



FOUR VT MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS HEAD TO NATIONAL RODEO

Rianna Bagalio of Randolph, Evelyn Mountford of Washington, Brie Pikkarainen of Wallingford, and Peyton Nichols of Worcester are competing in the National Junior High Finals Rodeo, in Iowa this week.

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THE KILLINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Killington Music Festival, a classical concert series, has its season opener at 7 p.m. Saturday. Head to Pico to kick off its 42nd season.

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SUMMER JOURNEYS ON THE MOUNTAIN

Merisa Sherman shares her experience hiking Killington, but the summit is not the destination; it's just where she sometimes ends up.

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Gov. Scott addresses veto overrides, affordability in Rutland

By Curt Peterson

Introduced as "America's most popular governor," Phil Scott addressed the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) Legislative Breakfast Monday, June 24.

Fresh from a record-making veto override session — both the most vetoes and most overrides — Scott sounded a lot like the fifth-term re-election candidate he is.

"I would be happy if I never had to issue another veto," he said. "And that could happen if the Legislature would just work with me and meet me

in the middle."

That's unlikely, because the super-majority Democrats and Progressives "have so much power, they think they can do whatever they want," Scott said.

Scott lamented the Legislature's unwillingness to discuss compromise, resulting, he said, in an increased payroll tax, 20% increase in auto registration fees, and a "clean energy bill" that he says will increase taxes and fuel costs.

Asked for the answer to the education situation,

Scott said "There isn't a the answer. It's complicated."

But he continues to call education a "cost to be reduced." He's said, "Vermonters can't afford a 14% increase in the education tax... This is an immediate, emergency situation. In six months, we can expect another 'December' budget letter. Then what?"

Scott claims he worked closely with the Legislature to find a solution, starting early in the session.

Windsor County representative Elizabeth Burrows believes "neither [the governor] nor his ad-
Leg breakfast → 5



Submitted

Cooler in the Mountains kicks off summer concert series, Saturday

Killington Resort's 10-week concert series kicks off this Saturday, June 29 with Ben Goldsmith, from 3-5:30 p.m.

This summer, the Cooler in the Mountains free concert series returns to the K-1 base area at Killington Resort. The move from Snowshed base area will enable the resort to expand its learn-to-mountain bike area on Snowshed.

The new venue is at the bottom of Superstar (near the Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar).

Singer-songwriter and multidimensional artist Ben Goldsmith would like to tell you he "never could've imagined" this for himself, but he's quick to note that—call it confidence or a preternatural headstrongness years in the making—it would

Concert series → 4

MVSU to delay bond vote

By Curt Peterson

The Mountain View Supervisory Union FY2025 budget passed with 60% of the vote on Town Meeting Day. But the district's \$99 million bond for a replacement of the aging Woodstock Middle and High School complex, failed by about 10%.

Ben Ford, MSVU board vice-chair and chair of the finance committee, told the Mountain Times the bond failed even though there was very high voter turnout in the district. The board sent out a survey to find out why voters didn't approve of the "New Build" project the 18-member board had spent years developing.

"We had an amazing response to the survey," Ford said, "1,440 surveys were turned in. Of the respondents, half had voted in favor of the bond, and half had voted against."

"The reason given for voting 'no' was that voters had not seen the years of planning and
MVSD → 5

"So we are reluctant to incur the cost of a large bond with the risk of large penalties," Ford said.

Fifth time's the charm

Slate Valley passes budget after \$524,000 cut

Staff report

Slate Valley Unified Union School district successfully passed its budget, Tuesday, June 18. It was the district's fifth attempt.

The \$30.5 million budget was approved 930-794 after roughly \$524,000 was cut since it was first put out to voters on Town Meeting Day in March.

The final FY25 budget has a 3.76% lower equalized tax rate compared to FY24, however, residents in district towns will see homestead tax rate increases between 4% and 17% after the the common level of appraisal (CLA) is applied.

With Tuesday's approval, the district met the July 1 cutoff, after which it would have had to begin borrowing money from the state to cover the expenses. The district

could have borrowed up to 87% of their FY 2024 budget to cover new FY25 expenses, until it could pass a budget. But those funds would have incurred interest.

"I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your support in approving the school budget (930 Yes and 794 No) for the upcoming year on the 5th vote," wrote Superintendent Brooke Olsen-Farrell on Facebook Tuesday after the vote passed. "I know this may not have been an easy decision for many, especially due to the funding challenges throughout the state. Your dedication to ensuring the success and growth of our school community is truly commendable, and it is with great appreciation that I extend my thanks to each and

every one of you.

"As we move forward with implementing the approved budget, I want to assure you that we will continue to prioritize transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. We are open to feedback and happy to answer questions at any time. We understand the importance of effectively utilizing the resources entrusted to us and remain committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for our students," Olsen-Farrell continued. "Once again, thank you for your continued support and dedication to our school community. Together, we can work together to make a positive difference in the lives of our students and contribute to the success of our schools."

Killington Road to reopen July 19

Staff report

“On July 19th, we will open the Access Road to two-way traffic on a gravel surface. It will remain this way going forward until work along edges of the road are completed,” Markowski Excavating, Inc. explained in a news release Tuesday, June 25.

Once the road has been opened, more communication companies will be onsite to move their lines over to the new poles. Intermittent delays should be expected.

Topsoil will be installed along with plantings and shrubs and a cobble stone pathway, Markowski noted.

The road will remain gravel until the week of Aug. 12 when “we will

close the road in order to start paving. Line striping will follow by the end of the week,” Markowski said.

“Once we enter the end of August, expect clean up work along the edges of the asphalt, final stabilization work, clean up along Route 4 and final sign installation at the Killington Mountain Sports building.”

Drilling, blasting and major rock removal is anticipated to be completed prior to the Fourth of July weekend. No construction work is scheduled from July 4-7. Green Mountain Power will be on site from July 1-19, at which point new poles will be set and all new power lines will be relocated to the western edge of the road within the project limits.

Prior to July 19, the section of Killington Road from where it intersects with Route 4 to Anthony Way will remain closed. The detour is up West Hill Road.

On Monday, June 24, Markowski also began installing the sewer line from Route 4 working up the road. “We also plan to install the last sewer manhole along Route 4,” Markowski noted. “We were delayed on this work waiting on some materials for crossing over the future water line.”

This week the crews also will dig test holes for where the future power poles are to be installed in preparation for Green Mountain Power to decide if enough rock was blasted or if they need to drill deeper for the poles.

“By the end of the week we will be close to finishing up the blasting operations,” Markowski Excavating wrote.

Summer of illuminators: Beacons of positivity in Vermont

Summer in Vermont sparks contrasting desires: for some, bingeing beach books and streaming thrillers and comedies in air-conditioned living rooms are optimal choices. Others opt for self-improvement via thought-provoking content. Though beach reads and streamers are as essential for summer survival as sunscreen and shorts, this piece leans more towards the thought-provoking camp.

The new bestseller, “How To Know A Person,” by New York Times columnist David Brooks, won’t take longer than a summer afternoon to read, but it’s well worth the investment. Vermonters rightly pride themselves on their multi-generational histories, but with those come assumptions and perceptions — about certain towns, certain neighborhoods, “types” of people and the like. But, how to know a person as an individual — that’s a different story.

Brooks writes that there are two types of people, those he describes as “diminishers,” and those he terms “illuminators.” He describes diminishers as people “...who make others feel small and unimportant. They may dominate conversations, interrupt, or dismiss others’ perspectives.”

Illuminators, Brooks writes, are those “...who make others feel seen, valued, and understood. They are genuinely curious about others, ask-

sightful questions, and listen attentively. They help people feel their thoughts and experiences matter.”

Those who are fortunate to call Vermont home, or who have visited Vermont often enough to consider it home, know that the state is a study in contrasts, of illuminators vs. diminishers, of assets vs. challenges — whether referring to places, organizations, or people. Because Vermont’s pride of place and places of pride are impossible without illuminators — those authentic advocates and ambassadors

who shine a bright light on positive possibilities — Vermont is very fortunate.

Nowhere was this more evident than in Rutland earlier this week, when Governor Phil Scott, a Republican considered the most popular governor in the country, and an “illuminator” for certain, delivered eloquent remarks to about 150 diverse people gathered at Southside Steakhouse. The occasion was the semi-annual legislative breakfast sponsored by CEDRR (Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region).

Despite the 7:30 a.m. start time on a cloudy Monday, the packed room held corporate executives, private businessowners, and nonprofit leaders; Rutland Country’s senators and representatives; Rutland’s Mayor

Michael Doenges; several of Rutland City’s aldermen, and several members of Rutland City’s police force, including Chief Brian A. Kilcullen.

Everyone in attendance was supremely polite when Governor Scott was introduced, but the response to his remarks went beyond politeness. This is notable because the Governor addressed some of the most difficult decisions he has made over the past few months, about the most difficult issues facing Vermonters.

It’s even more notable because Scott addressed those issues — housing, Act 250, education, taxes and healthcare — with palpable respect, integrity and concern for the people of Vermont. He also showed genuine restraint in his comments about his detractors, emphasizing data-driven arguments with tact as well as confidence.

To be sure, at events such as this and others that celebrate the greater good

Illuminators, Brooks writes, are those “...who make others feel seen, valued, and understood...”

of Vermont, it’s disconcerting to spot the occasional diminisher. At Monday’s event, a guest seated at a crowded table in the front of the room pushed his chair back so far and so abruptly that he hit the chair of the woman directly behind him — shoving it into her back. Though the woman’s flinch was obvious to all who saw it, the man did not acknowledge it

Illuminators → 8



For the Greater Good
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

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Courtesy Vermont rodeo team
 Evelyn Mountford of Wallingford is one of four Vermont riders to qualify for Barrel Racing and Pole Bending national events.

Vermont's junior high rodeo finalists head to first-ever national championship

Four Vermont girls from New England's only rodeo team will face competitors from most U.S. states and abroad

By Juan Vega de Soto/VTDigger

A weeklong junior high rodeo is being held this week in Des Moines, Iowa. Events run Sunday, June 23 through Saturday, June 29 and Vermont had representation on that national stage for the first time.

Four girls — Rianna Bagalio of Randolph, Evelyn Mountford of Washington, Brie Pikkarainen of Wallingford, and Peyton Nichols of Worcester — are competing in the National Junior High Finals Rodeo, the biggest event in rodeo sports for middle schoolers.

"I'm pretty nervous, because I'll be on live TV," said 12-year-old Peyton, a rising seventh grader.

The rodeo is one of the largest worldwide, with more than 1,200 competitors from 43 U.S. states and five Canadian provinces, plus Mexico and Australia. The small Vermont delegation is participating in two horseback riding events: the barrel race, which consists of riding around barrels in a clover-leaf pattern, and pole bending, a high-speed slalom between closely spaced poles. Peyton is also participating in the light rifle shooting competition.

Say the word "rodeo" and most think of bucking bulls, lasso-swinging horseback riders, and rowdy crowds in jeans and cowboy hats — something definitely Western.

Indeed, modern rodeo sports are based on the skills that 19th-century cowboys — and, before them, vaqueros in northern Mexico — needed for



Courtesy Vermont rodeo team
 Peyton Nichols of Worcester demonstrates pole bending, a high-speed slalom between closely spaced poles. She will also compete in light rifle shooting.

cattle ranching, according to the Texas State Historical Association. In Spanish, the word rodeo means "round-up," referring to the gathering-in of livestock.

Today, the term is a catch-all for an array of events involving horses or other ranch animals, similar to how "track and field" covers everything from the hundred-meter dash to pole vaulting. In the U.S., youth rodeo sports are governed by the National High School Rodeo Association, which has a presence in most of the country.

Until 2020, the glaring exception was the entirety of New England.

With the founding of Vermont's rodeo team, however, the sport has ac-

quired its own particular brand — one that is all-female and focused more on fostering a healthy team spirit than on winning events.

"It's not just competitiveness, it's more of a team and everybody cheers for each other," Peyton said.

According to director Beth Davis, making the team feel like a community has been her priority since she took charge in 2022.

"It's about cheering each other on, treating each other well, treating the horses well," said Davis.

At the very least, the team has proven that an appetite for rodeo sports exists in Vermont. In just four seasons, Rodeo → 18

Kevin Hewitt named Killington highway foreman

The town of Killington announced the appointment of Kevin Hewitt as the new highway foreman as of June 24. Hewitt is currently employed in the town's highway department and brings an abundance of experience in infrastructure maintenance and construction management to the team, with a strong foundation of knowledge of Killington's needs, the town stated in a news release.

Before coming to Killington in 2023, Hewitt served in various roles as a heavy equipment operator and road maintenance person throughout the area, and his experience in both the private and public sectors will be of value to Killington as we venture into a future full of improvement and new construction projects, the town stated.

Town Manager Michael Ramsey said, "The town went through its review, and Hewitt stood out as the leading candidate. Aside from having a wealth of knowledge surrounding construction, Hewitt has shown himself to be a leader over the last several weeks and is willing to learn and grow within the organization."

Hewitt resides in Middletown Springs with his wife Danielle, children Tallen, Nevaeh, Nataleigh, and two dogs, Callie and Piper.

After being introduced at the Select Board meeting on Monday night, June 24, Hewitt noted that he has been working on the mountain for almost a decade with different people and companies. Using that experience, he looks forward to improving infrastructure to meet the town's needs.

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OBITUARY

Margaret Schiessl, 88

After a well-lived life, long-time Killington Vermont resident Margaret “Omi” Schiessl passed away at age 88 on March 4, 2024, in Parrish, Florida.

Schiessl’s testament in life was to spread love to her family and friends. She was a beloved wife, mother, Oma, sister, and friend born on Jan. 2, 1936, in Nürtingen, Germany. She was the third child of Elise and Alfred Aichele, and a sister to her three brothers Alfred, Carl, and Walter. From a young age, she was drawn towards adventure, fun, and nature. She was never afraid to voice her mind and lend a helping hand to those around her. Her laugh was contagious, her smile infectious.

In 1962, Margaret married Karl Schiessl whom she met in Chester, Connecticut. Together they embarked on a journey filled with love and adventure throughout the mountains of Killington, Vermont, the cobblestone streets of Bruck, Germany, and the soft white sands of Bradenton, Florida. They decided to raise their daughter Kristin in the Green Mountains starting in the Brindlehof, which then



Submitted

Margaret Schiessl

turned into building their beloved ski lodge, Chalet Kristin, later renamed The Bear Mountain Inn where she lived for 47 years.

Many of her years in Killington consisted of skiing, dancing at the Wobbly Barn, playing tennis, swimming in Timberlake, and caring for the Bear Mountain Inn, which housed skiers from around the world. She was cherished as a grandmother by her granddaughter Heidi and fondly known as “Omi” by many of her friends.

Margaret is survived by her

daughter Kristin and granddaughter Heidi. A celebration of life for Margaret Schiessl will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2024 at 11 a.m., at Our Lady of the Mountains Church, in Killington. Reception to follow at the Summit Lodge.

The loss of Omi leaves a void in many of the hearts of her loved ones, though her legacy of love, compassion, and empathy will continue to inspire and guide those who have had the pleasure of crossing paths with her. Omi’s advice, “Don’t take any wooden nickels!”



Courtesy Killington Resort

← **Concert series:**
from page 1

just not be true. “In a way, I’ve been working towards this since I was 3 or 4,” he told the resort on a Zoom call from his Long Island bedroom. “I’ve never strayed. It’s the only thing I’ve ever wanted to do.”

That “thing” Goldsmith is referring to is making music—more than music, really, it’s lyrically-driven art free from genre, with a sharp point of view and melodies as strong as some of the teen’s many influences.

Goldsmith was born and bred on acts like Aerosmith, Dave Matthews Band, Elton John, Queen, Stevie Wonder, John Mayer, and Bob Dylan. Modern artists like Zach Bryan, Maggie Rogers, Steve Lacy, and Sam Fender helped round out his style and his sonic influences, drawing inspiration from the sort of iconoclasts who—like Goldsmith—float between worlds, genres, and

sounds, a jack and master of all trades.

The Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar at the base of Superstar will be open during each concert, serving beverages. Food will be served out of the nearby Beastro food truck. There is also an area designated for BYOB only. Bringing alcohol that was purchased on-site into the BYOB area (or vice versa) is strictly prohibited. Summer line-up:

1. June 29 - Ben Goldsmith
2. July 6 - The Parisian
3. July 13 - The Sideways
4. July 20 - Jerry Duty
5. July 27 - Waiting On Mongo
6. Aug. 3 - Kind Hearted Strangers
7. Aug. 10 - CDDB
8. Aug. 17 - Soulshine Revival
9. Aug. 24 - Rumboat Chili
10. Aug. 31 - Annie in the Water

Overridden!

Last Monday the Vermont Legislature reconvened to override six out of the seven gubernatorial vetoes issued since the regular session ended a month ago. Clearly the Democratic supermajority in the legislature and Governor Scott are not on the same page and see such issues as affordability differently.

Among the bills overridden were ones increasing the statewide property tax, a measure that will increase electric rates, and another expanding the role of Act 250 (Vermont's land use law). In a clear sign that Scott is not going to accept the veto overrides sitting down, he called out legislative



By Rep. Jim Harrison

leaders and the supermajority as "arrogant" for their approach adding new costs onto Vermonters and their unwillingness to meet him somewhere in the middle. At one point in his press conference following Monday's special override session, he even likened the Vermont Legislature to Congress, where it seems to be all about partisan politics, which a reporter labeled as the ultimate insult.

The bills enacted via veto overrides last week include:

H.887 - Property tax rates to fund education

The bill establishes an average statewide homestead property tax rate increase of 13.8%. Actual rates will vary depending on a school district's per student spending and a town's CLA (common level of appraisal). For example, Killington homestead education taxes are estimated to increase 29%, Chittenden 24% and Mendon 22%. The governor advocated using reserve funds to lower the rates, while legislative leaders said that was fiscally irresponsible. He also asked them to consider returning to providing need-based school meals, rather than making them universal, which again was not received well by leaders. And to be fair, the Legislature also used one-time funds to lower tax rates, which could potentially create problems for next year's increase when surplus funds may not be available.

H.289 - The Renewable Energy Standard bill

Scott objects to the additional hundreds of millions it will add to Vermonter's electric rates over the coming decade. His administration offered a plan to achieve the same air quality outcome at a much lower cost but it was not considered by the Legislature.

H.72 - Safe Injection Sites

The measure establishes an injection site in Burlington. Opponents of the measure question the advisability of providing a haven for illegal drug use and diverting resources from other treatment options, while proponents believe it will save lives lost to overdoses.

H.687 - Land conservation and Housing

The bill expands the role of Act 250 in rural areas, but also allows some temporary exemptions for housing developments in downtown areas. Some called it a balanced approach, but the governor objected to the expanded focus on conservation, which he fears will make it more difficult to meet the state's housing needs going forward. Suggestions for further compromise by the administration were ignored.

H.645 - The expansion of approaches to restorative justice

The bill as passed expands the role of the Attorney General's Office yet does not provide funding for additional restorative justice initiatives. AG Clark indicated she plans to ask for funding when the Legislature returns in January.

H.706 - Banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides

The legislation is modeled after a similar law in New York State, which bans the use of neonicotinoid treated seeds by 2029 (other uses of the pesticide are banned in 2025).

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ministration, nor the Legislature addressed anything about tax relief until well after crossover," the date House-proposed legislation goes to the Senate for consideration, about two weeks after Town Meeting.

Perhaps, Burrows said, the governor referred to passing Act 84, just a week before Town Meeting Day, allowing school districts to delay budget votes to allow time for cuts. Hartland was one of eight districts that took advantage of the delay, reducing their budget by about \$500,000.

The governor and many legislators publicly blamed school boards, demanding "cut your budgets!" — the governor even urged voters to turn down their districts' budgets.

The situation became deeply divisive. Voters were confused and frustrated.

The revised Hartland budget passed by 9 votes out of 600 on May 28. Petitioners felt the small margin required a revote. In revote, the budget failed by 14 of 1,100 votes. Cutting an educator position further reduced the budget \$100,000 — enough to win another revote, by 2 to 1.

Budget manipulation did almost nothing to reduce the education tax increase. Vermont school budgets

include inflexible infrastructure costs, salary and healthcare cost, which saw double digit increases negotiated by the state — and several Legislature-imposed unfunded mandates.

The governor's alternative plan for education spending this fiscal year, presented just before override session, would bring the increase down to the 4-5% range.

Burrows describes Scott's proposal as "fiscally irresponsible" — mostly predicated on borrowing money from the future, which also faces the same challenges, but also eliminated universal lunch (proven to enhance student performance) and doing away with income sensitivity credits. One-time spend-downs would deplete both the education fund surplus, and an expected, but undocumented, budget surplus. His plan failed to include measures to avoid repeating the problem in the future.

The "Scott proposal" would cause Vermont to lose our triple-A bond rating — affecting interest rates if the state borrowed funds.

"I did not vote in favor of the override [neutralizing Scott's proposal] because I thought [14% increase] was acceptable," Burrows told the Mountain Times. "I voted in favor of it

because I felt that it provided ways to avoid finding ourselves right back in the same ugly spot next year."

The State Board of Education vetted candidates for the position of Secretary of Education, sending names of three finalists to the governor. He did not respond for six months then ignored the three candidates and appointed Zoie Saunders as secretary. The senate voted 19-9 to reject her appointment, but the governor re-appointed her as "interim secretary."

Two senators, Dick McCormack and Tanya Vyhovskiy, "allege that Scott 'purposefully circumvented' the senate's constitutional authority to confirm and deny gubernatorial cabinet appointments when he re-appointed [Saunders] as interim education secretary after the senate voted against her." The matter is now in front of the courts.

Scott told the CEDRR crowd Monday morning that Saunders is in the process of visiting all of Vermont's school boards to assess the situation with education funding in the state, and will submit a report of her findings when her survey is complete.

"Zoie is the right person for the job," he said. "Unfortunately, her appointment has become a political issue."

← MVSD: from page 1

different plans and concepts and felt they were given one choice, take it or leave it, and they weren't comfortable with what little they knew of the process involving so much money," Ford said.

Following the survey, the MVSU board decided to create options for voter consideration — four to be exact — which were presented last month.

One involved complete renovation of the existing complex with a current adjusted cost of \$105 million, due to anticipated increased cost over time.

Another, Ford called "a hybrid project," building a new high school, but renovating the middle school, at a projected cost of \$90 million.

But that option would leave a middle school with only 10-15 years' functional use, and take longer to complete because of demolition and inability to do some work while the original complex is still in use, Ford explained.

The third option involves two concepts: the first (3A) is the unchanged original proposal, with the new adjusted price of \$105 million.

The alternate third concept (3B) is a less expensive version of the original proposal, using a flat roof instead of the peaked roof over the gym and auditorium, and eliminating the second floor planned for administration use — the cost estimate was \$100 million.

Last week, the board decided to delay any vote on one or more of the options, at least until September, and possibly Town Meeting 2025.

A paramount reason, Ford said, is how school construction issues are being treated in Montpelier.

The state suspended school construction financial

support in 2017 because of recession, but never reinstated it. Any construction or maintenance of school infrastructure has since become part of the local school budgets. For that reason, any bond funds used to finance a new school such as the Woodstock complex, had not counted toward per student education spending when calculating penalties for overspending.

"That exception has been taken away in the new yield bill the Legislature reinstated over Governor Scott's veto last week," Ford said. "So we are reluctant to incur the cost of a large bond with the risk of large penalties."

"With the current situation, if the bond was up for voter approval right now, I wouldn't vote for it myself," said Ford.

Carin Park, MVSU board member representing Barnard, pointed out that there are no bond payments for either three or five years in the proposed plan, and the board could assume the state would come up with a better education funding scheme in that much time.

Ford, however, is not so sure. The state had also created a task force meant to reinstate state spending in support of construction projects, but Ford said that commission has been absorbed into the group charged with redesigning the entire funding system, with new goals of finding a funding source for school construction by December 2025, when their final report is due.

"The new yield bill has delayed any chances for predictable help," Ford lamented. "I've been known as a major proponent of this project from the very beginning," he said, "but with the current situation, if the bond was up for voter approval right now, I wouldn't vote for it myself."

For more information, visit: mtnviews.org/breaking-news-ground.

GUEST EDITORIAL

The impact of veto overrides

By Gov. Phil Scott

Editor's note: At his weekly press conference Wednesday, June 19 Governor Phil Scott addressed the impact the Legislature's veto overrides will have on Vermont taxpayers, workers and families and their ability to afford to live in the state. What follows is a transcript of his remarks.

The Legislature voted to override six of my vetoes. As you might remember, after the last week of a chaotic end of the session, where they passed 70 bills in three days, I talked about how we were going to review each bill and weigh the good against the bad when deciding whether to sign the bill, let it go without signature, or veto the bill.

And, with each veto, I included a letter explaining my concerns and described a path forward, where neither got everything we wanted, but each gave a little.

Unfortunately, what has become typical of the Legislature is their unwillingness to meet me in the middle, to come to a reasonable compromise.

Yesterday, the Legislature proved once again, they don't need to consider my perspective or proposals.

And what's sad about that is their strategy only hurts everyday Vermonters. Because it's Vermonters who pay the price.

When I travel around the state and talk to people, so many are worried about how expensive it is to live here, and they wonder how they're going to make ends meet.

It's them who will pay a higher property tax, while schools struggle to put forward reasonable budgets.

It's them who will pay more to turn the lights on, or heat their homes, because of the renewable energy standard and clean heat standard.

It's our rural communities, who will continue to suffer in the future, due to the expansion of Act 250 and will have fewer tools to help them with housing and making life more affordable.

And it's Vermonters who are already paying 20% more at the DMV, and will face a new payroll tax starting July 1, all while being crushed by inflation.

So, as some may frame this as a loss for me, and a win for the Legislature, the reality is, it's a major loss for Vermont taxpayers, workers, and families.

For six months, the Legislature has known about the property tax increase facing Vermonters. We warned them in our December 1st letter that there was an 18% property tax increase heading their way, but instead of sounding the alarm, they said I was fearmongering and the Pro Tem promised to get it down to "1 1/2 maybe 2%."

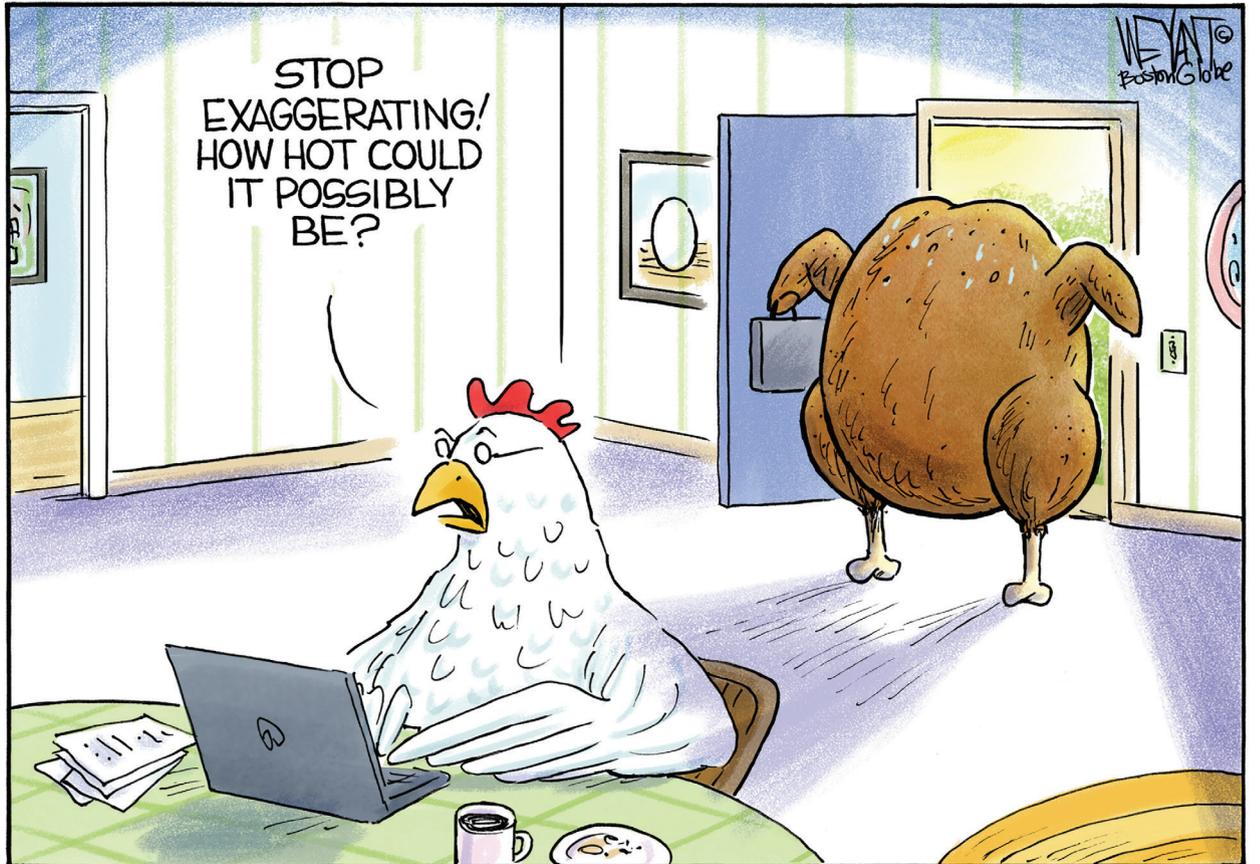
Instead, Vermonters will face a historic double digit property tax increase this year of about 14%.

And yesterday, they were even declaring victory, when they said they had gotten it down more than 33%. But, what they failed to mention was, that 33% reduction is compared to the projected 18% increase. That's like raising the price of a loaf of bread by 60% and then having a 20% off sale.

They also failed to mention they raised taxes and fees in other areas to give you 33% off. And because nothing was done to address the structural problems, we'll see this same thing

Vetos → 8

As some may frame this as a loss for me, and a win for the Legislature, the reality is, it's a major loss for Vermont taxpayers, workers, and families.



Roaster of a Heat Wave by Christopher Weyant, The Boston Globe

LETTERS

AJGA is a good fit for GMNGC

Dear Editor,

As many may know, this week was the annual AJGA (American Junior Golf Association) tournament at Green Mountain National Golf Course (GMNGC) here in Killington. It is a wonderful event bringing in families from around the world. I have been lucky enough to volunteer there for a number of years and I always feel like an ambassador for Killington town as I greet parents and players and ask how they are enjoying their time here.

For some it's their first time experiencing Vermont. For others, it's their second or third time returning to this tournament. While they speak about how challenging the course is, they also talk about how they enjoyed exploring the area on their afternoon off. They are gracious and appreciative of the hospitality we show them as they stay in our local hotels and short-term rentals and visit our restaurants.

I was surprised and disappointed to hear a rumor that they would not be welcomed back next year. This seems like the perfect use of our municipal golf course

AJGA → 8

VSBA seeks to address root cause of high ed spending

Dear Editor,

As this school year ends, schools are celebrating graduations. This is an important moment for all our students, families, and educators across Vermont. It is a celebration that public education is at the center of our communities and the foundation of our democracy. As our high school graduates around the state go out into the world, we are reminded that providing an equitable, high-quality education is something that everyone wants.

School board members across Vermont are focused on providing a high-quality education at a cost that is supported by taxpayers. In this extremely challenging time, with costs rising and record numbers of district budget defeats, school board members are as concerned as everyone else about increases in property taxes. They also know that there is no quick and easy solution — we must address the root causes of the increases with

Root cause → 7

Working together toward affordable, quality ed solutions

Dear Editor,

Back in late February, I had to stand up at Town Meeting and tell my community that I anticipated our taxes would increase by double digits. It wasn't fun. We're looking at a 15% increase and I'm not at all happy about it. I have to pay it, too. My town elected me to make decisions about our

We'd need to cut approximately \$3.5 million from our elementary budget for a near zero increase in the tax rate... the entire regular education portion of my budget.

schools and about our taxes and this year I felt like I just couldn't get it right on either side of the equation.

Governor Scott said it was simple: Just spend less. Less where? Pay our teachers and staff less? Kinda hard with a contractually binding labor agreement with the union. Fire some teachers or staff? A possibility that we considered but neither the board nor families were happy with

increased class sizes. Spend less on healthcare? Also a bit challenging when we don't get to set the premium rates. Maybe we could abandon our failing septic system replacement. Despite what we were told by health officials and concerned families, perhaps some fecal matter on the school green

in the winter isn't that bad for kids. I thought about getting rid of sports teams or music or theater programs at the middle and high schools but my colleagues from the New Hampshire side of our interstate school district were

not persuaded. I ran the numbers. We'd need to cut approximately \$3.5 million from our elementary budget for a near zero increase in the tax rate. Coincidentally that was the line item amount for the entire regular education portion of my budget — all teachers and school supplies. That would do it — a flat tax rate for a school with no teachers.

Solutions → 7

CAPITOL QUOTES

Two state senators are taking Gov. Phil Scott to court. A lawsuit was filed last Wednesday, June 19, by Sens. Tanya Vyhovský, P/D-Chittenden Central, and Dick McCormack, D-Windsor, alleging that Scott “purposefully circumvented” the Senate’s constitutional authority to confirm and deny gubernatorial cabinet appointments when he reappointed Zoie Saunders as interim education secretary after the Senate voted 9-19 against her. Within minutes, Scott reappointed her to serve as interim secretary.

“This is now no longer even about the secretary of education. It’s about separation of powers and the right of the Senate to do the job that it is constitutionally and statutorily given,”

said Sens. **Tanya Vyhovský**, in an interview with VTDigger, June 19.

“He didn’t even do us the respect of waiting,” said Senate President *pro tempore* **Phil Baruth**, D/P-Chittenden Central, to VTDigger last month.

“[The lawsuit] is another example of legislators focusing more on partisan political maneuvering over the hard work to help schools, kids and taxpayers... And it’s no surprise it was announced the same week they imposed a 14% property tax increase... They’d like nothing more than to change the subject and distract Vermonters and the press.”

said Gov. Scott’s communications director **Rebecca Kelley** in a written statement and follow up text.

“Their lawsuit will have a cost to taxpayers because of the need to respond to and defend against the suit,” said **Amanda Wheeler**, a spokesperson for the governor, said in an email.

← Root cause:

from page 6

in the education system.

Governor Scott’s veto of the yield bill was disappointing because it raised the problem of rising property taxes without providing solutions. His proposals did not address the root causes of increasing costs within Vermont’s education system. In fact, the governor’s proposal to use reserve funds to decrease taxes this year would have created a fiscal hole to fill next year, putting us further from any real solutions.

The General Assembly’s override of the governor’s veto of the yield bill creates the conditions for school boards, the Legislature, the governor, and other stakeholders to do the critically important work of addressing the root causes of increasing costs and creating a better funding system. This

work begins right away and school board members take it very seriously. Everyone involved must acknowledge that our current system isn’t working for students or taxpayers.

As we look ahead, we must support the public education system in a sustainable way and address the financial burden faced

environment that promotes sharing ideas, showing respect, and finding common ground. Rather than blaming legislators, school boards, or anyone else for the education funding challenges the state faces, we urge the governor to work with us to address the root causes. School boards, the governor, legislators and

School boards, the governor, legislators and others can set an example for our students by working together with tolerance, understanding, and open minds.

by taxpayers. This will be the work of the Commission on the Future of Public Education created by the yield bill. The commission’s discussions should be of interest to all stakeholders. One of the most important things we can offer our students is an

others can set an example for our students by working together with tolerance, understanding, and open minds. The goal is to make sense of the future together.

Flor Diaz Smith, president of the Vermont School Boards Association

← Solutions:

from page 6

But it ain’t simple and I’m pretty sure the governor knows that. His one-liner is really appealing: who doesn’t want lower taxes? His solution? Borrow. Yup, borrow. Borrow from the money set aside for schools for next year. So we all get a year of “relief” only to lament next year that we’ve got an even bigger hole to fill in the education fund. Guess what happens then? We raise property taxes to fill that hole. That’s the type of solution you get when you don’t have the right people at the table. We’re talking about a Vermont child’s life and future. If you don’t know where the money is going and simply just cut your way out of this situation you stand to impact an entire generation of folks that we want to be the future of Vermont.

The governor claimed that the veto override of the yield bill was “a major loss for Vermont taxpayers, workers, and families.” I disagree.

According to Vermont’s non-partisan Joint Fiscal Office “Without a yield bill,

property taxes would not raise sufficient revenue for the Education Fund, leading to an estimated deficit of \$82 million.” As a result our kids would take the hit, schools would be shorted the money they need and next year taxpayers would be facing an even larger property tax increase because we would need to

I do not want to tell my community at next year’s Town Meeting that our taxes are going up by double digits again.

make up the \$82 million first before even considering any new school spending. That’s what the governor wanted?

There’s another reason that the veto override of the yield bill was good for Vermonters. The bill established a commission that will begin work on July 15 on the future of education in Vermont. The governor will be at the table. The Legislature will be at the table. Schools, school boards, even private schools will be at the table.

Their job? To develop a vision for Vermont education including “a written report containing its preliminary findings and recommendations, including short-term cost containment considerations for the 2025 legislative session, on or before Dec. 15, 2024.”

Dig into the details and you’ll see that the commission will be holding numerous public meetings throughout the state this summer and fall and public engagement is a priority. My school board colleagues and I are ready to get to work. I

do not want to tell my community at next year’s Town Meeting that our taxes are going up by double digits again.

So, Governor Scott, we agree. We both feel obligated to be the voice of Vermonters. Now let’s get to the real work.

See you in July.
Neil Odell, Norwich
Editor’s note: Odell is a member of Friends of Vermont Public Education, a past president of VSBA, and a Norwich/Dresden School Board Member.

← Vetos: from page 6

play out again in about 6 months.

From my first day in office, I've been clear about my priorities to make Vermont more affordable, protect the most vulnerable, and grow the economy.

My team has spent this entire legislative session trying to keep costs down for Vermonters, while working to make housing more affordable and more available, improving our education system for kids and taxpayers, and revitalizing communities, so we can keep and attract the workers we

desperately need.

It's clear this Legislature, led by the super majority, has little interest in compromise or taking a moderate approach on any issue.

As I've said, I feel obligated to be the voice of Vermonters. And I'm sorry that it was not enough this year.

At this point, we simply need more balance in Montpelier, and lawmakers who will put people and communities over party politics.

← Harrison: from page 5

The administration believes the bill could have negative impacts on farmers, who rely on these treated seeds for their corn crops. They also argue that the bee populations are rebounding and question the impact of the pesticide.

The Senate failed to override one bill and the governor's veto stands: H.121 - Enhancing consumer privacy and the age-appropriate design code.

The legislation would have regulated consumer online information and how it could be utilized. Vermont's bill went further than other states prompting concern from many businesses.

At the conclusion of Monday's session, the Legislature adjourned *sine die*, which means the '23-'24 biennium is officially over unless the governor calls the Legislature back for a special session. Lawmakers elected this fall will convene a new session next January.

In the meantime, the political season will be in full swing. Scott, almost a sure bet for re-election, will be campaigning to add more balance in the Legislature next year. In his view, we can't afford more of the same, no willingness to compromise and no focus on affordability, something he believes the supermajority hasn't set as a priority.

As I have indicated before, I am a candidate for re-election and hope to be part of the balance at the State House, if returned.

On a different note, I would like to extend a thank you to the 90+ volunteers from the area who helped at last week's American Junior Golf Association tournament at Green Mountain National. It attracted some of the best young golfers from around the country as well as the world to Killington.

Thank you for your continued interest in my periodic updates and issues at the State House.

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

← AJGA: from page 6

to increase and celebrate tourism in the area. It comes at the perfect time of year when tourism is in our slow season and the restaurants

It would be a shame to lose this group and the enthusiasm they bring.

are hurting for business. I hope the Select Board will see the benefit this tournament brings to Killington and continue to partner with AJGA for years to come. It would be a shame to lose this group and the enthusiasm they bring to town.

Stella Maher, Killington

← Illuminators: from page 2

nor did he turn around, let alone apologize.

All the more reason to focus on the positives, on those at the event who, in addition to Scott, were illuminators as well. Among them:

Rep. Paul Clifford, R-Rutland, waiting patiently in line to speak with Governor Scott after the event, was nothing short of gallant when another guest inadvertently inserted herself between Clifford and the governor. Rep. Clifford assured her that he "...speaks with the Governor all the time, so please go ahead..." The woman and Scott had an animated and positive conversation, and she went on her way.

Rutland City Alderman Bill Gillam, Jr. was also bubbling over with enthusiasm, about a project he is facilitating to boost the intersection of Center Street and Merchants Row as a vibrant focal point. Since that area is the first thing most people see when they arrive in Rutland via Amtrak, the project could be a significant economic spark for Rutland's downtown. Yet Gillam was both modest and beaming, so to speak, as he acknowledged his "broad shoulders" in taking on that and other high-profile projects.

Lastly, no article about illuminators would be complete without acknowledging the CEDRR staff that have been organizing such events for more years than most people can recall. Though usually behind the scenes, they are

dynamic catalysts for commerce and indisputable illuminators in their own right. Among them: Chrispin White, CEDRR's member services and events manager, who greeted a guest with his usual empathy and cheer — especially when she expressed an unusual craving for a steak at 7:15 in the morning; Communications and Marketing Manager Olivia C. Lyons, who has high-wattage energy and an uncanny prescience for anticipating requests — in addition to her exceptional marketing and communications talents; and Lori Pinkowski, CEDRR's office manager, whose patience and consideration for all who interact with CEDRR rival that of any politician.

Although David Brooks' "How To Know A Person" contains several chapters about illuminators, perhaps Brooks should do a follow-up book on pride of place and places of pride where illuminators far outshine diminishers. He could spotlight those who are such essential beacons of positivity that their states, cities, towns and neighborhoods would not survive, let alone thrive, without them. He could start right here in Vermont, right here in the Rutland region.

Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal and owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, L3C, based in Rutland, serving charitable and educational institutions. lizdimarcoweinmann.com.



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TOWN OF

KILLINGTON
VERMONT

Request for Proposals

2024 East Mountain Road Paving

Date of Issue: June 21, 2024

Deadline July 3, 2024

The Town of Killington requests proposals to reclaim, pave, and provide pavement markings for East Mountain Road. The following is a brief description of the project:

- o Full-width reclaim from the intersection with Route 4 to Bear Mountain Road. Provide 2" base coat and ¾" topcoat.
- o ¾" shim from Ski Bridge to a point just beyond Roundabout Road (approximately to 2449 East Mountain Road).
- o The town reserves the right to add or subtract from this scope at its discretion.

Full specifications are available on the Town of Killington's website at: killingtontown.com/bid

Bids are due no later than **3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3, 2024**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Bids will be opened at the July 8, 2024, Selectboard Meeting. At the opening, bid responses will be read aloud and recorded. Award of the bid shall occur as described in Section 4 of the RFP.

Contact for Questions:

Abbie Sherman, Director of Public Works
Town of Killington
publicworks@killingtontown.com
(802) 712-4243 (cell)

WORDPLAY

Great Outdoors WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back

A K C A B E S R O H N S R Y E O M S I H
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 U N H U B R N Y U K A Y A K N Y Y I K R E
 T N I O M Y F Y L S Z T O C A J C A Y E E
 Y F O O L S U N S H I N E N C M L R F E Z
 G J F G N I H S I F G H Y A U S I T I Z
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ANIMAL
 BACKPACKING
 BOATING
 BREEZE
 CANOE

CLIMBING
 CYCLING
 FISHING
 HORSEBACK
 JOGGING

KAYAK
 LAKE
 MOUNTAIN
 NATURE
 PHOTOGRAPHY

RECREATION
 RUNNING
 SAILING
 SKY
 SPORTS

SUNSHINE
 SURF
 TOURISM
 TRAILS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 21

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Volunteer school groups
 - 5. Cash machine
 - 8. Title of various Muslim rulers
 - 12. Indian hand clash cymbals
 - 14. Scarf
 - 15. Easily manageable
 - 16. Cry
 - 18. Financial term
 - 19. Reactive structure in organic chemistry (abbr.)
 - 20. Clean out a riverbed
 - 21. Seaport (abbr.)
 - 22. English seascape painter
 - 23. Bring back again
 - 26. Subtracted from
 - 30. Related on the mother's side
 - 31. Mooches
 - 32. Commotion
 - 33. Boer War general
 - 34. Silklike nylon fabric
 - 39. CNN's founder
 - 42. Sarcastic in a bitter way
 - 44. Minute reproductive unit
 - 46. Nourishment
 - 47. Large predato-

- ry tropical fish
- 49. Small, rich sponge cake
- 50. Drink a small amount
- 51. Golfer Rodriguez
- 56. Norse personification of old age
- 57. Large flightless bird
- 58. Capsized
- 59. Convicted American spy
- 60. Music genre
- 61. Makes tractors
- 62. Undergo cell disintegration
- 63. Patti Hearst's captors
- 64. Selfs

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Post-traumatic stress disorder
 - 2. Goat-like mammal
 - 3. Swiss river
 - 4. Slithered
 - 5. Humiliate
 - 6. Tumbled
 - 7. Popular alcoholic drink
 - 8. Small round hole in a leather cloth
 - 9. Fertilizer
 - 10. State of affairs that seems deliberately contrary
 - 11. Count on

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

- 13. One who discriminates against
- 17. New Hampshire city
- 24. Cares for teeth
- 25. Sent off
- 26. Mutual savings bank
- 27. Initial public offering
- 28. Denial
- 29. Northeastern institution of higher learning (abbr.)

- 35. A doctrine
- 36. Consumed
- 37. Trent Reznor's band
- 38. Perform in a movie
- 40. Schoolhouse implementations
- 41. Mathematical term
- 42. Man who behaves dishonorably
- 43. Expression of regret

- 44. Martens
- 45. Approval
- 47. Pleasantly warm
- 48. The Eurasian hoopoe
- 49. NBAer Bradley
- 52. Engineering org
- 53. Horsefly
- 54. Type of sandwich
- 55. A day in the middle of the month

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Guess Who?

I am an entrepreneur born in South Africa on June 28, 1971. I attended the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where I studied economics and physics. I am an engineer who became a billionaire with my many innovative projects.

Answer: Elon Musk

SUDOKU

Solutions → 21

To solve: make sure each row, column and block, contain one of the numbers from 1-9. No number may appear more than once.

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

Level: Intermediate

WEDNESDAY

6/26

RSVP Bone Builders

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

S.E.A.T. Exercises

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

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. 908-783-1050.

Wednesday Farmers' Market (Rutland)

1-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Depot Park, downtown Rutland. One of the largest farmers markets in the state and the first to operate year-round. vtfarmersmarket.org

KMBC BIKE BUM RACE SERIES

2-5 p.m. Wednesdays through 8/21. Lower Rabbit Hole via Snowshed Express lift, Killington Resort, Killington. \$50 per individual, \$200 per team. Sign up to ride solo, or form a team of up to five people. Teams may be made up of any combination of age categories. Teams require a minimum of three people in order to score points. Racers will be placed in divisions by age and will have one timed run each week. All races will be held on beginner/intermediate trails ensuring fun for all bikers. Day-of registration will take place at the start gate. All pricing includes a \$5 chip fee. All racers must check in at the top of the race course by 4:30 p.m. each week in order to participate. After-party at the Lookout Tavern from 5-7 p.m. killingtonmountainbikeclub.org/collections/bike-bum

Market on the Green

3-6 p.m. Wednesdays. The Green, Woodstock. Produce, crafts, live music, and more. A fun, family-friendly event on the Village Green. info@woodstockvt.com or 802-457-3555

Cribbage for Adults

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

Bone Builders

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

Ballroom Dance with Patti Panebianco

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

Are You Smarter Than a Bird Nerd?

6 p.m. Harpoon Brewery, 336 Ruth Carney Drive, Windsor. Free. Compete head to head against a team of VINS educators in a good old fashioned game of trivial VINS is teaming up with Questionable Co. to present a night of nature-themed trivia. Test out your knowledge of natural history and challenge your identification skills while also competing in classic trivia categories such as music, history, and sports to answer the question "Are you smarter than a bird nerd?" 802-359-5000 or info@vinsweb.org.

Artistree Music on the Hill: Sandiland & Vincent

6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, So. Pomfret. Free. Please join us Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for Artistree's free Summer Concert Series. Pack a picnic, bring a blanket, enjoy live music & scenic views from the hillside at Artistree! All dates are weather dependent. No pets allowed. Service dogs welcome. Reservations are not required. info@artistreevt.org

BarnArts presents: 'Macbeth'

6:30-9 p.m. Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$15-20. Join BarnArts outdoors amidst the trees of Fable Farm to experience the magic and tragedy of Shakespeare's "Macbeth." Directed by Killian White, over 20 local actors delve into tyranny, paranoia, betrayal, and the bonds of marriage as the prophecy of witches launches a tragic series of events fueled by grand ambition amidst already violent times in the Scottish Highlands. info@barnarts.org or 802-234-1645

Artist Talk Tina Lam at the Carving Studio

7-8 p.m. Carving Studio & Sculpture Center, 636 Marble St., West Rutland. Free. Artist Tina Lam arrived at the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center on June 4 for a one-month residency. A native of Montreal, Ms. Lam uses land-art interventions to exchange and subvert the pragmatic for the fantastic. In her studio, she is guided by her scientific background, her personal history and intuition to summon chemical oxidation, mechanical deformation and aesthetic sensibility to put energetic and poetic gestures into materials. 802-438-2097 or info@carvingstudio.org

Seven to Sunset Concert Series: John Lackard**Blues Band**

7 p.m. Wednesdays through 8/17. Main Street Park, Rutland. Free. The stage is set for seven sensational concerts starting at 7 p.m. From toe-tapping tunes to soulful melodies, these concerts offer something for everyone and best of all, they're free for all to enjoy. Bring your friends, family, and lawn chairs for an unforgettable musical journey under the open sky! Info: rutlandrec.com/7tosunset

Jazz Cafe: Mr. Moose & Friends

7-8:30 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. Bringing melodies to the stage with familiar favorites! Combining the infectious energy of jazz with innovative flair, Mr. Moose & Friends! promises an electrifying experience for music lovers of all ages. Led by tenor saxophonist Zak Hampton, Mr. Moose himself, this ensemble brings together a group of seasoned musicians. With each member bringing their unique style and expertise to the stage, audiences can expect a thrilling performance. stonevalleyarts.org

"Oh What a Night" Musical Revue

7:30 p.m. Daily through 7/13. Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston. \$25-\$69. Oh What A Night! Rock out with four young men of the '60s as they rise from the streets of New Jersey to conquer the music industry and forge friendships that stand the test of time. One of the greatest sensations in the history of popular music, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons will sweep you off your feet with doo-wopping melodies that resonate today. The hits just keep coming, including "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "December 1963 (Oh, What a Night)," and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You." Join us 30 minutes before the show at 7 p.m. for a pre-show talk with the director. For tickets and a full schedule of performances: westontheater.org/jersey-boys

THURSDAY

6/27

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. Pre Register at chaffeeartcenter.org

Essentrics Stretch and Strengthen

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. stonevalleyarts.org

Bone Builders

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

Advanced Line Dance

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

Senior Bone Builders

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

Survivors Support Group

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

Ukulele Group

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

Play Bridge!

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

Thursday Farmers' Market (Fair Haven)

3-6 p.m. Thursdays. Village Green, Fair Haven. vtfarmersmarket.org

S.T.E.A.M. Thursdays

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

Yoga with Kelly

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

'Junie B. Jones: The Musical'

4 p.m. Daily through 7/7. Free, but reservations are required. Time and location change daily. Celebrate the spirit of childhood and the enduring power of friendship with Junie B. Jones. Laughter guaranteed. See the world through the eyes of Junie B. Jones. Based on the beloved children's book series, this vibrant and hilarious musical adventure follows the unforgettable antics of that irrepressible first-grader, Junie B., and her friends through the ups and downs of elementary school. With catchy tunes, an infectious energy, and a heartwarming message, this production will leave young and old with smiles on their faces and an appreciation for the joys of growing up. For complete schedule/reservations: westontheater.org/junie-b-jones

Board Game Night

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

Why We Do What We Do: Five Elements Workshop

5-6:30 p.m. Spa at the Woods, 53 Woods Lane, Killington. \$25. Explore what and why we do things naturally, unconsciously – from physical characteristics, emotional traits and higher reasoning to sociological trends. We'll examine this through the lens of the Five Elements: the philosophical theory behind Traditional Chinese Medicine. The Five Elements are around us and within us. They explain who we are, how we are, why we do what we do. It's seen in the hours of the day, the seasons of the year, and the cycles of a lifetime. Come join us for this fascinating workshop and gain a unique perspective of what's happening around us, which helps us cope with life situations with greater compassion. spaatthewoods.com

Artist Talk by Fran Bull: 'Cherishing your Inner Worlds'

5:30-7:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Artist Fran Bull will delve into the many ways we can come to know our most creative selves. And how going inward is so important, especially in the world today where people are tied to their cell phones while seeking approval from outward sources. The talk will include some simple easy exercises...that could change your life! Please RSVP: 802-775-0356 / chaffeeartcenter.square.site/ info@chaffeeartcenter.org

Feast and Field Music Series: Ida Mae Specker

5:30-9 p.m. Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$25. Specker starts at 6 p.m. with a set of her new family/kids music, sure to delight the light-of-heart of all ages. Specker will be joined on stage with her full band at 7:30 p.m. for a second set of her riveting folk tunes. A celebration of music, food, and community. Every Thursday from May 30 – Sept. 26 in Barnard. Join us in the orchards of Fable Farm every Thursday night, all summer long, to enjoy music curated by BarnArts, and freshly prepared food that is grown, raised, and harvested on this same land by the Feast & Field Farmers. feastandfield.com/tickets

Fair Haven Concert in the Park: Extra Stout

7-9 p.m. Thursdays. Village Green, Fair Haven. Free. Join us as we welcome Extra Stout first time. You'll enjoy jigs and reels and lots of wonderful Irish music. Weekly concert series features family friendly entertainment, offering a variety of musical genres in Vermont's loveliest venue, the Fair Haven Park. fhgstechie@yahoo.com or 802-265-7913

'Jurassic Park'

7:30-9:40 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, children & members \$8. A pragmatic paleontologist touring an almost complete theme park on an island in Central America is tasked with protecting a couple of kids after a power failure causes the park's cloned dinosaurs to run loose. Tickets: pentanglearts.org

FRIDAY

6/28

Senior Fitness

9:30-10:30 a.m. Fridays. Spa at The Woods, 53 Woods Lane, Killington. \$5. This class is for anyone 65+ who wants to maintain strength, flexibility, and balance as they age. We will include a variety of body weight exercises as well as use props like chairs, resistance bands, hand weights, and yoga belts to add levels of challenge and support to the exercises. This class is appropriate for all fitness levels and modifications will be provided as needed. spaatthewoods.com or 802-422-3150

Storytime at the Library

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

Yoga & Meditation

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

Bone Builders

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

← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 10



KMBC BIKE BUM RACE SERIES

WEDNESDAY @ 2 PM

Art in the National Park

11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays and Fridays through 8/9. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free. Meet the 2024 Student Artists-in Residence and take part in a park-inspired art activity. Artists of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Visitors are invited to drop in any time during the program. Pets allowed. nps.gov/thingstodo/art-in-the-park-at-marsh-billings-rockefeller-nhp

Divas of Dirt Group Rides

3-5 p.m. Every other Friday. Snowshed Lodge, Killington Resort, Killington. Free. We're bringing the female mountain bike community together with group rides again this summer. Female mountain bikers of all ability levels are welcome to share their passion for the sport and meet like minded members of the bike community during bi-weekly Friday night group rides that take place from 3- 5 p.m. Rides meet at 3 p.m. at the bike lesson sign outside of rentals at Snowshed. Pre-registration required: killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar/divas-group-rides

Hartland Farmers Market

4-6:30 p.m. Fridays. 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Enjoy food, music, and shopping at the market. The Hartland market is accepting new vendors this season. We are always looking for more produce vendors! If you are interested in being a vendor email us at: hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com

West Coast Swing Dance Classes "The Modern Swing"

5-6:30 p.m. Spa at the Woods, 53 Woods Lane, Killington. \$25. No partner required. In this class, students will learn the basic six count patterns to start, sometimes integrating an eight count pattern. West Coast Swing is a fun, social, versatile partner dance form, danced to a wide range of popular music, from blues to pop, slow swing and R&B. A cousin of traditional swing dances like the Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing, West Coast Swing is constantly evolving. It is a smooth, cool, laid-back dance that can be funky, groovy or lyrical, depending on the music and your personal style. Pre-registration required. Email Karen: vtwestiebest@gmail.com

3rd Annual Touch-a-Truck

5:30-7:30 p.m. Village Green, Fair Haven. Free. Vehicles will begin lining up at 5 p.m. This is a free, family friendly event. Enjoy an exciting lineup of unique vehicles and large equipment to explore! Concessions (hot dogs, burgers, and refreshments) will be provided by Slate Valley Cares. All proceeds will directly fund the SVC Right to Food Center. hello@slatevalleycares.org

In Security/In Community: Artist & Organizer Reception

5:30-7 p.m. JAM, 5 So. Main St., White River Junction. Free. In Security / In Community is a multimedia installation exploring our relationship to home and the evolution of housing, deconstructing that relationship, and envisioning a new one. Enjoy snacks, creativity, and conversation. Come see the exhibit, paint with watercolors, and talk with community members and local housing organizers from Upper Valley Tenants Union! Info: uvjam.org/event/in-security-in-community-artist-organizer-reception/

Sound Bath at Food & Art Friday

5:30-8:30 p.m. The Sable Project, 588 N. Taggart Road, Stockbridge. \$5-\$15 suggested donation. Sound Bath outdoors & off-grid at The Sable Project. South Royalton's Tony Bednar returns to Sable's Food & Art Fridays to facilitate a relaxing & meditative sound experience with singing bowls, a gong, tuning forks and more. The event will also include opening presentations by Sable's resident artists, and farm fresh wood-fired pizza from Fat Dragon Farm. thesableproject.org/food-and-art

Shrewsbury Meeting House Concert Series: Silas Hamilton & Friends

6-8 p.m. Every other Friday through Aug. 9. Shrewsbury Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road, Shrewsbury. Free. Food vendors on site TBA. All proceeds go to the musicians and the historic Shrewsbury Meeting House. Info: 802-492-3649 or 802-558-2708. Facebook: Shrewsbury Meeting House Concert Series

Jackson Gore Summer Music Series: The Tricksters

6-9 p.m. Fridays through 8/30. Jackson Gore Courtyard, 111 Jackson Gore Road, Ludlow. Free. No ticket or RSVP required! Enjoy food, live music, free swag and raffles! okemo.com or 802-228-1600.

BarnArts presents: 'Macbeth'

6:30-9 p.m. Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$15-20. Join BarnArts outdoors amidst the trees of Fable Farm to experience the magic and tragedy of Shakespeare's "Macbeth." Directed by Killian White, over 20 local actors delve into tyranny, paranoia, betrayal, and the bonds of marriage as the prophecy of witches launches a tragic series of events fueled by grand ambition amidst already violent times in the Scottish Highlands. info@barnarts.org or 802-234-1645

Literary Open Mic

7-9 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. Poets, storytellers, spoken word artists, Writers in all genres are invited to perform their own original work, poems, slam pieces, classics, "minutes" or favorite literary works. Serials and/or excerpts of longer works of fiction and other genres are also appreciated. Moth-style first person true stories are always a hit, as are folk tales and other stories. Musicians and singer-songwriters are also welcome. RSVP via email: (stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com), or a sign-up sheet will be available on arrival for performers. stonevalleyarts.org

'Sondheimia'

7:30 p.m. Northern Stage, 74 Gate St., White River Junction. \$30. Calling all fans of Sondheim, musical theater, and cabaret! "Sondheimia": it's a state of mind. In this curated concert, multi-award-winning musical theater actor Larry Owens explores time, love, and ambition through the music and lyrics of Stephen Sondheim. jagproductionsvt.com

Double Feature at the Bethel Drive-In

9 p.m. Fridays. Bethel Drive-In, 36 Bethel Drive, Bethel. Adults \$12, children (5-12) \$8. Cash only. "Inside Out 2" (PG) at 9 p.m. "Bad Boys: Ride or Die" (R) at 10:45 p.m. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. betheldrivein.com

SATURDAY 6/29

Mount Sparta 24 Hours Challenge

6 a.m. Riverside Farm, 57 Tweed River Drive Road, Pittsfield. \$100. Dive into an 24-hour adventure nestled Green Mountains of Pittsfield. With over 1,000 feet of elevation gain on the Riverside Farm foothills, this challenge isn't just about physical endurance; it's a call to push beyond the ordinary and evolve into a Spartan. As dawn breaks on June 29, prepare to traverse rugged terrains, challenge your spirit, and truly experience the mission of "Building Better Humans." Whether you're racing for the honor of "Most Laps" or aiming to outlast the full 24 hours, the Mount Sparta Challenge promises memories, medals, and an exclusive event t-shirt. To register: peakraces.com/mt-sparta-24hs-challenge/

Slate Valley Rotary Annual 5k

9-11 a.m. West Park, Fair Haven. \$20. Slate Valley (Fair Haven) Rotary hosts its annual 5k run or walk beginning at the west side of the Fair Haven park. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the start at 9 a.m. Prizes in all age groups. Kids under 12 are \$10. Proceeds to local scholarships and local charities. Have fun, get fit and support a great cause. Info: 802-559-0229. Registration: Active.com

Gun Show

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds (Exhibition Hall), 175 So. Main St., Rutland. \$9. Quality firearms; new, used, and antique. Knives, swords, and military collectibles. Bring items to sell or trade with exhibitors. Great food on premises. Info: neaca.com or (518) 664-9743

Vermont Outdoor Farmers' Market

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

Lego Club

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

Rutland Climb for Perinatal Mental Health

10 a.m.-Noon. Pittsford Rec. Area, 223 Recreation Area Road, Pittsford. Free. Join others in awareness that mental health struggles around childbearing and family-building affect 1 in 4 Vermonters. Postpartum depression, anxiety, and OCD affect both parents. Come for resources, support, and a lovely shaded walk to climb together and support new families. You are not alone, you are not to blame, with help you will be well. Kids activities, parent's healing activities, resources. To register: give.postpartum.net/team/573368. Info: facebook.com/ClimbRutlandVT

Vermont Quilt Sampler Event, 2024

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Daily through Sept. 2. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Included with admission. For the first time, this annual juried quilt exhibition includes quilts submitted from throughout Vermont—from 13 out of 14 counties in fact! The display features 56 quilts showcasing a sampler of skills and techniques, while also highlighting the stories of their makers. Visitors are invited to try engaging, hands-on activities, including scavenger hunts, a quilt piecing game, and a quilt "anatomy" display with touchable fabrics to show all the pieces that go into quilt making. Find quilt-related books for all ages in the exhibition space and create your own quilt square for a large signature quilt. On select weekends, local quilting guilds will demonstrate quilting techniques, present quilts by guild members, and answer questions about quilting. billingsfarm.org

Forest Discovery Center

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 54 Elm St., Woodstock. Free. The Forest Discovery Center is an interactive program for families to learn more about nature. Activities include hands-on learning stations, demonstrations, and arts and crafts. Stop by anytime and spend as little or as much time as you want. This free program will explore a new theme each week, making each visit unique. Parking is at the Billings Farm & Museum Parking lot, 69 Old River Road, across the street from the National Park. 802-457-3368 or mabi_visitorservices@nps.gov

Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club

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

Art at the Chaffee: Drop N' Paint

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

Cooler in the Mountains: Ben Goldsmith

3-5:30 p.m. Saturdays through 8/31. K-1 base area, Killington Resort, Killington. Free. Join us at the bottom of Superstar (near the Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar) for a free concert headlined by Ben Goldsmith. Grab a lawn chair, a beach blanket, and the whole family for this all-ages event. killington.com

BarnArts presents: 'Macbeth'

6:30-9 p.m. Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$15-20. Join BarnArts outdoors amidst the trees of Fable Farm to experience the magic and tragedy of Shakespeare's "Macbeth." Directed by Killian White, over 20 local actors delve into tyranny, paranoia, betrayal, and the bonds of marriage as the prophecy of witches launches a tragic series of events fueled by grand ambition amidst already violent times in the Scottish highlands. info@barnarts.org or 802-234-1645

'Sondheimia'

7:30 p.m. Northern Stage, 74 Gate St., White River Junction. \$30. Calling all fans of Sondheim, musical theater, and cabaret! "Sondheimia": it's a state of mind. In this curated concert, multi-award-winning musical theater actor Larry Owens explores time, love, and ambition through the music and lyrics of Stephen Sondheim. jagproductionsvt.com

Music in the Mountains: Season Opener

7 p.m. Saturdays through July 20. Pico Base Lodge, 73 Alpine Drive, Mendon. \$30. Tickets available at the door; cash or check only. Back by popular demand, festival favorite guest pianist Simon Ghraichy joins the faculty in Walter Rabl's Piano Quartet, a KMF premier filled with gorgeous melodies not to be missed. Also featured are beloved string quartets by Mendelssohn and Mozart. Info: killingtonmusicfestival.org

'Inside Out 2'

7:30-9:10 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, children & members \$8. A Year after the first Film, Riley's emotions think they have everything figured out, but everything changes once she turns 13 and anxiety brings a whole new team of emotions who want to take over Riley's head. Tickets: pentaglearts.org

Double Feature at the Bethel Drive-In

9 p.m. Saturdays. Bethel Drive-In, 36 Bethel Drive, Bethel. Adults \$12, children (5-12) \$8. Cash Only. "Inside Out 2" (PG) at 9 p.m. "Bad Boys: Ride or Die" (R) at 10:45 p.m. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. betheldrivein.com

← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info.....
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SUNDAY 6/30

Gun Show

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds (Exhibition Hall), 175 So. Main St., Rutland. \$9. Quality firearms; new, used, and antique. Knives, swords, and military collectibles. Bring items to sell or trade with exhibitors. Great food on premises. Info: neaca.com or (518) 664-9743

'Inside Out 2'

3-4:40 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, children & members \$8. A year after the first film, Riley's emotions think they have everything figured out, but everything changes once she turns 13 and anxiety brings a whole new team of emotions who want to take over Riley's head. Tickets: pentaglearts.org

'Postcards from France' with Jeremiah McLane and Tapestry

3 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, So. Pomfret. \$20. Join us on the hillside for 'Postcards from France' for voices, accordion, clarinet and guitar - a rich blend of impressionism, folk roots and a touch of jazz. Crisscrossing France from Auvergne to Provence, Brittany to Paris and beyond, Tapestry and friends bring together a rich blend of impressionism, folk roots, and a touch of jazz. Along the way, they share Occitan folk songs that inspired Joseph Canteloube's Chants D'Auvergne, paired with works of Gabriel Faure, Caesar Frank, Cecile Chaminade, French folk songs, dance tunes, Django Reinhardt, Edith Piaf and more! Tickets: artistreevt.org/special-events

Yoga in the Canopy

4-5:15 p.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$26. Members \$22. Welcome to a yoga class like you've never experienced before. Ascend into the treetops on the Forest Canopy Walk and immerse yourself in the beauty of the summer foliage. Expect a slow-flow class that will incorporate sun salutations, standing poses, balance poses, and brief meditation. All levels of experience are welcome. Participants should dress in layers for being outdoors and bring a yoga mat. In the event of rain, this event will be relocated to a covered outdoor area. Registration required: vinsweb.org/event/yoga-in-the-canopy-2024-3/

BarnArts presents: 'Macbeth'

4-6:30 p.m. Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$15-20. Join BarnArts outdoors amidst the trees of Fable Farm to experience the magic and tragedy of Shakespeare's "Macbeth." Directed by Killian White, over 20 local actors delve into tyranny, paranoia, betrayal, and the bonds of marriage as the prophecy of witches launches a tragic series of events fueled by grand ambition amidst already violent times in the Scottish Highlands. info@barnarts.org or 802-234-1645

Rochester Chamber Music Society: Triton Brass

6-8 p.m. Federated Church of Rochester, 15 N. Main St., Rochester. Free. Triton Brass, winners of the Fiscoff Competition. RCMS presents a public concert. Program with music spanning from 1602-2024, includes composers Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Bach, Piazzola, Gershwin, Dave Brubeck, and Disney. leslie@rcmsvt.org

Double Feature at the Bethel Drive-In

9 p.m. Sundays. Bethel Drive-In, 36 Bethel Drive, Bethel. Adults \$12, children (5-12) \$8. Cash Only. "Inside Out 2" (PG) at 9 p.m. "Bad Boys: Ride or Die" (R) at 10:45 p.m. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. betheldrivein.com

MONDAY 7/1

Fun with Music Camp

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mon., Tue., Wed. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$115 for 3 days. Ages 6-12. Campers will learn how to have fun with music using games and instruments as they develop their musical skills. Instructor: James Gram. info@chaffeeartcenter.com or 802-775-0356

Learn to Bike - Slate Valley Trails

9-11 a.m.; 1-3 p.m. Fairgrounds Trailhead, Poultney. Free. Ages 18+. Join Slate Valley Trails for the 2nd Annual Learn to Bike Adult Event. Free clinics and rentals for adults 18+ who want to learn to ride, or are looking to hone their skills! We will have two sessions: 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. with certified instructors from our region. Each session will have options for you, no matter what your experience is: New to riding: you've been on a bike a few times, but don't feel comfortable quite yet. This lesson will take you on dirt paths and teach you basic bike-handling skills. New to mountain biking: You feel proficient on a bike, but want to expand your comfort zone to trails. We'll teach you the basics of riding single track. Improve my mountain biking: You've been on a mountain bike before, but want to progress. Reserve your spot today. Limited availability! Register: vmba.org/event/learn-to-bike-slate-valley-trails/

Senior Bone Builders

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

Art in the National Park

11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays and Fridays through 8/9. Horse Shed at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free. Meet the 2024 Student Artists-in Residence and take part in a park-inspired art activity. Artists of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Visitors are invited to drop in any time during the program. Pets allowed. nps.gov/thingstodo/art-in-the-park-at-marsh-billings-rockefeller-nhp

Community Lunch

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

Monday Movie

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

Yoga Flow at Billings Farm

5:15-6:30 p.m. Mondays through Sept. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free. Practice will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. Please arrive at the farm early to get settled in and join us for a tea service featuring herbs fresh from the Billings Farm garden at 5:15 p.m. Ranger Jen Jackson will lead the weekly Farm & Forest Yoga Flow. Bring a mat and check in at the Billings Farm Visitor Center. nps.gov/mabi

JAM Script Writers' Group

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

Group Run/Walk

6-7:30 p.m. Mondays. Location changes weekly-check Facebook event for details. The group will leave the trailhead by 6:05 at the latest. The route will vary weekly and may have two route options depending on the number of people. Expect at least a 5 mile run at a social pace with some elevation gain for a standard run. With two groups we will have options for up to 12 miles for one of the routes. There are many options to cater to all abilities and shorten the route for anyone wanting to run a shorter distance. Bring: plenty of water, snacks, bug spray, and an after run beverage of choice. Youth 14-18 must have a parent/guardian present, or have submitted our Youth Participation Waiver in advance of outing. Questions: info@slatevalleytrails.org

'Inside Out 2'

7:30-9:10 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, children & members \$8. A year after the first film, Riley's emotions think they have everything figured out, but everything changes once she turns 13 and anxiety brings a whole new team of emotions who want to take over Riley's head. Tickets: pentaglearts.org

TUESDAY 7/2

Bone Builders

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

Fun with Music Camp

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mon., Tues., Wed. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$115 for 3 days. Ages 6-12. Campers will learn how to have fun with music using games and instruments as they develop their musical skills. Instructor: James Gram. info@chaffeeartcenter.com or 802-775-0356

Line Dance for Beginners

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

Bridge Club

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

Senior Volunteers

1-3 p.m. Tuesdays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323

Yoga at Mission Farm

2-3 p.m. Tuesdays through 7/23. Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. Pay what you can; suggested donation \$10. No registration required, just show up and join. Dress comfortably. Bring your own mat; blankets available. Classes are held outside at the Odeon; in case of rain, we will move to the church lobby. missionfarmvt.org

Bridge Club

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

Chess Club

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

Play Chess, Backgammon!

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

Tuesday Night Twilight League

5 p.m. Tuesdays through 9/24. Green Mountain National Golf Course, 476 Barrows Towne Road, Killington. Non-pass holders \$40, pass holders \$22; includes 9 holes with cart. Shotgun start at 5 p.m. 4 person scramble. Teams welcome or individuals/pairs will be linked into groups of 4 and play the front 9. Results in Gracie's Clubhouse Grill after play. Must sign-up before Tuesday at noon. gmngc.com or 802-422-4653

Tuesdays Concert Series: Luminous Crush

6-8 p.m. Tuesdays through 8/13. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Free. Original music with deep roots in alternative rock and indie pop as well as traditional bluegrass, alt-country and what-not. pittsfordvillagefarm.org

Revenge of the Movie Night

7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. Free. We never know ahead of time what the movie will be. Think of it as a grab bag. mainstreetmuseum.org

Vermont Symphony Orchestra: 'Symphony of Stars'

7:30-9:30 p.m. Vermont State University-Castleton, Castleton Pavilion, 360 South St., Castleton. Adults \$28, children (6-17) \$5. Celebrate the great outdoors and VSO's 90th birthday with the 2024 Summer Festival Tour: Symphony of Stars! Join the orchestra for spectacular evenings of music by Sufjan Stevens, Margaret Bonds, Vermont's own Erik Nielsen, John Philip Sousa marches, John Williams' E.T. score and more - plus spectacular solos from VSO's musicians! Music Director Andrew Crust leads the ensemble featuring Principal Cello John Dunlop, Principal Clarinet Kelli O'Connor, and Principal Percussion D. Thomas Toner. Bring your picnic and relax under balmy summer skies with your Vermont Symphony Orchestra, presented in partnership with The Paramount Theatre. Tickets: vso.org



[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED 6/26

BARNARD

6:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Shakespeare's Macbeth

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Open Mic with Danny Lang

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Chris Pallutto

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

SOUTH POMFRET

6:30 p.m. Artistree – Sandiland & Vincent

THURS 6/27

BARNARD

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Feast & Field with Ida Mae Specker

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

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Lake House Pub & Grille – Aaron Audet

KILLINGTON

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

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 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B

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

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic with Host Caber Wilson

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee YachtClub – Leon Dunkle

FRI 6/28

BARNARD

6:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Shakespeare's Macbeth

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Lake House Pub & Grille – Ryan Fuller

CHESTER

6 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Sugar House Fire

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. Umbrella Bar at Snowshed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Krishna Guthrie

6 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Sammy B

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – JD & The Stonemasons

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Summer Music Series with The Tricksters

8 p.m. The Killarney – Liz Reedy

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – David Karl Roberts

QUECHEE

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

ROCHESTER

3 p.m. Farmers Market – Liz Reedy

RUTLAND

6:30 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

SAT 6/29

BARNARD

6:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Shakespeare's Macbeth

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with headliner Sharon Simon and featured act Jessie Baade

KILLINGTON

2:30 p.m. The Umbrella Bar at Snowshed – Duane Carleton

3 p.m. K1 Base Area – Cooler in the Mountains Concert Series feat. Ben Goldsmith with special guest opener Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. Rivershed – Jeremiah Strauss

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Liz Reedy

6 p.m. The Foundry – Sammy B

7:30 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Live Music

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – JD & The Stonemasons

LUDLOW

8 p.m. Off the Rails – Rustie Bus

8 p.m. The Killarney – Chris Pallutto

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Lou McNally

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jon Clinch

RUTLAND

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

STOCKBRIDGE

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – The Freeze Brothers

SUN 6/30

BARNARD

4 p.m. Fable Farm – Shakespeare's Macbeth

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Even Foisy Band

KILLINGTON

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia Night

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

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Nick Bredice

LUDLOW

12 p.m. Okemo's Summit Lodge – Summit Sundays with music by DJ Dave

6:30 p.m. Veteran's Memorial Park – Summer Bandstand 2024 with Gypsy Reel

QUECHEE

5 p.m. Quechee Club – Brooks Hubbard

SOUTH POMFRET

3 p.m. Artistree Hillside – Postcards from France with Jeremiah McLane and Tapestry

STOCKBRIDGE

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

MON 7/1

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Ryan Fuller

KILLINGTON

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

LUDLOW

5 p.m. Little Mexico – Sammy B

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

WOODSTOCK

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

TUES 7/2

KILLINGTON

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

RUTLAND

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

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

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Killington Music Festival celebrates 42 years

Saturday, June 29 at 7 p.m. - KILLINGTON - Now in its 42nd season of presenting fine chamber music the Killington Music Festival takes much pride, pleasure and excitement in announcing beautiful music is again live on the mountain and its concert schedule for 2024. On Saturday evenings from June 29 through July 20 the internationally acclaimed musicians of the Killington Music Festival will perform at Pico Mountain Lodge at the Killington Resort at 7 p.m. During the Music in the Mountains Classical Concert Series, they will also teach, guide and mentor the young aspiring musicians from around the country and abroad.

Our season opener on June 29 features crowd pleaser Simon Ghraichy at the piano. Simon is an acclaimed French pianist and a Festival favorite. He is renowned for his unique personal style defined with rich, diverse cultural influences. He will join the faculty in Walter Rabl's Piano Quartet, a KMF premier filled with gorgeous melodies not to be missed. Also featured are beloved string quartets by Mendelssohn and Mozart.

Join us July 6 where it's All About the Bass featuring the young and vibrant bass soloist Marc Andre, the evening promises to dazzle the audience as he joins pianist Simon Ghraichy in duos of some of the most recognized tunes in music, and KMF faculty in Glinka's

Grand Sextet. Also featured is Bowen's "Phantasy," a KMF premier featuring the bass clarinet and strings.

July 13: An Assortment of Sorts. In this performance, an assortment of works by Shostakovich, Dvorak and Piazzolla, and more, come to life as returning guest violinist Virgil Boutellis-Taft, joins the faculty for an evening of virtuosity and unforgettable melodies.

Join us July 20 for our season finale. The season finale features returning guest artist, pianist, Reed Tetzloff, who joins the faculty to perform the unparalleled and ultra-romantic Dvorak Piano Quintet. Also featured in the program is the elegant and joyful Weber Clarinet Quintet.

The concerts are held at Pico Mountain Lodge at 7:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$30. Tickets may be purchased the day of the performance beginning at 6 p.m. at Pico Mountain Lodge. Check or cash only.

Please join us Sunday, July 7 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Woodstock, 4 p.m. in collaboration with Pentangle Arts.

Performances of the Young Artists Series are held at Pico Mountain Lodge at 7 p.m. Fridays, June 28, July 12, Wednesday July 3 and Thursday July 18. Additional Concerts July 3 noon Norman Williams Library, Woodstock, Vermont, July 10 and July 17 Wednesdays

at noon, Downtown Rutland Free Library, Fox Room, Court St. All student performances are free.

For more information, please call 802.773.4003.



Courtesy Killington Music Festival
Pianist Simon Ghraichy

The Rochester Chamber Music Society presents: Triton Brass

Sunday, June 30 at 6 p.m. - ROCHESTER - The Rochester Chamber Music Society presents Triton Brass, winners of the Fischhoff Competition. The concert is presented free to the public in Rochester park in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the RCMS and promises to be an engaging performance.

Triton Brass quintet will present music spanning from 1602-2024 including Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Bach, Piazzolla, Gershwin, Dave Brubeck and Disney tunes.

The ever-evolving story of the Triton Brass is one of music, friendship, expression, truth, and change. For more than a decade, the Triton Brass has been innovating the way audiences experience chamber music. Five friends who originate from various geographical corners were drawn to one another's playing, decided to collaborate, and immediately made their mark as an ensemble. Triton has been in artistic residence at The Boston Conservatory, Boston College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for many years, and contributes to the culture of these renowned institutions in both an educational and performing capacity. Before they had been together for four years, the group became prize winners at the Lyon International Chamber Music Competition (France), Fischhoff (United States), and The Concert Artists Guild Competition (United States). The international attention achieved through these competitions served as a gateway to countless opportunities involving performance, educational outreach, commissions, collaborations, and world premiere performances.

Triton Brass has served as faculty at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute (2003-2009) and (2018-present), The Atlantic Brass Quintet International Summer Seminar (2002-2017), and has presented dozens of recitals and masterclasses at conservatories, colleges, universities, and performing arts centers all over the United States. Fiercely committed to new music, Triton has sponsored commissions, performed and recorded numerous premieres, and continues to seek out new works from living composers. The educational backgrounds, résumés, and professional experience of each of Triton's members is formidable. Each member of the quintet is in extremely high demand with active careers in music and teaching, and Triton's members possess advanced degrees in subjects ranging from music to English literature to engineering.

They record and perform regularly with some of the world's finest musical organizations: The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, The Boston Symphony, The Boston Pops Orchestra, The Atlantic Brass Quintet, The Empire Brass, The IRIS Orchestra, The Utah Symphony, The American Symphony Orchestra, The Singapore Symphony, among others.

Triton members genuinely enjoy presenting both standard and new repertoire with a unique and unforgettable interpretation. Triton has a self-titled CD recording that was released in 2014 on the Hip-Bone label, and is available wherever music is sold. Triton's playing is also included on two collaborative recordings: The Unheard Music through Albany Music (2013), and Strange Energy, (the music of Delvyn Case) Available from Deus Ex Musica Records (2018).

Info: rcmsvt.org or (802) 767-9234.



Triton Brass

Courtesy of RCMS

Free concerts in the K-1 Base Area on Saturdays begin June 29

Saturday, June 29 at 3 p.m. - KILLINGTON - Vermont's Killington Resort, the largest mountain resort in Eastern North America and a POWDR company, today announces the 2024 Cooler in the Mountains Concert Series lineup.

The 10-week free concert series begins June 29 with singer-songwriter and multi-dimensional artist Ben Goldsmith and features top names from the regional and national music scene throughout the summer, culminating on August 31 with Americana Indie Rock from Annie in the Water. This year's lineup spans a variety of genres and may just introduce you to your new favorite band.



Submitted

Concertgoers enjoy live music at Killington's Cooler in the Mountains summer music series

This family-friendly series of weekly concerts presented by Kona Big Wave takes place every Saturday from 3-5:30 p.m. in the K-1 Base Area at the bottom of the Superstar Express Quad. Families are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the festive atmosphere and all the summer activities Killington Resort offers. Bringing chairs and blankets is recommended, and refreshments are available for purchase at the Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar.

"The Cooler in the Mountains concert series is one of the best things about summer in Vermont," says Mike

Sutcliffe, events & sponsorship manager at Killington Resort. "We're excited for the venue to return to K-1 this year and expect the vibes to be high as we enjoy some tunes in the fresh mountain air."

2024 Summer Concert Lineup

- June 29 - Ben Goldsmith
- July 6 - The Parrisian (feat. Parris Fleming - Harry Styles Live Band 23/24 & More)
- July 13 - The Sideways
- July 20 - Jerry Duty
- July 27 - Waiting on Mongo
- August 3 - Kind Hearted Strangers
- August 10 - CDBB
- August 17 - Soulshine Revival
- August 24 - Rumboat Chili
- August 31 - Annie in the Water

For more information about the Cooler in the Mountains Concert Series and the 2024 Summer Event Lineup, please visit killington.com/events.

Artist Talk by Fran Bull at the Chaffee

Thursday, June 27 at 5:30 p.m. - RUTLAND - Join us for an artist talk by Fran Bull "Cherishing your Inner Worlds" at the Chaffee Art Center on Thursday, June 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Free, but an RSVP is needed.

Artist Fran Bull will delve into the many ways we can come to know our most creative selves. And how going inward is so important, especially in the world today where people are tied to their cell phones while seeking approval from outward sources. The talk will include some simple easy exercises...that could change your life!

Please RSVP to 802-775-0356 or chaffeeartcenter.org.



Submitted

A painting by Fran Bull



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Details online or call 802.773.4003.

kmfest.org

Ludlow and Cavendish hold community meeting on flood resilience

Friday, June 28, from 4-7 p.m. — LUDLOW — The Mapping for Resilience research team will host a community meeting for residents and people who work in the greater Ludlow and Cavendish area at the Ludlow Community Center. This event is being held so that people can connect or reconnect, share stories and memories of responding to needs during and after the flooding in July 2023, and hear about what the Mapping for Resilience team is trying to do with their research.

The Mapping for Resilience research team is based at Dartmouth College and Colorado School of Mines working on a project about the social, ecological, and technical challenges of last year's floods.

While this is a free event, registering is appreciated, as some food and childcare for attendees will be offered. To do so, please fill out the registration form at: forms.gle/k67Cp7fu2a-2d5U9g7 or email charis.fm.boke@dartmouth.edu.

The event will be at the Ludlow Community Center, 37 Main St., Ludlow (behind the army tank). The team will facilitate two activities designed to better understand the impacts and challenges the flood(s) have created, and look forward to your stories and insight! They are also hoping to collect photos and videos of flooded areas by consent of property owners. Their goal is to make this collaborative, supportive, and engaging for everyone.

If you can't make it, but want to talk about sharing stories about the flood, please reach out and let us know!

For more information, about the project and Mapping for Resilience research team email addresses, visit: sites.dartmouth.edu/mappingforresilience.

Extra Stout Visits Fair Haven for Second Show in the Series

Thursday, June 27 at 7 p.m. - FAIR HAVEN - Extra Stout, Vermont's premier Irish Band, will be making their premiere performance at the Fair Haven Concerts in the Park on Thursday, June 27 starting at 7 p.m.. For a quarter of a century, Extra Stout has been performing traditional Irish music in and around Rutland County. Extra Stout features the musical talents of Mary Barron, Sandy Duling, Marcos Levy, and Helen Mango.

The band will play a variety of Irish music including jigs, reels, ballads, polkas, and pub songs. In addition to great vocals, the band plays a variety of instruments including guitars, fiddle, whistles, and drums. You will not want to miss them, and we hope that like all of our concerts, our crowds will come out to welcome them.

The concert committee would like to thank our many sponsors again this year who have so generously provided us the opportunity to host these concerts. You will find our sponsors listed on the schedule cards.

Hot dogs, sodas, water, and popcorn are available for purchase each week. We also have two more free ice cream nights scheduled this summer. The 50/50 raffle is very popular here in Fair Haven. Monies raised in the 50/50 help us with the cost of the concerts, but they also help support a local student scholarship for students pursuing a college career in music, and also the Dodge House in Rutland. Dodge House serves the needs of homeless veterans. Intermission also includes a free drawing for items donated by local sponsors. See you in the Park!



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'Dragonfly Habitat at the Edges of Weatherhead Hollow Pond: 2021-2024' Art Exhibition



Saturday, June 29 - Tuesday, July 30 - Quechee - The stunning world of dragonflies comes to life in a unique and captivating art exhibition,

"Dragonfly Habitat at the Edges of Weatherhead Hollow Pond: 2021-2024." This collection of prints is the result of two summers of dedicated research and observations of dragonfly flight patterns and behaviors, focusing on the *Libellula lydia*, *Libellula luctuosa*, and *Libellula putchella* populations at Weatherhead Hollow Pond in Guilford, VT.

The artistic journey began with immersive participation in sustainable, non-toxic printmaking workshops at the Two Rivers Printmaking Studio in White River Junction. Fueled by a passion for the environment and a dedication to sustainable artistry, Townsend embarked on a creative expedition to encapsulate the essence of this ecosystem. The resulting series of woodblock prints offers a vibrant portrayal of dragonfly behaviors and their delicate surroundings, employing abstract images that intricately reflect the vitality and fragility of this unique environment.

Beyond merely capturing the beauty of these winged creatures, the exhibition signifies a harmonious blend of artistry and eco-consciousness. Townsend's artistic expression delves into Japanese woodblock techniques that prioritize non-toxic and sustainable methods, mirroring the delicate balance of the ecosystem being depicted.

This remarkable project was made possible by an Artist Development Grant awarded in 2021-22, with funding support from the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. This collaboration highlights the importance of preserving and celebrating our natural world through art.

Quechee venue

- Title: Dragonfly Habitat at the Edges of Weatherhead Hollow Pond: 2021-2024

- Artist: Landa Townsend

- Date: May 30 to June 29, 2024

- Location: Quechee Public Library 1957 Quechee Main St., Quechee

Hartland venue

Title: Habitat at the Edges of Weatherhead Hollow Pond: 2021-2024

- Artist: Landa Townsend

- Date: July 1- July 30, 2024

- Location: Hartland Public Library, 153 US-5VT

- Children's Printmaking Workshop: Landa Townsend teaches Monoprint and Relief printmaking techniques. All materials will be provided.

-Date: July 18, 2024 2:30-4:00pm Sign up with Amy VanderKooi kids@hartlandlibraryvt.org

-Admission: Free to the Public

Title: Habitat at the Edges of Weatherhead Hollow Pond: 2021-2024

- Artist: Landa Townsend

- Artist Talk: Landa Townsend will talk about her techniques for artmaking

- Date: July 18, 2024 5-6 p.m.

- Location: Hartland Public Library, 153 US-5VT

-Admission: Free to the Public

Visitors to this exhibition can expect to be

immersed in a world of vibrant colors, intricate details, and a deep appreciation for the dragonflies that call

Weatherhead Hollow Pond their home. "Dragonfly Habitat at the Edges of Weatherhead Hollow Pond: 2021-2024" serves as a reminder of the beauty and fragility of our natural world, inspiring us to cherish and protect the habitats of these remarkable creatures.

For more information, contact Landa@LandaTownsend.com.

Killington Town Recreation

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS!

9 AM: Friends of the Library Book Sale at the Sherburne Memorial Library
 10 AM: 4th of July Parade down River Road
 11:00 AM: Johnson Recreation Center opens for public swim.
 DJ Evan Foley will be providing the music for the afternoon.
 11:30 AM : Killington Town and Killington Fire and Rescue BBQ
 1:30 PM: Kids Field Games at Soccer Field. No registration required.
 3:30 PM: Bell Flop Contest
 7:00 PM: Live Music by Summit Pond Quartet
 9:00 PM: Fireworks Show

VOLUNTEERS: Needed for parade support, food service, set up and break down. Please sign up to volunteer at KillingtonRec.com under the Fourth of July program.

PARKING: Due to potential traffic flow issues, parking will be confined to one side of River Road. Carpooling is encouraged.

RAIN DATE: If inclement weather occurs, please check KillingtonRec.com for updates.

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Symphony of Stars: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Announces 2024 Summer Festival Tour Featuring its Principal Musicians as Soloists

Tuesday, July 2 at 7:30 p.m. - CASTLETON - Entering its 90th anniversary season, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) proudly announces its 2024 summer festival tour titled "Symphony of Stars." An annual tradition with performances in beautiful settings across the state, this year's summer festival tour takes place July 2 through July 7 in Castleton, East Burke, Grafton, South Pomfret, Shelburne, and Stowe and features patriotic classics and more in celebration of Independence Day and the summer season.

The "stars" include three of the VSO's principal musicians, who will be featured as soloists — Kelli O'Connor (clarinet), John Dunlop (cello), and D. Thomas Toner (xylophone). Fireworks displays will conclude the musical program on July 3 at Grafton Trails and Outdoor Center, July 4 at Shelburne Museum, and July 6 at Burke Mountain Resort. In addition, audience members young and old will enjoy the musical petting zoo interactive display with instruments from the orchestra's string, brass, and percussion sections.

"We are thrilled to bring the Vermont Symphony Orchestra to communities across this beautiful state to share the joy of music, friendship, and the splendor of Vermont summers. I am particularly excited to showcase the exceptional talent within the VSO by featuring soloists from our own ranks, highlighting the depth and skill of our musicians. We look forward to creating unforgettable musical experiences for all who join us this summer," said Andrew Crust, VSO Music Director and Summer Festival Tour conductor.

The full concert program includes:

Francis Scott Key - "The Star-Spangled Banner:" The program will begin with the nation's national anthem.

Jim Stephenson - Fanfare for Democracy: Most recognized by its premiere at the

VSO → 21



Courtesy Vermont Rodeo Team

← Rodeo: from page 3

the team has grown from five members to 18, and is expected to take a greater leap this upcoming season, according to Davis.

Not owning a horse, however, remains a significant barrier to entry, which Davis acknowledges. All current team members own their horse, or horses, save for one girl who leases.

For those with the means, however, the

team has provided important opportunities for growth. Peyton's mom, Kathy, credits the team for helping her daughter overcome her shyness and make friends. She also credits it with helping her family find a community when they moved to Vermont a few years ago.

"We didn't really find our niche here until she got into rodeo," said Kathy Nichols.

Rockin the Region with Jeremiah Strauss

I had the pleasure of listening to Jeremiah Strauss two weeks ago at Rivershed and liked what I heard. You too can go see him, this Saturday June 29th at 6 p.m. This will be a solo show, but his band Red River North plays there too. The band plays with different lineups so July 5th you can catch him as a trio at the Queen of the South Food Truck in Chester at 6:30 p.m and the duo will be at the Long Trail Brewery in Bridgewater July 14th at 3 p.m. Their Instagram and Facebook are both under Red River North Music, so please go there for more info.

His solo show is him and his acoustic guitar. He said, "I play a lot of fairly well-known country songs but also a large layer of stuff from the Texas/Oklahoma Red Dirt Country Region, which you don't get a whole lot of up here. It's fun to play stuff that everybody knows but it's been really fun to bring stuff up from bands that people may not know." Jeremiah grew up in Broken Arrow Oklahoma, got married, and his wife and he moved to Fort Worth Texas, did a stint in Austin and then back to Fort Worth. He was in Texas for 20 years before relocating to Vermont. He added, "The way country radio works, Texas is kind of it's own island, separate from the rest of the country. A lot of the stuff that gets super well-known, super popular bands down there, don't get heard as much up here. I think that's changing a little bit. That's what a lot of the stuff I'm playing is, while mixing in some of my originals."

Some examples of those bigger bands are the Turnpike Troubadours, Flatland Cavalry, Randy Rogers Band, Cody Jinks and Erick Willis. I have not heard of any of those, so I will be taking a listen too. Those bands are big musical influences of Jeremiah. He said, "As a musician you can't help but want to play what you heard. Spending the amount of time I did in Oklahoma and Texas, you're surrounded by this stuff so obviously it's going to influence you."

Red River North is only a couple of years old. Rick Frauton (percussion) and Jeremiah connected online after Jeremiah moved to Vermont. Jeremiah said, "We were tinkering around with some other genres we might do and while jamming, I pulled out some Red Dirt Country tunes. Rick and Michael Bade, our bass player who was there the first time we jammed, were like or we could do that which would be a lot of fun. It really started initially as just jamming and then we thought this was something cool that we could do, which there's not a whole lot of up here. We started playing and building a set but to be honest I didn't have hardly any of a set or songs that I knew. I'm a guitar player. The whole time I was in Oklahoma/Texas I was the lead guitar player for bands down there. We just started building a setlist from the ground up." Almost immediately they added George Seymour on Pedal Steel. The four of them make up Red River North.

They play all over the state but since Jeremiah is in Woodstock and his bandmates are in the Waterbury area, they mainly hit those regions and go back and forth between the two. As Jeremiah puts it, "Either they're driving an hour or I am."

Jeremiah comes from a musical family. He first learned piano but when he was 12-13, but the guitar is what he really got serious with. He took some lessons but he is mainly self-taught. Back then he was into Alternative Rock, having grown up in the late 90's, but in high school he got turned onto early Keith Urban records which he said, "got my attention. That was the gateway into Brad Paisley and folks like that. I didn't dig into that style a ton, at that age, but certainly became aware of it." On guitar, his biggest musical influence was Incubus. On the CCM side of things (Contemporary Christian Music), it's Lincoln Brewster. Jeremiah said, "He's

phenomenal. Growing up in Tulsa, you're going to pick up a lot of that stuff." For about 5 years (age 14-19), Jeremiah mainly played in churches. He added, "I was playing 4-5 times a week, between all the services and different places. As far as my electric guitar playing, Lincoln was, and still is a pretty big influence."

After high school he took a break from music for about a decade. He said, "When I got back into playing music again, I connected in Fort Worth with some country artists. That took my influence way into country music. For a few years there, I played with different country bands. At that point you shed a lot of the alternative rock and pick up a lot more twang."

5 years ago, Jeremiah's tech work moved him to Boston. Soon thereafter, his wife and he spent one long weekend on Amherst Lake in Plymouth and fell in love with Vermont. He said, "This is amazing." This was before Covid so immediately they began looking for places up here. Jeremiah added, "As soon as Covid hit, we got a lot more serious. Living in downtown Boston was super not fun. In October 2020, they got a place here and haven't looked back. "We've just been loving it here. We've found the folks here are a super-cool group of people, especially getting out and playing country music, the reception has been very warm. It felt a little like home, right away."

Jeremiah has been writing music over the years but got more serious about it this past year. The band plays his songs too. There's no rush to record an album now, but there could be something in the near future.

Jeremiah and RRN really like playing music. He said, "We're really enjoying playing out as a group, getting around the region, getting to know folks and letting them hear us. What drives me, and continues to, is you want to produce a sound, an experience that you feel good about, and it makes you feel good. Doing that with other people is like fuel on the fire for that. You start pushing each other, try to impress each other. That's where it gets really fun for me. That camaraderie, that energy. Over the last year it's evolved some where folks that are hearing us are a part of that energy now. That band thing is what really drives me. That experience of 4 people together, making something they're really proud of!"



By Dave Hoffenberg

Jeremiah Strauss, a musician from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, will join Red River North, a collaborative band formed by Rick Frauton and George Seymour, on June 29.



Rockin' the Region
By Dave Hoffenberg

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← VSO:
from page 18

59th inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

George Green/Cahn - "Xylophonia: "An upbeat orchestral piece with a wondrous xylophone solo (feat. D. Thomas Toner, VSO principal percussion).

Sufjan Stevens, arr. Atkinson - Suite from "Run Rabbit, Run" movements I, II, IV. Inspired by Stevens' folk-pop album, "Enjoy Your Rabbit," these movements take on a new spin in an orchestral arrangement by Michael Atkinson.

Gabriel Fauré - "Élégie for Cello and Orchestra:" Orchestrated by Fauré in the 1880s, this piece boasts a somber opening and intense climaxes (feat. John Dunlop, VSO Principal Cello).

John Williams - "ET: Adventures on Earth:" Take a trip into the extraterrestrial world of the orchestral classic from renowned film, "E.T. The Extraterrestrial"(1982).

Erik Neilsen - "Matt's Tune," Ballad for Orchestra: A stunning orchestral ballad from accomplished Vermont composer, Erik Nielson.

Frank Ticheli - Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra. A collection of everchanging movements with a profound focus on solo clarinet (feat. Kelli O'Connor, VSO principal clarinet).

Margaret Bonds - "Montgomery Variations," movements I, III, VII. An advocate for racial justice, Bonds' piece is a tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. in recognition of the Civil Rights Movement.

Morton Gould - "American Salute." Incorporating the distinguishable tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," Gould's piece is an American classic from World War II.

John Philip Sousa - "Stars and Stripes Forever:" "Completing the program is the official National March of the United States of America.

"I'm thrilled and honored to be performing with these amazing soloists, our great new conductor, and our wonderful orchestra members, especially on a tour that takes us to so many lovely sites around this incredible state," said D. Thomas Toner, principal percussion with the VSO. "The solo I'm playing is from 1925, but it's a throwback to the ragtime xylophone music that was popular around the turn of the century. The xylophone was a popular instrument back then because its dry

tone quality was easily picked up by early recording technology. The solo is fast, has a lot of notes, is super fun to play, and will hopefully also be fun for the audience to experience."

Event Details:

Vermont State University Castleton, Castleton, VT: July 2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Grafton Trails and Outdoor Center, Grafton, VT: July 3, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT: July 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Saskadena Six Ski Area, Pomfret, VT: July 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Burke Mountain Resort, East Burke, VT: July 6, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meadow at Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe VT: July 7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

For more information and ticketing details, visit vso.org.



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Solutions From page 9

Crossword

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

Sudoku

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

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Roscoe—11-month-old.
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Taki—2-year-old. Neutered male. Pitbull.



Benson—2-year-old.
 Neutered male. Terrier mix.



PIPPY

Pippi—3-year-old. Spayed female. American Staffordshire terrier.

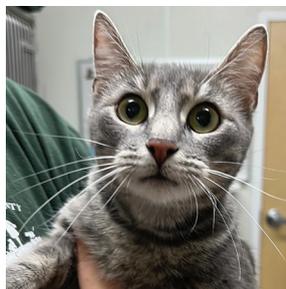
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Lassie—9-month-old.
 Spayed female. Sheltie mix.



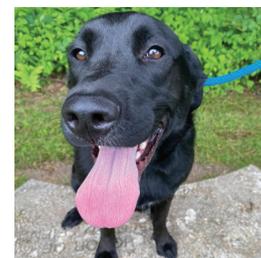
Rebel—7-month-old.
 Neutered male. American Staffordshire Terrier.



Matilda—1-2-year-old.
 Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Twister—8-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Daisy—2-year-old.
 Spayed female. Black labrador.



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

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Cosmic Catalogue



Aries
March 21 - April 20



When life feels all stirred up. When relationships feel like they are taking from you more than they are giving, then you do need to take stock. While things can't exactly stay the same, you're still uncertain about what needs changing and how. None of this is going to be easy. What you want and what is required from you aren't the same thing. You are being pulled in all directions right now.

Leo
July 21 - August 20



You can't be in the spotlight all of the time! While you may not like to hear that the front and center isn't always available, you will benefit so much right now for taking backstage. From there, you get the opportunity to reflect, recharge as well as figure out what your next steps are. Strategy counts now, so do be sure to suss out all your options and make a move only when the time is right.

Sagittarius
November 21 - December 20



What do you really want? You'd be surprised by how much of a loaded question that actually can be. Most people have a vague idea but so few are clear and direct about it. What do you want that maybe you're afraid to admit, even to yourself? If you can be brutally honest with yourself about your own desires, needs and wants then the Universe will conspire to help you get them all and sooner than you might think.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20



You generally reach for practical solutions when it comes to problem solving. This works for many of life's scenarios. What about the kind of problems that never seem to be solved, though? Have you considered a new approach with those? More often than not, it's the way we think about our problems is more of a problem than the problem itself. Be open to a new perspective and don't be afraid to change your mind.

Virgo
August 21 - September 20



You might be tempted to spread yourself thin socially right now. Sure, it's the season to be seen in your best light and to make the right connections. That said, do enlist your powers of discernment in order to get a sense of what and whom is worth your time, energy and effort. If you leave the company of someone feeling flat, move on. If you feel inspired, then kindle that flame.

Capricorn
December 21 - January 20



It would be natural to wonder what's in it for you at this point. Doing everything for everyone and what is left? If you're feeling bereft of a sense of yourself right now, then you need to do some rearranging of various aspects of your life. Putting the odds back in your favor may mean having to make some tough choices but the alternative is even tougher. Do what you have to do.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20



With Jupiter in your sign, you're well served to take advantage of so many opportunities right now. That being said, not everything that glitters is gold. So you do need to practice the art of discernment. You can start by getting super clear on your worth, your value and what you really want. Then, don't settle for less. In this scenario, you'll go further alone so don't let others influence your choices. Do what's right for you.

Libra
September 21 - October 20



It doesn't take too much to butter you up. You're charming and you're also easily charmed. This week though, do remember that all that glitters isn't gold. A professional opportunity may be well worth exploring, but it could take more from you than you're willing to offer. If the price is right, accept it. If you know you'll only grow resentful down the track, maybe skip this one. A polite decline will suffice.

Aquarius
January 21 - February 20



Life isn't always a party. For you right now, you may have forgot what a party even is! Sure, life isn't easy for you now. That being said, if you can hold on to your sense of meaning and purpose of it all, then the toil would be worth it. The struggle only makes the victory that much sweeter. So rather than get emotional about your predicament, use it as fuel for your success.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20



Regardless of the strings you're being pulled by, do remember that you're in the drivers seat now. Your career may be demanding one thing. Your home and family life will be demanding something else. Ultimately, it's up to you to call the shots about what you do or don't want. It may not be easy, but it will be so much easier than being everything to everyone and nothing to no one — including yourself.

Scorpio
October 21 - November 20



It's one thing to have an aspiration or a longer-term goal to aim for, but what are you actually doing about it? If you're day to day schedule is filled with things that don't represent where you want to be, then it may be time for you to make an adjustment. If this isn't possible, then you need to be meditating, imagining and feeling as though you already do, be and have all that it is you long for.

Pisces
February 21 - March 20



When the going gets tough, you got to enjoy life even more. This is especially so even if it costs you some money. While you may be making excuses why you can't afford this or that, then that is probably exactly why you need to do it. The chance to enjoy a few sweet moments will certainly take the pressure off you and make you feel so much better. What is life unless you're enjoying it?

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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.

What did you see that can't be unseen?

The recent Full Moon brought light to an area of life that will set the stage for further unfoldment in the weeks and months to come. When something is seen or revealed, it can't be unseen. You can ignore it. You can bury your head in the sand. Eventually, though, it will come back to bite you, sooner or later. You've been missioned with a task and you do need to complete it. It won't be without its toll—physical, emotional, financial or otherwise. Like anything in relation to the sign of Capricorn, this is about the long game. Do



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

the work now and your future self will be grateful you did. Before we get too ahead of ourselves, there is still this week to address. It's a week of fated choices. Do you take the practical route or do you take the one littered with magical possibilities? Do you stay in the known and familiar or do you take a bold path, one you'd normally not dream of treading? No one ever said that growth is an easy process. It's usually quite painful. But what is more painful? Staying where you are or heading towards where you could be?



The beauty of nature

Lilacs,
All purple and pink,
How very beautiful they are,
Magical and enchanting,
You just want to sit there,
Enjoying the scenery,
By the sparkly lake,
In the crystal clear water,

The reflection is wondrous,
With petals drifting in the
Water,
The most beautiful scene,
You just want to stay there,
Enjoying it,
The beauty of nature.



Poetry Is Power
By Bree Sarandrea

Charles Wallace the Magnificent: A Tribute, Part 3

Editor's note: Bruce Bouchard is former executive director of The Paramount Theatre. John Turchiano, his friend for 52 years, was formerly the editor of "Hotel Voice," a weekly newspaper on the New York Hotel Trades Council. They are co-authoring this column to tell short stories on a wide range of topics.

Author's note: A short recap – Part 2 ended with Charley arriving at my home at the Kingsley Grist Mill in North Clarendon. We just had a dip in the river, and an aggressive bath in the granary.

Immediately following the bath, Charley took an epic nap, in his sparkling new yellow coat with white highlights, and his jowls, fluffing from time to time with the sound of pleasant dreams. I watched him in awe and marveled at his beauty: his oversized head, his glorious coloring and his large paws, which looked to me for all times in our years together as more like hands than paws. But what next...toys, training, initial visit to a vet?!! Hey!! This brand spanking new pet in my life was my total responsibility! Let's go with the vet!

A number of people recommended Dr. Scott (MacLachlan), a veterinarian in

Poultney, right on the New York state border. So I made an appointment. Doc Scott was a throwback to another time, raw-boned at over 6feet, hair to the middle of his back, and small Goo-goo-ka-choo, I Am A Walrus" glasses. He could have been the vet for Jerry Garcia or Grace Slick. He exuded confidence and set me at ease. Charley's tail was wagging back and fourth like a cow switchin'

flies, more than ready to make a new friend.

Dr. Scott sank to his knees and took Charley's head in both of his hands, and said, "Well my, my — what we have here, is one fine lookin' gentleman, a rescue did you say?" "Do you know how old he is?"

"I don't." I responded, "No one in the foster world seemed to have that information. What I do know is that a saintly woman in Kentucky spotted Charley and saved him from the ax. He had been with her for 3 weeks when I called."

She had no information about his story or his age. She did say, she was about to call Brigitte to let her know she was keeping him for her own. "Hell, he is curled up around my feet as we speak, but dammit, I got four dogs, Charley→ 30



By Bruce Bouchard and John Turchiano

Why cowbirds lay their eggs in other birds' nests

Black birds with a greenish sheen and brown heads sometimes visit my yard during spring migration. These are male brown-headed cowbirds, and they often arrive in mixed flocks of red-winged blackbirds and grackles.

Cowbirds breed in most of the Northeast and have an unusual reproductive strategy. Instead of building their own nests, cowbirds lay their eggs in other birds' nests and depend on those birds to raise their young. This evolutionary strategy is called brood or nest parasitism. This type of parasitism exists in several different avian groups, but only 1% of bird species are interspecific brood parasites — meaning they lay eggs in nests of other species. Some birds are intraspecific brood parasites, laying their eggs in nests of the same species.

The dull gray-brown female cowbirds deposit their eggs in a variety of nests, ranging from cup to dome-shaped to tree cavities. Their hosts vary in size, but usually have smaller eggs, and include yellow warblers, song sparrows, and red-winged blackbirds. The female cowbird watches other birds construct their nests, and after eggs are laid there, she sneaks in to lay one of her white, speckled eggs. Often, the cowbird ejects an

egg from the host nest at the same time. The next day she may lay another egg in a different nest. Cowbirds may parasitize 30 to 40 nests

over the course of their two to three-month breeding season. They have been implicated in the decline of some songbird species, such as the endangered Kirtland's warbler in Michigan.

Free of the responsibility of defending a nest, incubating eggs, and feeding young, cowbirds have more time and energy to forage, mate, and produce

many eggs. There are no advantages to the host parents. If they abandon their nest, they've wasted the time and energy it took to build it and lay eggs. If they keep their nest, the hosts' young must compete with the larger cowbird nestling for food and may even be killed by the cowbird chick if food is scarce. As a result, hosts have evolved defenses against nest parasitism. They choose nest sites that are difficult to parasitize and vigorously defend their territories. Victims may eject the cowbird egg if they can manage it or construct a new nest on top of the existing one.

In a co-evolutionary arms race, brood parasites attempt to mimic the eggs of their hosts. Most often, cowbirds deposit their eggs beside other speckled eggs. However, in some cases,

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The Outside Story
By Susan Shea

Western adventures, Vermont home

Building a Killington Dream Lodge, part 19

I loved spending time in Killington without schedule or deadline after my college graduation. Our friend Ann took us to the Strawberry Festival and Vermont State Fair. My favorites were farm animals, 4-H entries, the petting zoo, and maple creemees. Being in Vermont reconnected me to nature and made me feel happy to be alive. Little did I know my upcoming travels would lead cross-country and back to Vermont...



Mountain Meditation
By Marguerite Jill Dye

Mom and Dad were hauling used cabinets from New Jersey to our upstairs kitchen and bathrooms. Sinks and toilets were also brought up. The water wasn't connected yet but some furniture from our New Jersey basement were brought up and put in place. Stunning views of Pico and Killington could be seen from our upstairs great room. It was exciting to imagine living upstairs which, I hoped, wasn't very far off.

The son of Grandpa's law partner and his friend stayed with us briefly in Montclair after hitch hiking across Europe. At breakfast they mentioned, "You're welcome to join us if you'd like a ride west."

"Why not?" I thought and packed some clothes, grabbed my ski parka, skis, boots, and poles — 24 hours later, we arrived in South Dakota so I could spend time with my grandparents.

They moved from their house after Nana broke her hip. She was a gifted poet and artist and a retired teacher. I promised her I'd write poems and paint. My grandfather recited clever verse, wisdom and humor that made me laugh. He was a popular lawyer and statesman whose father started a South Dakota newspaper and founded the Populist Party.

Mom bought me a Trailways bus pass to visit family and friends across the West from Nana's sister in the Black Hills, her brother near Los Angeles, Mom's cousin in Oregon, my Mormon cousins in Utah and Idaho, to Dad's Navy brother in San Diego. Friends from Schiller College were also on my tour in Eugene, Oregon and Phoenix, Arizona at the Thunderbird Graduate School of Global Management.

My friends' friends took me to a squatter's camp on Mexico's Gulf of California to spend a weekend. Next, we camped on the Grand Canyon's South Rim. I spotted a poster for the Har-

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Firing up a passion

Growing up, my family always had a corner of the garage reserved for sports equipment. Nothing was new; it was mostly a conglomeration of hand-me-downs that family members had used throughout the years (the majority of it would be considered antiques by today's standards).

I remember a pair of wooden tennis racquets, a few baseball bats, an old football that was slightly warped, and a tattered basketball that had zero grip due to the smoothly worn leather. There were also two golf clubs: one steel-shafted Nancy Lopez signature 7-iron and one ancient hickory-shafted club that was likely a 2- or a 3-iron.

I utilized most of that equipment — except the golf clubs. My father used to force me to watch PGA golf on television and repeatedly told me that golf was the sport I should focus on because, “Even if you finish in last place, you still make money.”

However, golf was the least interesting sport as far as I was concerned. At some point, I remember pulling out the 7-iron and trying to hit a few balls (golf balls were hard to come by at the time, so I had to be very careful where I hit them). I guess the combination of how hard it was to hit a golf ball combined with the fact that I had limited balls to practice with, did nothing to further my interest.

It wasn't until years later when I was in high school that I joined my father and two brothers for my first round of golf. We went to a local 9-hole course that was known to be a hacker's paradise. I stepped onto the first tee box and swung wildly and by some crazy stroke of luck, I launched the ball respectably into the air and down the middle of the fairway.

I've been hooked on the sport ever since.

The excitement of that first drive and the fun I had during that round jettisoned me into a grand and unending love of the game. I started to buy golf instructional books and watch tournaments on TV each weekend. In my spare time I frequented driving ranges, chipped in my front yard, and practiced putting in my living room.

However, outside of a week at a mediocre Florida golf school, I have never taken a lesson. I admit this with a certain level of shame because I should have taken lessons and learned how to play correctly from the beginning. Instead, I went with the self-directed method and have subsequently

struggled for decades.

Instead of learning correctly and developing functional muscle memory, I reinforced multiple self-inflicted bad habits that I continue to fight to this day.

However, I still have an immense amount of knowledge about the game, its history, and the mechanics of the golf swing, which, at the very least, allows me to self-correct when things get out of whack.

This past weekend, my sister-in-law called and told me her 22-year-old son wanted to get into golf and wondered if I would be willing to help him pick out equipment. I agreed to accompa-

ny him to a golf center so I could analyze his swing and work with the store instructors to set him up with clubs and lessons.

My nephew told me he had only been on a golf course twice. When I saw his swing, I knew he wasn't lying.

I had him hit a few shots with a 7-iron and then a driver. Then I pulled the store employee over and asked him his thoughts.

He took one look and said, “He needs a starter set. Anything more would be a waste of money.”

I agreed and headed over to the lower end models and picked out a set that came with every club including a putter, driver, and a bag. We then got a pair of respectable golf cleats, a pair of inexpensive gloves, and a bag of pre-used golf balls.

I then made a plan with my nephew to meet me at my country club where I would bring him to the range in an attempt to give him the basics before he starts lessons. Stay tuned for details on that adventure in next week's column.

This week's feature is a throwback to the 1980s when I was making plans for life along with a group of Hollywood kids known as the “Brat Pack.” “St. Elmo's Fire” is the quintessential coming-of-age story of a group of college friends who are looking to make their mark on the world.

I haven't watched this film since its release in 1985 (where it was panned by critics but became a box office smash). The styles, attitudes, music, and vibe are exemplary examples of the '80s and will provide immense nostalgia for anyone who was there.

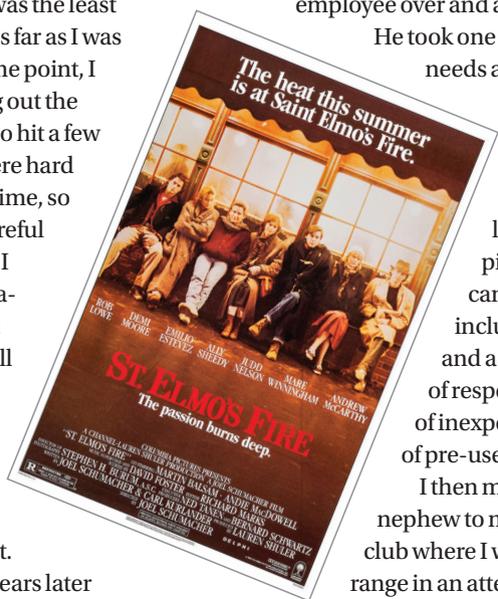
If the '80s are foreign to you, consider giving this film a try if only to confirm that kids are the same no matter what generation they are from.

A brattish “B” for “St. Elmo's Fire,” now available to stream on Amazon Prime Video.

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



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Journeying up on the mountain

Stepping out of the woods, I giggled to myself as I felt the mountain embrace me. The baby's-breath reached up to my armpits, tickling me as I walked across the trail, following the narrow but well trodden path. But not right now. At the end of June, nature still overwhelms the path, no one from the resort having been here yet with a weed whacker. You can barely see the path through the field of little white flowers, almost like it has snowed on Lower Skye Lark.

It's beautiful and I feel like Julie Andrews in “The Sound of Music,” surrounded by so much nature that I am almost a part of it. I mean, I'm so in it, that I might as well be. If I fell and tripped, I know that Nature would just absorb me into the mountain forever. Not a bad way to go, really.

But I am here to reconnect with my beautiful mountain, having been away since that miraculous day on June 1 skiing. I cannot believe it, actually, that I have been away so long. Actually, that's not true. I was here two weeks ago, but on the Ramshead side, so it feels so very different to be wandering up the front.

Ah, Trail E. When I was working at the bike shop all those years ago, I would tell the guests that E stood for Easy. And I guess it still does, if

you compare it to direct ascent up trail A or the long trudge up the workload of Trail C. Trail E is Easy, in that it gives you moments of beauty where you forget for a moment that you'll be finishing off with a foot to knee hike up Escapade. Huh, maybe the E stands for Escapade.

Anyway, I love the wandering of this trail. In and out of the trees, popping out onto Skye Lark then Bittersweet then Skyelark again. Finally, you top out on the top of Preston's Pitch of Superstar and can look down the Killington Road until what seems like eternity. Then back through the woods again over to Ovation, where you have to work through a tunnel of trees that used to be shorter than my waist, but are now just tall enough to create a canopy tunnel over to Anarchy and Julio.

This is where you forget that you're traversing a double black diamond tree trail — or at least have moments. Then you turn a corner and see the pink lettering of the Trail E sign what seems like several hundred vertical feet above you. Oh right, I'm not traversing on a bike trail, I'm hiking up this damn mountain. I can feel the sweat pouring down the sides of my face and down my back. Why did I do this again?

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Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

Summer concerts over the years

Summer is all about outdoor events! In Rutland we have had the opportunity to enjoy band concerts in Main Street Park for about 100 years. There is not much around today that existed before “my time” but this event did!

When I was a child back in the '50s I remember sitting on our back porch and hearing the band concerts. But the real way to enjoy them is to actually be there. Because the park is only about one half mile from our home my parents and I would walk down there occasionally on Sunday nights.

When my teenage years arrived I would walk down with my friends. At that age the music was like background noise as we talked among ourselves and enjoyed the food offered at Charlie Hackett's popcorn

stand or Roxie's Wagon. Both of them were on the West Street side of the park in the city “green belt section.” Charlie Hackett was in a small wooden building that the Rutland Lion's Club built for him. He was blind but had help often from Mt. St. Joseph Academy students. Roxie's was a silver bus-like vehicle that was driven to the park. Their fries were a popular choice of many, often drenched with vinegar.

The band members were in uniform and played music ranging from polkas to show tunes and everything in between. The Sunday night band concerts have been enjoyed by me from my youth into today's senior citizen status.

As adults we need to spread our wings and experience outdoor concerts in addition to those in Main

Street Park. That involves some traveling if you want to see the big name performers. Over the years my husband, Peter, and I saw several performances at SPAC (Saratoga Performing Arts Center) and Stratton Mountain Resort.

The original Beach Boys were at SPAC in the '90s. It was probably the most fun concert we attended. It was special to see in person the group whose records were often played. One of the most famous performers at SPAC was Elton John back in 1982. We didn't see that one but according to their website he performed 23 songs that night. Arrowsmith, Billy Idol and Bruce Springsteen also appeared at SPAC in the '80s. They had first class performers back then and that is still true today.

Once in a while my husband and I would add an overnight stay to our Saratoga concert experience.

The most interesting
Looking Back → 27



Looking Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw



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Meditation:
from page 24

vey Girls (said to have populated the West) so I asked to meet Fred Harvey in the employment office. Everyone laughed then explained, "Mr. Harvey's been dead for 70 years."

They hired me as a waitress in the Bright Angel Lodge, with dormitory housing and meals at low cost. I bid "adieu" to my Phoenix friends and "hello" to Kristi, my very hippie California roommate and her Siberian Husky.

A Nebraska farmer and cowboy named Dan and I explored the Canyon together. Dan got a job as a muleteer. Every seven days, I had two days off and hiked to Phantom Ranch in the bottom of the Canyon. I served meals for food and a bed in the bunkhouse. I learned to shake out my boots for scorpions.

On my 24th birthday, a U.S. Geological Serviceman invited me to cross the Colorado River in a suspended (scary) cart to measure the temperature and sediment. Two large rafts with passengers passed. Joe said "Sometimes they'll take someone for free to help cook meals and clean."

I asked. They said, "Yes" but if anyone complained I'd have to get off at Lava Rapids and hike up alone on an unmaintained trail, which could be quite dangerous. I was accepted and stayed with the group, but just in case, Dan rode all the way down to the river and back on a mule with another for me in tow.

The Colorado River was lower than usual in 1975, which made Lava Rapids far more perilous. We held on for dear life to not fall off into the tumultuous rushing water. Thank heavens our rafts didn't turn over which was the greatest danger.

We traveled by day, stopped for lunch, and set up camp before dark. I helped cook, washed dishes, and made hot chocolate with boiled muddy Colorado River water. The canyon was stunning in sunlight and shade. We soaked in clear water at Havasupai Falls and explored hidden secrets in

canyon depths.

A truck picked us up once we entered Lake Meade, then rode it back to civilization (sort of) on the dusty bumpy road. A father and son gave me a ride back to the Grand Canyon village in a helicopter they hired.

I was later accepted into the Peace Corps, and left for training in Colorado. When I returned to Vermont I heard of the Experiment in International Living's graduate program in intercultural management. I applied.

I put the Peace Corps on the back burner and attended the School for International Training. Brattleboro was an hour and a half drive from my family and our Killington dream lodge.

Once again, I'd traveled afar and returned to Vermont where I felt most at home.

Marguerite Jill Dye is an artist and writer who divides her time between Killington and Bradenton, Florida. She loves to hear from her readers at jillydystudio@aol.com.



By Margeurite Jill Dye

The Grand Canyon painted en plein air during a cross country adventure after graduating college.

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← **Looking Back:**
from page 25

one was a rustic cabin close to SPAC which turned out to be a lot more fun than I thought it would be. I learned that I can go without “amenities” for one night! We checked out some of Saratoga’s famous mineral springs, enjoyed nice meals and did some shopping. You don’t have to travel far from home to enjoy a change of scenery and have some fun.

Who else performed at SPAC back in the day? The well known Grateful Dead were at SPAC three times from 1983 to 1986. Jerry Garcia was the lead guitarist and vocalist. They had

been playing there for over 30 years before the 1983 date.

Stratton Mountain Resort has also had some great entertainment over the years. Going there also presented the opportunity for a get-away weekend. Peter and I did just that when Judy Collins was performing there. We stayed right at the resort, had a great dinner at Mulligan’s and walked from there to the concert. The next day we explored the village stores.

The Killington Music Festival will have brought summer culture to the area for 37 years this summer. Students from well

known institutions come to Killington to play chamber music. The talented musicians have a summer residency and learn to perform classical music with some of the best musicians.

These concert venues that have provided enjoyment to me throughout my life are still going strong today. Check their websites to find performances that appeal to you. After all, summer weather doesn’t last long in our area so take advantage of it and enjoy some music that is part of the summer concert experience.

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← **Living the Dream:**
from page 25

I can see The Light at the end of the tunnel and I feel lighter, happier, knowing that the end of this climb is coming. Until I remember that it’s time for the Escapade ascent. You pop out of the woods onto one of the most fun natural snow trail bump runs at Killington — except that you have nowhere to go but up. Your calves start screaming at you, but it’s June so my quads are still ski pumped up. It’s never as long as I think but always longer than I feel. But you just push down on your knee with your hand, wiling your body upward and onward.

I’ve done this so many times, my body knows where the trail abs and flows, as I cross over bike trail No. 2 (I don’t know what it’s called now) I debate giving up and making the left turn because it’s still wicked early and the gondola isn’t running yet. But I cannot surrender. Trail E is Easy, remember? I keep reminding myself as I push further up the trail. A few more steps up the rocky part, and I make it to the work road and turn around to bask in the glory that is the view. Somehow the view is always better on the ascent.

Checking my watch, I think about how soon I have to be back to work and how much further I can wander. My goal is never the summit, although sometimes I end up there. I just want to spend some time walking down the South Ridge, looking out at the plushness of the green mountains. I want to soak it all in, a little stroll down Launchpad and then over to Great Eastern with a finish on the beautiful Snowshed Crossover. At least that’s where I ended up going today. Who knows where my mountain journey will take me next time. But I cannot wait to find out.

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, town lister, Development Review Board member, local realtor and Coach PomPom. Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.



By Merisa Sherman
Hiking through the baby’s-breath on Lower Skye Lark at Killington Resort is joyful.



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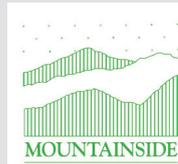

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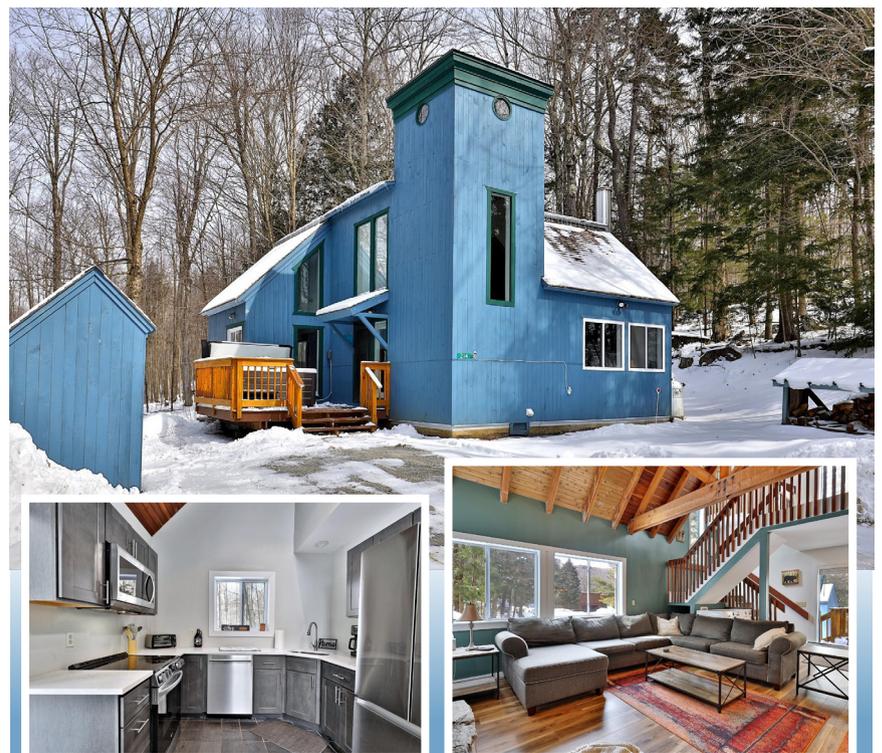
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← TOS:

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cowbird eggs are dissimilar to those of the host and are obvious to the human eye. Surprisingly, host birds sometimes tolerate these eggs. One theory that explains this behavior postulates that hosts put up with the extra work of raising a baby cowbird because they've previously experienced retaliation when they've removed a cowbird egg. Cowbirds and other brood parasites have been known to destroy a host's clutch following rejection of their eggs.

Centuries ago, cowbirds followed bison on the Great Plains, feeding on insects the buffalo stirred up. Today they associate with cattle for the same reason — hence the name “cowbird.” Scientists used to believe that because cowbirds travelled with bison herds, they were unable to remain in one location to raise young and therefore took advantage of other birds' nests. However, a study of cowbird DNA has found that this species was parasitic long before it began following buffalo. Once found

only in midwestern grasslands, cowbirds have expanded their range eastward, and their numbers have surged as humans have cleared forests for agriculture and development.

Yellow-billed and black-billed cuckoos are other interspecific brood parasites that inhabit the Northeast. These species practice “facultative” nest parasitism, whereas the cowbird is an “obligate” parasite. Cuckoos construct their own nests, but in some years lay additional eggs in other birds' nests. This occurs most often in years of plentiful food, such as outbreaks of tent caterpillars, and appears to be a strategy to increase reproductive success by taking advantage of abundant resources. Yellow-billed cuckoos mainly parasitize the nests of black-billed cuckoos, and vice versa.

Several duck species, including wood ducks, are intraspecific brood parasites, distributing extra eggs in the nests of other

ducks of the same species. Through this strategy, they reduce the risk of losing all their reproductive effort if their own nest is destroyed by a predator.

These fascinating intrigues and deceptions reveal there is more going on in the world of birds than meets the eye.

Susan Shea is a naturalist, writer, and conservationist based in Vermont. 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.



← Charley:

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I don't need another. I reluctantly give him over to ya, but if I find out you ain't carin' for him, I might have to come up there and kill ya my own damn self," she told me.

Doc Scott bore down. He looked in Charley's eyes, he looked in his mouth, he looked in his ears, and then he did a minute inspection of his body with his hands. Charley was as calm as 6 a.m. water on a country pond and took this vigorous work-over without a whiff of complaint.

"I will bet the farm that this pup is 1 year old, he is a fine dog indeed and you are one lucky rescue owner," Scott said.

We finished the full protocol: shots, dietary advice, recommendation for training, and some basic do's and don'ts. Doc Scott was a marvel, and I was so happy for the treatments and the advice.

Now, with the full emergence of the Vermont summer, the next month was a carnival, a father and son, bonding as two beasts, doin' the dance of falling in love. Charley's love was robust — he wanted to jump into my arms (if he could) at every turn, so expressive, so exuberant, so ready for action, "What 'cha got today, Dad?" he seemed to say. "I'm up for some fun, how's about you?"

His running place was nearby — in, around, and through both the Jewish and Protestant Cemeteries, up on airport road. When I say he ran the cemeteries, I mean he bolted the entire circumference of the side by side cemeteries, a quarter mile at least, hunkered down and flying, his strong glutes churning. I was convinced the boy could hit 40 mph in 4.5 seconds.

We played throw the ball/stick/frisbee for hours, each time he came right back and spat the object out at my feet. It was only later that he added the coy business of keeping the stick from me. He would run a few yards away and flop down with the stick in his mouth, as if he was oblivious to my existence. I'd sneak up on him, grab the stick and an epic tug of war would ensue, sometimes rolling around on the grass, grappling for the stick. We hit the rocks in the Mill River and swam together in the deeper pools. He liked nothing more, when all the strenuous exercise was over, than to take a leisurely stroll on one of the many country roads. It was around this time that I noticed when he walked ahead of me, his butt swayed from

side by side like Marilyn Monroe, in that white dress on the train platform in "Some Like it Hot."

A lifetime habit of his was to chase animals, small and large. If a rabbit showed up, he was off like a shot. Those rabbits are clever and deceptively quick. They would stand stock still as Charley bore down on them and then at the last second, they would dart into the underbrush, leaving Wyle E Coyote to slam on the breaks...skееееirrrrr...like the cartoon coyote running off the cliff. He would then leap into the underbrush where he thought the bunny would be, and three beats later while he rummaged for the prey, the little brown rabbit scurried out of the underbrush 20 feet away and made his escape. Charley would come up emptyhanded and frustrated, his expression

a full-on Oliver Hardy, "Abada, abada, abada, why, I oughtta!"

We had quiet times as well. At night after dinner he would sit at my feet, his paws crossed as I listened to music, worked on projects for The Paramount, or visited my social media sites. Eventually his head would go down to his paws, his eyes would close, and he would drift off to his Labrador dreamscape. I would spend time brushing his lush coat, in the warm weather pulling off spools of dog hair and always delighting him with a good long brush massage. Around this time, I started a habit, three or four nights per week, I would lay down next to him or get on my knees and press my cheek to the side of his long snout, like singing to a baby at bedtime. "He's just a big baby, he's just a big baby boy. Charley's my big, BIG baby boy." He would sigh with contentment and in time, drift off to sleep.

The life threatening panic of a group of uniformed women

Later in our first summer together, a remarkable thing happened. Charles and I were lolling about on the grass outside

of the granary, on a warm and glorious day, when we heard what sounded like many women speaking at once, from a distance. We looked around the end of the granary, to find a phalanx of women moving their way down the 100-yard long private property driveway. These 30-40 women were wearing something like uniforms: long dark dresses of heavy fabric, high neck dark blouses and clunky dark shoes. Oh, and were coming from a bus I noticed parked at the top of the driveway. They must be urban tourists enjoying the wilds of summer in a tour of Vermont, I thought.

Charley and I watched with great interest, trying to figure out what this group of women was up to. They are certainly not dressed for a dip in the river, and I saw no fishing equipment; perhaps they just wanted to take a gander at this dynamic bend in the river with three continuous waterfalls. The crowd was gathered in a bunch turned toward the river when Charley had a socializing inspiration, jumped up and bounded down the steep embankment between the granary and the main house. He burst through the crowd, landing at the

center of the women. They shrieked, and screamed. They recoiled with distended faces, eyes bugging out with horror, hands and arms pinwheeling the air — they looked to be backstroking in a pool of panic as they made a rapid withdrawal from this offending beast. Charley responded by running up to two and three at a time.

"Oh, my God... !! AHHHH, Get away! Arrrgghhh!! Don't touch me!!!" they shrieked.

I grabbed his leash and hurried down to help. Charley seemed confused and hurt. He looked right at me "I only wanted to play!! I like them - why don't they like me?" Group rejection was a new experience for him, and he did the only thing he knew how to do: he barked in his big *basso profundo*.

The ladies responded, more screaming, gnashing, and backstroking from the horror of a friendly English Lab... I leashed him and started up the road, neither of us understanding what might have caused such a high-speed blender of life-threatening panic for these uniformed women.



Charley's first home, the former granary of the Kinglsey Grist Mill, Clarendon, 2010.

Courtesy Bruce Bouchard



Charley, fed, happy, and ready to go.

Courtesy Bruce Bouchard

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