



## MOUNTAIN BIKE SEASON BEGINS! CHECK CONDITIONS

Trail networks throughout the region are now open for hiking and biking! But check the condition reports before heading out. Some trails are closed to prevent damages.

## STEVE FINNERON STEPS DOWN FROM KILLINGTON SB

Selectman Steve Finneron has resigned from the Killington Select Board for health reasons. The town will soon ask for letters of interest from those interested in filling the position on the board.



## GREEN UP SATURDAY

Grap some Green Up trash bags and clean up roads and waterways.



## MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

Star Wars fans of all ages and abilities are invited to the Pine Hill Park trails Saturday, May 4 for the annual Jedi Trails event.

## Blasting to begin on Killington Road this week

Work to resume on East Mountain Road next week, delays expected

Staff report

With warmer weather in the forecast this week, Markowski Excavating, Inc. will continue excavation at the base of Killington Road up to Anthony Way. However, this week they'll likely start blasting ledge that they encountered.

"Last week, we received a couple loads of blasting mats," wrote Markowski Excavating, Inc. in a news release. "This week a rock drill will arrive on site and drilling will commence. Once on site, we will start preparing for blasting either by the end of the week or start of the following depending on the schedule for the driller's arrival. During blasting activities, expect intermittent delays on Route 4 and Route 100. Traffic will be stopped for 10 minutes during the blasting. This will happen once a day.

Traffic will be stopped for 10 minutes during the blasting.

Road work → 4



By Jason Mikula

The west side of Killington Road is dug out, blasting to come.

## Killington Town offices plan move in June

Renovations scaled back due to budget, timeline

By Polly Mikula

At town meeting day in 2023 voters approved \$1.6 million to purchase and renovate the property at 2046 Route 4 to become the new Town Hall (the building that houses the Post Office.)

Now, over a year later, that plan will begin to take shape, Town offices → 2

## After Vermont Senate rejects Zoie Saunders, Gov. Scott names her interim education secretary

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

After a lengthy and dramatic debate Tuesday morning, April 30, the Vermont Senate voted against the confirmation of Zoie Saunders as state education secretary — but the fight over her appointment appeared far from finished.

Saunders needed a majority of the 29-member Senate to approve her appointment, but 19 senators opposed it. Nine voted in favor of her confirmation. One senator was absent.

Tuesday's vote was the first time in recent memory that the body rejected a nominee for a cabinet-level position.

The result was a striking blow to Gov. Phil Scott, whose administration lobbied heavily for Saunders' confirmation. But immediately after the vote, he made clear that he was not ready to back down.

In a press release issued shortly after the Senate denied her confirmation, Scott said he had appointed Saunders interim secretary of education.

"I'm confident she is the leader we need as we move forward," he said in a written statement. "In her short time at the Agency, she has identified challenges, which she is already addressing, including mobilizing support to help stabilize operations in the field in collaboration with education leaders."

Scott did not indicate whether he would formally nominate Saunders again, which would presumably prompt another Senate vote, or whether he intended for her to serve in an interim capacity in perpetuity.

Scott's press release suggest that he expects Saunders to remain in the role for at least the foreseeable future. It included Ed secretary → 4

Tuesday's 9-19 vote was the first time in recent memory that the body rejected a nominee for a cabinet-level position.

## Vermont among top in nation for preschool enrollment, quality

National report ranks Vermont second in the U.S. for 3-year-old education, sixth for 4-year-olds

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) released its annual State of Preschool report, which tracks preschool enrollment, funding, and quality across states. The 2023 State of Preschool Yearbook found that, in the 2022-2023 school year:

Vermont served 71% of the state's 3-year-olds and 64% of 4-year-olds in state-funded preschool, for a total combined enrollment of 8,334 (an increase of 793 from the prior year).

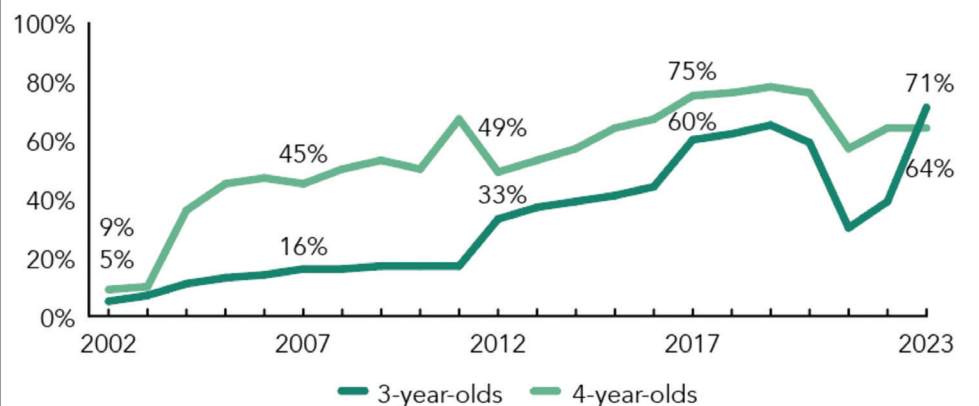
State spending totaled \$68,702,087, up \$9,832,410 (17%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$8,244 in 2022-2023, up \$437 from 2021-2022, adjusted for inflation.

Vermont met 7 of 10 research-based quality standards benchmarks for minimum quality recommended by NIEER.

A new statewide committee was created by legislation in 2023 to study the implementation of Vermont's universal preschool program and make recommendations for increasing equitable access and quality. The committee is expected to report to the Legislature later this year.

"This report highlights the critical role of early education in Vermont," said Vermont interim Secretary of Education Zoie Saunders. "Vermont is committed to early education, and we are proud that our universal prekindergarten program is preparing Vermont's youngest learners for success in school. Our goal is to continue to strengthen our cradle-to-career education system."

"Vermont is one of only a handful of states Top pre-K → 30



Courtesy NIEER

The chart shows the percent of Vermont's population by age enrolled in its preschool programs from 2002 to 2023. Since Act 166 of 2014, which mandated 10 hours of universal pre-K for all 3 to 5-year-olds for 35 weeks a school year, there has been a notable increase.



Courtesy KPAA

Beth Sarandrea, owner of Liquid Art, and woodworker Tyson Andrew proudly display how much was raised at the art auction benefiting the Neil family. Sal Salmeri, owner of Mogul's up the hill, contributed an additional \$3,500.

## \$16,600 raised at art auction and pig roast for Neil family, Sunday

On Sunday, April 28, Liquid Art hosted an art auction to support the Neil family who's Killington house burned down Jan. 24.

Liquid Art's Beth Sarandrea, the whimsical wood wizard Tyson Andrews, and a host of talented local artists outdid themselves with creative contributions raising \$13,166. Additionally, Mogul's owner Sal Salmeri contributed \$3,500 from the annual Mogul's Pig Roast (which also doubled as his retirement party this year) — a very generous donation! Together, \$16,600 was raised.

### OBITUARY

## Judith Hawley, 71

Judith Hawley, 71, passed peacefully on April 3, 2024, in her Pittsfield home with her family by her side.

Judy was born on Dec. 24, 1952, the daughter of Vernon "Bud" and Kathryn (Feerick) Bonin. She was a graduate of Whitcomb High School in Bethel, Vermont. She attended college at Castleton University and St. Joseph's College, earning a master's degree in education. She worked as a teacher for many years.

She loved her gardens, birds, the ocean, and most of all her grandchildren. You could always find her enjoying the back porch where she spent much of her time.

Survivors include her husband, Andrew Hawley; son Caleb (wife Coral) Hawley and her grandchildren Tucker and Tessa.

She is predeceased by both parents and her sister Jeanne Rooney in 2023.

There will be a celebra-



Submitted

Judith Hawley

tion of life in Pittsfield on June 1, 2024. A short remembrance will be held at 4070 Route 100 in Pittsfield followed by a gathering at the Pittsfield Town Hall located on the green. Light refreshments will be served. Details to follow at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Clifford Funeral Home.

Judy Hawley had a soft spot for helping animals in need. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution may be made to the Rutland County Humane Society located at 765 Stevens Rd., Pittsford, VT 05763.

### ← Town offices: ..... from page 1

albeit not how it was originally envisioned.

"We're backing off on the scope of renovation," Town Manager Michael Ramsey explained in an interview April 30. "No bids were formally submitted due to the timeframe in which we were looking, but in a pre-bid meeting, the town received an estimate that was over a million dollars—about twice what we budgeted for," he said. "So we're just having to go with a plan B."

Plan B is to do minimal renovations in-house on the upstairs portion where the town manager and admin staff will be located, such that they can begin to move in June.

That work includes cleaning the carpets, replacing the light fixtures, and moving existing furniture over, Ramsey explained.

For the interim, the clerk's office and vault will remain at the old town offices.

"What we're going to do to stay within the budget of \$600,000 is to reduce the scope of the project," Ramsey explained. "We'll put only the downstairs portion — the clerk's office and vault — and stairway, back out to bid."

Original architectural designs were planned out for both upstairs and downstairs renovations.

"It's not going to be the Taj MaHal," said Ramsey. "But I'm really excited for the move. We need it. We're busting at the seams in the office, right now... I'm not against an open floor plan but we're packed a little too densely," he added.

As soon as the administrative staff moves into the space above the Post Office, the old town office space on River Road will become available for seniors and the recreation dept. to use, Ramsey said.

"It should be a fluid transition," he added.

"We're busting at the seams in the office, right now," said Ramsey.

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# New bill set to outlaw breaking into people's cars — or trying to steal them

## The bill would fill what supporters say is a gap in the law

By Norah White, Community News Service

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

Entering another person's vehicle without their consent — or attempting to steal it — will be a crime under a bill moving through the Legislature.

The bill, H.563, has been in the works since the beginning of the pandemic and moved to the Senate after it passed the House April 25.

The bill would fill what supporters

say is a gap in the law.

Right now, if someone enters your car, rummages around and leaves without taking anything, they haven't committed a crime.

"It's a very common sense thing that shouldn't be allowed," co-sponsor Rep. Thomas Oliver, R/D-Burlington, said in a House judiciary committee meeting Feb. 8.

"People view their car as no different than a room in their house, and I think they have a right to feel that way," Oliver said.

Under the details of the bill, a person who enters another's motor vehicle without consent faces up to 3 months in prison or up to \$500 in fines. Repeat offenders could see up to a year in prison and the same fine.

Motor vehicle thefts in Vermont increased by about 250% between 2016 and 2022, rising from 173 offenses to 605, according to data collected by the FBI. South Burlington's police chief told WCAX in March the city had seen a 425% jump in car theft reports

Outlaw break-ins → 11



Submitted

# Rutland Area Robotics achieved new milestone at championship in Houston

Rutland Area Robotics' IBOTS FRC team 2370 achieved a program milestone at the 2024 Championship in Houston, Texas, by winning their division (Hopper) and reaching the World Series of robotics competition, the Einstein Finals.

Rutland Area Robotics' IBOTS alliance of four teams placed fourth in a field of more than 600 FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition) teams who attended the World Championship.

FIRST organizers reported April 24 that from April 17-20, "50,000 people gathered to celebrate youth robotics teams from 58 countries at the 2024 FIRST Championship"

There are 4,000 FRC teams worldwide.

"Under strict rules and limited time and resources, teams of high school students are challenged to build industrial-size robots to play a

difficult field game in alliance with other teams, while also fundraising to meet their goals, designing a team 'brand,' and advancing respect and appreciation for STEM within the local community," FIRST organizers explained. "Combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology FIRST Robotics Competition is the ultimate sport for the mind. High-school student participants call it 'the hardest fun you'll ever have.' It's as close to real-world engineering as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team. Each season ends with an exciting FIRST Championship."

Dan Roswell, Rutland Area Robotics president and lead mentor said, "We are very proud of the skills and passion that our team brought to the playing field. Our goal is to create

excitement for science, technology, engineering, and math. Robotics team members are

our future engineers, the people that will meet the challenges of an everchanging demand

for a highly skilled workforce, one that will drive the success of families, communities, and the economy."

Team member and graduating senior Margo Thompson pointed out, "I don't think I would be the person I am today or in the place I am today without Rutland Area Robotics."

"We are always looking for new members, mentors, and sponsors," Roswell added. "Special thanks to our local sponsors, GE Aerospace volunteers, Alderman's, Timco Jewelers, Stafford Technical Center, VELCO, Killington Resort and all of our mentors and volunteers. Onward to the competition in 2025!"

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## MOUNTAIN TIMES

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# State receives record demand for maple grants

Rutland's Idle Hour Maple farm was one of 11 maple producers selected

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAF) has awarded over \$540,000 in grants to maple producers and processors through the Maple Agriculture Development Grants program, the agency announced April 26. Eleven producers, ranging in size from 500 to 30,000 taps, received funds for operational efficiency, food safety, and climate resilience improvement projects.

"Maple is critical to Vermont and these grants will make it more affordable for producers in our state," said Governor Phil Scott. "Making long term investments like this will allow maple producers to expand and thrive. Vermont is number one in quality and quantity in maple production and it's important we continue to support our maple producers however we can."

The response to these grants was overwhelming. In November of 2023, the Agency received over 350 applications exceeding \$18 million in requested funds—the single highest number of applications for a grant program in Agency history. The Agency followed a thorough and in-depth review process leveraging expertise from 60+ maple experts, technical assistance providers, and agricultural business professionals from Vermont, New York, and Maine.

Acting on the recommendation of Governor Scott's Future of Agriculture Commission, this first-time program will help grow, develop, and sustain maple, produce, and meat businesses throughout the state. This year's awards represent the largest ever state investment in maple producers.

"These investments are important to the maple industry. We are fortunate to have these dollars for maple producers so they can continue to grow their operations," said Anson Tebbetts, Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture. "We are grateful the governor included these grants in his budget."

Tebbetts announced the grant awards at the Vermont Maple Festival in St. Albans. The annual event celebrates all things Vermont Maple, bringing together maple vendors, producers, food and more, all recognizing the importance of the Vermont maple industry.

Feedback from maple industry stakeholders—including representatives from producer associations, research institutions, and business viability programs—informed the Agency in the development of the grant program.

Eligible projects were required to address one of four program objectives: business sustainability, business efficiency, climate-change resilience or mitigation, or food safety and/or product quality. Selected projects will produce a range of outcomes, including but not limited to improved production efficiency, improved climate resilience, increased sap purchasing/processing, lead remediation, reduced labor, and achievement of Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association Sugarhouse Certification. Projects will run through mid-2025.

The only awardee in Rutland or Windsor County was Idle Hour Maple (located at 1911 North Grove St. Rutland), which will receive \$22,669 for installation of vacuum monitoring system for steep sloped operation.



By Arra Derderian

The Killington Street Hockey League hosts games every Sunday morning at the Johnson Rec Center in Killington.

## Killington Rec's new Street Hockey League welcomes new players each week

The first week in the Killington Street Hockey League, Sunday, April 21, the Fireballs topped the Meteors with a single goal late in sudden death overtime. Rutland's Liam Bradley scored to take his team to victory. Both teams played each other very tight the entire game with a few missed opportunities on each end.

In the second week, April 28, the Firecrackers played the Superstars.

"The team sizes doubled and we had 20 kids show up to play at the Killington basketball court," said coach

Arra Derderian enthusiastically.

The Firecrackers won 6-3. Big saves were made by Firecrackers goalie Ben Reed and multiple scores were tallied by Kelvin and Zita Fisko.

Local Dad Josh Reed said "I am impressed by how much poise and execution I have seen by these young kids today."

"The Superstars showed a lot of grit this week from the Du Bois and O' Leary girls along with Preston Bigelow and Milo McComb. They kept it close for most of the game, but in the end the Fire-

crackers defense led by Emily Derderian and Zoe Karr made it difficult for them to score," coach Derderian recounted.

Action continues next week as the teams continue their quest for the Killington Cup.

Games are every Sunday morning at 10-11 a.m. from April 21 through June 16 at the Johnson Recreation Center in Killington. Kids in 1st grade and older are encouraged to register and join in on the fun!

For more information, visit: [killingtonvt.myrec.com](http://killingtonvt.myrec.com).

### ← Road work: ..... from page 1

A time during the day has yet to be determined, but we will attempt to keep it consistent daily."

This week the installation of the future waterline that will extend along the west edge of the road will also begin.

Work for the following week, starting May 6, blasting will likely happen daily.

"We will be excavating more rock than dirt at this junction of the project as well," the release continued. "The waterline will continue to progress up the hill with sand and gravels for the road base ... In addition, some sewer line installation and structures will be installed along the intersection of Route 4 and the Access Road."

The base of Killington Road where it intersects with Route 4 will remain closed into July.

#### East Mountain Road

Craig Mosher, owner of Mosher Excavating, announced Tuesday, April 30 that work would again resume on East Mountain Road next week.

Mosher was selected by the Select Board to coordinate the repair of East Mountain Road and its offshoots after the severe flooding that wiped out sections of the road last July.

More details of the repairs and timeline will be available next week, Mosher said, but added that folks could "expect some delays to begin next week"

### ← Ed secretary: ..... from page 1

a detailed "100-day plan" for her tenure.

Since Scott appointed Saunders to the position in March, she faced scrutiny over her background as an executive at Charter Schools USA, a for-profit corporation based in Florida. A variety of groups — including the state teachers' union and the Progressive and Democratic parties — came out against her confirmation. Last week, the Senate Education Committee recommended her confirmation in a 3-2 vote.



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Zoie Saunders speaks at her confirmation hearing before the Senate Education Committee at the Statehouse.

# Bald eagles are back, but great blue herons paid the price

By Olivia Wilson, Community News Service

*Editor's note: Olivia Wilson is a reporter with Community News Service, part of the University of Vermont's reporting and documentary storytelling program.*

After years of absence, the most patriotic bird in the sky returned to Vermont — but it might've come at another's expense.

Vermont finally took the bald eagle off of its endangered species list in 2022 following years of reintroduction efforts starting in the 2000s. Since that reintroduction, researchers have concerns about the relation between the bald eagles' rise and a receding blue heron population in the state.

"Much like many predator reintroductions, there are controversies and conflicting views in the bald eagle project," said Allan Strong, dean of University of Vermont's Rubenstein School and professor in the wildlife and fisheries biology program.

"Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge has reported that their blue heron populations have dramatically dropped," he said. "Bald eagles are not killing these birds, but rather they are bullying and harassing them out of their territories in Vermont."

### Revival efforts

Since the late 1970s, a number of states across the Northeast added the bald eagle to their endangered species lists and began the work to take it back off. Vermont, however, took a while to catch up.

In 2003, Vermont was the only state in the lower 48 without any breeding bald eagles. A year later, the Vermont Dept. of Fish & Wildlife launched a three-year reintroduction project at a wildlife management area in Addison County. By 2006, 29 young eagles were back in the sky.

Today there are 45 bald eagle breeding pairs (couples) being monitored, said Margaret Fowle, the senior conservation biologist at Audubon Vermont, who took charge of the

state's eagle efforts around 15 years ago.

"Once they started to come, they really started to expand and do really well," Fowle said. "It just took a while to get them here."

The threatened status for bald eagles ends at around 19 nests producing an average of 19 young, Fowle said. The amount it takes to remove them from the endangered species list is around 28 nests, producing an average of 28 young. The population in Vermont met that goal when Audubon Vermont observed over 40 pairs in the state in 2022. The species was officially delisted in February that same year.

But amid all the excitement, researchers are asking the question: Are we trading one bird's prosperity for another?

### Falling herons

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (7,232 acres bordering Canada in the Northwest corner of the state) has been known for its prosperous great blue heron population. This time of year, many people travel across state lines to kayak and look for the heron before the trees fully fill in for summer.

But now they may be harder to find.

A Vermont Fish & Wildlife report on species conservation from 2015 warned that bald eagles were a potential threat to the great blue heron population.

"Attempted predation by bald eagles is suspected of causing colony abandonment," the report said. "Potential eagle nesting near colony sites could result in the loss of the colony."

"Since that 2012 nest occurred, we had a complete crash of our great blue heron rookery, which had a high of over 400 nests, and an average of 275 or 300 nests per year," said Ken Sturm, the wildlife refuge manager at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. He added, "Since that time, they've plummeted, and we had several years with very low numbers of nests."

The number of great blue heron nests

dropped from 410 in 2011 to 150 in 2012, according to data provided by Sturm. A year after that first eagle nest emerged in Missisquoi, the herons attempted to set up a new rookery, or gregarious bird breeding colony, in a different location. But they quickly abandoned it, and in 2019, the population fell again, to the lowest it's ever been: 12 nests.

### Potential for harmony

Sturm said a similar thing happened in the Pacific Northwest a few decades ago. The reintroduction of the bald eagles into ecosystems there completely disrupted the great blue heron rookeries. The herons left their nests abandoned.

Over time, however, he said the herons began nesting closer to well-established bald eagle nests, and the results proved positive.

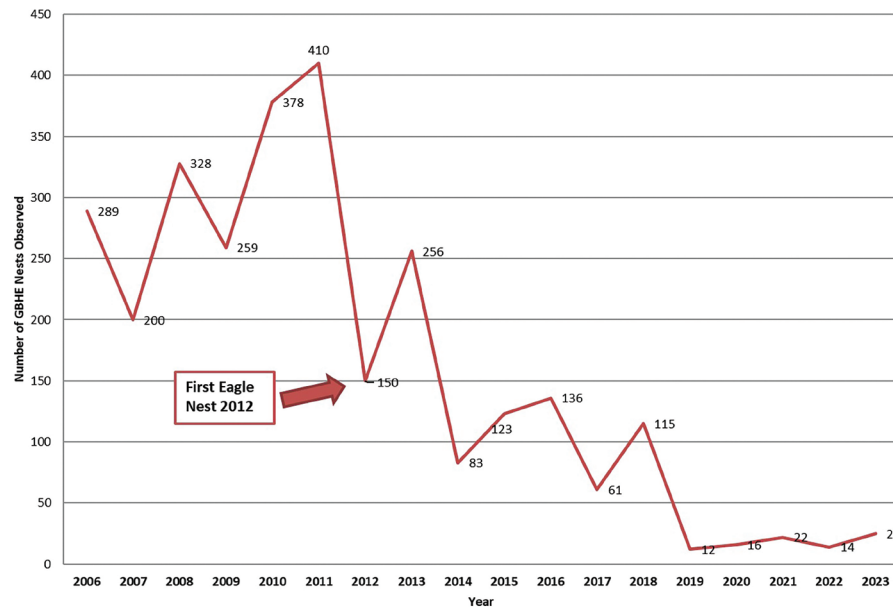
A 2013 article published in Canadian Science analyzed the effects of great blue herons

nesting near bald eagles. It found that "70% of heron nests and 19% of heron colonies were located within 200 meters of eagle's nests with high reproductive success. These herons had greater reproductive success than those nesting far from eagles' nests."

To Sturm, bald eagles defend their territory like territorial gangs — if you're in their neighborhood, you automatically have a layer of protection.

Does that have a chance of playing out at Missisquoi? It's unclear, but Sturm thinks there's potential for future growth.

"In theory we could even have three or two other rookeries established near those other eagle nests and have a much larger heron population on the refuge than we do now," said Sturm. "To me, that's the real interesting part of this whole story, not just the fact that the eagles came and the herons left, but this dynamic predator exclusion."



Courtesy VTF&W

Great Blue Heron nests on Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge 2006-2023 have declined.

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Learn More

# Slow down, you're on camera! Bill would put speed cameras in work zones

By Holly Sullivan, Community News Service

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

Ever whizzed through a work zone when it seems no one is looking? Even with no cops around, your speeding could get you a ticket if a bill this session becomes law.

S.184 would put automated law enforcement cameras in work zones on Vermont's limited-access highways, such as Interstates 89 and 91, where speeds are higher and drivers can be more reckless. The camera rigs can read speeds, and if one catches you driving more than 10 mph over the limit, it takes a photo of your license plate. Within 30 days, you'll get a ticket in the mail.

The first violation would yield only a warning, but if you're caught again, you'd be charged \$80. A third offense

and onward comes with a \$160 fine. The bill says cameras would only be on while crews are out in the work zone.

Lawmakers are framing S.184 — now in the House after passing the Senate last month — as a 16- to 18-month pilot program. Over that span, officials would track how the public responds to automated law enforcement, as well as its impact on road safety.

The bill is partially a response to the death of James Alger, a Vermont traffic flagger hit and killed by a vehicle in 2019.

"Speeding is a factor in 41% of traffic fatalities in Vermont compared to 29% nationally," said Omar Masood, director

of state government relations for lobbying group Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, in an April 10 meeting. "Each death is a family member, friend and valued community member who has needlessly died in a preventable crash."

Multiple states have adopted similar legislation. Elizabeth Keyes, chief of legal and regulatory affairs for Connecticut Department of Transportation, Zoomed into the Statehouse on April 4, recapping Connecticut's experience with its law.

"People are driving faster, cars are being made heavier, it's taking longer for them to stop or slow down," Keyes said.

Speed cameras → 10

If cameras catch you driving more than 10 mph over the limit, the rig takes a photo of your license plate and you'll get a ticket in the mail.

## Could be a bumpy ride?

The last few weeks of the legislative session often contain a bit of the theater, eureka moments, surprises, and just plain old disagreements. With the legislature scheduled to adjourn on May 10, the next two weeks could prove interesting. Major legislation, such as the state budget, education property tax rates, higher electric costs related to the renewable energy standard, safe injection sites, Act 250 changes and housing initiatives are in various stages of passage with differences still needing to be resolved.

On Friday, April 26, the House disagreed with the Senate version of the state budget, H.883, and sent the measure to a conference committee of three House and three Senate members to work out the differences. Conferees need to be cognizant of concerns the governor may have or risk a veto. Last year the Legislature enacted its own budget by overriding Scott's veto, which he felt increased spending too much.

The Senate version of the budget includes a new streaming tax and increases on registration fees on securities, such as mutual funds. It also caps the number of rooms allowed for the hotel voucher program; a provision opposed by advocates for the homeless. It adds new positions in the Judiciary to help with the criminal case backlog and 15 new positions in the Dept of Environmental Conservation to support the work in another bill, S.213, protection of river corridors.

Another bill approved by the Senate, S.258, is facing opposition from various hunting and fishing advocates. The legislation expands the Fish & Wildlife Board and makes it advisory to the commissioner. It also bans hunting coyotes with dogs. Opponents of the measure fear that hunting and fishing rules could change every time there is a new commissioner, as is usually the case when there is a change in administration.

Given the large group of Vermonters that showed up at the State House last Thursday

to protest increased property taxes, the renewable energy bill as well as the proposed change in the Fish & Wildlife Board, a smooth finish to the session is not likely.



By Rep. Jim Harrison

The end of the two-year legislative biennium is also wrought with political news. News of who is seeking re-election (or not) or opting for a higher office begins to emerge. Late on Friday, the potential candidacy for Governor by Howard Dean was being speculated. Dean, who was Vermont's Governor 30 years ago, could certainly make this year's gubernatorial contest interesting.

### Some issues of interest:

- The House passed the education finance bill, H.887, which sets the statewide education property tax. The average homestead tax rate is estimated to increase by 15% and non-homestead by 18%. Those rates could go up or down depending on individual school spending and a town's CLA (common level of appraisal). The governor has been critical of the House bill, which will now be considered by the Senate.
- The full Senate will take up the confirmation of the Secretary of Education, Zoie Sanders. The Senate Education Committee voted 3-2 last week to recommend her confirmation. A close vote is expected. Many in the education lobby, including the NEA, oppose her confirmation.
- The Vermont House approved S.209, which bans "ghost guns" (firearms without serial numbers) and bans firearms at polling locations during elections. The Senate will now consider the House changes to the bill.
- The Senate Transportation Committee added a new \$89 annual fee to electric vehicles to help with the cost of installing more charging stations. The new fee has been met with

Harrison → 10

## The final two-week countdown

There are about two weeks left in Vermont's 2024 Legislative Session. This is not a lot of time to negotiate policy differences between the House and the Senate. A great deal of policy work is still not settled, which concerns me. I am not a fan of the work that is often done in the rush of last minute. The FY25 state budget and the Transportation bill have only just gone into Conference Committees (the six person committees: 3 House, 3 Senate, designed to negotiate the final policy) and we await passage of the Act 250/Housing bill, H.687, and the Data Privacy bill, H.121, in order to even set up Conference Committees.

On Tuesday, April 30, the Senate is scheduled to vote on the confirmation of the governor's appointment of Zoie Saunders to be our next Secretary of Education. As you may have read, this has been a controversial nomination, as Ms. Saunders' experience has been almost entirely working for a for-profit charter school company in Florida, Charter Schools, USA. Other than being a parent of children in public schools, and a 3-month stint in the Broward County public schools in a strategy capacity, reimaging district operations, Ms. Saunders has no public or in-school work experience. She has never taught, served on a school board, or served as a principal or a superintendent of a school. In short, her very modest in-school management experience makes supporting her confirmation as our Secretary of Education tough.

You may ask, why does this matter? It matters because whoever our new secretary is, will be facing an extraordinarily challenging moment in Vermont's public-school history. Vermont has tough choices to make about a number of issues: school funding and budgeting, billions of dollars of needed school renovations and construction, a significant loss of workforce, increases in health care costs, general inflation, and the post-Covid mental health challenges our

students, staff and faculty are confronting. And, at some point soon, Vermont needs to address one of the thorniest issues few are willing to discuss: that of the Supreme

Court Carson v. Makin decision, which requires us to send public taxpayer dollars to religious schools, through our school tuitioning program.

It will take a knowledgeable and experienced educator and manager to navigate the challenges ahead and a person of real vision to lead us. Vermont needs someone who not only values public education — this foundation of our American

dream and our democracy — but someone who is qualified to serve as Vermont's public education champion.

One issue that has been settled for this Biennium is that Vermont voters are closer to having the opportunity to amend our constitution with Proposal 3 in the 2026 General Election. With the House passing the measure 129-8 this past week (the Senate had already voted in favour 29-0), the Legislature has signaled its support of this Proposal which would embed in our constitution the right for workers to organize and collectively bargain.

As you may recall with our Reproductive Liberty amendment — voted on by Vermonters in the 2022 General Election — it takes two biennium to pass a constitutional amendment through the Legislature and onto the Vermont voters. In the 2025-26 biennium, both chambers of the Legislature will have to vote 'yes' again, without changing a word of the Proposal, in order for it to be included on our ballots in 2026.

Sen. Clarkson appreciates hearing from you. She can be reached by email: [aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us) or by phone at the Statehouse (Tues-Fri) 802-828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) 802-457-4627. For more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: [legislature.vermont.gov](http://legislature.vermont.gov).



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Taking a beat on education funding reform

By Jack Hoffman

*Editor's note: Jack Hoffman is Senior Analyst at Public Assets Institute, a non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Montpelier. He is a resident of Marshfield currently living in France.*

A projected jump in school taxes next year has everyone's hair on fire in Montpelier. But before taking drastic action, legislators and the administration ought to take the time to assess all of the reforms of recent years to understand what's really going on.

Nobody is saying that the double-digit increases in education spending and likely tax bills this year are sustainable, including many voters. In a normal year, a handful of school budgets get voted down while 90-95% of them pass. This year, a third went down, some more than once. The voters spoke and rejected increases that felt too high.

But does that mean Vermont needs more funding reform? It's too soon to tell. Let's look at how we got here. The Legislature, at times with the grudging help of the governor (who has made no secret of his goal to cut spending on public education), has passed significant education funding reforms over the past nine years, including Act 46 of 2015 (school consolidation), Act 173 of 2018 (special education overhaul) and the one causing a lot of the trouble this year: Act 127 of 2022, which changed the way the state calculates pupil weights beginning with fiscal 2025.

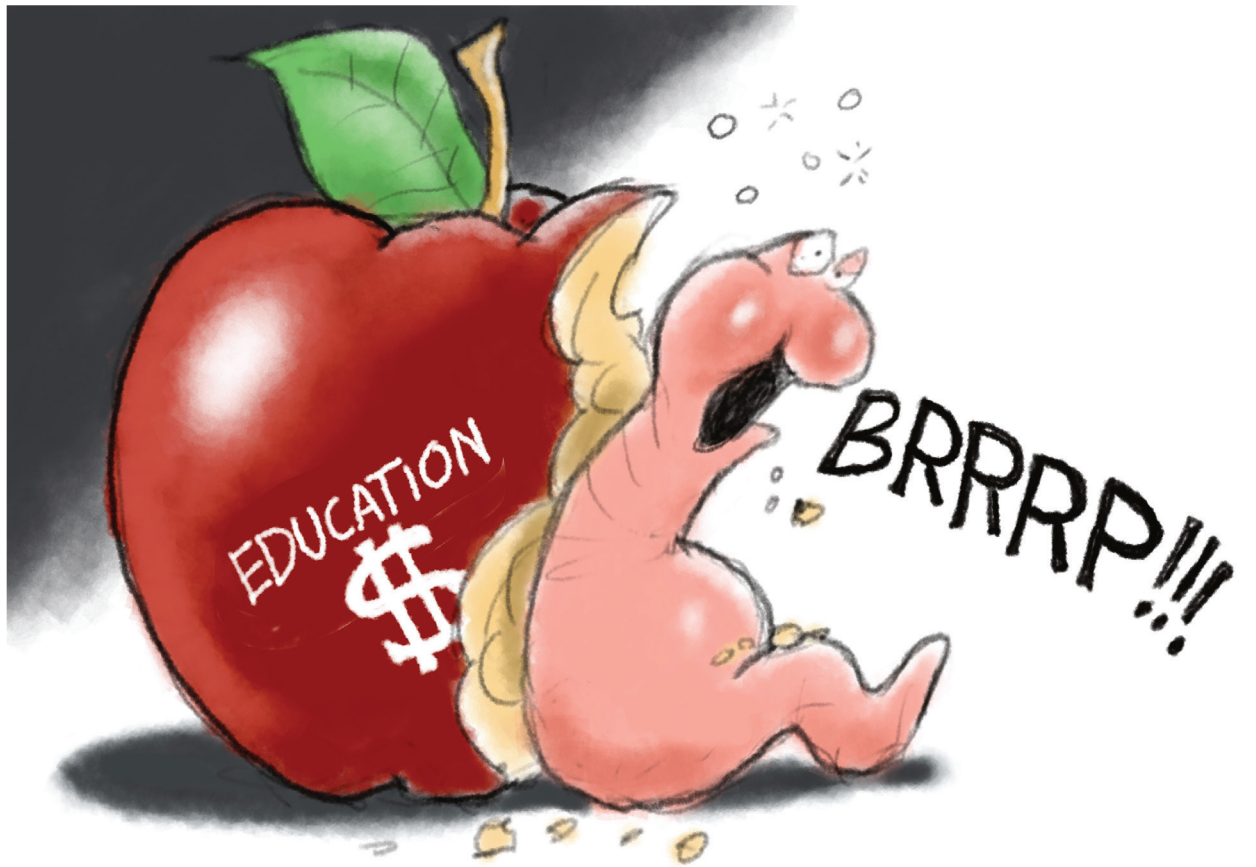
Weighting counts certain types of students—from low-income families, multilingual learners, and those attending small, rural schools—as more than one student. It lowers per-pupil spending for districts with lots of kids in these categories, which lowers their tax rate. The whole point of the policy is to make it easier to raise the money districts need to educate children in these categories.

But it wasn't clear what any district—whether they were facing a tax increase for the same spending or a tax decrease—would do. They could choose to split the difference. Those with more weighted pupils could get more resources and also provide a tax break, while districts with fewer weighted pupils might cut some costs while still accepting some increase in taxes.

In the end, most districts increased spending: According to preliminary budgets collected by the Agency of Education before Town Meeting, 100 districts increased their fiscal 2025 education spending by a total of \$235 million. Only seven reduced education spending—by only \$1 million total.

And this was largely because of factors outside districts' control. Sure, the now-repealed 5% cap on tax increases played a role, and the \$100 million legislative rate buydown in fiscal 2024 caused some of the 2025 jump, but the bottom line seems to be that much of the increase was unavoidable. An AOE analysis identified five cost drivers totaling more than \$200 million, and most of that was linked to inflation.

Ed funding reform → 9



By Pat Bagley, The Salt Lake Tribune, UT

## LETTERS

## Why we should all support Act 127

Dear Editor,

In Vermont we hold the belief that every child should have access to an equitable education. Though this promise is a constitutional right, in reality it's been challenging to fulfill given the outdated funding mechanisms that have historically governed our schools. As a member of both the Burlington School Board and the Coalition for Vermont Student Equity, I've witnessed firsthand the disparities within our educational system. An achievement gap between privileged and marginalized students has been well documented for decades but only recently has the state recognized the costs associated with addressing disparities in the passing of Act 127. Way overdue, it's especially tragic that Act 127 is under scrutiny just as it's poised to be implemented in the coming school year.

Racially and economically diverse, students of the Burlington school district represent 37 languages

Support Act 127 → 9

## Joys of being outside, fishing

Dear Editor,

Yesterday was so magnificent. Found myself again spiritually through the power of being in nature. Plenty of places along the way to stop and throw a line but fell to the wanderization of what lay ahead. Just curious if I could get to the bend that I could see ahead. I wondered about the cedar tree way out in the distance on the bend on the pathway. It had to be even better up ahead?

Not that I couldn't find peace and harmony at each stop as I examined the area. However, when seeing an area that is new my imagination can't help but to imagine different scenarios. Was there another bridge or opening that would allow for something special, a channel or bay. Never made it to the cedar I first saw in the far distance but I was just looking for the perfect spot. Decided to stop at the furthest island across from me on the walkway and found a piece of white old marble flat in the water. The

water failed to reach the top ensuring I stayed dry from the lake but suffered what light mist that came from the sky. No one likes standing or sitting on either jagged

marble nor granite or at 25° to 45° angles all day.

As I sat there I was grateful for the work our fish & wildlife board has done. Without them guiding the way for our hatcheries and fisheries I wouldn't be able to enjoy this wonderful moment and chance to harvest a lake trout. The lake trout in Lake Champlain is just one of the many success stories the department has had over the decades. I hoped a lake trout would leave the feeding grounds for something new they saw much as what motivated me to be where I was.

Left side of the walkway was murky, nasty and dirty. Debris and logs floated everywhere... I bounce the line to shore slowly.

The right side one could see everything. Water was clear but empty of life swimming beneath. While I threw a worm on the right side in hope of something, the only thing found was green algae that overwhelmed the line sinker and worm.

Nothing seemed to like what I offered.

As I was walking back, Sparrows flew around

Joys → 9

## Chris Brown announces candidacy for Vt House

Dear Editor,

I'm Chris Brown and I'm running to represent Castleton in the Vermont House of Representatives.

I'm proud and excited at the prospect of representing the citizens of my hometown in the Legislature. I'm a lifelong resident of Castleton and a 10 generation Vermonter. I feel my decades of business experience and my Republican values will serve all of us well as we face daunting challenges ahead statewide.

I consider myself to be practical and pragmatic and while my political philosophy's are Republican, I'm more interested in results than labels. I ask for your support.

My wife, Andrea, and I have been married 36 years. Together we've raised two daughters and now have two son-in-law and two grandchildren.

Please visit my website to learn more and find campaign links:

ChrisBrownVt.com.

Chris Brown, Castleton



## CAPITOL QUOTES

Kristi Noem, a potential candidate for Republican Donald Trump's running mate, responded on Friday to Democratic criticisms regarding her disclosure about shooting a dog on her family's farm in Washington. Noem, who serves as the governor of South Dakota, recounts the incident involving an "untrainable" dog named Cricket, which she admitted to "hating," in an upcoming memoir.

**"Given that Cricket had shown aggressive behavior toward people by biting them, I decided what I did... Whether running the ranch or in politics, I have never passed on my responsibilities to anyone else to handle. Even if it's hard and painful. I followed the law and was being a responsible parent, dog owner, and neighbor,"**

said **Kristi Noem**, according to CBS News.

**"There's no rational and plausible excuse for Noem shooting a juvenile dog for normal puppy-like behavior... Raising and caring for a dog takes patience and kindness... Tens of millions of Americans who know and love dogs have to wonder about a person who expresses hatred for a young female dog and kills her,"**

said **Wayne Pacelle**, the president of Animal Wellness Action, according to NPR.

**"Not sure who advised Kristi Noem that it was a good idea to boast about killing her 14-month-old puppy but I'm willing to bet this would be a big problem for her if she [were] chosen for VP. Makes [2012 presidential nominee Mitt] Romney's dog-on-the-car-roof story look quaint,"**

said **Rachel Bade**, senior Washington correspondent for Politico, according to The Guardian.

**Noem "killed a puppy because she was lazy at training bird dogs, not because it was a bad dog... shooting your dog in the face is not an option,"**

said **Rick Wilson**, who co-founded the anti-Trump PAC The Lincoln Project, according to TIME.

### ← Joys: ..... from page 8

with dry dead grass in their mouths making nests in old abandoned trees. They were signing warnings of a large man with a pole outside their home. The flying around in front of me stopped life at that moment and I fell into a trance watching them sing and dance in the air, much of what you would expect from a ballerina if they could fly in the air as gracefully.

I sat by a boulder as I fished and am still confused as to who was more scared as a black and white duck swam around the backside of the boulder. It saw me and flew as quickly as it could. I could feel the air and bits of water from the frightened duck as it splashed in order to achieve liftoff into the air against the water's grounding abilities.

However, even in that moment I quickly returned to a calming state of my being in nature. It was soaking through my skin refreshing and awakening me for the days to come. Perfect harmony between tired and at peace. Quiet tranquility. Anything could happen and I was sure my sense of peace would overcome any negativity that may crawl in. This is why I love the outdoors.

Only thing that would have been better was catching something to feed my family and share the sweat equity of the day with. Harvesting the bounty of the state I live in is rewarding. By any means allotted to me through the Vermont Constitution. Offering my prize to my kindred spirits within my house

creates a sense of tradition that hopefully will be passed on not only to my kids but theirs as well.

Question is will their experience be similar to mine? I'm concerned that if S.258 is passed in the house it will alter the course of the fish & wildlife board and it will not be for the betterment of society. Please call your Vermont House Representative and say no to S.258. Our Fish & Wildlife Board is operating correctly and is a large cause of many success stories from the lake trout in Champlain to our loons all the way to our wonderful deer herd. There is nothing broken so let's leave our fish and wildlife board the way it is.

*Jeremy Ayotte,  
Fletcher*

### ← Support Act 127: ..... from page 8

other than English spoken at home. Additionally, with half of the 3247 student population qualifying for free or reduced lunch, Burlington's schools exemplify the urgent need for the reforms introduced by Act 127. The problem at hand is that public education was designed to serve homogeneous middle America and therefore has failed to recognize the costs of educating students who don't fit into that one-size-fits-all model. One of several significant costs that Vermont's funding formula failed to adequately meet for decades is the need for Multilingual Liaisons. For too long, the weights used to allocate educational resources have not reflected the actual costs associated

with ensuring every child, regardless of their background, can succeed.

Act 127 represents a bold step toward rectifying these long-standing issues. By updating the funding formula to reflect the needs of our students more accurately, we move closer to fulfilling Vermont's constitutional promise. This legislation is not just about numbers and budgets; it's about recognizing the inherent value and potential of every student. It's about ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive academically and beyond.

We stand at a pivotal moment, with the chance to redefine what education looks like in our state. Guided by the principle

that every child deserves an equitable chance to succeed, we must seize this opportunity to dismantle a system that has fostered the gap between haves and have-nots. The passage of Act 127 is a testament to Vermont's commitment to equity and justice. Yet, the journey does not end with legislation alone. As we work towards implementing Act 127, it is crucial that we continue to advocate for the resources necessary to bring its constitutional right to fruition.

*Jean Waltz, Burlington  
Editor's note: Jean Waltz is the commissioner of the Central Burlington School Board and member of the Coalition for Vermont Student Equity.*

### ← Ed funding reform: ..... from page 8

But we don't know whether these drivers are temporary or ongoing. Inflation was slowing before ticking back up in recent months. Education spending, the figure used to calculate tax rates, has grown at an average annual rate of 3.4% for the last 10 years. In fiscal 2024, education spending grew 8%, probably also driven by inflation, but the rate buydown softened the effect on taxpayers. Fiscal 2025 is looking at spending growth from 11-12%. Is this year a perfect storm of policy changes and funding pressures and unlikely to recur, or is there more to come?

There's also a lot we don't yet know about

all of these recent ed funding reforms: whether the weights have, in fact, increased resources for the students they intended to help and if so, how those resources were spent; whether kids in need of special education services are better off; whether consolidation helped kids and reduced costs as promised (although some evidence suggests it had the opposite effect).

It's too soon to know whether we need more funding reform. Let's take the time to get the answers we need to understand the long-term problems we're facing before we decide on a solution.

# Hartland Garden Club told to relocate annual plant sale from Damon Hall

By Curt Peterson

The Hartland Garden Club (HGC) has run an annual plant sale for 25 years in front of Damon Hall, but new town manager John Broker-Campbell notified HGC president Dan Talbot the sale could not take place at Damon Hall on May 18 as planned.

He cited a 1995 town “Vendors Ordinance” clearly prohibiting any entity, for-profit or otherwise, staging a sale on the site.

The situation drips with irony. About a dozen volunteers were working on a pollinator garden planting at the very site where they planned to hold the sale as Talbot delivered the bad news.

“We are just trying to make the town more beautiful,” former HGC board member Carol Stedman told the Mountain Times. “We counted on a 25-year relationship with Hartland that worked well for everyone.”

Local lore says former selectperson Pat Richardson championed the ordinance when it was adopted.

“At the time, there were people parked and selling stuff willy-nilly in that area, and at the curb in front of Damon Hall. Including a fish truck!” Ms. Richardson said. “Cars were parked on both sides with kids and adults darting back and forth, crossing the road between parked vehicles. Too much



By Curt Peterson

*Hartland Garden Club volunteers creating a pollinator planting in front of Damon Hall.*

going on, and too little visibility. It was a safety issue best addressed by prohibiting sales on the front lawn.”

“If I remember, we did say groups could set up on the side lawn, back toward the parking lot—more parking there off the road, and more visibility all around.”

Broker-Campbell said it’s unfortunate that the intention wasn’t written into the ordinance. No one has enforced the prohibition for 25 years.

Timing couldn’t be worse for the Garden Club — for two weeks volunteers have been growing and digging up plants preparing for this, their only fundraiser.

“We use all the money we raise to finance beautification projects around town,” Stedman said. The average profit from the plant sale is around \$1,000.

Broker-Campbell had been approached by the Girl Scouts about selling cookies on the site. He looked for any ordinances related to the subject, and found the Vendors’ Ordinance. The Girl Scouts went away disappointed. “By enforcing the ordinance,” Broker-Campbell said, “I am just doing my job. This isn’t personal.”

Stedman, Talbot and HGC treasurer Pru Merton met with Broker-Campbell on Tuesday to try to salvage the situation.

Broker-Campbell suggests the area in front of the library might be a suitable location for the plant sale, but Stedman pointed out the Hartland Farmers’ Market left that site because it was unsustainable, and the plant sale would die there, too.

“Moving it to the library would mean death to the plant sale,” Stedman said. “We rely on visibility — people see the plants as they go through the village, and say, oh, yeah I should stop and see what they have. That does not happen at the library!”

Hobbie suggested to the Mountain Times that the plant sale might go forward at Damon Hall this year with the agreement that it is the last time. Stedman said that would be fair, because the HGC had verbal town permission for the May sale in January. Broker-Campbell stuck to his guns, saying, “he could only go by what is in writing,” which is the prohibition.

The meeting ended with an agreement by HGC to pursue two alternate village-center sale sites, and that the town would provide multiple public notices that the sale has been moved from Damon Hall to whatever ultimate destination the club chooses.

The HGC members promised to attend the May 6 Select Board meeting for further discussion with the board members.

## ← Harrison:

from page 7

opposition from the Chair of the House Transportation Committee.

- The House approved Proposal 3, a constitutional amendment guaranteeing workers the right to unionize, on a 129-8 vote. The measure will need to be approved by the legislature again in the next biennium and then by the voters in 2026.
- The Senate approved legislation to ban neonicotinoid insecticides, believed to be harmful to bees. The ban is opposed by some farmers who fear availability and costs of replacements.

Congratulations to Wyatt Fitz-Gerald of Chittenden on his Eagle Scout recognition that was part of a State House resolution and ceremony honoring the 2023 recipients.

*Jim Harrison is the state representative for Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, and Pittsfield. He can be reached at [JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us) or [harrisonforvermont.com](http://harrisonforvermont.com).*

## ← Speed camera:

from page 7

“We really saw a huge need to change driver behavior.”

Connecticut started using automated law enforcement in January, and Keyes said the state is already seeing results. Around 2.6 million vehicles have driven by the cameras, about 500,000 of which were speeding — or about 19%. Close to 24,000 drivers were going 15 mph over the speed limit and were mailed warnings.

But only 659 motorists ended up getting citations, demonstrating that drivers changed their behavior when they found out they were being watched, Keyes said.

“It’s not a ‘gotcha’ program,” she said. “We want people to be aware of it. We want people to change their behavior.”

Under the Vermont plan, signs would warn drivers of cameras in a work zone ahead and indicate whether the systems are active.

The response from the public in Connecticut has ranged from neutral to positive, Keyes said.

“Cops are a good deterrent, and for emergency responses. For catching speeders they’re expensive and impractical,” one Connecticut community member said in a survey conducted by that state.

“People are driving like animals and are a danger to everyone. I’m all for anything to curb this,” another person commented.



Courtesy New York state

*An SUV approaches a camera-monitored work zone.*

Former flagger Glenn Morris spoke to representatives April 9, explaining his firsthand experience with road safety.

“I started as a flagger on the road with everyone else. One thing that appealed to me about that work was knowing that, at the end of the day, I was making a difference,” he said.

At Morris’s current job as an ambassador for worker safety ADA Traffic Control, a flagging company out of Colchester, he sees dangerous driving at work zones all the time. Morris said that, in just the past month, he had three calls for near misses, cars speeding past a flagger’s sign and having to skid to a stop.

“It’s not just danger to the flagger,

it’s also danger to the driver,” said Matt Musgrave, government affairs director for the Associated General Contractors of Vermont, in the same meeting. “If you go through, past a flagger and you didn’t stop, there could be a gaping pit in the middle of the road you could drive into.”

Chuck Farmer, vice president of research and statistical services for the industry nonprofit Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, hopes S.184 combats risky driving.

“Go back to when you were a kid,” he told representatives April 10. “If you think your parents are looking, then you behave yourselves. Whether or not they are, it doesn’t really matter.”

**NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS?  
WE DON'T THINK SO.  
WHAT'S THE WORD  
ON THE STREET?**

Tell us about it: [editor@mountaintimes.info](mailto:editor@mountaintimes.info)

Email [editor@mountaintimes.info](mailto:editor@mountaintimes.info)

**WORDPLAY**

GIFTS FROM THE GARDEN WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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



Submitted

New bill aims to lessen car break-ins with penalties.

**← Outlaw break-ins:** .....  
 from page 3  
 from 2018 to last year. Despite the rise, Vermont continues to hold one of the nation's lowest ratios of car thefts per 100,000 residents.

Supporters of the bill hope it will discourage car theft and help lower those statistics in years to come, Oliver said.

The bill also redefines the penalty for driving someone's vehicle without their consent. Under the retooled offense, an offender who knowingly does so could be sentenced up to two years in prison or fined up to \$1,000. A person who merely should have known they weren't allowed to take the car, on the other hand, would face the same as if they had just entered the vehicle — up to three months in prison and a \$500 fine.

The bill also redefines the penalty for driving someone's vehicle without their consent.

BACKYARD  
BEDS  
COMPOST  
CULTIVATE  
DEPTH

FERTILIZE  
GARDEN  
HARVEST  
HOSE  
MEASURE

NURTURE  
PESTS  
PLANNING  
RAIN  
RAISED

ROOTS  
SEASON  
SEEDLING  
SHADE  
SOIL

SUNLIGHT  
TILL  
WATER  
WEEDS

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Solutions →21

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Lions do it
- 5. In favor of
- 8. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 11. Pulpits
- 13. Leisure activity
- 14. Fertility god
- 15. Financial obligations
- 16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 17. Spanish river
- 18. Sporting events
- 20. Type of tree
- 21. Ceased to be
- 22. Persons
- 25. Synthetic resin
- 30. Relates to photochemical reactions
- 31. Father
- 32. Former Cow-boys coach
- 33. City in Finland
- 38. Run batted in
- 41. Got through
- 43. They darken skin
- 45. In a harmful way
- 48. Form of weaving
- 49. City of Angels hooper

- 50. Caucasian language
- 55. Syngman \_\_\_, Korean president
- 56. Sun up in New York
- 57. Paddled
- 59. Fishes
- 60. Affirmative
- 61. Nimble
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. A small island

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Hebrew unit of measure
- 3. Swedish rock group
- 4. College army
- 5. Favor over another
- 6. Called it a career
- 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 8. Israeli statesman
- 9. Hurries
- 10. Slog
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Benedictine monk
- 19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 23. Family of regulator genes

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										
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	45	46	47											
48						49				50	51	52	53	54
55						56				57				58
59						60				61				
62						63				64				

- 24. Surrendering
- 25. Political action committee
- 26. S. American plant
- 27. Long-term memory
- 28. Bark
- 29. Breathes in
- 34. Take hold of
- 35. Everyone has one
- 36. Valentine's Day color
- 37. Drivers' licenses and passports
- 39. Outer walls of castles
- 40. Enters with force
- 41. One thousandth of an inch
- 42. Deceased Chinese politician
- 44. Sugary secretion of plants
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Shelter
- 47. Utilizes
- 48. Forest resident
- 51. Fashion accessory
- 52. A sharply directional antenna
- 53. \_\_\_ Kristofferson, actor
- 54. A bad place to end up
- 58. MLBer Gordon

**SUDOKU**

Solutions →21

**How to Play**

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

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

Level: Intermediate

**WEDNESDAY**

5/1

**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](http://rutlandrec.com/godnick) or 802-773-1853

**Senior Bone Builders**

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

**Killington Active Seniors Lunch**

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

**Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St.,****Castleton**

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

1:30 p.m. Great Courses curriculum. [castletoncsi.org](http://castletoncsi.org)

**Book Club**

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

**Cribbage for Adults**

3-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. [hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/](http://hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/) or 802-436-2473

**Bone Builders**

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

**Ballroom Dance with Patti Panebianco**

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

6-6:50 p.m. Tango for adults

7-7:50 p.m. Rumba for adults

May 1 Open House, free class for new students. For more information and cost, contact Patti Panebianco at 516-909-1686 or email [pattidance@gmail.com](mailto:pattidance@gmail.com)

**GREEN UP DAY**

SATURDAY

**ChatGPT Essentials**

6-8 p.m. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 No. Main St., Randolph. Katrina Wagner of Graphic Beans explains the challenges of AI. Tix: [app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=234407](http://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=234407)

**THURSDAY**

5/2

**Bone Builders**

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

**Essentrics Stretch and Strength**

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

**Advanced Line Dance**

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

**Senior Bone Builders**

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

**Survivors' Support Group**

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

**Art at the Chaffee: Artery**

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

**Ukulele Group**

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

**Play Bridge!**

2-4 p.m. Thursdays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org), 802-457-2295

**S.T.E.A.M.**

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

**Yoga with Kellie**

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

**Spirituality in Recovery**

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

**Board Game Night**

5 p.m. Thursdays. Hartland Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. [hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/](http://hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/) or 802-436-2473

**'The Great Gatsby'**

7:30 p.m. Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. \$19-\$40. Northern Stage's fresh take on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel of the Roaring Twenties, directed by Kelvin Grullon. [northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby](http://northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby)

**ADVANCED LINE DANCE**

THURS @ 9:30 AM

**FRIDAY**

5/3

**Yoga & Meditation**

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

**'The Great Gatsby'**

11 a.m. Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. \$19-\$40. Northern Stage's fresh take on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel of the Roaring Twenties, directed by Kelvin Grullon. [northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby](http://northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby)

**Bone Builders**

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

**OLLI Lecture**

1:30-3 p.m. Fridays through May 10. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$8. The Vermont CCC Camps, a talk by author and historian Martin Podskoch. We have the Civilian Conservation Corps of the New Deal to thank for many roads, reforestation, forest fire lookouts and recreation areas throughout Vermont. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Lecture Series. Payment at the door no longer accepted. All information at [learn.uvm.edu/osher-lifelong-learning/statewide/#rutland](http://learn.uvm.edu/osher-lifelong-learning/statewide/#rutland)

**Performance: Fraser and Haas**

7 p.m. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 No. Main St., Randolph. \$10-\$45. Cello and Scottish fiddle traditional music. Tix: [app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=220820](http://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=220820)

**Spring Film Series: 'Past Lives' (2023)**

7-8:30 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. Childhood sweethearts get together for one weekend in New York after years apart. Directed by Celine Song. Discussion follows.

**'The Great Gatsby'**

7:30 p.m. Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. \$19-\$40. Northern Stage's fresh take on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel of the Roaring Twenties, directed by Kelvin Grullon. [northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby](http://northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby)

**'Mutts Gone Nuts Canine Cabaret'**

7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$2-\$32.25 including fees. Tix: [ci.ovationtix.com/36265/performance/11326912](http://ci.ovationtix.com/36265/performance/11326912)

**SATURDAY**

5/4

**Green-Up Day**

Pick up your Green Up trash bags and get out in your community on Saturday, May 4 to clean up your neighborhood roads and waterways. As a volunteer, you make a huge difference for the environment. For more information about how you can help green-up in your town, visit: [greenupvermont.org](http://greenupvermont.org)

**Killington Green-Up Day and BBQ**

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Town of Killington is hosting Green-Up Day on May 4, inviting residents, businesses, and volunteers to pick up Green-Up bags from the Town Office on 2706 River Road, the Transfer Station on 2981 River Road, or the Public Safety Building on 800 Killington Rd. Green-Up bags can be collected at the Killington Transfer Station on Saturday and Monday, and a BBQ picnic lunch will be provided at the Johnson Recreation Pavilion on Saturday.

**Free Fishing Derby**

8:30 a.m. Registration at 8 a.m. Combination Pond, Sharon Dr., Rutland. The annual Free Fishing Derby in Rutland is open to children up to 13. Prizes, trophies, and raffles will be awarded, with prizes including an 11-foot Boston Whaler, a Minn Kota Trolling Motor, rod and reel combos, tackle boxes, and fishing nets. Free hot dogs and snacks.

**Green-Up Day, West Rutland Marsh**

9 a.m.-Noon. Meet at the viewing boardwalk on Marble Street north of the Carving Studio, West Rutland. An activity of the Rutland County Audubon Society.

**Drawing from Nature Class**

9 a.m.-Noon. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Nature's Way Quechee. Members \$10, general public \$13. The subject is reptiles and amphibians and your own experience of them. All skill levels welcome 802-359-5000

**Spring Sprockets & Walk-Its: Family Scavenger Hunt**

10 a.m. Pine Hill Park, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$2-\$10. Join us for Spring Sprockets & Walk-Its, a family-friendly scavenger hunt event benefiting the Homeless Prevention Center. Explore Pine Hill Park's mountain bike trails and walking loops, enjoy music, snacks, and prizes. For more information and to sign up, visit: [givebutter.com/SpringSprockets24forHPC](http://givebutter.com/SpringSprockets24forHPC).

**Lego Club**

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

**The Vermont Winter Farmers' Market**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Howe Center, Suite 92, 1 Scale Ave. (off Strongs Avenue), Rutland. Free. One of the largest farmers' markets in the state and the first to operate year round. Last date indoors! [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org)

**'Trolls Band Together' Free Movie**

11 a.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Free but tix required. Members of a boy band mobilize to rescue one of their own. Co-sponsored by the City of Rutland and Paramount Theatre. Run time: 1 hour, 35 mins. To sign up: [ci.ovationtix.com/36265/performance11465856](http://ci.ovationtix.com/36265/performance11465856) or 802-775-0903

**Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club**

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

**Spring Guided History Walk at Mount Independence**

12 p.m.—472 Mt. Independence Road, Orwell. \$1-\$5. Explore the remains of Revolutionary War defenses at Mount Independence State Historic Site on a guided history walk. Led by experts, discover hidden features and gain insights into this fascinating site. For more information, visit [historicsites.vermont.gov](http://historicsites.vermont.gov).

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

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

**Come Alive Outside: Jedi Trails**

1 p.m.—Pine Hill Park i, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. Join Come Alive Outside for the Jedi Trails event at Pine Hill Park in Rutland from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Discover hidden Star Wars figurines, enjoy themed activities, and meet your favorite characters. For more information, visit: [comealiveoutside.com/events](http://comealiveoutside.com/events).

**Paint 'N' Sip**

1-3 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom, 2551 Route 30N, Castleton. \$60. Make-and-take canvas tote bag painted with a floral motif. Instructor is Andrea Tabor. All materials + one drink included in fee. To pay, call or text Jonathan at 518-567-6584.

**The Great Gatsby'**

2 p.m. Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. \$19-\$40. Northern Stage's fresh take on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel of the Roaring Twenties, directed by Kelvin Grullon. [northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby](http://northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby)

**Michelob ULTRA Decked Out Days**

3-5 p.m. Base of Superstar, Killington Resort. Free. Live music, games and swag giveaways.

**May Day Dance Party in Hartland**

7 p.m.—Damon Hall, 1 Quechee Road, Hartland. \$15 for music listening only, \$20 for dance participants. Join the Moonlighters Big Band and Hartland Council of the Arts for an evening of music and dance. Professional dance instructors will provide lessons at 7 p.m., followed by music at 8 p.m.

**Band Shy Husky**

7 p.m. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. \$10 OBO at the door. The Benjies and Jake McKelvie & The Countertops.

**'The Next Generation' performs**

7 p.m. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St., Randolph. \$20 in person or livestream. students \$5, 12 and under free. Inspired by "From the Top," "The Next Generation" showcases young local talent. Tix: [chandler-arts.org/ccca-events/next-generation](http://chandler-arts.org/ccca-events/next-generation)

**'Messa di Gloria' by Giacomo Puccini**

Casella Theatre, 45 Alumni Drive, Castleton. Free for students, alumni, university personnel. General admission adults \$10, seniors \$5. The Rutland Area Chorus and Festival Orchestra are joined by the Vermont State University Castleton Chorale in this, his largest non-operatic work, begun at age 18. The "Glory Mass" is scored for large chorus, tenor and baritone soloists and orchestra, directed by Dr. Sherrill Blodgett. Tix available at the theatre box office. For showtime, visit: [castleton.edu/arts/the-casella-theater/](http://castleton.edu/arts/the-casella-theater/)

**'The Great Gatsby'**

7:30 p.m. Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. \$19-\$40. Northern Stage's fresh take on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel of the Roaring Twenties, directed by Kelvin Grullon. [northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby](http://northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby)

**'Barbie' Free Movie**

7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Free but tix required. Barbie and Ken visit the world of real people. Co-sponsored by the City of Rutland and Paramount Theatre. Run time: 1 hour, 54 mins. To sign up: [ci.ovationtix.com/36265/performance/11465860](http://ci.ovationtix.com/36265/performance/11465860) or 802-775-0903

**'Wicked Little Letters'**

7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, kids & Pentangle members \$8. Set in a small seaside town in England, a feisty young Irish woman is accused of sending poison-pen letters to respectable townspeople. Based on a true story from 1920. Run time: 1 hour 40 mins. Tix: [pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets](http://pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets) or 802-457-3981

**SUNDAY**

5/5

**Intro to Beaded Jewelry**

10 a.m.-1 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Members \$40, nonmembers \$55. Make earrings and a necklace to take home. Tools and supplies provided, welcome to bring your own beads. Register at [rutlandmint.org/event-5669489/](http://rutlandmint.org/event-5669489/) Registration.

**Botanical Blockprints to Make and Take**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. ArtisTree, 2095 Pomfret Road, So. Pomfret. \$160. Printmaker Pam S. will walk you through the steps to carve a design into a special block and print the image on paper or fabric. Bring a simple design on a 4" x 6" piece of paper. All other materials are included. [hisawyer.com/artistree/schedules/activity-set/703657](http://hisawyer.com/artistree/schedules/activity-set/703657)

**'The Great Gatsby'**

2 p.m. Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. \$19-\$40. Northern Stage's fresh take on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel of the Roaring Twenties, directed by Kelvin Grullon. [northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby](http://northernstage.org/new-works-now/#gatsby)

**Spring Fling**

2-3:30. The Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Free. Games, Safety Day, soccer kick off, treats and more. Bike helmet giveaway courtesy of Omya.

**'Wicked Little Letters'**

3 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, kids & Pentangle members \$8. Set in a small seaside town in England, a feisty young Irish woman is accused of sending poison-pen letters to respectable townspeople. Based on a true story from 1920. Run time: 1 hour 40 mins. Tix: [pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets](http://pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets) or 802-457-3981

**'Messa di Gloria' by Giacomo Puccini**

5 p.m. Grace Congregational UCC, 8 Court St., Rutland. Free will offering. The Rutland Area Chorus and Festival Orchestra are joined by the Vermont State University Castleton Chorale in this, his largest non-operatic work, begun at age 18. The "Glory Mass" is scored for large chorus, tenor and baritone soloists and orchestra, directed by Dr. Sherrill Blodgett.

**MONDAY**

5/6

**Winning Bird Photography on Display**

Noon-6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Castleton Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row, Rutland. Free. Outstanding large-format photographs of bird life, winners of the National Audubon Photography Show of 2022. Through May 11, 2024.

**Senior Bone Builders**

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

**Community Lunch**

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

**Monday Movie**

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

**JAM Scriptwriters' Group**

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



← **Calendar:** Email [events@mountaintimes.info](mailto:events@mountaintimes.info) from page 14

**Youth Led Open Mike**

6-8 p.m. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. Show off your talent in 10 minutes, no age restrictions.

**Vermont Fish & Wildlife Public Hearing on Deer Season**

6:30-8:30 p.m. In-person. Rutland High School, 22 Stratton Road, Rutland. Public input on the 2024 Antlerless Harvest and Youth/Novice Recommendation, available at [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com).

**'Wicked Little Letters'**

7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, kids & Pentangle members \$8. Set in a small seaside town in England, a feisty young Irish woman is accused of sending poison-pen letters to respectable townspeople. Based on a true story from 1920. Run time: 1 hour 40 mins. Tix: [pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets](http://pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets) or 802-457-3981

**TUESDAY**  
5/7

**Early Bird Walks**

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

**Bone Builders**

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

**Line Dance for Beginners**

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

**Bridge Club**

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

**Bridge Club**

2-4 p.m. Tuesdays. Hartland Public Library, 150 US-5, Hartland. Free. All levels are welcome. Want to learn? Contact Toni at 802-436-2943 or email [tonidave@vermontel.net](mailto: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](mailto:gawchess802@gmail.com).

**Play Chess, Backgammon!**

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



**EARLY BIRD WALKS**

TUES @ 7:30 AM

**VTF&W  
PUBLIC  
HEARING  
ON DEER  
SEASON**

MON @ 6:30 PM



**Loyalty Day Parade held in Rutland May 5**

By Adam Davis

Sunday, May 5 — RUTLAND— The 61st annual Loyalty Day Parade will be held on Sunday in downtown Rutland beginning at noon and ending at 4 p.m. The parade honors those that have served our country in the military. It will start on Madison Avenue, then continue along Strongs Avenue to Wales Street, from there it will run down West Street to Merchants Row, before concluding at Walmart Plaza. Those streets will be closed to all traffic during the parade. The parade is sponsored by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

There will be local and state dignitaries on hand, as well as a number of local bands and scout troops. Marching bands for Rutland High School, Rutland Town School, Mill River High School, and Proctor High School will add to the fanfare. The local Shriners will be in attendance, as well as this year's VFW Poppy Princess Isabella Dyer. The grand marshal for this year's parade is World War II veteran Bud Taggart. The parade is dedicated to veterans Gordon Austin and Carmine Polzello. There will be no food or refreshments available during the parade.

The Loyalty Day Parade was first established in 1950 and has always been held on the first Sunday in May.



Courtesy Downtown Rutland

# [MUSIC Scene]

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

## WED 5/1

**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. Rivershed – Sammy B

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

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

**QUECHEE**  
6 p.m. Public House Pub – Kim Wilcox

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

## FRI 5/3

**CASTLETON**  
6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Brotzman

**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. Rivershed – Mike Brown

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

**LUDLOW**  
5:30 p.m. American Legion – Benefit for the Lynn Reilly Memorial Scholarship Fund with music by Sammy B

**POULTNEY**  
6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Mean Waltons

**QUECHEE**  
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Kind Bud

**SOUTH POMFRET**  
7 p.m. Grange Theatre – Abbey's Box

**WEST RUTLAND**  
4 p.m. Town Green – Summer Concert Series: Ryan Fuller

## THURS 5/2

**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

**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

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

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

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

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

**RUTLAND**  
8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic

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

**CASTLETON**  
6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Music by Cooper

**CHESTER**  
7 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Northbound Creek

**KILLINGTON**  
5 p.m. The Garlic – Kentucky Derby Viewing Party

6 p.m. Rivershed – Mike Brown

9 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Sammy B

**LUDLOW**  
8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Nick Bredice and Liz Reedy

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

**SOUTH POMFRET**  
6 p.m. Artistree – Milonga with Live Music by Trio Tango Norte

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

**RANDOLPH**  
4:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Keep Flying with special guests Better Things and McAsh

**RUTLAND**  
4 p.m. Grace Church – Rutland Area Chorus and Festival Orchestra with Choirs of Castleton University

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

## MON 5/6

**KILLINGTON**  
5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n  
8:30 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic Night with Indigenous Entertainment

## TUES 5/7

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

## SUN 5/5

**BRIDGEWATER CORNERS**  
3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Red River North

**KILLINGTON**  
9:30 a.m. Mission Farm – Sammy B

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Mike Brown

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

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

**QUECHEE**  
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Cinco Day Mayo Party with Pub Trivia

## SAT 5/4

**BOMOSEEN**  
5:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge – James Joel

**BRANDON**  
7:30 p.m. Town Hall – The Dough Boys

**BRIDGEWATER**  
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Headliner Drew Davis



## MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

### SUNDAY MAY 12, 2024

*Mother's Day*  
at Mountain Top

### BUFFET MENU IN THE EVENT BARN

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in the Event Barn with  
one of Vermont's best views!

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killington **ATM** **LOTTERY**

# market

# GROCERY

MEATS, PRODUCE & SEAFOOD

## beer and wine

## DELICATESSEN

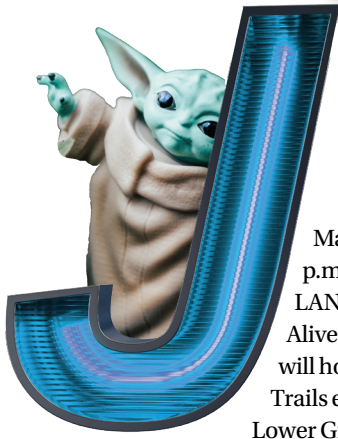
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# Jedi Trails will bring the 4th to Pine Hill Park in Rutland for intergalactic family fun

Saturday, May 4 at 1 p.m.—RUTLAND—Come Alive Outside will hold the Jedi Trails event on the Lower Giorgetti Trail at Pine Hill Park, 2 Oak St Ext. in Rutland from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The Spring Sprockets event will also be held at the same location from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Come Alive Outside and its partners are inviting Star Wars fans of all ages and abilities to get out on the trails for their fourth annual Jedi Trails! At 1 p.m., the Rutland Shriners will be serving free hotdogs. At 1:30, the galactic festivities will begin. The

whole event wraps up at 3:30 p.m.

800 Star Wars figurines have been hidden along Pine Hill Park in Rutland County. If a lucky trail-goer finds one, they may either keep it or trade it for another at the end of the trail. Organizations including Come Alive Outside, Partners for Prevention, Rutland County Restorative Justice Center, Turning Point, Pine Hill Trust, and The Mint will have information on their organizations and Star Wars themed-activities at the end of the trail in the bottom field area of the Lower Giorgetti. So-Full Sisters will also be on site with their food truck for hungry Jedis and wookies.

For the fourth year in a row, the 501st will be making an appearance, and attendees will have a chance to meet their favorite

Star Wars characters. “Last year’s Jedi Trails was amazing,” said marketing and program manager Haley Rice. “The weather was gorgeous, and over 700 people came out to walk the trail and enjoy all the cool Star Wars-themed fun. This year, we’ve got new figures to find and free hotdogs, too.”

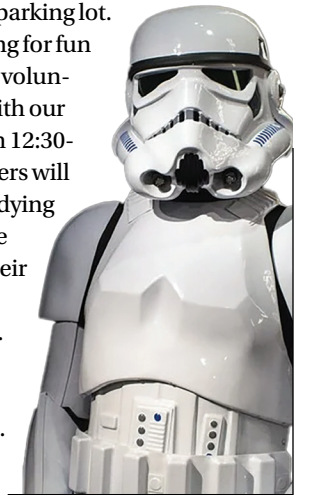
Along with figurines and fun, folks may even encounter some of their favorite Star Wars characters. The trail has an uneven dirt surface and is 3 feet wide in most places. Bikes are not allowed on this part of the trail, and this trail is not wheelchair accessible. Figures will be hidden along the 1/8-mile section of the Pine Cone Adventure Forest. The book “Star Wars: Creatures Big and Small” will also be on the trail as part of the Trail Tale. The nearest restroom is the Porta

Potty near the parking lot.

We’re looking for fun and dedicated volunteers to help with our Jedi Trails from 12:30-4 p.m. Volunteers will receive our undying devotion, a free hotdog, and their choice of Star Wars figurines.

Volunteer sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/mryhsz4w>

For more information, visit: [comealiveoutside.com/events](https://comealiveoutside.com/events).



Come Alive Outside is hosting the fourth annual Jedi Trails event in Rutland, featuring a Star Wars theme with 800 hidden Star Wars figurines for lucky trail-goers to keep or trade. Courtesy Come Alive Outside

## Spring Sprockets & Walk-Its returns to Rutland

Saturday, May 4 at 10 a.m.—RUTLAND—Spring Sprockets & Walk-Its, a scavenger hunt scramble event for bikers and walkers of all ages and levels in Pine Hill Park, 2 Oak St Ext. in Rutland. The family-friendly event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and benefits the Homeless Prevention Center.

Participants will enjoy music, snacks, prizes, a bike repair clinic, and plenty of surprises. Bikers will explore the rad network of mountain bike trails at Pine Hill Park, while walkers and joggers will venture onto the walking loops and activities on the adjacent Giorgetti trails. Along both routes, buckets and pails will be

available for participants to put their chips in (obtained at the registration table). All participants will reconvene at the Giorgetti parking lot, where chips will be drawn at random for prizes.

For those who love walking and riding, there will be opportunities to enjoy the trails before and after the prize drawings. Attendees are encouraged to bring friends to ride with or make new ones there.

### Ticket Details:

Adults \$15 / Youth \$7 / Kids \$3

For more information and to sign up, visit <https://givebutter.com/SpringSprockets24forHPC>. Then, join us afterward for hotdogs and Jedi Trails.



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



## New plants available at Spring Plant Sale at Woodstock Union HS/MS Greenhouse

May 1-31—WOODSTOCK—The spring plant sale at the Woodstock Union HS/MS, 100 Amsden Way, Woodstock Greenhouse, will be open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on school days, with extended hours until 6 p.m. on Monday, May 6.

Changes this year include sourcing all plants from a neonicotinoid-free nursery and featuring many native plants available this spring, with some for pre-order for fall planting.

Additionally, No Mow May signs and Fedco seeds for direct-sowing will be for sale and there will be a plastic plant pot collection drive, accepting only 4-pack and 4" square pots in good condition for reuse, while other sizes and broken pots (if #2 or #5 plastic) will be recycled through a special program.

Bring cardboard boxes for transporting your plants.



## Volunteers sought for Race Around the Lake in Barnard

BARNARD—BarnArts is seeking volunteers for our 11th annual Race Around the Lake fundraiser for youth programming. Registration/check-in opens at 9 a.m., and races begin at 10:30 a.m. Volunteers are

needed before, during, and after the race, with roles including registration support, trail marking, course-side support, food serving, and clean-up. *For more information, email us directly at [info@barnarts.org](mailto:info@barnarts.org).*



Courtesy of BarnArts

Trifolium performs at a recent Race Around the Lake.



## Spring, summer, and fall activities from Come Alive Outside keep families entertained

Saturday, May 4 at 1 p.m.—RUTLAND—Come Alive Outside's calendar offers a diverse range of activities throughout the spring, summer, and fall, providing family-friendly fun for all. Among these are the Jedi Trails

event featuring Star Wars themed activities and free hot-dogs, the Green Street festival at the Rutland Whoopie Pie Festival, and the Urban Legend Strolls taking place in various seasons, including a special ghost edition. Additionally, the program includes kids passports, offering summer paper passports and spooky passport apps, as well as adult passports for spring, summer, and winter activities. The Mile-A-Day initiative encourages outdoor exercise, with seasonal flings covering different distances, and Nature Rx offers opportunities to connect with nature from June to August.

For more information, visit [Come Alive Outside.com](http://ComeAliveOutside.com).





# CALENDAR

## 2024

Free Programs,  
Activities, and Events

### Large Community Events

**MAY**  
4

## JEDI TRAILS

1PM-1:30PM Free Hotdogs 1:30PM-3:30PM Star Wars themed activities

Pine Hill Park, 2 Oak Street Extension, Rutland, VT

## GREEN STREET

Merchants Row, Downtown Rutland, VT

At the Rutland Whoopie Pie Festival  
12PM-5PM

**SEPT**  
14

**OCT.**  
5

## AREA 802 TRAIL

3PM-5PM: Spooky 6PM-9PM: Scary

Pine Hill Park, 2 Oak Street Extension, Rutland, VT

### Group Walks

## URBAN LEGEND STROLLS

May 14, 5:00PM June 1, 11:00AM October 1, 12:00PM (Noon),  
October 30, 5:30PM Ghost Edition

Meet at Depot Park, 15 Evelyn Street, Rutland, VT

### Programs

## KIDS PASSPORTS

June 3- Aug. 31, Kids Summer Paper Passport  
Sept. 1- Oct. 31 Kids Spooky Passport App

## ADULT PASSPORTS

May 1-June 30, Sprummer  
July 1-Aug. 31, Summer Nov. 1-Dec 31, Winter

## MILE-A-DAY

April 15- May 14 Mud Fling, (30 Miles) June 1- June 30 Spring Fling, (30 Miles)  
July 1- July 30 Firework Fling, (30 Miles)  
Aug. 1- Aug. 30 Summer Fling, (30 Miles) Oct. 1- Oct 30 Fall Fling, (30 Miles)

## NATURE RX

June 3rd-August 30th



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MORE INFO: [COMEALIVEOUTSIDE.COM](http://COMEALIVEOUTSIDE.COM)





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## Killington celebrates Green Up Day

Saturday, May 4—KILLINGTON—The Town of Killington invites residents, businesses, and volunteers to participate in Green-Up Day on May 4th. Killington's participation in this annual statewide event is a testament to our community's dedication to environmental stewardship and preserving the natural beauty of Killington.

Residents are encouraged to pick up Green-Up bags from the Town Office, Transfer Station, or Public Safety Building during normal operating

hours leading up to May 4th. Whether you can spare only an hour or two on Saturday or pick up multiple bags throughout the week, your efforts will contribute to a cleaner, greener Killington.

Green-Up activities can be done any time prior to May 4. Green-Up Bag collection will take place at the Killington Transfer Station from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday May 4 and Monday May 6. All Green-up Bags must be taken to the Transfer Station and should not be left alongside the road.

After delivering your Green-up bags to the Transfer Station, join us for a well-deserved BBQ picnic lunch, generously donated by Killington Resort, at the Johnson Recreation Pavilion on Saturday May 4. Lunch will be available on a first come, first serve basis from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. offering participants a chance to refuel and celebrate their contributions.

Merchant Pass Hours are only accepted for Green Up Day if you register and check in at the Welcome Center on May 4.

## Spring guided history walk is at Mount Independence



Saturday, May 4 at 12 p.m.—ORWELL—Enjoy a spring guided history walk to learn about and see remains of the Revolutionary War defenses at the Mount Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Road, Orwell. This is the perfect time of year to go off trail and explore before all the leaves come out. Revolutionary War expert Mike Barbieri, Mount Independence Coalition president Stephen Zeoli, and site administrator Elsa Gilbertson lead the walk on and off the trails, to explore this fascinating site. The focus will be features normally not seen, including along the southern gun batteries. It's a special opportunity before the site opens for the 2024 season.

Meet in front of the museum for orientation; restrooms will be available at the start of the program. The fee is \$5 for adults, \$1 for ages 6 to 14, and free for children under 6 and Mount Independence Coalition members. Wear sturdy boots, be prepared for off-trail walking, and dress for the weather.

This is one of many programs planned for the year. The site and museum will be open from May 24 through October 20, 2024. Regular hours will be daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Mount Independence State Historic Site is a National Historic Landmark and is one of the best-preserved Revolutionary War archeological sites.

For more information, visit: [historicsites.vermont.gov](http://historicsites.vermont.gov) or call 802-759-2412.



## Fish at free derby

By Adam Davis

Saturday, May 4 from 8:30 a.m.—RUTLAND—The annual Free Fishing Derby will be held at Combination Pond located at 9 Sharon Drive in Rutland on Saturday, May 4 from 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Registration for the event will be held at 8 a.m. The fishing derby is for children up to 13 years old and all children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Prizes, trophies, and multiple raffles will be given out during the derby. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will stock the pond with fish prior to the competition. The Kiwanis Club of Rutland and the Rutland Recreation and Parks Department will be hosting the event.

The Rutland Kiwanis Club will hand out four trophies for the following: the first fish caught, the youngest participant to catch a fish, the biggest fish caught, and the most fish caught. The most fish caught trophy stipulates that participants catch no more than five fish of the same species (trout, catfish, perch, etc.).

Walmart will also be on hand to sponsor a raffle draw that will take place every 15 minutes during the derby. The first prize is an 11-foot Boston Whaler (with a 15 horsepower Johnson Outboard Motor with a galvanized trailer). Second Prize is a Minn Kota Trolling Motor and an Interstate battery. Other raffle prizes include rod and reel combos, tackle boxes, and fishing nets. Raffle tickets must be purchased the day of the derby and you must be present to collect your prize. Prices for raffle tickets range from \$10 for one ticket, \$25 for three tickets, and \$50 for seven tickets.

Free hot dogs, snacks, and drinks will be provided.

## May Day dance party held in Hartland

By Curt Peterson

Saturday, May 4 at 7 p.m.—HARTLAND—The Moonlighters Big Band and Hartland Council of the Arts will host a dance party at Damon Hall, 1 Quechee Road, Hartland.

Amy and Jamie Orr, professional dance instructors, are providing an hour of dance lessons beginning at 7 p.m., music at 8 p.m. The instruction is included in the price of admission, which is \$15 for music listening only, \$20 for dance participants. Both levels of admission include free refreshments.

Guests are invited to bring non-perishable food donations for the Hartland Food Shelf if they care to.

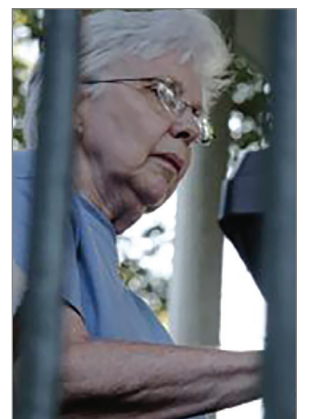
Moonlighters' manager Janet Hewes

also plays the keyboard as part of the very popular 15-piece group.

"We play blues to ballroom, soft rock to salsa," Hewes told the Mountain Times. The band has played regularly at venues in New Hampshire, New York and central Vermont for almost 30 years, including outdoor concerts in Hartland.

"We're organizing a 30th anniversary concert in Hartland in the fall," Hewes said, "sponsored by Aging in Hartland and other local organizations."

For reservations, music and dance enthusiasts should call Janet Hewes at 802-436-2069, or email [themoonlighters@yahoo.com](mailto:themoonlighters@yahoo.com).



Submitted  
Hartland Band manager  
Janet Hewes

# Discover your future in Health Careers

## Expo hopes to attract high school and college-age students

Wednesday, May 8 at 3 p.m.—RUTLAND— A Health Careers Expo will be on Wednesday, May 8, from 3-7 p.m. at the Rutland Recreation and Community Center, 134 Community Drive, in Rutland. The event is being put on by Southern Vermont Area Health Education Center (AHEC) in partnership with Come Alive Outside. It coincides with Southern Vermont AHEC's 25th anniversary celebration.

"Our goal is to create an exciting and worthwhile experience for students 14-21 years of age who are plotting their path towards a career in health or simply curious about the ever-expanding world of healthcare," wrote Southern Vermont AHEC in a news release.

Admission to the Health Careers Expo is free and open to the public. All are welcome.

According to the American Hospital Association (AHA) there will be a shortage of up to 3.2 million healthcare workers by 2026. America will face a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2033 and will need to hire at least 200,000 nurses per year to meet increased demand, and to replace retiring nurses. There are also critical shortages of allied health and behavioral professionals, especially in marginalized rural and urban communities.

The mission of Southern Vermont (AHEC) is to enhance community efforts to grow and sustain the health workforce in

southern Vermont.

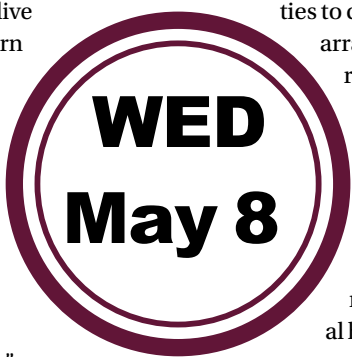
"One of the ways we do this is by delivering pathway programs which connect students to health careers," the release continued. "We aim to initiate the exploration of health careers for youth at an early stage by offering them opportunities to closely observe the diverse array of options within their reach."

There will be over 20 Vermont health careers represented, ranging from clinical and non-clinical roles in medicine, oral health, mental and behavioral health, public health, emergency response, and much more. Participants will have the chance to engage through interactive displays, innovative technology and connect with seasoned professionals eager to share their knowledge. Among the over 40 exhibitors will be virtual reality simulations and mobile medical units. Students can enter a drawing to win VR [virtual reality] headsets with health careers exploration modules and training simulations for their school.

DJ Brett Myhre will provide music, and there will be giveaways, a 50/50 raffle, and other fun prizes.

Come Alive Outside will host a nerf skills course, and the Rollin' Rooster and Mr. Ding-a-Ling ice cream truck will be on site if you get hungry.

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



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**killington market** *Killington Market*  
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**Solutions**

From page 11

**Crossword**

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

**Sudoku**

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

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# Rutland County Humane Society



**PEACHES**



**ROXY**

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**\*Open by appointment only.** [spfldhumane.org](http://spfldhumane.org)



## SKIPPER

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

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4832 VT-44, Windsor, VT • (802) 484-5829  
**\*(By appointment only at this time.)**  
Tues. - Sat. 12-4 p.m. & Thurs. 12-7 p.m. • [lucymac.org](http://lucymac.org)



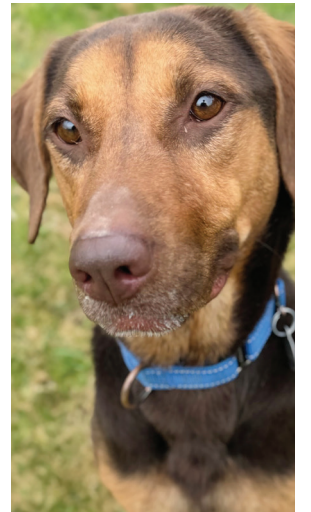
Mystic — 4-year-old spayed female domestic shorthair.



Tiger Lilly — 2-year-old spayed female domestic shorthair.



Violet — 2-year-old spayed female domestic shorthair.



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

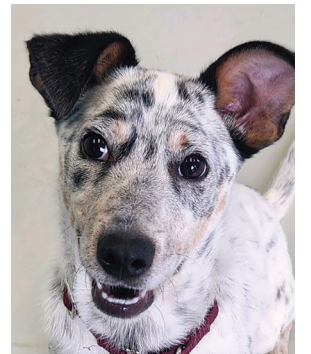


Dotty — 1-year-old spayed female Husky/ Shepherd mix.

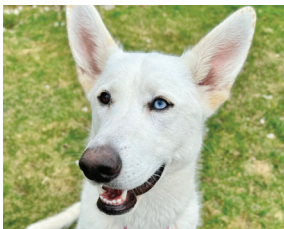


## BENJI

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



Mauro — 3 Months old Heeler mix.



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

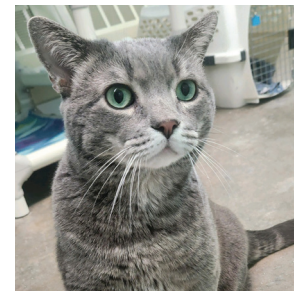
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Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Closed Sun. & Mon. • [www.rchsvt.org](http://www.rchsvt.org)



Shadow — 6-year-old neutered male domestic shorthair.



King — 1 Year old Domestic shorthair.



Elvin — 5 Years old Domestic shorthair.



Precious — 12 Years old Domestic shorthair.

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# Cosmic Catalogue



## **Aries** March 21 - April 20

You'll gain some energy and mojo back after what was a long and arduous month. Before that happens though, begin your week slowly. Dream up your most desired outcomes. Get a little bit ridiculous or romantic about your life. Your energy will only be wasted fighting battles for fighting battles sake. Also, some helpful stars may bring you a financial boost too. Allow for a little bit of indulgence if you need to cool down some anger.

## **Leo** July 21 - August 20

What is a throne without a King? It's just a chair. For a while now, the stars have been inviting you to take your rightful place. Well, have you? If you haven't, sorry to say, time is running out. You see, when you choose to put that crown on your head, wannabe usurpers and naysayers are a part of the deal. It's unavoidable. Nobody likes a weak King, or Queen. Make a professional choice this week. Just know that the outcome has no guarantees. That's what makes it exciting.

## **Sagittarius** November 21 - December 20

It's been a long road and it's not been particularly smooth. I know you're over it, but you have a little way longer to go. That said, the road will start to get smoother. Maybe you just get stronger, it's hard to say. Nonetheless, the sky does invite you to start having more fun. If you don't the road will get rocky again. Sometimes you got to spice things up a little bit in order just to make the mundane bearable.

## **Taurus** April 21 - May 20

It's so good to be you right now! Your stars are truly rising. That said though, there are some battles within your mind or from your past that still get you fired up. Open that Pandora's Box, give it a little bit of oxygen but don't dwell there. Let that be the fuel for you to make moves that have meaning. You have so many good fights to fight. Rest when required but do be prepared for your next round of battles.

## **Virgo** August 21 - September 20

Life is meant to be lived beyond the spreadsheet. That said, sometimes you do need to know your numbers. That was April's story. Now, it's time for you to live a little bit. Dive into the mysteries, magic and meaning of life. What's the point of knowing the value of everything if you know the purpose of nothing? For the next little while, you need to straddle both realities. Just remember, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

## **Capricorn** December 21 - January 20

It's difficult to not have your nose to the grindstone. Partially, that's because you're just like that and partially, the current climate is necessitating it. It's a Catch 22. There's so much movement in your home zone right now and it will continue to be frantically busy for a while yet. That said, what you do now will reap rewards in the not-too-distant future. Also, be sure to have a little bit of fun along the way. Even the most serious goats were cute baby kid goats once.

## **Gemini** May 21 - June 20

So few people have read The Art of War and it shows. Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat. You're figuring out how to handle a situation among friends, groups or communities that has been quite the storm. A combination of strategy and tactics is required. Advance when you can, retreat when you must. Diplomacy probably won't be a winning formula now.

## **Libra** September 21 - October 20

Many people saw your stars and predicted your demise. Oh, how wrong they were. You see, you hold the rightful position for Saturn – the ruler of order. Where there is chaos, you eradicate it. When someone encroaches upon your territory, you secure your boundaries. So few people realize how strong you are. They are about to find out. You can play nice when required, but that's a part of your strategy. If you need to cut someone down to size, this is the week to do it.

## **Aquarius** January 21 - February 20

At first glance, the sky is offering you endless opportunity for self-development and personal growth. Don't get me wrong, self-awareness is what you're actually looking for. To go too much beyond that, it almost becomes narcissistic. Bored? Need change? Stuck in a loop? Feeling ordinary? Consider not yourself, but others. The more you give, the more you receive. It's not what your family can do for you, but what you can do for your family – or those you consider to be.

## **Cancer** June 21 - July 20

Just when you think it's safe to come out of your shell! You can continue to stay within it, that's your choice, but you're required now to be brave. That isn't to say you're not fearful, worried or uncertain. No warrior goes into battle without the smell of fear in his blood, but running into the fray he does. This week, it's a professional or life direction battle you must fight. First though, you need to figure out which are worth the scars and which are not.

## **Scorpio** October 21 - November 20

Operating in the shadows is what you do best. That can sound intriguing, but more often than not, it just means you're as busy as hell. Sometimes, with little to show for your effort and toil. The next several weeks will set a punishing pace. Are you working for works sake, or are you working for something more? You see, there is a difference between activity and achievement. Start emerging from the shadows, otherwise, you may end up getting stuck there.

## **Pisces** February 21 - March 20

Money could be burning a hole in your pocket in the upcoming weeks. Maybe an impulsive move here or there sounds like a good idea, but you really do need to be thinking longer term. Sometimes expenses come up that you didn't expect. Whatever is going on for you, money wise, will continue unless you adopt a different strategy. Reflect on April, what would or could you do differently moving forward? If need be, seek wise counsel or advice. You don't have to solve these issues alone.

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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.

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## Boundary between chaos and order

April's storms were turbulent. Explosions. People losing their heads. Temper tantrums. Life really has been feeling like its straddling the boundary between chaos and order. Chaos can make you feel like you have purpose. Expending rage, for rages sake. Unless you're still wearing diapers, petulant behavior is rarely a good look.

For brief period, the storm cell shifts direction. The gentle spring fuses with the fixed. Stability, gentleness and certain kind of serenity is available. Do you choose the storm or do you choose the cow? Peaceful, gentle and fecund energy is now on offer. Choose it.

While the storm cell has shifted di-

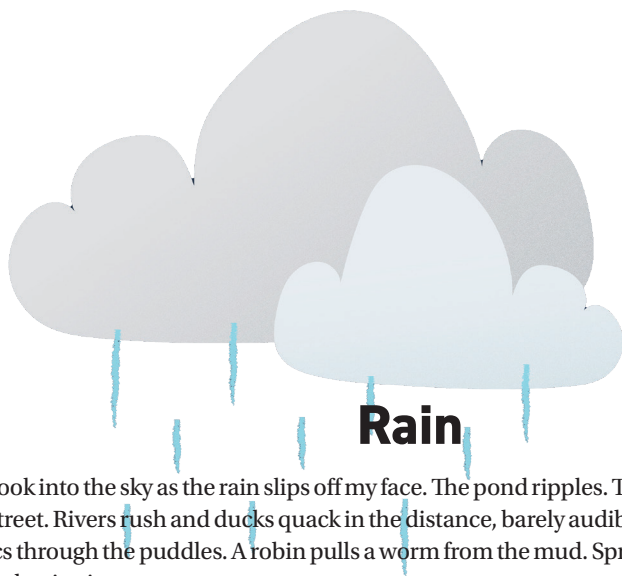
rection, it will circle back again. You see, April's astrology was a microcosm of what 2025 and beyond looks like. Clutch your pearls at the thought, but hey, I'm just the messenger here.

As you frolic in the fields, chewing your cud, turn your face toward the sunshine. Observe the wild flowers, the green pastures as the gentle breeze cools your back. Run your fingers through the tall grass just like Maximus Decimus Meridius did in Gladiator. Do enjoy this moment of serenity, but do not grow complacent.

The mightiest warrior knows that storm cell on the horizon isn't always as far away as it appears.



Cosmic Catalogue  
By Cassandra Tyndall



I look into the sky as the rain slips off my face. The pond ripples. The water puddles in the street. Rivers rush and ducks quack in the distance, barely audible. A slightly wet bunny frolics through the puddles. A robin pulls a worm from the mud. Spring is coming, and with it new beginnings.



Green Mountain Tales  
By Izzy Gieder

## Watching the Killington community grow

### Building our Killington Dream dream lodge, Part 11

We began to build our ski lodge in 1958, the same year the Killington Access Road was built and the mountain opened for its first ski season. Preston Smith who began it all lived at the end of Roaring Brook Road, about a mile past the land Dad bought under 6 feet of snow.

When we arrived, we forded Roaring Brook like pioneers in the olden days. But soon after, a bridge was built. (I preferred the more exciting old fashioned way.)

A few years later a brand new firehouse was constructed beside the bridge. I remember the first Fireman's Picnic on the Fourth of July, 1964. It was held on the firehouse driveway. We gathered together at picnic tables with pot luck dishes that we shared. Our firemen grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. The celebration was lively and fun. We took a tour of the two story interior and had a chance to catch up with friends. Many of us were building a house. There was much to compare and discuss. We were happy and proud to be part of Killington's growing community. That was the start of the annual tradition of Killington's famous Fourth of July cookout to help fund our volunteer fire

department. Nearly all of us have been helped in some way by our wonderful firemen and women, often in times of our greatest need.

Walter Gropler, our next-door neighbor, arrived before we did from Connecticut. When he moved full time to Killington, he took

Meditation →28



## Learning the language of birding

The shift begins around the time we turn the clocks ahead, a gradual transition from winter's steady chorus of chickadees, squawking jays, and crows cawing over the compost pile to — well, more.

On an afternoon walk along back roads, I'll hear an avian uprising and look up to find a large flock of red-winged blackbirds gathered in the still-bare branches overhead. A week later, the trill-to-mechanical buzz of a song sparrow sounds from a hedge in the yard. Then, one early morning, the flutelike melody of a hermit thrush sifts through the cacophony of robins and juncos and pine warblers. By May, there will be a whole cast of birds hopping and chittering and flying about, as our summer songbirds return in waves.

For veteran birders, the spring migration season is a delight, with new bird species arriving — or passing through — daily, in yards and forests, fields and wetlands. For newer birders (or casual backyard bird watchers), this influx can be overwhelming. What's the best way to distinguish the song of a wood thrush from that of a hermit thrush? How do you identify a bird you can hear, but not see? And is there an easy way to differentiate one little brown bird (LBB) from another?

The key, according to Pamela Hunt, an avian conservation biologist with New Hampshire Audubon, is to learn in small, manageable steps over time.

"Birding is like learning a language," Hunt said. "Every little bit makes the next bit easier."

I've found this to be true in my haphazard approach to bird watching. (I'm far too

casual about it to call myself a true "birder," although every species I learn brings a little more joy.) As the spring mornings grow brighter and warmer, I take to sipping my coffee on the porch, enjoying the company of the birds as the sun rises over the mountains. I bring my small camera with a mid-range zoom, my binoculars, and my bird-call-app-loaded smart phone with me.

"There's really no easy answer to picking through the cacophony of the dawn chorus — other than knowing all the instruments," Hunt said. "It's a matter of learning the

songs — and when there are a bunch of them, sometimes they overlap. But the more you know the little nuances of each individual song, the more songs you can pick out."

I've found Cornell Lab's Merlin app to be helpful in identifying different birdsongs. During peak spring migration, the "Sound ID" feature on Merlin might identify a dozen

species in a minute of recording from my front porch. Later, I can look up information — online and in my field guides — about the birds on that list that are unfamiliar to me, starting with confirming that the song I heard matches the ID Merlin suggests — but also what the bird looks like, its behaviors, and its habitat.

I find it helpful to snap a photo of an unfamiliar bird, when possible, to allow a more careful look at field markings — lines around the eye, say, or streaks on the breast, the presence of wingbars, the shape of its tail.

"A lot of birding is what we call GISS — general impression of size and shape,"

Outside Story → 27



The Outside Story  
By Meghan McCarthy McPhaul



# Shouldering the pain

When I was playing basketball in high school, there was a strict rule that no team member was allowed on the ski slopes during the season. Apparently, too many athletes had fallen prey to freak injuries while skiing and cost the school state championships.

I had been involved with basketball since grade school, so I wasn't inclined to want to ski. Additionally, no one in my family skied so it was never on my radar.

During my senior year of college, however, a few of my friends convinced me to finally give it a try. They then proceeded to take me to the top of a local mountain where they left me to figure it out on my own. I tumbled down that first run, but by the second, I was functional enough to pull it off.

I didn't ski again for several years until my wife coerced me back onto the slopes as a weekend activity. She loved it; I hated it. I begrudgingly did it for the season, but I never felt comfortable on skis.

Over that next summer, a friend suggested that I try snowboarding. Having been a skateboarder during my teen years, I thought it was a worthy idea. The fact was, I wasn't interested in skiing again, so if I was going to be with my wife during the winter weekends, I had to find a solution.

That next year, my friend took me to the mountain and showed me the basics of snowboarding. In one run, I was hooked, and I have been a devout snowboarder ever since.

Over the years, my wife and I have traveled to numerous resorts around the country for winter vacations on the slopes. And when our son was old enough, we put him in ski school so he could come as well.

I have always approached snowboarding in the same way: I strap on my board, turn on some tunes, find the longest runs, and then gracefully cruise down the mountain. Of course, there have been times when I've experimented with different terrain, but I've always found moguls and black diamonds to be more trouble than they're worth.

My goal is to enter into a zen or flow state where I feel totally connected to the mountain, which is why I like to cruise. When everything clicks and the conditions are ripe, I can't think of any activity I would rather do.

On one occasion while we were in Aspen, I was foolish enough to take some runs through the Olympic-sized superpipe. Decades earlier, I had ridden in halfpipes on

my skateboard so I figured I could handle it.

First of all, a superpipe is ridiculously big – much bigger than is conveyed through your television. And secondly, they are made of nearly rock-hard ice, which also isn't translated through the TV.

My first couple runs were uneventful. I made my way up each side of the pipe in a trivial manner, but I was proud given that I pulled it off. On my third run, however, my board kicked out from underneath me causing me to slam down onto my shoulder.

The resulting injury lasted nearly 10 months. I could barely lift my left arm for weeks and spent the remaining months wincing in pain whenever I moved my shoulder inappropriately.

After that event, I vowed to never again risk my physical health doing something meant for kids half my age.

Well, a few weeks ago, my family decided to hit the slopes for an end-of-winter stay in the mountains. Thankfully there was

no terrain park so I wouldn't be

tempted. However, there was a boardercross course and after a couple days, I foolishly decided to give it a try.

A boardercross course is a winding inclined trail with large berms. As soon as I entered, I knew it was a bad idea. The course was glare ice and I was moving too fast. Before I knew it, my board kicked out and I slammed onto the ground, tearing my shoulder and cracking a rib.

As I laid there staring into the sky, I questioned every level of my intelligence. And I'm still questioning it weeks later given the remaining bruises on my ribcage and my inability to lift my arm over my head.

There were a lot of bruises highlighted in this week's feature, "Without Getting Killed or Caught," a documentary about the life and music of folk artist Guy Clark.

Most people will not know the name Guy Clark, but his influence on the world of popular folk and country music was profound. This film follows his unique journey along with his equally influential wife, Susanna Clark, and the odd dynamics that surrounded their relationship.

If you're a fan of music documentaries, definitely check this one out. And then do what I did: Go listen to some Guy Clark music and open yourself up to an amazing new catalog of songs.

A persistent "B" for "Without Getting Killed or Caught," now available to rent on Amazon Prime.

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



The Movie Diary  
By Dom Cioffi



# Lot life

Three vibrant young 20-somethings were just gathering up, skis on their shoulders as they walked from their vehicle to the trailhead. Their day packs were small, ready for whatever fast and light adventure they had chosen for the day. But they had definitely been here before, definitely had a plan and definitely ended the day with all three of them sitting on the roof of the jeep watching the sunset.

Next, there was a young lady in her twenties putting her skins on like there would be an award. Inch by inch, she moved from tip to tail, making sure that the skin matched perfectly to the edges. She took pride in her work, methodically making sure everything was all set with her pack before paying any attention to her much older golden retriever who had been left unsupervised to roam the parking lot. It took her longer to prep her equipment than it did for her to tour up the mountain.

A woman in her brand new Porsche Cayenne stopped by to take a photo of her shiny black vehicle in front of the sign. She was rocking her office khakis and you could tell she had worked hard for the money. We weren't sure if this was a journey she was on or if there was something particularly special about this particular parking lot for her. But she was extremely comfortable pulling a donut on

her way out!

One dude wearing jeans was informing another dude wearing jeans on how to put on ski boots for the first time. It wasn't going well. It seemed odd that they would choose this parking lot, after work hours on a Monday to try skiing for the first time. As we looked closer we could see that

they were nordic boots and we watched as jean wearing dude traversed the bottom of the hill on skis for the first time. His poles were gripped within an inch of their life, for it was obviously their existence saving him from an icy death. His arms are going to hurt in the morning.

A different young girl in her twenties comes down, slowly. She seemed fairly confident as she would traverse the trail but then break out into a frightened wedge to make the turn. We were a little frightened for her, but she kept chugging along and we tried to come up with a back story of someone who would head up a backcountry tour with only pizza turns in their technical arsenal. Not enough money for tickets and lessons? Too stubborn or uneducated to realize she was a poor skier? Or she just didn't care about how she defended the mountain. She obviously felt comfortable with all her gear, so it wasn't a worry to us.

That is, until the creepy Lot Lizard  
Living the Dream → 27



Living the Dream  
By Merisa Sherman

# Remembering Eleanor

Spring and summer are seasonal reminders to me of those who have contributed to my perennial gardens. As their gifts to me come into bloom I remember the person who gave the plants to me and their kindness in doing so.

This year in particular I will be remembering our neighbor, Eleanor DiSabito, who sadly passed away in February. She was responsible for sparking my interest in gardening. About 40 years ago she walked across the street to our house carrying some daisy and coreopsis plants. At the time I was planting annuals in front of a split rail fence that was over 30-feet in length. This required a lot of plants that cost a lot of money.



Looking Back  
By Mary Ellen Shaw

At the time I barely knew what a perennial was. She explained that the plants she was giving me could be divided over time and I could have more of them without spending any money. Now that sounded like a deal to me!

Eleanor told me to stop over any time and take a look at her gardens. A few days later I saw her tending to a climbing vine on the side of her house. So I walked over and we headed to her backyard. When I saw the beautiful garden areas out there I felt like I had stepped into a magazine page of Better Homes and Gardens. The layout, colors and textures were gorgeous. She patiently told me the names and characteristics of everything that was in bloom. I also learned that I had missed the early bloomers, such as primrose, but I could see them next spring and take some divisions of them home with me.

Seeing some vegetables mixed in with the flowers fascinated me as they were great companions.

One thing I learned about Eleanor over the years was that she didn't have any interest in computers. By 2000 I was getting ideas for new plants online. Eleanor was getting her ideas from books and magazines. She called a room downstairs her "office" and that is where she

Looking Back → 27



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**← Looking Back:** .....  
from page 25

perused garden literature. I do my browsing on a desktop computer in an upstairs room that I call my "office." When Eleanor would read about an interesting plant she would say to me, "You can check it out on your computer!"

One of the more unusual plants Eleanor gave me is the May apple. The leaves are umbrella shaped. Several years back a contractor was doing some work at our house and saw me in the gardens. He asked if I would show him what I was growing. When we came to the May apple plants he asked me if I got them from "the lady across the street." Apparently Eleanor had shared some with him too. In spite of being curious I didn't ask how he happened to be a lucky recipient. However, I could tell that he was very happy to have received them.

Rutland Magazine was a favorite of Eleanor's and I am one of the writers for that publication. Several years ago I asked her if she would come over to my house so the magazine owners could take a picture of the two of us for one of my articles. I thought it was fitting to have the person who piqued my interest in gardening to be "side by side" with me in a photo as we looked at the flowers in bloom. The topic of my article was sharing plants with others and how each season we remember the people who gave them to us as the plants come into bloom.

A foot injury cut short Eleanor's time in the garden. I know it was frustrating to look at the gardens from their deck and not be able to tend them like she used to. She would point me in the proper direction to dig up the plants that she wanted me to have.

I will miss Eleanor's enthusiasm for gardening and her advice on how to solve a problem when something goes wrong in my own garden.

Don't hesitate to share your plants with others. They tell a story and will spark memories with every gardening season.

**← Living the Dream:** .....  
from page 25

climbed out of his truck camper with his black dog. Every parking lot has one. You know, the old white dude who goes from car to car, talking at everyone and mooching beers or food if it is available. In this case, he felt it appropriate to talk to the young lady while she changed from her ski to civilian clothes. It's hard to walk away from a conversation while balancing on one leg with your pants half off.

We saw an older telemark skier with R8 bindings. Those are a passive binding about three generations before the aggressive NTN that we see nowadays. The R8 was cheap, flimsy and had that leather feeling even though you were in a plastic boot. But tele guy refuses to modernize even though he is obviously having gear issues, as he walks for about three minutes with his skis over his shoulder before trying to put them on again. He is awkward and uncomfortable to watch, but he succeeds eventually and proceeds up the mountains.

Parking lots are glorious places to

spend some time, either people watching, making yourself dinner in your van, or just setting up some chairs and having a good old tailgate time with five pounds of guacamole. This time of year, it can be the only dry place around and if you park next to a runoff stream you have got some waterfront property!

Instead, it's May and no matter where in the ski world you find yourself, I highly recommend getting a comfy lawn chair while you sit and watch the comings and goings. But the coolest part of it all? Everyone is there because they love skiing, they love mountains and this is where they choose to be on a simple evening after work.

Because it's not just the skiing; it's the lifestyle.

*Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, local real estate agent, Killington Town lister and member of the Development Review Board. She can be reached at Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.*

**← TOS:** .....  
from page 24

Hunt said. "The first step is looking at the shape of the bird, the behavior of the bird. Does it have a pointy bill or a short bill? Does it hop around the ground or is it up in a tree? None of those are going to definitely tell you what specific species it is, but it starts narrowing things down. Once you narrow it down to a couple of species, you can hone in on specific field marks. It's a continual process."

Hunt recommends using a variety of tools to help learn the birds, from Merlin to printed field guides (Sibley and Peterson are two good options) to going on bird walks with a local Audubon chapter, Extension agency, or other birding group. Whether birding alone or in a group, etiquette calls for keeping dogs on leash (or leaving them home altogether), minimizing talking, and not overusing playbacks of birdsong, which can be detrimental to birds who think the recordings are territorial interlopers.

Hunt often records the birds she sees on Cornell's eBird database (ebird.org). This and other birding sites will be especially busy in the coming weeks. "Now we're in the middle of a migration with hermit thrush and a lot of sparrows and the first wave of warblers. Each day there are more species here," she said. "In the middle of May, the floodgates open, with the war-



The "Sound ID" feature on Merlin might identify a dozen species in a minute of recording from my front porch.

blers, the tanagers, grosbeaks, orioles, and flycatchers."

I guess it's time to brew the coffee, grab my binoculars, break out the field guides — and see what birds I can learn this season.

*Meghan McCarthy McPhaul is the associate editor of Northern Woodlands. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.*

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← **Meditation:**  
from page 25

photos of skiers up on the mountain. He was also an excellent nature photographer. He and Dad often helped each other solve their construction problems and woes. I loved when Walter joined us for supper. He was as sensitive and kind as could be and was like an uncle to me.

The Wises and Findeisens, other early arrivals, were building their houses and real estate business. I recall visiting with them at a house on the Telefon Trail when they had a 2-year-old.

Across Roaring Brook were Jean and Barry Lete with their daughter Jordan and the next house up was the Ayer's Clan. A few years later Jane and Charlie Hanley and their family arrived. They built their authentic large log cabin up the road on the "Bear Highway." Over the years, other neighbors became friends as our Killington community grew.

Mom wrote articles for "The Mountain Times" about building our ski house and local goings-on. Our saga was more entertaining in writing than how living it felt at times. She shared her stories with friends in New Jersey who couldn't believe what she put up with. I enjoy continuing the tradition Mom started of sharing our Killington experience with you.

Thank you readers for your comments—our former Sarasota neighbor Dick Robbins wrote he learned more about me in my recent column than in all the years living down the street). Mary Ann Glynn (Ann Wallen's niece) wrote she and her brother attended the Priors' camp. My niece Jennifer Dye Visscher recalled staying in our lodge at different stages of its construction. Ellen Johnson, a spry 85-year-old, sent a hand written letter about

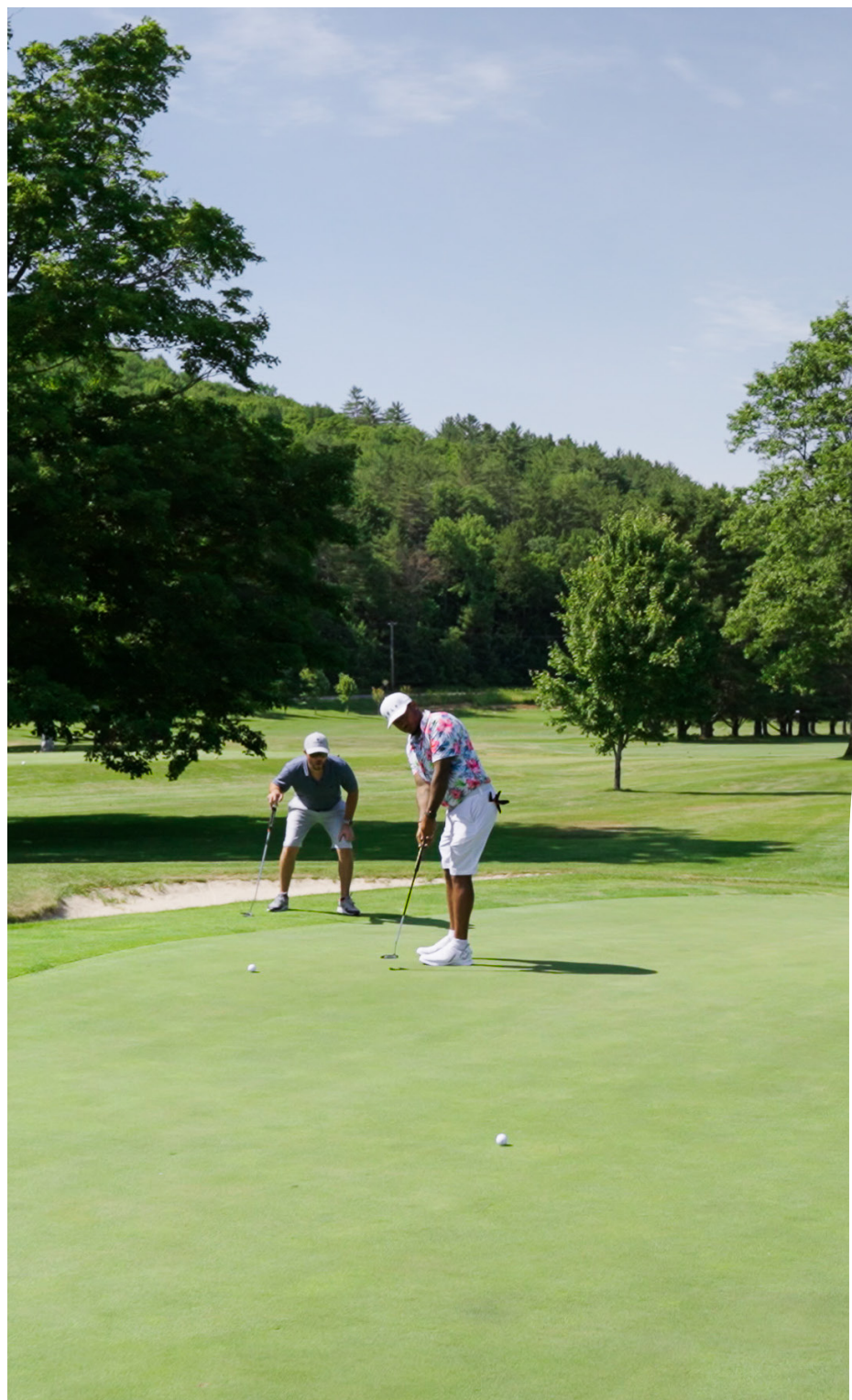
her inspiring life journey. She feels we think alike. Thank you, my readers, for sharing your thoughts. What is your favorite Killington memory? I would love to know.

*Marguerite Jill Dye is an artist and writer who divides her time between Killington and Bradenton, Florida. [jillydystudio@aol.com](mailto:jillydystudio@aol.com).*



Courtesy KPAA

*A view of Killington Peak from April 28, which was the last day K-1 was open for the season.*



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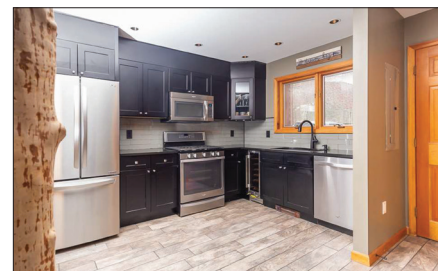
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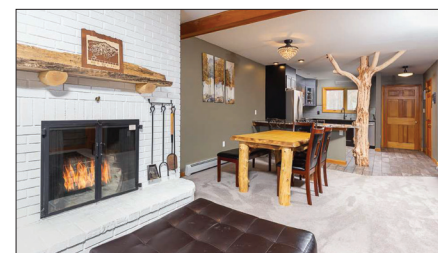
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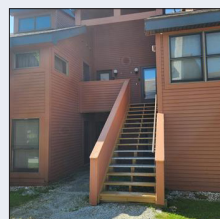
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By Luke Groff, VTF&W

Bringing home a native Vermont wild turtle to keep as a pet is illegal because it can be harmful for the individual animal and local turtle populations.

## Turtles must be left in the wild

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. reminds folks that keeping native turtles as pets is prohibited because it can harm the turtle and pose threats to wild turtle populations.

“Capturing a wild turtle and keeping it as a pet, even if only for a short time, is not only bad for that individual turtle but it could hurt entire turtle populations as well,” said Vermont Fish & Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff. “Releasing captured turtles back into the wild can spread wildlife diseases and also affect the genetics of the local population.”

Groff explains that adult turtles usually have well-defined home ranges and know where to find food, mates and shelter. However, a turtle released in unfamiliar habitat may

roam great distances, increasing the odds it will cross roads and risk being run over.

“Many of Vermont’s turtle species do not reproduce until they are at least 10 years of age,” said Groff, “and older, sexually mature females are critical to the long-term persistence of some of Vermont’s turtle populations.”

Two common species you are likely to see are the Painted Turtle and Snapping Turtle. The Wood Turtle, Spotted Turtle and Spiny Softshell are rare in Vermont, and the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. urges you to report sightings of these species to the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas ([vtherpatlas.org](http://vtherpatlas.org)).

For more info, visit: [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com).

## ← Top pre-K: from page 1

nationally committed to universal preschool and close to achieving it for both 3- and 4-year-olds,” said W. Steven Barnett, Ph.D., NIEER’s senior co-director and founder. “Vermont ranks second nationally in serving 3-year-olds, which is critically important since research finds that two years of preschool have a greater impact than one. Like other states, Vermont must continue to improve its preschool program. It can do this by providing additional resources to help more Vermont preschool teachers obtain the higher qualifications and compensation needed to deliver the highest-quality instruction and maximize student outcomes.”

Nationally, the report finds that this is a critical moment for preschool. The nation has emerged, albeit unevenly, from the Covid-19 pandemic. States are poised to make new progress toward serving more 3- and 4-year-olds in high-quality, full-day preschool programs. How each state chooses to move forward — and whether the federal government helps — will determine how much real progress is made. Most states have not committed to serving all children and even those states that do often fall short, the report found. Most states need to increase funding per child substantially to enable providers to meet minimal standards for a high-quality, effective program, it concluded.

Nationally, during the 2022-2023 school year, states enrolled over 1.63 million children in preschool, marking a 7% surge compared to the preceding year. Enrollment reached 35% of 4-year-olds and 7% of 3-year-olds, with state expenditures reaching \$11.73 billion—an 11% increase from 2021-2022 when adjusted for inflation. Notably, state spending per child surpassed \$7,000 for the first time. However, despite this notable progress, most states still fell short of their pre-pandemic preschool enrollment. While several states made strides towards achieving universal preschool access, six states persisted in not allocating any funding for preschool programs.

“With the pandemic in the rear view, it is time for states to make critical choices when it comes to quality preschool,” said Allison Friedman-Krauss, Ph.D., the report’s lead author. “Will states make the investments needed to ensure that programs are effective? Will states provide a full school-day option for all families who want it? Will states support an equitable mixed-delivery model for preschool incorporating both existing child care programs and public schools? How will states recruit, support, and retain preschool teachers? These decisions will impact millions of children for years to come.”

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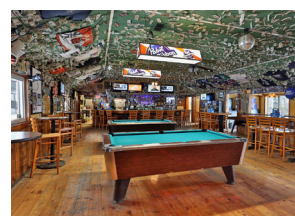


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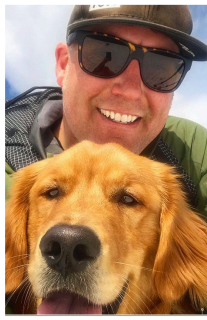
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