-day basis. While having a routine is a good thing for most people, sometimes breaking out of it or changing things up can give you a new lease on life. If you've been floating along and not feeling like you're gaining much traction, implementing a routine might be just what you need. In either case, make your daily rituals exciting.

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

Be the lion among the sheep

Sometimes, a situation can be so unbelievable, so stark or so out of your comfort zone, that it doesn't even fully register on your radar that it happened. Even when the blatantly obvious is right under your nose, you still don't see it. Even when those who know, those who speak from experience, the blind still refuse to see.

Some perspectives, some ideas, beliefs and points of view are so far from your known reality, your known experience, that your mind can't even begin to fathom it. So few people are willing to acknowledge the darker side of the humanity, including the darkness within. So ignorant to it they

are, that they prefer denial, excuses or whataboutisms.

They paint themselves in virtue. Position themselves in false light. Prefer herd mentality. Profess words they don't understand.

It's not easy to go against the grain of what you've been taught and told. To go against what everyone else is doing or saying. The hard thing and the right thing are usually the same thing. This week, the

chance to stand alone and to stand in truth will be a little bit easier.

Go against the flow. Be the lion among the sheep.



Cosmic
Catalogue
By Cassandra
Tyndall



Green Mountain
Tales
By Izzy Gieder

Dew

The grass sparkles as we walk to the car.
The dew flies from the bird's wings after they fly away.
My boots tap the freshly damp ground and leave imprints.
The wind blows my hair side to side.
Birds whistle and chirp in the distance.
The sun just opens its eyes to the world.
Good morning world, good morning.

May Whimsy



Bring on the season
Of quarry diving
And waterfalls
Mossy glens
Jazz festivals
The buzz of mosquitoes
in your ears
Campfires and the stars
In the velvet night.
Do you think it's okay
to take that
For granted or is it all an
Impossible dream
And I should just clean
the plate I have
Right, now and
Lick my lips?

By Meira Christine

It's that time of year.
Rhubarb's in season,
Spring fevered
Feminist movement
be damned
I'll make pie
If it pleases me
And chase men, too
No promises of pie though
Fork you!
Really serious about
That.
Just thankful the foolery of April is
Done with
And all of that
You-know-what

Native cherry trees: spring beauty, ecological gold

Each spring, cities from New York to Texas celebrate the spectacular blooming of ornamental cherry trees. In many cultures, the lovely, delicate pink and white cherry blossoms symbolize rebirth and renewal, as well as the fleeting nature of life. Beyond these showy cultivated trees, our region boasts three native cherry species, which are important in regeneration of disturbed forests and as a source of food and shelter for a variety of wildlife.



The Outside
Story
By Laurie D. Morrissey

New England's wild cherry trees share a genus (*Prunus*) with those cultivated beauties, but their flowers are more modest. Our region's native cherry species are black cherry, choke cherry, and pin cherry (also known as fire cherry). Members of the rose family, cherry trees are relatives of apple, pear, and plum, as well as woodland trees such as serviceberry and mountain ash. All three natives share a cherry fragrance and bitter almond taste derived from trace amounts of hydrogen cyanide. (If you're not sure whether you've found a cherry tree, break off a twig and give it a sniff or a taste.)

Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) is the largest of the native trio. In the Northeast, specimens grow individually and in small stands, often reaching heights of 50 to 60 feet. Because they are intolerant of shade, cherries often grow along stone walls and hedgerows. "It's not common in our mature forests except in enriched sites where leaves and soil nutrients accumulate from slopes above," Dave Anderson, senior director of education for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, said of black cherry. He noted that black cherry may also occur in second-growth hardwood forests.

Some of New Hampshire's oldest black cherry trees are taller than 80 feet, but the most impressive specimens grow in the Allegheny Plateau in Pennsylvania, where the species is prized for its timber value. Furniture makers and crafters appreciate the wood for its rich, reddish-brown color, hardness, and close grain. For use as lumber, cherry trees need to be straight-grained, disease-free, and without branches for at least 10 feet.

"The poor quality of New England soils lowers the quality of the black cherry timber compared with further south," Anderson said. "Here it's often marginal for timber and ends up in the firewood pile, except in the best sites."

In the Northeast, the black cherry's drooping spikes of flowers bloom in mid-May or early June, about a week after the leaves emerge. Even without its white flowers or tapered leaves, it is easy to identify this tree by its bark. The bark of young trees is reddish brown and has horizontal white marks called lenticels. The bark of mature

trunks is dark gray and broken into plates that are curved slightly upward at the edges. It is often described as looking like burnt cornflakes.

Pin and choke cherry are brushy trees that typically are not as long-lived as black cherry and rarely grow more than 30 feet tall. Like black cherry, they thrive in open areas with lots of sun, springing up in old fields and in forest areas that have been disturbed by logging, fire, or storms. These two species grow rapidly in such areas, Anderson said, and help to stabilize soil, allowing other tree species to eventually become established.

All three of our region's native cherry trees have attractive flowers and brilliant fall foliage, but their greatest virtue may be their value to wildlife. Renowned entomologist Doug Tallamy calls *Prunus* "ecological gold," and notes that cherry is second only to oak in supporting the terrestrial food web. Cherry trees provide food for mammals and birds, and they host more than 450 species of butterflies and moths, according to Tallamy. "Unfortunately, many people consider [cherry trees] weedy because they make so many fruits that germinate where people don't want them," he said. "People often turn their landscapers loose on them, cutting them all out."

Among the invertebrate species partial to black cherry trees are eastern tent caterpillars and fall webworms, which weave unattractive webs in the branches. In a high tent caterpillar year (a bonus for cuckoos, which are voracious caterpillar eaters), caterpillars can defoliate their host trees. Most trees survive the damage, however, and put out new leaves in the same season.

Given their role in regenerating forests and feeding the wildlife that lives there, cherry trees are definitely worth their weight in gold: ecological gold.

Laurie D. Morrissey is a writer who lives in Hopkinton, New Hampshire. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. *The Outside Story* is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



Europe or bust but it didn't seem just

Building a Killington dream lodge: Part 13



Mountain
Meditation
By Marguerite
Jill Dye

Dad was focused and totally devoted to building his Killington dream lodge each weekend. It became his life purpose and passion to build his heart-felt legacy for our family. His dedication was inspiring to behold.

Mom was committed (they were still married) but she had other interests, as well. She saved up money from teaching piano and planned a grand European adventure. Dad didn't want to go along. He had lived abroad as a child and traveled in Europe with the Naval Academy. He preferred to save his two week vacation from Foster Wheeler Corporation to work on his beloved ski lodge.

My brother Billie attended Bates College in Lewiston, Maine but was in France for his junior year.

"My major was skiing," Billie liked to joke from Grenoble in the heart of the French Alps.

Meditation → 28

It was 30 years ago today

I never dreamed of being a writer, I just happened to be in the right place at the right time.

It was an early morning in 1994, and I was standing in the composition department of the Mountain Times, having been hired the prior year as a part-time graphic artist. Computers were just coming onto the scene, and while I was keen to get behind one, because of my lack of technical skills I was relegated to the camera room and paste-up boards (two areas of production that the computer eventually killed).

At the time, two local writers, Barbara Carris and Mike Peters, had a combined movie review column called “Reel to Reel” — a he said/she said sort of piece. Each week the two would attend a local film and then give dueling opinions about whether or not it was worth seeing. It was a fun idea that provided a local departure to the “canned” movie reviews that were offered by national media outlets.

On this morning, a discussion was being held about Mike’s announcement that he no longer would be able to write his half of the review due to other commitments. Subsequently, the editor and publisher decided to begin an immediate search to find a replacement.

Before I realized what I was saying, I had interrupted the conversation to volunteer myself for the position, explaining that creative writing was one of my stronger subjects in college and that I went to the movies every week anyway. Truth be told, I was simply interested in making some extra money.

Because I already worked there and they were desperate for a solution before the next deadline, they agreed to let me

Before I knew it, I had unconsciously created an entirely unique column — more of a human interest piece that creatively segued into a brief opinion on a popular film.

fill in. The thought was that I could lend a hand until someone more suitable arrived on the scene.

That week I was scheduled to attend a screening of “Major League 2” starring Charlie Sheen. Not wanting to be in the dark about the “Major League” franchise and

committed to doing the best job I possibly could, I decided to rent the original “Major League” film on VHS (remember, this was 30 years ago).

After watching the video, I made a plan to catch the sequel the following night. I took copious notes during the film, trying my hardest to pick up on any subtle nuances that I could later turn into intelligent sounding points. In all honesty, I was deathly afraid that someone was going to see through my disguise, pegging me as some punkkid who didn’t know the first thing about writing a movie review (which is exactly what I was).

I wrote that first review on notepaper with a pencil and transferred it to the computer when I got to work the next day.

Barbara and I wrote the “Reel to Reel” review together for several more weeks until she quietly dropped out after her life also filled with other demands. From that point forward, the column was mine.

Initially, I wrote the column as a standard movie review, but after a few years and a couple hundred mass market films, I began to bore of the format. Personally, I hate knowing anything about a film before I go see it, so it felt strange to write a column that I would never want to read. That’s when I started to interject interesting or humorous stories that occurred while I was at the theater, while giving the details of the film less and less attention.

And that’s also when I changed the name of the column to “Reel to Reel” — the emphasis now being on the “real” part of the writing. Soon, I broadened this approach to include any event that seemed interesting enough to write about. And before I knew it, I had unconsciously created an entirely unique column — more of a human interest piece that creatively segued into a brief opinion on a popular film.

After a few more years and with this format securely in place, I decided to change the column’s name once again. “The Movie Diary” seemed a more appropriate label since most of what I write about revolves around the world that I live in. Movies just happen to be the common thread that keeps the stories tied together.

And for some strange and crazy reason, folks out there seem to enjoy it. This little column snuck up on me and became a poignant part of my life. Perhaps it snuck up on a few of you as well.

So, with all that said, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who reads or



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Absorbed and absorbing the moguls of Superstar

I couldn’t find my center of balance for the life of me. A few days off from skiing and I felt like a fish flopping about on dry land. I would get stuck in the rut and get launched upwards and then I could feel my weight slamming into the back of my boots. The cuff opening up so far, that I thought perhaps I was in walk mode. Then I would be ejected from the line across two or three, fearing that someone would be coming down the zipper and just slam into me before I could get my feet pulled back and underneath me, recovering into the new line.



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

It was a nightmare. Or a daymare. I couldn’t tell which it was for the moment. Had I forgotten how to ski the spring bumps of Superstar? Or had I forgotten how to ski altogether? Holy crap, I could feel my heart beat racing faster and faster, not from exertion but from the very idea of losing the movements. I mean, I know that menopause makes you forgetful, but I thought that was for like what you needed from the fridge or the grocery store, not the movements that are essentially the essence of your life.

So I stopped mid run. Which I rarely do, except for one of my athletes from Team PomPom. Anyways, I stopped. And I thought for a minute, working my way through all the pointers I had ever been given. I know I have to keep my feet underneath me, but why wasn’t it working? How could I make it work? I went through all my bad habits: I stand too tall and don’t rotate, I don’t flex my ankles enough and I straighten my downhill leg forcing my knee and hip to get slammed instead of absorbing the mogul.

These things I know how to fix, since they are all mental triggers more than anything else. I remind myself that Superstar isn’t steep, so there is no reason to lean up the hill and straighten the downhill leg. My shins and ankles control the direction of my skis, so I knew I was working that, even if it was sloppy. Ding! I was standing up. I was lazy. I wasn’t giving myself up to the mountain. I wasn’t surrendering. I wasn’t sinking.

And so I sank, deep into my hips and ankles, letting my knees come up to my chest to absorb the impact of the mogul below me. Pulling the ball of my foot up to engage my shin and take control of the front of my skis. To actually stack myself instead of just letting the feet move away from me. This isn’t easy cruising, this is body activated movement that all begins with getting

Living the Dream → 27

Remembering downtown pharmacists from yesteryear

When I saw the obituary for Lucian Wiskoski back in March I realized that he was the last of Rutland’s downtown pharmacists whom I had the pleasure of knowing from childhood into adulthood.

Back in the ‘50s five pharmacies were located in downtown Rutland. They were: Shangraw’s, Carpenter’s, Carroll Cut Rate, McClallen’s, and Beauchamp & O’Rourke. My father, Jim Whalen, worked at all of them except Carroll Cut Rate during his career.

Like most children I was curious about where my parents worked. My mother was a bookkeeper and my father was a pharmacist. I was able to visit both of their places of employment but a pharmacy was much more interesting than an office. The pharmacists had a very professional appearance as they all wore white coats. I knew my father’s job was to fill prescriptions that doctors had ordered. But I was definitely more interested in the soda fountains within some of the pharmacies than the medical aspect of the stores.

I was too young to remember my dad working at Shangraw’s but I recall meeting the owner, Bill Shangraw, later on when I went into the store with my father to drop off film from our camera.

Like many pharmacies they had a soda fountain that also served as a lunch counter.

My father transferred to Carpenter’s Pharmacy by 1952. He knew it would be a short stay as the owner, Bob Carpenter, had a nephew, Lucian Wiskoski, who would be joining him once he finished pharmacy school.

There was also a soda fountain in this store and it was a cherished spot where my friends and I would occasionally get an ice cream soda or a sundae after school. My father would treat us, of course! Bob’s daughter, Helen, who is a few years younger than I am, told me awhile back that if she happened to be in her dad’s pharmacy when a particular medicine was not in stock she was sent to one of the other downtown pharmacies to pick it up. It was common practice for them to provide medicine for

Looking Back → 31



Looking Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw



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← **Living the Dream:**
from page 25

low, letting the femur move upward from the hip socket.

There it was. All of a sudden, everything was playful again and I poured my soul down the mountain. Finally, I was able to stop thinking and just let my body do the movements that I have trained it to do over the course of the almost 5,000 days of my ski career.

It is magic, when everything finally pulls itself together and you just start flowing down the trail like water in a stream. You hear the hoots from the chairlift in your subconscious, but they really don't penetrate as your entire being, your entire existence is wrapped up in this one movement, this one moment. Like you have slipped into another world, another plane of existence that you only shake yourself out of when you see the two big orange signs at the bottom of Preston's Pitch.

It's almost a rude awakening, those signs. From the moment you slide onto the headwall, nothing exists but the mountain and you, with feelers out for those around you, of course. But you don't really see them or hear them, they are not in your little bubble. Not in your ski world. Only you. And your skis. Nothing else matters. Not the construction at the end of the road or the drama throughout the world. Nothing. You have escaped everything except the movements on your body.

Because if you don't, you'll be upside down with your skis above your head faster than you can think. You have to surrender. You have to be all in. There is no other way to go about it. No other way to perfectly match yourself to the mountain. No other way to let your soul fly free for the few minutes. So I get low, letting my body flow through and over the moguls. I am fluid. I am grace. I am a skier. I might need shorter poles, though.

Merisa Sherman is a full time Killington resident, local realtor, member of the Development Review Board, town lister and Coach PomPom. She can be reached at Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.



Views of the moguls on Superstar in spring at Killington Resort

By Merisa Sherman

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SUPERIOR COURT
ENVIRONMENTAL UNIT

DOCKET NO. 24-ENV-00038

In re: Town of Killington Infrastructure Project
J/O 1-456A

NOTICE OF APPEAL

NOW COMES The Town of Killington, by and through its counsel, MSK Attorneys, and pursuant to 10 V.S.A. §8504 and Rule 5 of the Vermont Rules for Environmental Procedure and hereby files this Notice of Appeal of Jurisdictional Opinion 1-456A dated April 30, 2024 attached hereto. Jurisdictional Opinion 1-456A concerns the construction of municipal improvements in Killington, Vermont. The Town is the owner of the project and property at issue and thus the Town is a party by right to file this appeal.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: In order to participate in this appeal, you must enter an appearance in the Vermont Environmental Court within twenty-one (21) days of receiving this Notice of Appeal. Notices of Appearance should be mailed to Jennifer Teske, Court Office Manager, Vermont Superior Court—Environmental Division, 32 Cherry Street, Suite 303, Burlington, VT 05401.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of May, 2024

MSK ATTORNEYS

By: /s/ A.J. LaRosa, Esq.
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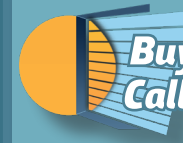
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← Meditation:

from page 24

His written and spoken French greatly improved, too. He was a ham when he spoke Français. He even had that French “Je ne sais quoi” and was asked directions by the French in the street.

Since Billie was already in Europe, Mom decided “it’s now or never” so moved ahead with our travel plans. She researched, orchestrated and crammed 12 nations and three principalities into six weeks.

She purchased a Volkswagen Rabbit from the factory in Germany for our neighbor in Montclair. Billie picked it up when he finished his studies then crossed the English Channel and drove to Southampton to pick us up.

We crossed the Atlantic on the *Aurelia*, the smallest ocean-going passenger vessel which Billie had also taken. He called the Italian student ship “a 10 day floating house party.”

Mom was the senior belle of the ball. Everyone knew her and wanted to speak with her. She was the only mother aboard. I was 14, a rising high school sophomore, but the college students thought I was their age. A friendly boy invited me on a date for dinner and a movie shipboard. I was elated, dressed up, and wore makeup. I felt like a grownup and had a ball.

We Dyes never made long distance calls except in an emergency. We sent postcards describing our adventures and how we wished Dad and Jack were there. We could imagine Dad in Vermont weekends working on projects with a friend he invited to accompany him so he’d be safer with the construction.

Our European trip went by so fast you’d miss a country if you blinked your eyes. It was a whirlwind tour like Doris Day’s “If It’s Tuesday, It Must Be Belgium.” I reveled in our thrilling voyage but also felt it wasn’t fair. It didn’t seem right we were traveling in Europe while Dad was still working and my older brother Jack was in Vietnam.

Mom needed our European sojourn

then—as a distraction from the constant worry. She was stoic and didn’t show fear. She carried on as if things were normal.

She later admitted, “Every time the phone rang or someone knocked on the door, my heart stopped. My nerves were shot for the two years Jack served in Vietnam.”

While studying forestry at the University of New Hampshire, Jack was in the ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps). Upon graduation, he entered the Army as a lieutenant (and later became a captain). He trained in parachute jump school and jungle warfare in the swamps of Georgia before he was sent to Vietnam.

Jack wasn’t fighting. He built bridges and roads in the Army Engineer Corps. But he wasn’t spared the violence and terror of serving there during the war.

“We couldn’t distinguish Vietnamese people from the Viet Cong in our compound, so we never knew who was friend or foe. We were stationed across the street from Vietnam’s largest ammo dump. Explosions were frequent. When they occurred, I dove under my thatched-roof hut onto the ground. I’ll never forget the day I found an anaconda staring back at me.”

Jack was blessed. He came back alive but was forever changed. When he heard a car backfire on the street, he dove under his bed, ridden with anxiety. Like other soldiers throughout the ages, my brother was traumatized and never quite the same.

Jack joined us in Vermont before beginning his new life. He was impressed with Dad’s progress and helped a lot. Vermont became his special retreat for peace and solace surrounded by nature. Jack taught me the names of trees on our land and returned most years to help Mom and Dad.

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



By Marguerite Jill Dye

My brother Jack Dye in his element in Vermont, at Thundering Brook just before it enters Kent Pond



Submitted

← Overdoses decrease:

from page 7

each life lost is one too many, and the state must continue pushing forward. “The progress we have made is encouraging. It means we are on the right track, but we are far from out of the woods,” said Dr. Levine. “The opioid crisis is fraught with challenges, including a heinous industry intent on finding new ways to trap people into the dangerous

pains, KnowOD, and VTHelplink, a free and confidential support and referral service, available 24/7.

The department is also working to expand harm reduction programs throughout communities, including test strip use and the statewide naloxone distribution program, which helps ensure people

have ready access to the potentially life-saving medication.

“Public health response and behavior change efforts take time, so we are taking action where we can now,

Cocaine involvement in deaths

significantly increased in 2023 (from 48% to 61%) and remains the second most common drug involved in fatal overdoses.

world of substance use and addiction.”

Fentanyl continues to be the number one substance involved in opioid-related deaths, accounting for 95% of opioid fatalities in 2023. Xylazine was involved in 32% of fatal overdoses in 2023, up from 28% in 2022. Cocaine involvement in deaths significantly increased in 2023 (from 48% to 61%) and remains the second most common drug involved in fatal overdoses.

Health and public safety officials emphasize that despite the important gains made through harm reduction education and programs, it’s critically important for people to know there is no way to guarantee illicit drugs are safe. Even test strips that can detect adulterants cannot identify all the substances that may be present.

“You simply can’t know what’s in a street drug, but we do know they are extremely dangerous, and that the risk of a fatal overdose is very high and always present,” said Dr. Levine.

The report’s findings highlight the life-and-death importance of knowing what to do in the event of an overdose. If an overdose is suspected, always call 9-1-1, and give naloxone and start rescue breathing. If non-opioid drugs are involved, naloxone alone may not be effective and additional medical help will be needed.

The Health Dept. is continuing coordinated efforts with partners to expand access to community-level prevention, recovery and treatment services, including through the hub and spoke system of care, and with outreach, such as its anti-stigma cam-

and simultaneously working to enhance our system of care for the long-term,” Dr. Levine said.

Anyone who uses opioids, and those who know or may be with them, are urged to follow these important harm reduction strategies to prevent a tragedy:

- Call 911—in case of a possible overdose. Naloxone may not work in all cases. Vermont’s Good Samaritan Law provides some protection for people who have overdosed and those who call 911 in case of an overdose emergency.
- Never use alone—if you overdose while alone, you can die.
- Go slow—start with a small amount to test drug strength.
- Use new syringes—to reduce risk of infections and help to protect vein health.
- Test for fentanyl—fentanyl can be dangerous, so test with easy-to-use strips.
- Carry naloxone—Narcan® nasal spray can reverse an overdose.
- Contact VTHelplink.org online or call 802-565-LINK (toll-free 833-565-LINK) to connect to confidential alcohol or drug treatment and other support services, and to get naloxone and test strips.
- Know the signs of an overdose and find more information about opioid use disorder, prevention and treatment, at HealthVermont.gov/ KnowOD.

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← **Ethics:**
from page 7

strong ethics code at the municipal level,” Hardy said, adding that the bill would help ensure communities “have accountability for local officials.”

In addition to creating a new ethics code, H.875 would authorize the Vermont State Ethics Commission to issue guidance to municipal officials on handling local ethics complaints.

Right now, the commission has no authority to even take on these complaints, said Christina Sivret, its executive director, in an interview Friday, May 10. She supported the bill.

Hardy told her colleagues that the ethics commission and the Vermont Secretary of State’s Office get more than 80 complaints a year alleging local ethics violations — more than the number of complaints they receive about state-level officials.

Notably, though, H.875 would require municipalities — not the state commission — to investigate complaints

lodged under the new local ethics code and develop possible remedies to them. That’s in part because the commission doesn’t have the resources to take on the additional work stemming from the local level, Sivret said.

The bill would also require municipalities to store records on those complaints and report back to the state commission, as well as require local leaders, such as city and town managers, to take occasional training on the new local ethics standards.

One key stakeholder — the Vermont League of Cities and Towns — has testified to lawmakers that the requirements in the bill would create too much of a burden on already slammed public servants. Ted Brady, the organization’s executive director, said he supported the spirit of the new ethics standards but believed the bill doesn’t give municipalities enough resources to enforce them.

“It’s a bunch of unfunded mandates,” Brady said May

10, adding that the bill “doesn’t give towns or cities any recourse to deal with unethical behavior.”

H.875 would also give the state commission new powers. For alleged violations under the existing code of ethics for state officials, the panel would be able to investigate cases, hold hearings and issue warnings and reprimands, according to the bill. The panel can now only issue advisory opinions regarding state officials’ conduct.

Another measure, meanwhile, would create penalties for candidates for state and county offices who are late in filing their financial disclosure forms.

The new municipal code of ethics would go into effect on Jan. 1, 2025, which Hardy said should give towns time to prepare for the new requirements. Some other provisions in the bill would go into effect later that year or in 2026.

Both the Senate and House agreed to a final version of the legislation on Friday. In the Senate, the vote was 18 to 10; in the House, it was 93 to 33.

For more information and the full text of the bill, visit: Legislature.Vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/H.875.

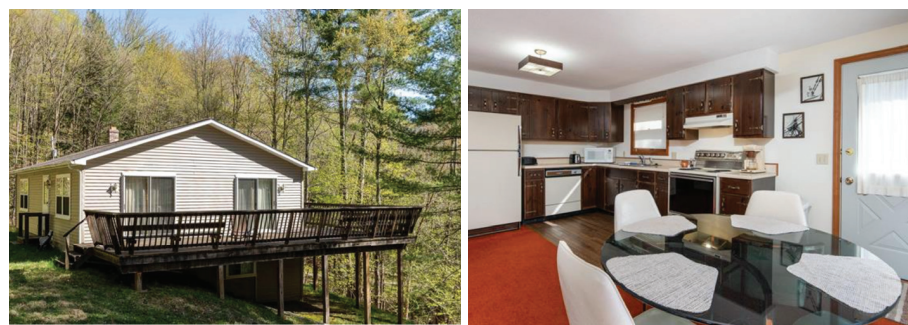
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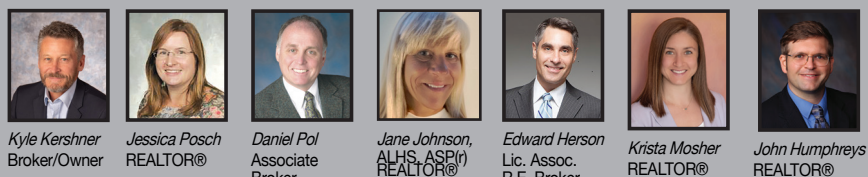


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← Looking Back:

from page 25

one another when needed.

By 1955 my father was working at McClallen's Pharmacy. The owners, Charlie and Winnie, were parents to my classmate, Charles McClallen. I interviewed Winnie for an article I was writing several years ago and she told me that before they went to school her children helped to make sandwiches for the lunch counter in the store. When my dad worked there I also enjoyed treats from that soda fountain.

In 1956 my father relocated to Beauchamp & O'Rourke Pharmacy. There was no soda fountain at this store. Its focus was on pharmacy related items with an exception being the candy counter by the cash register. Even though there was no soda fountain I still had a good reason to visit the store when I attended Mount St. Joseph Academy from 1958 to 1962. I often walked from school to downtown and the pharmacy was a handy place to leave my books as I "made the rounds" of the stores nearby.

Fred Beauchamp and Bill O'Rourke, who were the founders of the pharmacy, were both working in the store when my father was there. I remember them being so nice to me and always visiting about things that were of interest

to me. Bill's daughter, Anne, was a couple of years ahead of me in school. Fred's son, the late Bob Beauchamp, was also a pharmacist at the downtown store during that time period. In my adult life I often had conversations with Bob when I was a customer at the store's current location on Woodstock Avenue. We reminisced about the days when my father worked in the downtown store. He remembered my father saying that Woodstock Avenue would be a good location for a pharmacy. No doubt my dad felt that way because it was only a few streets from home and there would be no parking problems! Bob also told me some stories about my father and how kind he was to everyone. Hearing that as an adult meant a lot to me as my father died when I was in college so I didn't have any "adult time" to get to know him.

Each time I am at the cash register of Beauchamp & O'Rourke on Woodstock Avenue I get to see a picture of the pharmacists from the Merchants Row location. They are all wearing white coats and my father is on the left. Memories live on through photos...especially in printed format and in a frame!

← Movie Diary:

from page 25

has read this column over the last 30 years. It's always been a pleasure and an absolute honor to have people value what you do, and hearing from readers over the years is one of the main reasons I keep it up.

I think it's fitting that this week's film is "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" since one of the most profound moments in my life (and one of the main reasons I fell in love with film) happened during the last scene from the original "Planet of the Apes." When Charlton Heston stops on the beach and sees the Statue of Liberty deteriorating into the surf (which alerts the viewer to the fact that he's on Earth and not another planet), my young mind was blown. From then on, I was addicted to the power of film.

If you're a fan of the series and impressed with the other recent reboots, give this new selection a try. It's a little loose on the story elements, but still a worthy addition to the franchise.

A reliable "B" for "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes," now playing in theaters everywhere.

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



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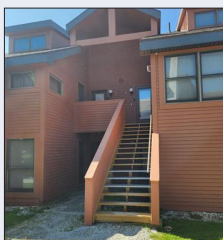
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