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VERMONT SKI & SNOW-**BOARD HALL OF FAME** INDUCTEES HONORED

The Vermont Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame will induct 2024 inductees on Oct. 19 at Killington Resort. Kelly Clark, Carl Ettlinger, Peter Graves, and Henry Lunde will be honored for their roles. Page 3



3% TAX ON STR **BEGINS. AUG. 1**

Starting on Aug. 1 all short term rental bookings in Vermont will be assessed an additional 3% tax. This is in addition to the state's existing 9% rooms and meals tax and any 1% local tax option.

Page 5



ANTIQUE TRACTOR DAY Antique Tractor Day 2024 at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock features a family-friendly farm adventure with restored antique tractors, parades, wagon rides, crafts, games, and a "Slow Race."

Page 20



By Polly Mikula

Winning relay team celebrates with duckies

The Killington Sharks 8 and Under freestyle relay team won its heat at the District meet July 27, at White's Pool in Rutland. Pictured (l-r) Willow Kimball, 8; Ro Cash, 7; Esmé Mikula,6; and Steven Geiger, 7. The state race will be held Aug. 3-4 at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center in White River Jct.

Property taxpayers crowd in for Killington reappraisal presentation

"No one likes taxes — I'll

put my hand up for

that, too – but fair and

equitable is the best

outcome," said Donovan.

By Curt Peterson and Polly Mikula

"Participating in the reassessment is the most fiscally responsible thing you can do," said Town Manager Michael Ramsey as he

opened the Killington informational meeting on the upcoming reappraisal of Grand List properties, Tuesday, July 23. 'We don't want others to come in and assume we all have golden faucets, which is what they might do," he warned.

The meeting was packed with over 70 people in attendance at Killington's Public Safety Building and 100 more attending via Zoom.

Town lister Merisa Sherman lead the presentation, first addressing head-on the reason why so many residents showed up to the meeting: rising property taxes.

"I just want to remind everybody that we are residents and property owners just like you," Sherman said. "So when you all got your tax bill, so did we!"

Sherman then explained what listers are

(and aren't). "We are called listers because we are responsible for the Grand List ... a list of all the parcels in town and their assessed value,"

she said. "We collect data to ensure a fair market value of your property for tax purposes." Sherman then clarified, "We are not tax

collectors, we are not building inspectors, we are not fire marshals or

zoning administrators. We do not issue fees, citations, violations, penalties and we do not set the tax rate."

Sherman then explained the process of reappraisals, why the state has mandated it and how it would be conducted.

"The way an assessment is evaluated is the value of your land plus any improvements to that land. Improvements could include lots of different things but mostly it's your house, or barn, or that little building you built over your well, or that 10x10 structure that you didn't tell Reappraisal $\rightarrow 6$

KMS buys Moguls

Moguls owner Salmeri reflects on 30 years By Polly Mikula

After 30 years, owner Robert "Sal" Salmeri is selling Moguls Sports Pub and Restaurant to Killington Mountain School (KMS), which owns the abutting property.

The \$1.5 million deal was set to close Wednesday, July 31. Moguls is located at the intersection of Killington Road and West Park Road - almost exactly halfway up the access road. It's on 2 acres of land with views of the mountain.

Salmeri decided to sell the iconic bar to KMS after considering his options. "I had wanted to keep Moguls what it was, but I could not find a qualified buyer who would be able to do it successfully," he said. "When KMS approached me I began to consider how that could be a real win-win-win for everyone involved. KMS is a real asset to this community and I want to help them grow."

This isn't the first time Salmeri has helped KMS grow. He sold his former house in Killington to the school in the early 2000s.

"I sold my house on West Park Road so that KMS could grow then and they took on about 30 more students," Salmeri said.

To be honest, it's tearing my heart apart taking the place apart.

FREE

"The sale of Moguls will help them grow by about 50 more; that's about 100 more parents, too. So this is a way to help the school and the town grow, which is something I really believe in."

Salmeri isn't sure exactly what KMS will do with the building and land, but said they have been considering many options including using it initially as a cafeteria and classrooms, which would likely require the least work. Eventually it could be made into dorms as it was a hotel prior to his converting it into a restaurant. Or it could be made into a gym.

"I think they're going to let the architects do their thing," he said. "They have lots of options."

Leading up to the sale Salmeri was working non-stop to clean out the place. "I've touched every dollar bill that was up on that ceiling ... every picture on the walls," he said.

"To be honest, it's tearing my heart apart taking the place apart... I don't think many people understand the love, sweat equity, blood, and tears that have made this place and are now unmaking it. This has been one of the toughest decisions I've ever had to make. But I think it's the right choice. I think it's going to be good for the community."

"There are plenty of bars for people to go to," he added. "But they're not going to forget this place."

Moguls $\rightarrow 7$



Hartland Board sets tax rate, puts reps on notice

By Curt Peterson

The Hartland Select Board officially set the FY2025 property tax rate at its July 29 rescheduled meeting. The total "homestead" tax will be \$2.9905 per \$1,000 assessed value. The FY2024 rate was \$2.4709, making this year's increase a little less than 20%.

Selectman Tom Kennedy suggested board members review the School Board's expense management, assuming their FY2025 budget was at the heart of the significant tax rate increase. In fact, the school budget has grown very little year-to-year, held flat by difficult choices made by the tax-sensitive School Board. The two biggest expense increases for FY2025 are health insurance premiums (16%) and teacher salaries, the former negotiated by the state and the later by contractual agreements negotiated through the statewide teachers' union.

The Legislature has also been adding mandated services, without providing any state funding.

Thus, according to school board chair Nikki Buck, the board has control over only 5% of the total budget.

"The School Board isn't to blame," one Zoom participant pointed out. "The school board is just an additional victim of the Legislature's actions."

Although the effect of applying of the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) factor, adjusting Grand List property values to state-estimated current market values was known in January, the Legislature didn't take action on the issue until March, cobbling together a bill that reduced the state average tax increase from over 20% to 13.8%.

Hartland is affected more than less-affluent towns as the Agency of Education formula attempts to equalize the investment in education for all Vermont students.

"This tax situation is a crisis," Select Board Chair Hobbie said. "It's unsustainable, and the school board is not responsible for the problem."

Hartland taxes \rightarrow 15

Where is the state road construction this week?

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) published its weekly report of planned construction activities that will impact traffic on state highways and interstates throughout Vermont, July 29-Aug. 2 and ongoing. Below are roadways in Rutland and Windsor County that will be affected.

I-91 Hartland: Multiple single-lane closures will be in effect on I-91 Southbound from north of Exit 9 to just south of Exit 7. A speed limit reduction to 55 mph is in effect through the work zones. The on and off ramps at Exits 7, 8, and 9 are scheduled to be paved but will remain open with shifting traffic patterns and reduced speeds. Motorcycles should continue to use caution on grooved and uneven surfaces.

Hartford: Sunday through Thursday during nighttime hours, motorists should expect minimal delays with lane shifts and alternating one-way traffic on Route 5 between Bugbee Street and Route 14. Monday through Friday during daytime hours, motorists should expect major delays with lane shifts and alternating oneway traffic on Route 5 from the Hartford/Hartland town line moving north throughout the week. Flaggers and uniformed traffic officers will be present to assist motorists through the work zone. Motorists are strongly encouraged to plan ahead for major Roadwork \rightarrow 12

Peregrine falcon nesting season is complete, cliffs clear to hike and climb again

Hikers and rock climbers can return to Vermont cliffs now that peregrine falcon nesting season has ended. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept., in collaboration with Audubon Vermont, has confirmed that all the young falcons have learned to fly and should not be disturbed by human presence on the cliffs.

"The young peregrines have fledged, and nesting data suggest many of Vermont's falcons had another successful year," said Vermont Fish & Wildlife's nongame bird biologist Jillian Kilborn. "The falcons' nesting success is due to a combination of factors, including good weather early in the nesting season and cooperation from hikers and rock climbers who observe a respectful distance from nesting falcons during this critical period. Peregrine nesting success would not be possible without more than 50 volunteers who monitor the nest sites statewide from March to the end of July."

According to Audubon biologist Margaret Fowle, who coordinates the monitoring effort on behalf of the



Bv C. Merrill. VTF&W

Vermont cliffs monitored by biologists and volunteers for nesting peregrine pairs this spring and summer are open for recreationists.

Fish & Wildlife Dept., biologists and volunteers monitored peregrine pairs that occupied at least 45 Vermont cliffs in early spring and summer.

"We greatly appreciate the time and effort volunteers put into monitoring the population this year, and we thank landowners and recreationists for their cooperation in protecting nesting peregrines' from human disturbance," said Fowle.

Peregrine falcons were removed from the state's Threatened and Endangered Species List in 2005. Ongoing cooperation from recreationists and continued monitoring efforts by Vermont Fish & Wildlife and Audubon Vermont will help ensure the peregrine's remarkable recovery in future years.

Casella recognized on Time's 'America's Best Mid-Size Companies 2024' List

Inaugural list identifies leading U.S. companies, based on employee satisfaction, revenue, and sustainability metrics

Casella Waste Systems, Inc. (Nasdaq: CWST), a regional solid waste, recycling and resource management services company, has been named to Time's "America's Best Mid-Size Companies 2024" list. Casella was the only company in the waste, recycling, and resource management services industry—and the only company headquartered in Vermont among the list of 500, according to a news release July 16.

America's Best Mid-Size Companies 2024 were identified based on three dimensions using more than 15 different criteria. The project scope considered all companies that operate in the U.S. and generated at least \$100 million in revenue but less than \$10 billion in 2022 or 2023.

The three evaluation criteria were:

- 1. Employee Satisfaction: Data of standardized work-related KPIs based on survey data from a large sample of employees from U.S. companies.
- 2. Revenue Growth: Revenue growth data of all relevant companies from the internal growth database and company database.
- 3. Sustainability Transparency: Data among standardized KPIs relevant to environment, social, and corporate governance from the internal ESG Database and targeted data research.

"To be viewed as one of the best companies of our size in the U.S. is truly rewarding," said John W. Casella, chairman and CEO of Casella. "And, most especially, as it pertains to metrics that include employee satisfaction and sustainability transparency, as these are critical to all that we do as a company. We have invested a great deal in our people over the years and the investments we've made in engagement, safety, training, recruitment, and retention is passed on exponentially to the customers and communities we serve." In 2020 Casella established its CDL Driving School, and to date has invested more than \$1.5 million in training more than 300 newly minted drivers since its inception. Today, Casella continues to reinvest in its workforce companywide to include mechanics and technicians, frontline leaders, and other vital personnel who are committed to service and safety.

In 2023, as part of the company's efforts to reinforce this commitment to touch all facets of the company, Casella restructured its annual incentive compensation plans so that all bonus plans now include a goal to improve safety and employee turnover performance year-over-year. Both targets were exceeded in their first year, and as job markets continue to remain competitive, Casella is positioned well to be an employer of choice in its industry.

"We often say that our people are the biggest differentiator and competitive advantage as a sustainable enterprise," said Casella. "If we are first of service to each other, our employees will be satisfied and will work hard to be of service to our customers, which then leads to growth and financial success. That approach has been our focus since the day we hired our first employee, remains true today with more than 4,300 employees, and is validated by an honor like this."

Casella Waste Systems, Inc., headquartered in Rutland, Vermont, is one of the largest recyclers and most experienced fully integrated resource management companies in the Eastern U.S. Founded in 1975 as a single truck collection service, Casella has grown its operations to provide solid waste collection and disposal, transfer, recycling, and organics services to more than 1 million residential, commercial, municipal, institutional, and industrial customers, and provides professional resource management services in more than 40 states.

For more information, visit: casella.com.





Carl Ettlinger



Peter Graves



Henry Lunde

Vermont Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame announces 2024 inductees Ceremony to be held Oct. 19 at Killington Resort

The who's who of Vermont's ski and snowboarding world will gather at Killington's K1 Lodge on Saturday, Oct. 19 to celebrate the Induction of the class of 2024 into the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. The event, hosted by the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum in Stowe, was announced Monday, July 29.

One of the highlights of the event will be the premier of short biographical films created for each inductee shown before their acceptance speeches.

This year's Hall of Fame inductees include Kelly Clark, the winningest athlete in snowboard history: Carl Ettlinger, a ski safety crusader; Peter Graves, the voice of skiing in America; and Henry Lunde, a pioneering contributor to the Vermont ski industry.

Additional awards will include the Paul Robbins Journalism Award presented to Lisa Gosselin Lynn, the First Tracks Award to Abby Crisostomo and Hana Saydek of Unlikely Riders, and the Bill McCollom Community Award to Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports.

Since 2002, the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame has recognized more than 80 people who have made snowsports history in the state. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to honor athletes, special contributors, and pioneers of Vermont skiing and riding who promoted and/or contributed to their sports in Vermont; to document the histories of inductees in the museum's collection, and to recognize their accomplishments through the induction ceremony. The Hall of Fame committee looks at candidates in three categories: Athletes, Pioneers, and Special Contributors.

All are welcome to join the inductees, awardees, and fellow ski and snowboard enthusiasts at a reception and induction ceremony on Oct. 19 at 5 p.m. Tickets are limited.

For tickets and more information, visit: vtssm.org/hall-of-fame. Kelly Clark Kelly Clark, a five-time Olympian and three-time Olympic medalist who grew up snowboarding at Mt. Snow, needs little introduction. With over 200 starts in international professional competition (of 137 podiums 78 were wins) she's the winningest athlete in snowboarding history. As a trailblazer and dominant force in the sport of halfpipe snowboarding, she continually innovated and "raised her own bar" in every competition. But to her success is more than medals on a shelf.

Clark's pursuit of greatness inspires others to push the envelope of innovation. She wants her life to be the message. It is no secret that she is a woman of faith and purpose and it is seen in her life. She consistently makes it about more than just herself and strives to inspire people everywhere to live their dreams. She wants the height of her success to be the foundation from which others are launched.

"The greatest legacy I could leave would be to see my ceiling be the floor for the next generation. It is bigger than me, but it can start with me," Clark said.

She founded the Kelly Clark Foundation in 2010 to help get more kids out on the hill at an entry and high competition level. In 2022 she established Kelly Clark Snowboarding with a goal to make snowboarding easier for people. On the Burton Snowboards team for the last 25 years, she still enjoys contributing to the sport through their partnership.

Carl Ettlinger

As a distinguished researcher, Carl Ettlinger discovered methods to reduce ski injuries which led to the production of testing devices, training workshops, and videos to make skiing a safer sport. His collaborative research and resulting innovations have saved the skiing public from tibial fractures costing conservatively an estimated \$600 million dollars annually.

After serving as a decorated second lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, he returned to the University of Vermont in 1969 to complete a masters in mechanical engineering. While there, he began his master's thesis, "On the Prevention of Ski Injuries," which laid out the case for the cause of, and solution to, tibia fractures in Alpine skiing. This resulted in the development of the first commercially successful anti-friction device (AFD). At his shop in Underhill, he established Vermont Ski Safety Equipment (VSSE) and created the world's leading laboratory for testing, designing, and analyzing snowsports equipment.

Along with Drs. Shealy and Johnson, he established America's first formalized snowsports injury research program in Vermont, called the Sugarbush Study. The study became a world leader in the field and researchers from around the world consistently recognize the study as the gold standard of ski injury data, and it has been used consistently by scientists studying injury prevention, mitigation, trends, and other analyses.

In 2006 he and colleague David Dodge combined their decades of knowledge and research to form Vermont Safety Developments. Their understanding of ski binding engineering principles and the mechanism of injury for ACL injuries helped them innovate traditional bindings with an "intelligent platform." Together, they created several patented binding designs that could more accurately measure and respond to injury producing loads.

Ettlinger co-authored more than 70 peer-reviewed journal articles and abstracts – most of them in collaboration with his longtime friends and colleagues, Dr. Robert Johnson and Dr. Jasper Shealy. Many of these papers served to guide and inform the International Society for Skiing Safety (ISSS). He was the technical editor for Skiing magazine, from 1972 until 1993.

Peter Graves

A Bennington, native, Peter Graves began his cross country ski racing Hall of Fame \rightarrow 9

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4. LOCAL NEWS

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At the Woodstock Inn & Resort, creating true connection is at the heart of everything we do. From the wealth of benefits, to sharing this place, we invite you to discover this connection when you join our team.

The Primary: Your opportunity to shape the ballot

This year's August primary may not seem as exciting as some in the past, such as 2022

with open Congressional and U.S. Senate seats, but it is nonetheless important to vote. On the ballot will be nominees for all statewide offices, including governor and lieutenant governor, as well as state senate and state representative.

This is your opportunity to select the candidates that will be our choices on the November ballot. As has been said before, "Elections have consequences" so be sure to vote in this year's primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 13.

Vermont has an open primary system. A voter can select the Democratic, Progressive or Republican ballot irrespective of what party, if any, you may normally identify and vote for candidates listed or write in your choice.

Governor

Republican: Phil Scott

Democrat: Esther Charlestin and Peter Duval

Charlestin is a former equity director in the Middlebury schools and lists herself as a small business owner.

Duval is a part time sailing instructor and substitute teacher. Lieutenant Governor

Republican: John Rogers and Gregory Thayer

Rogers is a former Democratic State Senator from Orleans County who feels he is too moderate for today's Democratic party and has led forums at the State House this past spring critical of recent actions by the Legislature, including those adding costs to Vermonters.

Thayer is a former member of the Rutland Board of Aldermen and Vermont campaign manager for Trump.

Democrat: Thomas Renner and David Zuckerman

Renner is the Winooski assistant mayor and a member of Congresswomen Balint's staff.

Zuckerman is an organic farmer and current Lieut.Governor. He has sought the Progressive nomination as well in past elections.

Debates

Vermont Public has held debates for primary races for governor and lieut. governor over the past week. To view the recordings, visit: vermontpublic.org/election-2024

Primary Day voting hours, Aug. 13 Chittenden Town Office: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Killington Town Office: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Mendon Town Office: 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Pittsfield Town Office: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

You may also vote early by requesting an early ballot at your town office or online through the Secretary of State Office, mvp. vermont.gov. Early ballots must be returned prior to the closing time of your town clerk's office prior to primary day or turned in during polling hours on Aug. 13.

I plan to spend time visiting district voting locations (Chittenden, Killington, Mendon and Pittsfield) on Aug. 13. I hope to see many of you there. I *a.m.* running for re-election and would appreciate your support. More information can be found at harrisonforvermont.com.

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

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GRACIE'S GRILL IS NOW OPEN

By Rep. Jim

Harrison

New 3% tax on short-term rentals begins, Aug. 1

Staff report

Starting on Aug. 1, 2024, a 3% tax on short-term rental bookings in Vermont will be added. This tax applies to all short-term rentals and is in addition to the state's existing 9% rooms and meals tax and any 1% local tax option, meaning hosts and guests will now see a combined tax rate of 12%-13% on their bookings.

Airbnb and VRBO, the two largest booking platforms, will now include these taxes automatically.

The new 3% tax revenue was enacted by the Vermont Legislature this past session as part of a larger effort to reduce the statewide property tax increase, keeping it to an average of 13.8%.

The state defines a short term rental as a dwelling unit rented for consecutive periods of less than 30 days for more than 14 days per year. The tax does not apply to licensed lodging establishments (hotels, motels, inns, and bed and breakfasts).

For those with bookings through Aug. 1, the Vermont tax department states: "The Aug. 1 effective date applies to the collection of rents. Operators collecting rents for shortterm rentals on or after Aug. 1, 2024, must collect the 3% surcharge. This is true even for reservations made prior to Aug. 1, 2024 without payment. Accordingly, rents collected before Aug. 1, 2024, are not subject to the 3% surcharge even when the stay occurs on or after Aug. 1."

Stay Class, a direct booking vacation rental platform for rentals in Vermont, clarified that statement with a "pro tip," explaining, "This means if you collect payment in full prior to Aug. 1 for a stay after the Aug. 1 date, you will not be required to pay the additional 3% surcharge. I would highly encourage you to reach out to your renters to collect payment prior to Aug. 1."

This tax change will be reflected as landlords file any Meals and Rooms taxes. For monthly filers, the July meals and rooms tax return will have the 9% rate, while the August meals and rooms tax return will have a 12% or 13% rate, depending on whether the rental is in a town that assesses additional 1% option tax. For quarterly filers, the third quarter 2024 filing (July, August, September) will be broken down by month with specific rents collected in each listed.

For more information visit: Tinyurl.com/STRtax.

Treasurer's Office pays record number of unclaimed property claims

In fiscal year 2024, the Vermont State Treasurer's Office processed a record 19,010 individual unclaimed property claims, returning \$5.8 million to Vermonters. It is the highest number of claims the office has ever paid in a single year.

The state also received \$18.14 million in unclaimed property for the fiscal year—the most collected in two decades.

Unclaimed property includes uncashed checks, forgotten security deposits, investments, and other financial property. Financial institutions and other entities annually report forgotten financial assets and turn them over to the state. The Treasurer's Office receives these assets and safeguards them until claimed by rightful owners or heirs.

The state currently holds over \$130 million in unclaimed property, a figure that continues to increase, highlighting the ongoing challenge of reuniting Vermonters with their forgotten assets.

"It's encouraging that our office is processing and paying more claims than ever, but the amount of unclaimed property continues to rise," said Treasurer Mike Pieciak. "I hope Vermonters will visit missingmoney.com today to see if they have unclaimed property waiting for them. Every day, we reunite Vermonters with property left behind by loved ones and those funds often make a meaningful difference in their lives."

Earlier this year the Treasurer's Office reunited a Vermonter with a substantial sum of money they were previously unaware of, allowing them to continue living independently for another year in retirement. Treasurer Pieciak recently delivered an unclaimed property check for over \$33,000 to the Montpelier Firefighters Association, funds they can now use to support their members and

Unclaimed property includes uncashed checks, forgotten security deposits, investments, and other financial property.

keep Vermonters safe.

"This money has been raised through the hard work of our members and families over the span of decades and losing it would have been devastating," said Montpelier Lieutenant Fire Fighter Jake Larrabee. "We are incredibly grateful that we stumbled upon our name on the unclaimed property website, and after a very easy process we were able to have the funds returned to us. I highly encourage everyone to check for yourself, friends, and family. You never what Unclaimed property→15



TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT Water System Contract A

Water System, Contract 4 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Village of Killington Water System, Contract 4 will be received by the Town Manager, at the Town Office, 2706 River Road, Killington, VT, until 11:00 AM local time on August 15, 2024, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read in the Public Safety Building, 800 Killington Road, Killington, VT 05751. The Project consists of approximately 18,000 lf of 12" and 16" diameter water distribution main and pressure reducing facilities.

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Copy World LLC., 5 Airport Road, Colonial Plaza-Unit 21, West Lebanon, NH 03784; Contact: 603-790-8357, bill@copyworldllc.com.

Prospective Bidders may obtain the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Printed Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office at a cost of \$180 per set, shipping is included. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the prospective Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Upon request, Bidding Documents in PDF format will be provided to prospective Bidders who have purchased printed Bid Document. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at the office of the Engineer, **Dufresne Group**, **56 Main Street, Suite 200, Springfield, VT 05156**, on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of **8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.**

A pre-bid conference will be held at 11:00 AM local time on July 30, 2024, at the Public Safety Building, 800 Killington Road, Killington, VT 05751. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.

This project is funded in part through the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Consequently, the following provisions apply to this WORK. More detail for each of these provisions can be found in Instruction to Bidders. BABA Act requirements do not apply:

1. Bid security in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders

2. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements

3. Performance BOND and Payment BOND each in the amount of 100% of the contract price

4. "AIS" (American Iron and Steel) Provisions of P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act

5. Federal Wages as determined under the Davis-Bacon Act

Owner: Town of Killington By: Michael Ramsey Title: Town Manager Date:July 15, 2024

Reappraisal: from page 1

anybody about. We don't care, we just want to make sure that you are fairly and equitably taxed on it," she said.

Data collection on a parcel's land will include: location, quality, view, permits assigned to the land and any changes or upgrades.

Data collection on the exterior of a building will include: Measurements, unique features, foundation and supports, construction style, the quality of the construction and the materials.

Data collection on the interior of a building will include: room count, built-

"The reappraisal itself will not necessarily make your taxes go up, the CLA already accounts for that," Harrison continued. "You're already being taxed as if your properties are worth double what they're listed on the grand list," he explained.

in features (cabinets, islands, Jacuzzis), fixtures (sinks, showers, tubs, toilets), and the quality of finishes (counter tops, flooring, cabinets, etc).

Sherman echoed Ramsey imploring residents to cooperate with the town's effort to collect such data. "If you refuse the Listers to enter your property, the state requires us to assume your property above average, which could lead to a higher tax assessment," she said. "Also, the state has to approve the accuracy of our data collection. They use a three-pronged quality test. If we have to make too many assumptions or if they find it lacking, the entire project will have to be redone," Sherman said, adding that a second reappraisal effort would have to be paid for by town tax dollars. whereas the initial effort is funded by an allocation from the state (\$8.50 per master parcel or around \$25,000 per year for Killington).

The town has contracted Vision Government Solutions of Hudson, Massachusetts (Vision) to professionally reevaluate the town's 3,823 total parcels. Their contract cost is \$399,000.

Of hiring Vision, Sherman explained that the three listers, Patricia Linnemayr, Walter Findeisen and Sherman, can't possibly reappraise all 3,823 parcels in a reasonable time frame.

Patrick Donovan and Stephen Whalen represented Vision via Zoom at Tuesday's meeting and presented their process.

Whalen explained that the town's sales market determines its value using an in-depth study of the past two years of sales. No previous or preconceived estimates of value are used, he explained. Sections of the town will be broken down into "neighborhoods" and assigned varied values for the varied locations.

In addition to home visits, Vision will use Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) software and Eagle View technology — drones that capture straight-down (ortho) and angled (oblique) aerial photography of residential and commercial properties — to create accurate site maps and measurements to establish the reappraisal values.

"Our job is to value every property fairly and equitably," said Donovan.

"No one likes taxes — I'll put my hand up for that, too — but fair and equitable is the best outcome."

Killington's last appraisal was done in 2011. Since

then, property values in town have just about doubled — as is reflected in the town's CLA of 52.35%, which corrects for such discrepancies to ensure taxpayers pay state tax on their actual market value. For the past few years, Killington has had the lowest CLA in the state, meaning that the difference between its Grand List assessed value and its taxable fair market value is larger than all other Vermont towns.

After a reappraisal, assuming there are no further property value increases (which is a big assumption), a town's Grand List should be at 100% CLA and, thus, not require a CLA adjustment to taxes.

State Representative Jim Harrison helped explain this change and how it won't itself have an effect at the meeting Tuesday, "On the municipal side, the reappraisal should not affect your total tax bill. If the budget is flat, the rate would go down to balance your assessed value increase to yeild the same dollar amount," he said.

"On the state side, the state is responsible for collecting the tax money needed to fund the school budgets passed by individual districts throughout the state... that being said, for the record, I voted against the Yield Bill," he said, receiving a cheer from residents in the crowd for his "no" vote.

"The reappraisal itself will not necessarily make your taxes go up, the CLA already accounts for that," Harrison continued. "You're already being taxed as if your properties are worth double what they're listed on the Grand List," he explained, adding that there are homestead property tax credits of up to \$8,000 for residents that make \$90K or less per household, and partial credits for those that earn up to \$128K.

Assessing the resort

The resort reappraisal will be handled separately. The town has contracted ResortLogic, Inc. of Contoocook, New Hampshire, for \$25,000 for this portion of the reappraisal. Tom Lithgow from ResortLogic presented an overview of that process at the meeting Tuesday, explaining that it will be an "income capitalization approach," meaning a review of financial assets, KPIs, profit center metrics, physical assets, depreciations, etc.

Lithgow explained the market value for ski resorts is based on revenue for logical reasons — any buyer would be more interested in potential income than in infrastructure, he explained.

"Bottom line is a stabilized income number for valuation of the resort," Lithgow said. "It's their enterprise-producing capacity."

Lithgow, too, emphasized the need for cooperation to get the job done accurately. "You don't get the right answer without a collaborative effort," he said, adding, "we'll get to a thorough result one way or another but it's much more efficient with cooperation."

Process for grievances

Reappraisal will be finished by April 1. "Then we take a few weeks to process everything and new assessed value should go out shortly after that," Sherman explained.

After property owners are notified of their new assessment, which will likely be next summer, a process of informal hearings will begin.

"These are usually phone calls between us and property owners," Whalen from Vision explained. "It's a chance for you to tell us why you think the valuation is too high and a chance for us to explain how it was derived. After that, we'll conduct a valuation review, if necessary... a change notice as a result of the hearing and review will then be issued letting you know if any change was made or not."

After that, if property owners still disagree, they can appeal to the board of listers.

Q&A sessions

Listers are planning to hold question and answer sessions with smaller groups starting this week. On Thursday, Aug. 1 at 1 p.m. they'll meet with the Killington Active Seniors at the Sherburne Memorial Library, and on Wednesday Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. they'll meet with the Killington-Pico Rotary at Killington Welcome Center. Any group that would like to schedule a Q&A should email Sherman at merisa@ killingtontown.com.

For more information, visit: Tinyurl. com/KillingtonReappraisal.

from page 1

Salmeri held his own "official retirement party" on April 21, which was also the annual pig roast and the last day Moguls was open. Hundreds flocked from all over the U.S. to attend the event and reminisce. Salmeri had hosted the annual pig roast for 28 years of his 30 at that location.

"This restaurant has seen so many kids grow up and they've have had their own kids, people wanted to come back one last time... I saw 'kids' who were now 6-feet tall that I hadn't seen since they were too small to reach the games," he remembered. "People told so many stories."

"I've been blown away by all the love and support over all the years," Salmeri reflected. "It's really starting to set in now that I'm going to retire. But retirement to me, is something a bit different... I'm just retiring from managing the bar. I'm going to be on the other side of the bar now... I'm going to miss seeing everyone, but you're going to see me out and about," he said. "It's bittersweet."

Many hands, giving back

Moguls isn't a story of one man building it, Salmeri is quick to note. It's always been done with a group of friends, a whole bunch of employees, and a 'let's get 'er done!' spirit.

"Cookie was with me 15 years, Jason Evans was with me part-time like 9 or 10, Lucile was probably 11, Robert was 15 before he retired. A lot of people have been with me a long time through thick and thin," Salmeri reflected.

Mentors helped give him a leg up in the early days, too. "Claude Blais, Jay Shapiro and Kenny Budzena said 'Come on down, let's get you set up.' People like that stepped up, they backed me, they believed in me and helped me get started," Salmeri said. And the spirit of paying it forward took a strong hold in Salmeri who is perhaps best known for his generosity in fundraising. Nearly every event he has hosted over the past three decades has benefited at least one charity.

"The fundraisers, just like my animals, have been my No. 1 for all these years," Salmeri said.

"I've worked for Sal for over 25 years. He will give you the shirt off his back," said Dave Hoffenberg, a local deejay, who is now organizing a contest to guess how much money was removed from the ceiling at Moguls (it's going to be donated to the Rutland Humane Society). "We've had our Pie in The Face for Chase benefit at Moguls since it's inception in 2014. Sal and I threw the first pies, at each other, in year one. We started the pie-ing with each other last year for our 10th annual... Besides giving us Moguls to use, he gives us most of the supplies, and makes a donation. too."

Stacie Szedlacik a regular at Moguls for 19 years echoed Hof-



By Polly Mikula Moguls was known for its ceiling full of bills and eclectic decor.

fenberg, "Sal is the most generous, kind-hearted person I know. He is a great friend of mine and a giver to our community."

In addition to the dollar bills from the ceiling, Salmeri is donating about \$10,000 worth of Halloween decorations (two shipping containers worth) to the KPAA and Killington Elementary School to create a haunted house that, itself, can be run as a fundraiser; and has gifted most of his portable kitchen equipment to the fire department so they can be self-reliant and able to host barbecues fundraisers at town events, like the Fourth of July picnic.

"Like I said, shirt off his back. He gives, and gives, and gives some more," Hoffenberg added.

Barbara Palmer, a visitor who became a homeowner, agreed: "From the first visit, it was obvious Sal was one of a kind... Over the next 20 years, Moguls became like home and Sal and Maggie became family and the first members of our extended Killington family. It began with Lucille and Cookie at the bar, and as the staff changed periodically, our extended family grew: Chel Lie, Yannick, Jason Evans, Decker, John O'Donnell, Red Baron, Tall Tom, Linda Ross, and so many others," Palmer continued. "Sal always welcomed the opportunity to help those in need, in our case offering Moguls as the venue for a large fundraising event for a long time Ski School instructor. Sal came to know our kids, and our grandkids, who came to anxiously anticipate turkey bowling every year followed by hours in the game room. He definitely delighted in the kids because it was the best of both worlds: they came, loved his food and games, stuffed their faces, and then went home with their parents and Sal could enjoy some peace and quiet," she said.

"Sal never changed," Palmer continued. "His boundless energy must have been intimidating to his staff, but every one seemed to adore him... He was a tough business man with a heart of gold, and a damn good skier once we got him to dust off his skis and join us on the hill," he added.

"When Sal reopened after the renovation (when he enlarged the kitchen and added the back room) we wanted to give him something for Moguls that would reflect who he was to all of us: a workaholic, stubborn to a fault, the best kind of friend, always wearing a smile, with his own way of doing things, which seemed to have served him very well over the years," she said. "We decided on two trail signs, which still hang on the side wall. The black double diamond one points one way and says 'Sals Way,' and the green circle one points in the opposite direction, and says 'The Highway.' And that's how it always was. 'Sals Way' was more challenging, more exciting, and definitely the better ride!" Palmer concluded.



Sal Salmeri points to a treasured old sign that adorned the bar.



By Polly Mikula Moguls' iconic pig roaster greeted guest on their way in.

Time to retire, a move to Killington?

"All the dynamics up here are changing and you gotta be able to change with the times," Salmeri said. "I'm too old, too stubborn, to even want to," he added. "I like hanging around chewing the fat, I don't need the hustle bustle craziness. Not at 62. It's a younger man's sport."

Margaret is also very happy to be retiring, he said. "She's done the books and bartended for 28 years. She's always rolled with the punches with me."

And it wasn't always easy.

"At Jax we lived underneath the pool tables and back then we had six so all you heard was the pool balls all night long. When we took over Zorba's again we lived behind the kitchen and underneath the pool tables," he said. "Back then, housing was an issue and back then we struggled like most new businesses do. Plus, I was just too stubborn and too stupid to quit."

In total, Salmeri said he lived underneath a bar for 15 years.

While many folks who retire move south, Salmeri plans to stay engaged in this community. "I've been trying to move back to Killington since I left," he said. "Margaret didn't want to live close to the bar," he explained. "So I built her her dream house in Pittsfield and now I can't get her out of it," he laughed.

But Salmeri is a realist, instead of idealizing Killington, he well knows the obstacles and opportunities the town faces.

"The more you're involved the more chance you have to help make a change for the better," he said. "If you walk away from it you can't make a change, you can't help the problem. You just turned your back on the problem. If you get involved, or are there for others to get involved, you can create change."

Salmeri was a member of the chamber (now Killington Pico Area Association) for eight years in the early 2,000s and ran for Select Board. While he doesn't intent to run for office again, he plans to be an active member of the community and be a force for positive change.

"The village is here and it's gonna happen. If we put brakes on now, it's only going to hurt this town. There are some things I'd like to see in this town. I was impressed with the turnaround we've seen with the golf course. So do I think these guys [current Selectman] can make a difference, yeah. Do I think the sour grapes in town are still bashing them, yeah... if you want to get involved and make a difference do so, but be realistic. Don't say: 'You did this. You did that.' Instead say: 'Have we tried this direction?"

Over the years he's been able to see what's worked and what hasn't for the town. There are some good models to follow and others that ought to serve as cautionary tales to learn from.

"As we grow we need to give new things a chance and work together," he concluded. "It can't be 'my way or the highway,' because that only works in your own business," he advised, referencing the signs gifted to him for the bar. "Instead of complaining about it, grab a shovel."

In true form, Salmeri added that he is grateful for all who helped make Moguls the iconic place it became for so many years. "I loves ya all and a huge thank you!!! Ski with ya soon."

By Jason Mikula



Tunnel Ridge: a classic ride and challenging adventure (even on an e-bike)

By Jason Mikula

A true Mountain Bike adventure is waiting for you just outside the quaint little town of Rochester. Most people choose to do it as a one-way, 13-mile ride with 3,000 feet of climbing and elevation gain. It has over 150 berms (up and down), lots of mud, stumps, running creeks, and on the fourth class road, some downed trees. It's a ride you'll never forget. Bring lots of water, extra tires and to really enjoy it, an e-bike. Some may prefer the workout but to really take your time, enjoy the scenery, and finish, this ride is really fun with the extra help of a battery, especially if you are an intermediate rider.

For this ride you'll also need two cars and some friends. Leave one car at the trailhead of Tunnel Ridge. There are several lots just north or Rochester off of Route 100. Jump in another car and plan to start your ride at the Swan Dive trailhead (part of the Velomont Trail) back through town at the junction of Bingo Road and Flanders Hill off of Route 73 on the east side of the Brandon Gap. Google this before you go. Park the car on one of the dirt pullsoffs and jump on your bikes. From there, you'll head over the mountain up Swan Dive to the Swan Mill Road. Using trailforks to sketch out the ride is highly recommended (or bring a GRIP magazine with you, which has the trail map). Don't count on service back there. You'll literally be several miles away from any road or rescue.

My 16-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son and I rented e-bikes from J.T at Rutland City Bikes. He was super accommodating and knowledgeable about the area. His shop is well stocked and his passion for riding is evident when informing us about the gear we were renting and the adventure we had chosen.

Tunnel Ridge \rightarrow 28

 $e \rightarrow 28$ Emery Mikula, 16, rides an e-bike along the Tunnel Ridge Trail. Smiling with enjoyment for the cycling adventure.

Rooted in Community

We are your neighbors, friends, and family. We are your community hospital, rooted in caring for you.

Rutland Regional Medical Center



Hall of Fame: ... from page 3

career at Mount Anthony Union High School and was named to the Eastern Junior National team in 1970. He raced four years as a member of the varsity cross country team at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado under Olympic coach Dolph Kuss, graduating in 1975. Graves later went on to serve four years as an assistant U.S. Ski Team coach under legendary Mike Gallagher.

Today, he is known as the voice of skiing in America. For over 40 years he has made a name for himself as a television sportscaster and race announcer for alpine, cross-country, snowboarding, and freestyle skiing. He has also covered skiing as a writer, reporter, and broadcaster, contributing to publications such as Ski Racing, Ski Trax, and Cross Country Skier magazine, and commentating for ABC and ESPN, where he was one of the network's first skiing commentators. Since 1977, Graves has illuminated countless iconic moments on skiing's grandest stages, from Olympic showdowns to World Cup triumphs, with his insightful commentary and vibrant storytelling.

Spanning decades and hundreds of Olympic, World Cup, and World Championship events, Graves' unmistakable voice has become synonymous with the world of skiing. From narrating the closest cross-country ski race in Olympic history at the 1980 Lake Placid Games, anchoring the poignant post-9/11 Olympic opening ceremonies in Salt Lake City, to his expert commentary at the Vancouver 2010, Sochi 2014, and Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Games, Graves has provided the sonic backdrop to some of the sport's most monumental occasions.

His versatility extends beyond skiing, as he has also lent his voice to cycling events at multiple Summer Games and numerous World Cups and championships. Graves's multifaceted career extends beyond broadcasting. He has served as a U.S. Cross-Country Ski Team coach, led the Harvard Nordic ski team for six seasons, owned a ski touring company, and directed cross-country events for Special Olympics International.

Despite his global reach, Graves remains rooted in his Vermont community, always promoting Vermont athletes and skiing and snowboarding in the state. His enduring legacy as a pioneering voice in sports broadcasting, coupled with his unwavering dedication to the skiing community, solidifies his status as an icon in the world of winter sports.

Henry Lunde

Hank Lunde has been a pioneering contributor to the Vermont ski industry and the sport of skiing throughout his career at Killington Ski Area (1969 – 1996) and Stowe Mountain Resort (1997-2008) until his retirement in 2009.

Born in Barre, Vermont Lunde started skiing at Barre Skyline and Mt. Mansfield

ski areas in 1950. He graduated from Spaulding High School and Norwich University with a BS in civil engineering. After spending time with the U.S. Army and later working for Penn Central Railroad constructing and maintaining railroad bridges, tunnels, and track right-of-way, Lunde and his wife Sandra decided Vermont was home and accepted a position as construction manager at Killington Ski Area.

He learned early on that the sooner a beginner skier gets to the top of the mountain, the sooner they become a lover of the sport. Through his contacts with various lift manufacturers, he was instrumental in developing lift designed for higher speeds, capacity, customer comfort while creating efficiencies and productive pushing the envelope resulting in large snowmaking acreage what is today's industry standard. With industry partners he improved daily snow grooming procedures.

Lunde rose through the ranks eventually becoming president at Killington and then of SKI Ltd.

In 1997 he became the president of Mt. Mansfield Company to defend Stowe Mountain Resort's title of "Ski Capital of the East."

With the of support and input from 27 different groups he developed a long range planning process that defines a future direction for Mt. Mansfield Company, the town of Stowe, and Lamoille County. Once permitting challenges reached a successful conclusion, construction began for SMR's infrastructure improvements including, snowmaking water quality, lift upgrades, and a golf course.

Today, skiers of all abilities enjoy the industry standard in resort infrastructure that Hank helped develop in his nearly 40 years in the ski resort business.

Lisa Gosselin Lynn: Paul Robbins Journalism Award

As the executive editor of SKI magazine in the 1990s, Lisa wrote about ski areas around the globe. She also had the chance to work with writers such as Annie Proulx, Amy Tan, Pam Houston, and David Goodman on stories about the ski towns they loved.

While places like Tahoe or Telluride were tempting, Vermont — with its ski history and its strong sense of community— was where Lynn knew she wanted to make her home one day.

It took a decade. Lynn went on to be editor-in-chief of award-winning national publications Bicycling, Audubon, and Islands before the opportunity to lead EatingWell's editorial division brought her back to Vermont in 2006.

In Vermont, she met her husband, Angelo Lynn, publisher of The Addison Independent, Vermont Sports and what was, at the time, a small newspaper called Vermont Ski + Ride.

In 2015, she joined Lynn's Addison Press and turned Vermont Ski + Ride into a glossy quarterly magazine with 25,000 print distribution in seven states and a digital presence. It is now the largest outdoors publication in the Northeast.

In recent years, Vermont Ski + Ride has twice been recognized by the New England Newspaper and Press Association with its highest honor, General Excellence. Lynn's articles have also won top honors for features, profiles, and reporting on racial, ethnic or gender issues. Her articles have appeared in Yankee, Men's Journal, Town & Country, Newsweek, and other publications. **Abby Crisostomo and Hana Saydek: First**

Tracks Award In 2020 the Vermont non-profit Unlikely Riders was established to promote diversity and inclusiveness in Alpine, backcountry and Nordic skiing, snowboarding, and other mountain sports. Founders Abby Crisostomo, Hana Saydek, Amanda Moran, and Bettina Guevara were motivated by a desire to create a welcoming community for underrepresented groups to get outside and enjoy winter sports in Vermont.

Today Crisostomo and Saydek manage the organization, bringing extensive experience in social justice and community organizing to the forefront building a supportive and diverse community of riders.

Together, Crisostomo and Saydek have established Unlikely Riders as a transformative organization in Vermont. Through community ski and ride days, skiing and riding instruction, gear and clothing distribution, wilderness medicine, avalanche education, and ski and snowboard instructor courses, Unlikely Riders is breaking down barriers to entry in skiing and riding.

Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports: The Bill McCollom Community Award

Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports is a nationally recognized organization and a place where youth and adults with disabilities gain self-confidence and independence by participating in adaptive sports programs and activities.

By offering the largest variety of program opportunities and unique, specialized equipment, Vermont Adaptive promotes independence and furthers equality through access and instruction to sports and recreational opportunities including Alpine skiing, snowboarding, and other winter sports.

With nearly 400 active volunteers, plus generous partners and sponsors, and an amazing base of clients and friends, Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports has been at the forefront of sports and recreation for those with disabilities for more than 30 years.



for Culvert Replacement

East Mountain Road Culvert EMR-19B (VT Culvert ID #84804) & Trailside Drive Culvert TS-1 (VT Culvert ID #61910) Replacements

The Town of Killington is accepting sealed bids for the replacement of two culverts in close proximity near the intersection of East Mountain Road and Trailside Drive. Known as #84804 (EMR-19b East Mountain Road) and #61910 (TS-1 Trailside Drive) Culvert Replacements, the project scope includes temporary diversion of stream flow, removal of existing culverts, pipe installation, headwalls/ wingwalls, guardrails, and paving. Bidder is responsible for temporary bypass roads to maintain use of the roads during the project as detailed in the Project Manual. Completion of work in the stream is required by October 1, 2024, paving by October 15, 2024, and final construction completed on or before November 1, 2024.

Electronic bid documents are available from Enman Kesselring Consulting Engineers at 61 Prospect Street, Rutland, VT, phone number (802) 775-3437.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at the site at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2024. All questions shall be referred to Enman Kesselring Consulting Engineers. Deadline for questions is Tuesday July 30, 2024. Bidders may inspect the work at any time.

Sealed bids are due to the Town Manager's Office by 12:00 p.m. Monday, August 5, 2024.

The Bids received will be opened publicly at 4 p.m. during the Selectboard Meeting on Monday, August 5, 2024, at the Killington Public Safety Building, 800 Killington Road, Killington. Bidders are not required to be present at bid opening.

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum basis as described in the Bid Form. This project is estimated to be 75% financed with federal funds. All bidders must provide their UEI number with their bids and be a Vermont Agency of Transportation approved contractor. Project requires Bid, Payment, and Performance bonding.

Bids may be either delivered to the Town Manager's Office or mailed to Town of Killington, c/o Abbie Sherman, Director of Public Works, 2706 River Road, PO Box 429, Killington, VT 05751. Envelopes must marked "East Mountain Road Culvert Replacements."

The Town of Killington is an equal opportunity employer. Woman- and minority-owned and lowincome businesses are encouraged to bid.

The Selectboard reserves the right at its sole discretion to reject any and all bids, wholly or in part, to waive any informalities or any irregularities therein, to accept any bid even though it may not be the lowest bid, to call for rebids, to negotiate with any bidder, and to make an award which in its sole and absolute judgment will best serve the Town's interest.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Harris grabs the mantle — what now?

DDINION

By Angelo Lynn

The tectonic plates of this presidential election are shifting so quickly it's hard to keep up. With President Biden announcing Sunday, July 21, he was stepping aside and throwing his support to Vice President Kamala Harris, there was a moment of anticipation that Democrats would see a scramble between top contenders for the party's presidential nomination. But of the half dozen likely contenders, no others stepped forward.

Party unity in defeating ex-president Trump prevailed and Harris appears to have clinched the nomination well ahead of the convention.

For Democrats, a unified party behind a strong candidate is better than facing a potentially fractious fight. The downside of such a hasty coronation, however, is the missed opportunity to refine some of its talking points with free televised coverage in a debate-like format - an opportunity that would have drawn huge audiences of undecided voters.

In lieu of those debates, there might be another opportunity. Harris and party leaders could slow the search for a

vice-presidential candidate and use the next three weeks before the convention to flesh out the Democratic platform via group interviews with the top VP candidates and Harris. The party could, for example, pick five top issues to discuss in five separate conversations, allowing each of the candidates to elaborate on how the Democratic platform differs from the Republican approach and why it better serves the average voter.

These conversations, which would still be moderated, would introduce voters to the candidates and help define the issues. The top issues aren't hard to choose:

- 1. The economy and why America is better off than most other countries, what that means to the average voter, and why we're on track to tame inflation;
- 2. Abortion and a woman's right to control her own body; ${\rm Climate\,change-the\,opportunities\,of\,a\,green}$ 3.
- economy versus the catastrophic results of denial; Foreign policy and the false allure of isolationism; 4.
- 5. How to manage immigration so it doesn't overwhelm our lives yet helps the nation grow and be stronger as

it has always done throughout American history. If it's too complex or cumbersome to include all the VP contenders, Harris could do the same on her own and draw millions of viewers with each topic. That's in addition, of course, to Harris's campaign duties and a ramped-up schedule to compare and contrast her youth, vigor, intelligence, and knowledge of the issues to Trump and the party he has made in his orange-glow image.

Harris has a lot of work ahead to ensure American voters get to know who she is, feel comfortable with her, and understand the contrast in leadership and optimism she offers the country. It feels new and exciting because it is.

WRITE TO US:

Mountain Times encourages readers to contribute our community paper by writing letters to the editor. The opinions expressed here are not endorsed nor are the facts verified by the lountain Times. We ask that opinions remain focused on issues; we will not print name-calling. Please limit submissions to 300 words.

Email letters to editor@mountaintimes.info



LETTERS

Thanks for the outpouring of support

Dear Editor,

Mere words cannot explain the depth of gratitude Sheila and I have for the friends and community members. A community we have been lucky enough to be a part of for over 40 years.

Since the diagnosis, many have offered to help. Some financially, some with visits and/or food and even, "i'll watch your dog while you go to the doctor."

We have and continue to follow recommendations and advice from the specialists and doctors who deal with ALS. To date we have been from UVM in Burlington to Mass General in Boston. Also, Dartmouth, Rutland and Leahy Clinic in between.

We asked the question of why is this happening? Research has not settled on a definitive answer.

When you come into town, the Killington sign says, "Heart of the Green Mountains." To us, this is a very true statement.

Thank you and God bless, Steve and Sheila Finneron, Killington

Not time yet

Dear Editor,

I want to sincerely thank the Killington Rescue Team and the fifth floor "Red Team" emergency crew from Rutland Regional for saving my life on July 25. EMT Kristina, Colin McCreight, MD, Andrew DeNicco, MD,

Re-elect Clarkson and White

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in support of my State Senate colleagues, Alison Clarkson and Becca White, who are seeking Democratic nominations for re-election to represent the Windsor County District. We've worked together to make life better for Vermonters with economic development, a higher minimum wage, childcare, family leave, and school meals. We've worked for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We've protected children's rights to quality public schools and libraries. We've supported every woman's right to reproductive autonomy and the underlying principle of personal rights free from government intrusion. We've supported efforts to combat the drug epidemic. We've been a team protecting our environment.

I also know them per-

Olympic Gold by Christopher Weyant, The Boston Globe, MA

Julie Foster, MD and Taylor

Stugart (owner of the Clear). I'm sincerely for help and kindness. Everyone did such great work. It's amazing the work they do. James 'Oke' O'Brien,

Killington

sonally, and attest to their competence and integrity. Alison Clarkson is tireless, enthusiastic, efficient, and effective. She's a take charge organizer and leader, and a great booster of good policies and good people. Her "Woo Hoo" energizes every rally.

As a mature, experienced veteran legislator, Becca White is much the same person I first knew when she was a high school student in my Community College history class. She's smart, informed, passionately committed, results focused, and effective.

As I complete my years of public service, I'll miss working with these team mates, but I'm confident I'm leaving things in good hands. Clarkson and White belong in the State Senate.

Senator Dick McCormack, Bethel

Offended by cartoons

Dear Editor,

First I want to say I appreciate your free weekly newspaper. We caretake a home here in Pico for the last 6 years and it's very informative as to upcoming events.

I am truly upset about the voice of your political cartoons. I realize everyone has a right to their beliefs, but not everyone shares your same views. I cannot believe the mockery and how you seem to take an assassination attempt and the death of a spectator so lightly.

In last week's edition, the middle cartoon with President Trump and the ear bandage as well as the one of Trump in the white jacket with Vance encouraging him to drop out was especially troubling to me.

The cartoon of Biden passing torch to Harris and Generation X sparked my rage as to the fact that most Generation X adults have no clue about the freedoms and hardship our country was built upon.

I know I cannot sway your political views, but I am appalled that the Democrats can keep the lies continuing. I am from Georgia and have Cartoons \rightarrow 12

COMMENTARY

Listening, learning, and leading for Vermont's students

By strengthening our public

By Zoie Saunders, interim secretary of education

When I arrived in Vermont, I shared my intent to spend my first 100 days learning as much as possible about the state, our schools, and Vermonters' education priorities. What I have learned gives me great hope about the work underway in our state. There is a real and shared desire to

build consensus on how we can strengthen and sustain our education system for the benefit of all

our state's students and communities. We owe it to our students. Vermont's future, to do this work together.

I have traveled across the state visiting schools and speaking with community members from Southern Vermont to the Northeast Kingdom. The level of engagement and focus on schools demonstrates Vermont's deep commitment to student success.

Through my travels, I have met farmers providing nutritious ingredients for school meals; multilingual liaisons supporting refugee students and their families; technical education leaders training the next generation of workforce innovators; artists nurturing students' creativity; mental health providers promoting student and

family well-being; and countless volunteers who serve on boards, committees, and school-based programs.

Teachers, staff, and education leaders who go above and beyond are at the core of our education system. I have been amazed to see the innovative ways educators enrich

learning, leader-

learning through international experiences, project-based activities, outdoor

school system, we will have stronger communities. ship development, and much more. Having

also met and engaged with many students already, it is abundantly clear that we should all be proud of our young people. I have been impressed with their understanding of complex issues from geopolitics to our own state education system. What's more, their commitment to giving back to their communities is deep and broadly shared.

All of this shows Vermont can truly offer a unique and special learning experience. But we must ensure that all students are given the same opportunities and that we can responsibly sustain and protect what we value most.

Despite the tremendous strains on our state education system, I have witnessed Listening Tour \rightarrow 13

The 'welcome to Vermont' tax

By Don Keelan

Editor's note: Don Keelan of Arlington, a retired certified public accountant.

Deep inside the 171-page tome of the recently adopted Act 181 (H.687) legislation was a section to extract more money from nonresidents who purchase Vermont homes after Aug. 1, 2024. Sections 73 and 74 detail the extraction of funds from those who conceivably have them.

The Act's primary purpose "relates to community resilience and biodiversity protection through land use." What had received most, if not all, of the media and political attention was the Act's changes to the state's environmental law, Act 250.

The tax, referred to as the Vermont Property Transfer Tax, is assessed on all property transfers and is customarily paid by the buyer at closing.

Prior to Aug. 1, 2024, the tax on a \$500,000 sale to a nonresident would have been \$7.350.

Under the new law, after Aug. 1, 2024, a resident would pay a tax of \$5,410, while a nonresident would pay \$18,100 for the same house, priced at \$500,000. This amount is an increase of \$10,750 from what the nonresident would have owed under the previous law.

According to several local real estate brokers, nonresidents are scrambling to close on their Vermont second home before Aug. 1.

I realize how desperate Vermont is for money. I am not surprised that the Legislature would go after another "deep-pocketed" source of funds. Just to confirm this point, the legislation was adopted in mid-June at the Legislature's veto override session, with Sections 73 and 74 to take effect seven weeks later. Do you sense the urgency?

The tax part of the legislation is just another indication that our legislators are sticking it to the nonresident homeowners in Vermont. The fact of the matter is that the second homeowners contribute so much to the state.

In southwestern Vermont, many of our nonprofit organizations have been the beneficiaries of the generosity of nonresident homeowners. Calculating the second homeowner's years of financial contributions, patronage and service to the nonprofit sector would be near impossible.

The sustainability of many cultural institutions would be nonexistent without the second homeowner. The employment of service firms, construction contractors,

The margin of González's victory was

"overwhelming"

said Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado based on voting tallies it had received from campaign representatives from about 40% of ballot boxes nationwide according to CBS News.

CAPITOL QUOTES

Venezuela's opposition declared victory in Sunday's presidential election, disputing the government's announcement that President

Nicolás Maduro won. Opposition leader Maria

Corina Machado claimed an "overwhelming"

victory for Edmundo González based on

tallies from 40% of ballot boxes.

"This is not the first time that they have tried to violate the peace of the republic,"

said Nicolás Maduro according to the Associated Press.

"This isn't possible...This is a humiliation." Said Ayari Padrón accordingto the Boston Globe

"I'm so happy...This is the path toward a new Venezuela...We are all tired of this yoke."

said Merling Fernández, a 31-year-old bank employee according to The Hill.

> "The majority voted for the opposition ... I don't believe yesterday's results."

> Said 28-year-old Deyvid Cadenas according to ABC News.

Beech Leaf Disease expands into Vermont

What to look for and how to report any findings

Beech Leaf Disease (BLD), a new disease affecting beech trees and caused by an invasive worm-like nematode, has been detected in four Vermont counties: Bennington, Chittenden, Windham, and WindFirst detected in 2012 in Ohio, BLD has rapidly spread across the Northeast U.S. and Canada. Researchers are actively exploring management options, but many questions remain unanswered.

sor. It has only recently been discovered, so much about this disease remains unknown, including the full cause and how it spreads. However, we do know that BLD can have catastrophic effects on forest ecosystems. The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) is calling for the public's help in reporting potentially symptomatic beech trees to advance our understanding of the disease.

BLD affects buds and foliage of all species of beech trees, leading to leaf striping and loss as well as reduced leaf and bud production. While beech trees of all ages and size are susceptible to the disease, younger understory beech trees are thought to be more vulnerable. As beech trees are one of Vermont's five most common tree species, provide important food and nesting sites for wildlife, and play a key role in Vermont's forests, the potential loss threatens to disrupt forest ecosystems and biodiversity. <image>

By Julia Pupko, FPR Symptoms of beech leaf disease on American beech. Dark banding on leaves indicates the presence of the causal nematode.

"We do not know how BLD is spreading across the landscape," said FPR's Forest Health Specialist Savannah Ferreira. "This makes it harder to predict its spread compared to other invasive pests."

In the early detection stages of BLD, look for dark striping between leaf veins with the darkened area being slightly raised and thicker than normal leaf tissues along with crispy empty buds.

As the disease advances, leaves will become stripped, yellow, curled and shriveled, leading to premature leaf drop, death of branches, and full tree mortality.

"If you think you've seen BLD in an unconfirmed town in VT, please report it," Ferreira said.

Confirmed detections are tracked on the Vermont Forest Invasive Pest Map.

To report potential cases of BLD in uninfected towns, submit photos and details at: VTinvasives.org/get-involved/report-it. **Cartoons:** from page 10 no racial issues. I would have voted for Ben Carson if he had made it that far.

I think it's interesting that Vermont has a black population of 1.17%. So many people

> The cartoon of Biden passes torch to Harris and Generation X sparked my rage...

up here had BLM flags and I cannot believe the money that is pouring in for Kamala Harris.

Blacks are being lied to and victims. Why should they not be encouraged to pursue jobs and educations? I am a retired teacher and know how education is not valued among the majority of blacks.

Please have some cartoons that might have some empathy for human life and dignity and stop the lies. Respectfully,

Susan Weiksner

Golf in the Heart of Woodstock.

Join us for legendary golf this summer! Open daily for public play, the 18-hole course packs a challenge as it winds along the Kedron Brook at the base of Mount Peg. Discover practice facilities, cart and club rentals, lessons with pros, and a friendly golf shop. We welcome you to lunch at our favorite lunch spot, the Fairway Grill!





Book Your Tee Time Online! Golf Shop & Course - Open Daily, 7am-6pm Fairway Grill - Open Thurs-Mon, 11am-4pm, Bar Open until 5pm.



Est. 1895 | Woodstock, Vermont | woodstockinn.com/golf

Listening Tour: from page 11

firsthand that education is what unites us. Our education system is where the needs and interests of children, parents, workers, businesses, and communities converge. I intend to continue putting students and schools at the heart of planning for Vermont's future. By strengthening our public school system, we will have stronger communities.

My planning for the "Listen and Learn Tour" has evolved as I've made my initial visits around the state. This initiative goes beyond orienting me as a new leader. I see the tour as an opportunity for state-level leadership to support strategic planning and a time for the Agency of Education to engage with education leaders, ensuring our work aligns with communities' needs and priorities.

We will engage communities through surveys, regional meetings with education leaders, and listening sessions with educators, families, students, and community members. I plan to support these conversations with relevant data to focus discussions on how decisions can improve educational outcomes for all students.

I also recognize that some issues impact the whole education system and need to be discussed on a larger

We will engage communities through surveys, regional meetings with education leaders, and listening sessions with educators, families, students, and community members.

scale. The Commission on the Future of Public Education is charged with creating a transformative vision. The group met on July 15 to begin its work to look at the needs of the system. I am proud to participate on the commission and steering committee and commit to bringing a data-driven, results-oriented, collaborative approach.

The agency's tour will not only help us to understand the needs of local schools and how we can help guide their work, but we will also bring this perspective to the Commission's conversations. I invite you to participate in any way you can. Please visit our website for more information about the agency's "Listen and Learn Tour" and the Commission on the Future of Public Education.

I look forward to listening, learning, and leading to advance Vermont's education goals and build stronger futures for all learners.

Welcome tax: from page 11

landscape service firms, food vendors and others owe much of their operational success to this sector of Vermont homeowners.

It is not only in Vermont that the wealthy are targets. In a commentary in the July 6, 2004 Wall Street Journal, Carol Platt Liebau and Frank Ricci of the conser-

vative think tank the Yankee Institute for Public Policy noted, "Connecticut's affluent residents should

not its tax rates. be seen not as assets to be exploited but as partners who can change the state for the better. Our wealthiest residents are

generous in pursuing the common good." Why the area's nonprofit organizations, which depend so much on the second homeowner, have not spoken out on the recently passed Vermont property transfer tax can be rationalized as that they wish not to disturb another significant source of their funding: Vermont state grants.

I realize that for many legislators who represent geographic areas of Vermont, the existence of second homeowners in their districts is of little significance. Therefore, assessing the second homeowner with a substantial increase is of no concern: if they can afford a second home, they can afford the tax increase.

What is unacceptable is for the Legislature to place a target on their backs and go after them for more and more taxation. One only needs to know what was also buried in H.687: an increase in the short-term rentals tax from 9% to 12%, beginning on Aug. 1.

I doubt the target will be removed anytime soon with so many Progressives in the Legislature.

Some 50 years ago, the state helped those in need while, at the same time, it was able to fund certain school districts needing financial help (the "foundation formula") and take care of the state's infrastructure. Today, the state funds or helps to fund many social programs: i.e., housing, health care, homelessness, substance abuse disorder recovery, daycare etc. Meanwhile, it faces a huge unfunded pension liability, billions in school deferred maintenance and, more recently, flood damage recovery.

The Legislature and the administration need to realize that increasing tax rates will not be sufficient to cover the state's current plans. Vermont needs to be more welcoming and increase its tax base, not its tax rates.

Roadwork: from page 2

delays, reduce speed, and travel with caution through the work zone.

Hartford: Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., motorists should expect intermittent lane closures on Route 14 between Christian Street and Park Street near Bridge #7 over the White River and Town Highway 98.

Ludlow: Pleasant Street at the junction of Pleasant Street and Mill Street is closed to all vehicle traffic to facilitate project construction. A detour is in place that routes vehicle traffic from Pleasant Street to Elm Street, Main Street, and Pleasant Street Extension.

Pittsford: Motorists are traveling over the temporary bridge. Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., traffic control will be present to allow for intermittent one-way alternating travel on Route 7.

Quechee: The eastbound travel lane on the Gorge Bridge will be closed through fall 2024. A traffic signal permits alternating travel over bridge. The underpass is closed through fall 2025. The adjacent trail is open via a signed detour through the Corps of Engineers visitor center.

Rutland: A resurfacing project is in progress. From Sunday at 7 p.m. to Friday at 7 a.m., motorists can expect lane closures with

alternating one-way traffic controlled by flaggers and uniformed traffic officers at night from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on Route 4 between Gleason Road and Route 7, Route 7 between Cold River Road and Lincoln Avenue, and Business Route 4 between Merchants Row and Route 7. Motorists traveling on these routes should expect grooved and uneven roadway surfaces with raised manhole structures.

Woodstock: A culvert replacement project is ongoing on Route 4 near Valley View Road. Route 4 is open to traffic with a dip in the roadway where the new culvert is located. One lane of alternating traffic is expected Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with flaggers to facilitate the installation of the remaining box sections. Midweek traffic will be switched back to the temporary roadway during working hours so work can be completed on Route 4. After work hours, two-lane traffic will resume on Route 4.

For more information, visit: vtrans.vermont.gov.



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40. Ancient Egyptian notion of spiritual part of humans
43. Fishing net
45. Tinseltown
48. MacBeth's wife was one
50. Took a spill

51. Adversary to pets

53. Town in Galilee 54. Secret racist society (slang) 55. About aviation

57. Longing or yearning

58. Hawaiian dish

59. Field force unit

61. Partner to "Pa"

Unclaimed property: from page 5

you might find."

In addition to raising awareness about unclaimed property through media campaigns and outreach events, the Treasurer proactively seeks to reunite Vermonters with their unclaimed property. The Treasurer's Office recently partnered with the Secretary of State's Office and the Department of Taxes in two pilot programs that send unclaimed property checks directly to individual Vermonters, businesses, and nonprofits.

Treasurer Pieciak said, "As Vermonters face high inflation, workforce challenges, and recover from last summer's flood, we want to do everything we can to return these assets to their rightful owners. Our office looks forward to expanding these successful pilot programs and finding more creative solutions to put money back in Vermonters' pockets."

To check for unclaimed property, visit: missingmoney.com.

Hartland taxes: from page 2

As part of a three-point proposal, Hobbie asked Town Manager John Broker-Campbell to write an official letter to the town's state legislators expressing Hartland's objection to the rate increase, and demand for rapid development of a better way to fund Vermont education.

Hobbie also suggested changing tax payment dates from the current two-installment scheme, to a four-payment schedule. Board member Clyde Jenne pointed out that voters set the payment dates when they approve the school and town budgets, and any change will require voter approval.

Changing the payment schedule would also require a new tax bill design, as the current bill lists the two-payment dates.

A third request was to set up a Select Board meeting including the town listers and their district advisors, hoping to get a clear and concise explanation of the education funding formula, and how it affects Hartland in particular.

I am a country singer born in Georgia on July 31, 1978. I started performing pop rock covers at local clubs as a teen before finding my country sound. I won a Grammy Award in 2013 for my album, which includes a tune called "Island Song" that has a reggae feel.

Guess Who?

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16. Calendar

WEDNESDAY 7/31

Chaffee Art Center Events

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Musical Theater Camp 3:30-4:30 p.m. — Bone Builders 5-6:30 p.m. — Teen Drawing 4-week Session, week 1 chaffeeartcenter.org.

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 require a minimum of three people in order to score points. All races will be held on beginner/intermediate trails. 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. 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.

Music at the Riverbend

6-8 p.m. Wednesdays through 8/28. Behind the Brandon Inn, Brandon. Free. brandon.org/events-and-happenings/ music-at-the-riverbend-summer-concerts.

Women's MTB

6-8 p.m. Wednesdays. Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Road, Poultney. Free. Women's mountain bike group rides on the Slate Valley Trails network. This no-drop ride welcomes all who identify as non-male. Beginner and intermediate/advanced groups, with varying distances of 6-10 miles and terrain including climbing. Plan to arrive by 5:55 p.m. Bring water, snacks, and an after-ride beverage. Cancelled in extreme weather. vmba.org/join.

Artistree Music on the Hill

6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, So. Pomfret. Free. 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

Seven to Sunset Concert Series: George's Back Pocket

7 p.m. Wednesdays through 8/7. Main Street Park, Rutland. Free. 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! rutlandrec. com/7tosunset.

Putnam's Trivia Night: 2000s' Pop Culture 6-8 p.m. Putnam's Vine/Yard, 188 South Main St., White River Jct. \$5 per team Join the monthly trivia night at Putnam's hosted by Benjamin Rapson. Test your knowledge on 2000's pop culture and compete for beer tokens and a trivia-themed Putnam's tee shirt. Teams are limited to 6 members, with up to 4 members eligible for prizes. putnamsvt. com

Zentangle Time! 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. A Zentangle group to explore structured patterns and images. This informal session is an extension of Zentangle workshops led by Jenny Dembinski. For more details, contact programs@normanwilliams.org.

THURSDAY

Chaffee Art Center Events

9 a.m-4pm (1 hr break for lunch – Musical Theater Camp – Full-Day) 10:30 a.m.-Noon. - Artery Noon-1 p.m. — Ukulele Group 5:30–7:30 p.m. — The Art of Persuasive Writing 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. ora

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.

community. Tickets: feastandfield.com/tickets

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.

Feast and Field Music Series: Bomba de Aqui

5:30-9 p.m. Thursdays through 9/26. Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$25. A celebration of music, food, and

Music on the Green: Bunty Station - Ohio Band 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays. 7 Maple Hill Rd, Belmont. Free. Enjoy an evening of live music. Bring a chair or blanket to relax and listen to local tunes. mhcavt.org/calendar.

River Road Concert Series: Rick Reddington & Tough Love

6 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Enjoy weekly outdoor concerts hosted by the Killington Parks and Recreation Department and Sherburne Memorial Library. Bring your picnic supper, lawn chairs, and blankets to relax and enjoy a variety of musical genres. Concerts are held rain or shine. though extremely wet weather may lead to a rain date. sherburnelibrary.org/ adults-and-seniors/river-road-concert-series.

Open Mic Night at Artistree

7-9 p.m. Alternating Thursdays. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. All levels and abilities are welcome to participate in the open mic experience. Come alone or with a group. Come to play or just to watch. artistreevt.org.

Fair Haven Concerts in the Park: Enerjazz Big Band

7-9 p.m. Thursdays. Village Green, Fair Haven. Free. Concert series features a variety of musical genres by area bands. For weather conditions, go to the Fair Haven Facebook page. Any cancellations will be posted earlier on Thursdays. fhgstechie@yahoo.com or 802-265-7913.

Benson's Chevrolet Classic Movie Night Under the Stars

8:30-10:30 p.m. Benson's Chevrolet, 35 Main St, Ludlow. Free. Enjoy a drive-in screening of the 1986 action drama Top Gun in Benson's Chevrolet's outdoor space. Complimentary popcorn and refreshments will be provided. Bring your own chairs, blankets, and picnic spreads. bensonschevy.com.





Chaffee Art Center Events

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Musical Theater Camp 11 a.m.-Noon-Bone Builders Noon–1 p.m.-Connections & Interconnections Group chaffeeartcenter.org.

16th Annual Not So Chilly Golf Tournament 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Killington Golf Course, Killington. Foursome - \$360, Individual - \$90. Join the Chill Foundation for a day of golf, contests, and raffles to support youth through boardsports. Includes 18 holes with a cart, swag bag, heavy appetizers, and great prizes. Registration now open at chill.org/register. Info: killington.com.

Senior Fitness

9:30-10:30 a.m. Fridays. Spa at The Woods, 53 Woods Lane, Killington. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fridays. Spa at The Woods, 53 Woods Earle, Killingto \$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 902, 402, 416. 802-422-3105.

Art in the National Park

11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays and Fridays through 8/9. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park, 54 Elm St. (Route 12), Woodstock. Free. Make art inspired by the park! 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. Parking at Billings Farm & Museum across Route 12. nps.gov/mabi/learn/kidsyouth/index.htm

Hartland. Farmers' Market

4-6:30 p.m. Fridays. 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Enjoy food, music, and shopping at the market.

Connections & Interconnections of Life Weekly

Group

12–1 p.m. Fridays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St, Rutland. Free. Forming a new group to meet weekly on Fridays at Noon to create a place to share thoughts, philosophies, spirituality, cultures, and more in a respectful way. All are welcome. Must RSVP: chaffeeartcenter.square. site.

Create blueberry scones and enjoy sangria at **Montview Vineyard**

1-4 p.m. Montview Vineyard, Corinth \$123 Join Montview Vineyard for a delightful afternoon of blueberry scone baking and vineyard exploration. Participants will receive all necessary supplies to make fresh blueberry scones, along with a recipe for future baking. The event includes blueberry picking, a tour of the vineyard, and instruction from two hosts. Each guest will also enjoy a glass of Vermont sangria. montviewvineyard.com/events

Pentangle Arts Music by the River 6-7:30 p.m. Fridays through 8/16. East End Park, Woodstock. Free.In case of inclement weather performances will be canceled, check our website for updates on cancellation. pentanglearts.org/mbtr2024.

Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes info.. from page 16

Jackson Gore Summer Music Series: Sly Richard 6-9 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard, Okemo. Free. Bring lawn chairs and blankets; food, drinks, and specialty cocktails available. Lawn games

and a pickleball court will be set up. No cash accepted for purchases. Pets allowed on leashes. More info at okemo.com.

BarnArts Summer Youth Theater presents High School Musical

SCHOOI INUSICAI 7 p.m., August 3 at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m., August 4 at 2 p.m. Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Rd, Barnard \$10-15 Enjoy a lively performance of High School Musical, featuring local youth in original choreography, costuming, and set design, with live band accompaniment. The musical explores first love and group identity through the story of Troy, Gabriella, and the students of East High. barnarts.org

Double Feature at the Bethel Drive-In

9 p.m. July 26-27-28. Bethel Drive-In, 36 Bethel Drive, Bethel. Adults \$12, children (5-12) \$8. Cash Only. "Despicable Me 4" (PG) at 8:50 p.m. "Twisters" (PG-13) at 10:30 p.m. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. betheldrivein. com



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 yearround. vtfarmersmarket.org

Exploring Mammals Day 10 a.m.-5 p.m. VINS Nature Center. Included with admission. Discover the amazing diversity of mammals with Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Five Rooster Farm, Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, and Delaware Valley University Professor Reg Hoyt. Enjoy live mammal activities and crafts. Included with general admission. vinsnaturecenter. ora.

Moxie Day 10 a.m.-4 p.m. — Plymouth — Celebrate Moxie, President Coolidge's favorite soda, at the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. The event features a 2:47 p.m. reenactment of Coolidge's 1923 oath on the homestead porch, followed by Moxie floats. Wear Moxie gear. calvincoolidae.ora.

Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club

11a.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.

Taps & Tastes

12 p.m.–6 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard, Okemo, Ludlow \$35-\$45 Sample Vermont's favorite local brews and ciders, enjoy live music, food, and over 50 craft beers. Entertainment includes Remember Jones, Chris Pallutto Trio, and DJ Dave. Adventure Zone open with various attractions. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Pittsford Day 1-9 p.m. Pittsford Recreation Area, 223 Recreation Area Rd, Pittsford Free Celebrate Sunshine Village with a day full of food, games, a beer garden, live music, a petting zoo, and more! Organized by the Pittsford Rec Department and Shady J's BBQ. For more details, visit pittsfordrec.org.

BarnArts Summer Youth Theater presents High School Musical

2 p.m. Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Rd, Barnard \$10-15 Enjoy a lively performance of High School Musical, featuring local youth in original choreography, costuming, and set design, with live band accompaniment barnards or accompaniment. barnarts.org

Cooler in the Mountains: Kind Hearted Strangers

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). Grab a lawn chair, a beach blanket, and the whole family for this all-ages event. killington.com.

BarnArts Summer Youth Theater presents High School Musical

7 p.m. Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Rd, Barnard \$10-15 Enjoy a lively performance of High School Musical, featuring local youth in original choreography, costuming, and set design, with live band accompaniment, barnarts.org.

Pond Hill Rodeo

7:30 p.m. Saturdays through 8/31. Pond Hill Ranch, 1683 Pond Hill Road, Castleton. \$15, adults. \$10, ages 6-11. 5 and under are free. Cash only. Info: pondhillranch.com.

Outdoor Movie NightBenefit: Help Planet Axis Raise Funds for Flood Relief

7-9:30 p.m. Okemo Valley TV Parking Lot, 37C Main St, Ludlow. \$10 donation. Join for a screening of The Forgotten, a documentary about the 2023 Cavendish flood, supporting Planet Axis's Flood Relief Film Tour. The event includes a comedy short, BBQ and beverages from the Queen of the South food truck, and a raffle. Bring chairs or blankets. okemovallevtv.org.



Ludlow Farmers' Market

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays through 10/13. So. Depot St., Ludiow. Meet on S. Depot Street in Ludiow to shop at our vibrant farmers' market. Find a variety of local produce, fresh baked goods, handmade crafts, cold beverages, live music and more. Join us for fresh food, community. and fun. Info: ludlowmarket.org.

Antique Tractor Day

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd, Woodstock \$10 Enjoy a day of farm fun as restored antique tractors roar to life. See tractor parades, enjoy wagon rides, make crafts, play games, and more. billingsfarm.org.

Shut Up & Write!TM Upper Valley 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Putnam's Vine/Yard, 188 South Main St, Hartford Free Join us for an hour of writing at Putnam's Vine/Yard. Whether you're working on a book, blog, script, or any other writing project, come and write with others in a focused, supportive environment. No feedback will be given; just uninterrupted writing time. Bring whatever you need to write and earbuds if you prefer a quieter space. RSVP here, putparsvirad com here. putnamsvineyard.com.

Hike into History

1-4 p.m. Mount Independence Included with museum admission Join a guided tour with Stephen Zeoli, president of the Mount Independence Coalition, to explore the historical significance of Mount Independence during the Revolutionary War. Discover events leading up to the Revolution and see traces of its importance in 1776 and 1777. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. Co-sponsored by Mount Independence Coalition. historicsites.vermont.gov. 1v

BarnArts Summer Youth Theater presents High School Musical

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S. B. Whitney Organ Recital Series: Jonathan Denham

3-4:30 p.m. North Universalist Chapel Society, 7 Church St, Woodstock. Free (donations appreciated). Join Pentangle Arts for the first recital of this new annual series performed by Jonathan Denham, featuring music by Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, and The Piano Guys. northchapelvt.org/music-1/thayer-organ.

Sundays on the Hill 4 p.m. Old Parish Church, Route 100, Weston. \$5 adults, children 12 and under free. Doors open at 3:30 p.m.; no reserved seats or advance tickets, admission at the door. sundaysonthehill.org or judyandmark. com.



Chaffee Art Center Events 9 a.m.-Noon – Intro to Music Camp II

-4 p.m.-Song Writing & Music Production Camp II chaffeeartcenter.org.

Photography Camp 9 a.m.-12 p.m.Aug. 5-9. Senator Justin Morrill Homestead, Strafford \$150 per child (financial assistance available) For ages 8-14, join Scott McClure Miller for a week of exploring photography on the Homestead grounds and in Strafford village. The camp includes practicing photography skills, applying artistic principles, and culminates in a photo exhibit at the Strafford Post Office. Camera kits provided. To register, contact director@morrillhomestead.org.

Junior Farmer Camp

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug.5-9. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd, Woodstock \$355 Members / \$390 Non-members Engage in hands-on farming activities, including animal chores, tractor rides, gardening, and more. Enjoy hayrides, a pizza party with fresh ingredients, scavenger hunts, and tie-dyeing. The camp also includes hiking at the adjacent National Historical Park. billingsfarm.org.

Art in the National Park

Art in the National Park 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays and Fridays through 8/9. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park, 54 Elm St. (Route 12), Woodstock. Free. Make art inspired by the park! Meetthe 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. Parking at Billings Farm & Museum corres Dayte 10. page any (model) for the forder, bits across Route 12. nps.gov/mabi/learn/kidsyouth/index.htm.

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 Meals on Wheels, the Godnick Center hosts congregate meals. Make new friends, connect with pals. Call 802-773-1853. 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.

Group Run/Walk

6-7:30 p.m. Mondays. Location changes weekly, check Facebook event for details. The group leaves the trailhead by 6:05 at the latest. The route will vary weekly. With two groups we will have options for up to 12 miles for one of the routes. slatevalleytrails.org



Chaffee Art Center Events

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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/ aodnick.

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

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 Crill offer play. Mut cing up hofers Tuesday at page game of the start of the star Grill after play. Must sign-up before Tuesday at noon. gmngc.com or 802-422-4653.

Tunesdays Concert Series

6-8 p.m. Tuesdays through 8/13. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Free. pittsfordvillagefarm.org.

2024 Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl showcases Vermont and New Hampshire's best football players in a classic showdown

New Hampshire head coach Josh White from Sanborn High School will lead the New Hampshire team against the 2024 Vermont head coach Matt Trombly from Hartford High School.

This summer classic brings together some of the finest high school football players from New Hampshire and Vermont, where the real winners are the kids in the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Announcing the New Hampshire and Vermont head coaches, General Chairman Kristi Morris said, "We welcome Coach Josh and Coach Matt to our Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl family for 2024."

Approximately 200 players from New Hampshire and Vermont were nominated. The screening committees, chaired by the head coaches, selected the two 40-player teams in January.

The Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl continues to actively focus on fundraising for the world's greatest philanthropy, that of supporting children in need at Shrine hospitals. The game contributes to three hospitals in the area: Shriners orthopedic hospitals in Springfield, Massachusetts, and Montreal Quebec in Canada, and the Burns Hospital in Boston.

The Shrine Game has raised millions of dollars over the past 70 years for the support of Shriner hospitals and is sponsored by the Cairo Shriner Center in Rutland and the Mt. Sinai Shriner Center in Montpelier.

The 2024 game will again be played at Vermont State University, Castleton Campus, on Saturday, Aug. 3, with kickoff scheduled for 11:30 a.m.

For more information, visit: shrinemaplesugarbowl.com.



New Hampshire and Vermont high school football teams face off at the Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl on Aug. 3, at Castleton University, supporting Shriners Hospitals for Children.



Submitted

The bloom of Sunflower House opens at Billings Farm & Museum

July 3-Sept. 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. - WOOD-STOCK — The 6th annual Sunflower House at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock has opened early due to favorable weather.

Curated by the Woodstock Inn & Resort's Master gardener, Ben Pauly and Kelly Way Gardens Manager Taylor Hiers, this year's Sunflower House, spanning 20,000 square feet will feature over 50 varieties including 13 sunflower types considered "showstoppers". From the towering giants that reach heights of up to 14 feet, to the sweet, small blooms that stand 1 foot tall, each flower represents a living work of art.

Guests are welcome to wander the pathways and meander through "rooms" and "hallways" created by sunflower stalks and blooms. Zigzagging paths ensure maximum impact of eastward-facing blooms, offering breathtaking pockets or vistas at everv turn.

Delightful flower names such as Lemon Cutie, Starburst Panache, Buttercream, Feed the Birds, and Just Crazy add further fun to the experience. Complemented by 50 companion annuals, the garden bursts with a kaleidoscope of colors, ranging from soft yellows to deep maroons with every shade of rust, orange, yellow, and red in between.

The exhibit will run throughSept. 9.

For more information, visit: billingsfarm.org.



Billings Farm & Museum's 6th annual Sunflower House opened early this year, thanks to favorable weather conditions. The display features over 50 varieties of sunflowers, some reaching impressive heights of up to 14 feet. With peak viewing expected in August, visitors can enjoy the vibrant array of sunflowers in full bloom throughout the summer.

MUSIC Scene



BOMOSEEN 6 p.m. Lakehouse Pub & Grille – Shakey Pines

BRANDON 6 p.m. Brandon Inn (Behind) -Music on the Riverbend with Jenni Johnson

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

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

PROCTORSVILLE 6 p.m. Svec Memorial Green – Summer Concert Series with Rick Redington and Tuff Luv

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

RUTLAND 5:30 p.m. Moose Lodge - Ryan Fulle

7 p.m. Main Street Park – Seven to Sunset Concert with George's Back Pocket

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

SOUTH POMFRET 6:30 p.m. Artistree – Music on the Hill Summer Concert Series with Michelle Fay Band



BARNARD 5:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Feast & Field with Bomba de Aqui

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

BOMOSEEN 6 p.m. Lake House Pub & Grille -Aaron Audet

CHESTER 6:30 p.m. The Academy Building Lawn – Chad Hollister Trio

FAIR HAVEN 7 p.m. Town Park – Eneriazz

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

6 p.m. Rivershed - Chris Pallutto 6 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library – River Road Concert Series with Rick Redington &

Tuff Luv

6 p.m. The Foundry - Liz Reedy

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

LUDLOW 6:30 p.m. The Killarney – Irish Sessions with Gypsy Reel POULTNEY 6 p.m. Poultney Pub - Vinyl Night with Ken

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

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

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

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



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

CASTLETON 6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Kristian Montgomery

6 p.m. Bomoseen Dog - Music by Cooper

KILLINGTON 2 p.m. The Umbrella Bar at Snowshed - Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. Rivershed - Steve Burke

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain -Nick Bredice

6 p.m. The Foundry – Zach Yakaitis

Rhys Chalmers 7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Shananagans

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games -

LONDONDERRY 6 p.m. New American Grill - Liz Reedy

LUDLOW 6 p.m. Calcuttas – Sammy B

6 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Summer Music Series with Sly Richard

PITTSFORD 8 p.m. Hilltop Tavern - Chris P Trio

POULTNEY 6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Mean Waltons

QUECHEE 5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jennings & McComber

RUTLAND 6:30 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf - Duane Carleton WOODSTOCK

6 p.m. East End Park – Music by the River with Jay Nash



BRIDGEWATER

featured act Gordon Clark

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club Comedy Night with headliner Aaron Kominos-Smith and

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

3 n m K1 Base Area – Cooler in the Mountains Concert Series feat. Kind Hearted Stranger with special guest opener Kenny Mehler

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

6 p.m. Rivershed - Steve Burke

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain -Jim Yeager

6 p.m. The Foundry – George Nostrand

7:30 p.m. Jax Food and Games - Carl Anton

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub - Shananagans

LUDLOW 12 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Okemo's Taps and Taste with DJ Dave, Chris P Trio and Remember Jones

8 p.m. The Killarney – Chris P

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails - Nick Bredice and Liz Reedv

RANDOLPH 7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room - The Radiance with Ari and the Birds

STOCKBRIDGE

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

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Rhys Chalmers



BOMOSEEN 5:30 p.m. Lake House Pub & Grille – Bomo Bash with Ryan Fuller

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – James Joel

8 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Bomoseen Lake Association Fundraiser with the Aaron Audet Band

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

KILLINGTON 9:15 a.m. Mission Farm - Liz Reedy

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Steve Burke

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

RUTLAND

MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

Vermont's Best Views with Summer Activities for Everyone!



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

LUDLOW

5 p.m. Main + Mountain - Sunday

6:30 p.m. Veteran's Memorial

Park – Summer Bandstand 2024 with Gerry Grimo and the East

Funday with Liz Reedy

Bay Jazz Ensemble

RUTLAND

City Band

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

6 p.m. Rivershed - Mandatory Mondaves 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 – Mountain Dog



BOMOSEEN 6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Music by Cooper

CASTLETON 7 p.m. University Pavilion – Satin & Steel

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

PITTSFIELD 7 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Jam PITTSFORD

6 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm -Tunesday Concert Series with Side Effect

POULTNEY 7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

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

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



MUSIC CALENDAR • 19

Clay Bird Shooting - Horseback Riding Spa - Salon Dining on Site (in our New Tavern!)

> 195 Mountain Top Road, Chittenden, Vermont 802.483.2311 | mountaintopresort.com



923 KILLINGTON RD. 802-422-4411

MAPLE

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²⁰ Arts, Dining & Entertaiment



Rev up for Antique Tractor Day 2024: A family-friendly farm adventure

Sunday, Aug. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.— WOODSTOCK—Billings Farm & Museum, located at 69 Old River Rd., Woodstock, invites visitors to a day of farm-themed activities as restored antique tractors take center stage. Attendees can witness tractor parades, enjoy wagon rides, and participate in crafts and games. The event includes opportunities to learn about each tractor's history, make, and model. Children can engage in pedal tractor obstacle courses, create tractor-themed crafts, and take part in tractor-drawn wagon rides. The day features a "Slow Race" for tractors, and stories about tractors will be shared. The event also showcases "A Vermont Quilt Sampler" exhibition and the Barn Quilts Exhibition. Refreshments, including Vermont-made ice cream, will be available for purchase at the Farmhouse Scoop Shop. Members enjoy free admission, while advance ticket purchases are recommended to expedite check-in.

Event Schedule

- 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Kids' Story Time
- Noon and 3:30 p.m. Tractor Parades
- 1:30 p.m. Tractor "Slow Race"
- All Day Kids' Crafts, Kids' Pedal Tractor Obstacle Course, Lawn Games

For more information, visit: billingfarm. org.

Artist exhibition at VINS features Lynn Adams



Aug. 1-Oct. 31 —QUECHEE— The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) will host an exhibition featuring the work of Lynn Adams at the Neale Pavilion. After retiring from a long business career, Adams pursued a higher national diploma in jewelry, silversmithing, and allied crafts in the United Kingdom, with a focus on jewelry making and enameling, while also exploring painting with watercolor. Now residing in Lyme, New Hampshire, Adams has established herself as a juried member of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen and has built a successful career as a jeweler. Her work is showcased in various local galleries, including Collective~the Art of Craft in Woodstock, where she served as founder/ treasurer.

Adams' latest exhibition, "Seasons at VINS," reflects her year-long project of painting at the VINS Nature Center, capturing the changing campus and trails throughout the seasons. This collection invites visitors to explore the beauty of the center or take home a cherished memory. The exhibition runs from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31 and includes sketches, watercolors, and other ephemera that replace traditional photographs.

Adams' artwork is also available at Matt Brown Fine Art in Lyme and the AVA Gallery Members Room in Lebanon. Proceeds from the purchase of her artwork will benefit VINS.

For more information about Adams' work, visit: lynnadams-metalsmith.com or vinsweb.org.

Celebrate Magnificent Mammals Day

Saturday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. — QUECHEE— The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) will hold a day of exploring the amazing diversity of mammals. Discover the specialties of furred cousins and find out how important they are to ecosystems. Meet a few live mammals that could live in your backyard with Squam Lakes Natural Science Center and explore the wonderful world of goats with Five Rooster Farm. Hear tales of the mystical world of mammals with Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. And learn all about being a mammalogist with Delaware Valley University Professor Reg Hoyt.

Schedule

All Day / 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum: Explore pelts and skulls of mammals across the world and meet a live mammal.

Five Rooster Farm: Discover the world of keeping goats. Learn all about their development and what it takes to care for goats.

Mammals of the Canopy Walk: Explore the wild mammals of VINS with images and videos from our trail cameras.

Tracks and Scats: How can you know who lives near you? Learn about what mammals leave behind!

Skull Matching: Test your knowledge and match the mammal with its skull! Learn about how to identify mammal skulls and what you can learn about their diet.

Mammal Crafts: Set your creativity free and be inspired by the wonderful world of mammals. 10:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. / 12:30 p.m.-12:45 p.m. / 4 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

Raptor Encounter: Meet one of our avian education ambassadors up close. 11 a.m.-Noon

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center: Meet some of the magnificent mammals that live in the forests around us.

1 p.m.-2 p.m.

"The Age of Mammals – Beginnings, Growth, and Decline" with Professor Reg Hoyt. Look at the age of mammals from their start during the age of dinosaurs, to their ultimate replacement of dinosaurs, to today. What are the challenges of today's mammals, and how we can all learn to appreciate and preserve them. With a long career that has spanned working in zoos to conservation work around the world, Prof. Hoyt will talk about some of the species he has worked with and cherishes.

2 p.m.-3 p.m.

Southern Vermont Natural History Museum: Take a journey with a naturalist who will share tales of animals and magic from around the world.

3 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Five Rooster Farm: What do you call a baby goat? How long does it take for them to grow their horns? What do their headbutts mean? Can you train a goat? Learn all about goats and how they are cared for.

3:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

What's the difference between a rabbit and a hare? How far can they hop? And what does it take to care for them? Join a VINS educator to meet some lovely lagomorphs.

For more information, visit: vinsweb.org.



Okemo Valley TV Hosts Outdoor Movie Night for Flood Relief

Saturday, August 3, 7 p.m. — LUDLOW — Okemo Valley TV will present a screening of The Forgotten, a short documentary film detailing the impacts of the 2023 flood on the Cavendish community, in its parking lot. The event supports Planet Axis's Flood Relief Film Tour. Filmed during and after the flood, the documentary features local footage and stories from residents. The screening will take place at 37C Main Street, with the Queen of the South food truck providing BBQ and beverages starting at 7 p.m. A short film, Therapy Won't Kill You, will be shown at 8:30 p.m., followed by The Forgotten at 9 p.m. Suggested donation for admission is \$10, with proceeds benefiting the Capstone Community Action Fund. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets.

For more information, visit: planetaxis.org.

ARTS, DINING, ENTERTAINMENT • 21

Wild parsnip management

By Betsy Rhodes

Now is the time to deal with wild (poison) parsnip, and when it's overcast and has been raining is the perfect time to do it. The plants come out more easily when the ground is wet, and you're less likely to develop a rash, which happens to some people if the sap gets on their skin and is then exposed to sunlight. You can rinse the sap off with water, cover up the area for a few days, and most likely avoid the rash.

This year, for public safety, including the road crew's, the Town of Pomfret is asking that you bag the wild parsnip you gather and hold on to it temporarily while a process is worked out to dispose of it. Members of the Invasive Plant Committee will be meeting with the Selectboard again on Aug. 7 to finalize a plan for this year. In the meantime, please email me at rhodes@sover.net or Alan Graham at alan.c.graham@gmail.com to let us know how many bags you've collected, so we know how much we'll need to get rid of.

Please do not throw plants in or on the side of the road.

Throwing any plants in the middle of a dirt or paved road to dry and die can be dangerous for motorcycle and bicycle riders, since the plants become slimy as they break down and can create slick spots in the road that are a hazard to riders. On dirt roads, plants pitched too far out in the middle also make it more difficult to grade the road. The grader just rolls up the plants into piles, which members of our road crew then have to stop to manually remove before they can continue grading, slowing them down and making the job a lot harder. The Road Crew also does not want to come across piles of pulled poisonous plants on the side of the road when they are trying to work, which is why the town is asking that you bag pulled plants this year.

On your own property, out of the public right of way, instead of bagging them, you can still pile up the plants and monitor the area around the pile, letting them dry and die. Wild parsnip seeds in the soil can remain viable and possibly produce new plants for four years.

Removing just one plant can stop the spread of hundreds of seeds.

As I mentioned, the best time to pull wild parsnip is when it's overcast, or in the evening or early in the morning, especially after a rain. The plants pull more easily when the ground is wet. But, with care, you can deal with them any time.

If you have too many plants to pull, in general, wild parsnip can be mowed without spreading it if the plants still have flowers on them or if the seeds on them are new and look kind of greenish yellow. If the plants at this stage are chopped up, the seeds won't have a chance to continue to mature and become viable. If the flowers are still attached to pulled plants, the flowers can continue to feed off the stems and produce viable seeds. Mowing will not kill the plant like pulling it, but you will set them back and stop hundreds of seeds from producing new plants.

But if the seeds look brown, it's likely too late to mow and you'll just drag and spread the seeds everywhere you go if you do. It would be better just to leave the wild parsnip alone until next year, so the seeds drop directly below the plants and aren't spread any further, and you'll know where new plants will be to tackle next year.

Rinse off equipment used to cut wild parsnip if it has started to go to seed.

If you do use equipment to cut down wild parsnip and there's any chance it's started to go to seed, just to be on the safe side, you'll want to rinse off your equipment before using it at another site, so the seeds are not spread to a new location. This is incredibly important. If you don't do it, you are just making the problem you're trying to solve worse.

If someone else uses their equipment on your property to cut down wild parsnip and you don't know where it has been, please ask for it to be rinsed off before and after it's used. Otherwise, you might unknowingly have wild parsnip or other invasive plants spread to your property. Rinsing off equipment is a critical way to help stop the spread of invasive plants.

Just a friendly reminder, please protect yourself with long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and gloves when dealing with these plants. Their sap can cause a rash when exposed to sunlight. If you get the sap on you, rinse it off quickly with water and cover the area exposed for 48 hours, so sunlight doesn't hit it. That usually helps people avoid getting the rash. *Betsy Rhodes is a Pomfret Invasive Plant*

Committee member.

For photos and information about wild parsnip, visit: vtinvasives.org/invasive/ wild-parsnip.

If you have any questions and/or want to get involved with the Pomfret Invasive Plant Committee, please email Betsy Rhodes, rhodes@ sover.net or Alan Graham at alan.c.graham@ gmail.com.



Submitted

Bag and hold wild parsnip plants for safe disposal, and protect yourself from their sap by wearing long sleeves, pants, and gloves.



Concerts outside on the Village Farm grounds. For severe weather, concert is canceled. Updates at pittsfordvillagefarm.org. Free. Donations appreciated.

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Catch Kind Hearted Strangers at the Cooler in the Mountains **Concert Series in Killington**

Saturday, Aug. 3, 3-5:30 p.m. — KILLINGTON — Enjoy a freeconcert featuring Kind Hearted Strangers, with opening act Kenny Mehler, at the base of Superstar near the Roar-

ing Brook Umbrella Bar. This all-ages event invites attendees to bring lawn chairs and blankets for an afternoon of music in the cool mountain air. Originating in Colorado, Kind Hearted Strangers blends rock and acoustic roots, and their latest album, "Now.here" (2023), was recorded live with intense raw energy. The series runs every Saturday from June 29 through Aug.31 and features top national and regional acts.

- **Upcoming Shows:**
- Aug. 10: CDBB
- Aug. 17: Soulshine Revival
- Aug. 24: Rumboat Chili Aug. 31: Annie in the Water

The Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar and Beastro food truck willserve food and Kona Big Wave beverages. A venue map is available to show designated alcohol areas and BYOB sections. Pets must be leashed and controlled. Inclement weather plans will be updated by 11 a.m. on the day of the event.

For the full pet policy, visit: killington.com/ the-mountain/mountain-info/mountain-policies.

For more information, visit: killington.com/ coolerinthemountains.





Rooms & Suites available



Propagating perennials provides new plants for free

By Deborah J. Benoit, UVM Extension master gardener

Do you wish you had more of your favorite plants in your garden? By propagating new plants from those already there, you can have additional perennials for free.

The easiest method to propagate perennial plants is by rooting cuttings, either in water or in soil. Catmint and herbs such as oregano are good choices early in the season or at anytime to overwinter favorite herbs indoors. Using sharp, clean scissors, take cuttings 6 to 8 inches long. Put them in water immediately so they don't dry out while you're working.

Prepare the cuttings by removing any flowers or buds. Remove lower leaves, leaving only two to four at the top. Trim the bottom on an angle right beneath where a leaf was attached to the stem (called a node).

Place each cutting in a container of room-temperature water. Be sure at least one to two nodes are beneath



By Katsten Paulick/Pixabay Hydrangeas are best rooted in soil rather than water.

the surface of water, but no leaves are. Place the container in indirect sunlight, changing water weekly. Once multiple roots form and are at least an inch long, pot up using a good quality potting mix.

Some cuttings, such as hydrangea, root better in soil. Treat the bottom of a prepared cutting with rooting hormone. Using a pencil, make a hole in moist potting mix. Insert the cutting and carefully press soil around it. Water lightly.

Cover the container with a plastic bag to help retain moisture. Vent the cover if excess moisture builds up on the plastic. To check progress, gently tug on the cutting. Resistance will indicate roots are forming.

Air layering is a method that works well with woody plants such as forsythia and lilacs. Select a healthy branch at least 1/4 inch in diameter. About a foot from the tip, with a clean knife, cut into the bark below a node at an upward angle.

Remove nearby leaves. Wrap moistened sphagnum moss around the wounded area, and cover with clear plastic. Tightly tie each end closed. When roots have formed, the new plant can be removed and put in soil.

For more information on air layering, visit: go.uvm. edu/layering.

If some of your perennials are looking a bit overcrowded, the time may be right to divide them into two or more smaller plants. Root division works well on clumping plants such as hosta, daylilies and ferns. A good shovel, garden fork and a sharp blade will be useful.

Carefully dig up the plant, capturing as much of the root ball as possible. Remove excess soil, and gently divide the roots into separate plants.

If necessary, use a garden fork or clean, sharp blade to



By Philip Walenga/Pixabay

When dividing daylilies, carefully dig up the plant, saving as much of the root ball as possible, then shake off excess soil, and gently divide the roots into separate plants.

divide the roots. Be sure each section contains healthy roots and foliage. Replant divisions as soon as possible to avoid damage to the roots by extended exposure. *For more information on plant division, visit: go.uvm.edu/ dividing.*

Propagation by root division can be the most labor-intensive method of increasing your perennial plants. It is best done when the weather is milder, such as early spring or in the fall. Choose a cloudy day to help prevent roots from drying out, and work quickly once the roots are exposed.

Hostas, in particular, are easier to divide in spring when foliage has emerged but not opened. Fall-blooming perennials should be divided in the spring, and spring- and summer-blooming perennials in the fall, at least a month before anticipated ground freezing.

Whatever method you choose, there's no denying that multiplying your perennials is a great way to add plants to your garden.

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and dinner. Delivery or take away option available. Now open year round. www.vermontsushi.com 802-422-4241







Courtesy Chandler Center for the Arts



By Jim Lowe

The Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival opens its 32nd season at Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph, featuring an eclectic week of music called "Majors and Minors." The final week will feature violinist Arturo Delmoni, violist Michael Roth, pianist Mika Sasaki, and cellist Peter Sanders. The festival also features the Boyd Meets Girl Duo.

The Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival continues with 32nd season at Chandler Center for the Arts

RANDOLPH—The Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival continues with its 32nd season at Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph with its second part following its successful visit in April with the string trio version of the Bach Goldberg Variations. The Festival musicians arrive again the week of Aug. 5.

Founder, music director, and cellist Peter Sanders has once again designed an eclectic week of music, nicknamed "Majors and Minors," with the Brahms Cello Sonata #1 in E minor, Opus 38; the Mozart string Duo for Violin and Viola, in G major, K 423; and the Piano Quartet in d minor, Opus 25 by the 20th Century Croatian child prodigy and composer, Dora Peja evi. The concert is on Saturday, Aug. 10 beginning at 7:30 p.m., and will have an encore performance the following afternoon at 4 p.m. at the Woodstock Unitarian Universalist Church on 7 Church St., presented by Pentangle Arts.

The artists for this final week will be violinist Arturo Delmoni, violist Michael Roth, pianist Mika Sasaki, and cellist Peter Sanders. New this season is the Boyd Meets Girl Duo, pairing Australian classical guitarist Rupert Boyd with American cellist Laura Metcalf, sharing an eclectic mix of music from Bach to Beyoncé. This special event takes place on Friday evening, Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. on Chandler's main stage.

On Thursday, Aug. 8 beginning at 7 p.m. the artists will hold their traditional open rehearsal, preparing the works for the final Saturday concert. The public is always welcome to stop by these rehearsals at no charge, to watch how the musicians craft the works together, and to quietly come and go.

The next morning, Friday, Aug. 9, the musicians will travel to the Vermont Public studio in Colchester where Festival artists will chat live on air at 11a.m. with classical host Walter Parker about the 32nd annual season and perform some of the week's program.

Tickets and information about programs and artists can be found on the festival website cvcmf.org, on the Chandler website chandler-arts.org, or by calling the Chandler box office at (802) 728-9878.

BarnArts Summer Youth Theater tackles stereotypes and more with 'High School Musical'

BARNARD—BarnArts Summer Youth Theater kicked off on July 15 to produce the lively full-length production of "High School Musical" in just three weeks. The show opens at Barnard Town Hall on Friday, Aug. 2 at 7 p.m. with performances continuing Saturday, Aug. 3 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 4 at 2 p.m. with original costuming, set, choreography, and a live band. Tickets are \$15 and \$10 for those 12 and under.

Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of first love and group identity while negotiating the pressures of friends, family and school. "We are all in this together" is the resulting message of this retelling of the age-old story of romance across identity groups.

This is the 13th year of the popular BarnArts Summer Youth Theater program. It celebrates the ensemble nature of musical theater and the communication and leadership skills that are inherent to the art. The camp is open to kids ages 8-18 and registration typically fills up quickly in February with priority placement for previous campers.

"This year's SYT cast is particularly exciting as we had a push of older kids joining our ensemble," said SYT artistic director Linda Treash (also BarnArts executive director). New clusters of young teens joined SYT from Woodstock but also from Strafford and Lebanon, New Hampshire.

This year's cast includes Hannah Allen, Ommy Alvarez-Orlir, Dash Ballou, Mariya Ballou, Pavla Ballou, Jasper Cota, Lucy Davis, Natalie Davis, Charlotte Ellison, Marlena Farinas, Nat Holland, Rei Houston, Ava MacPhail, Jane Malcomson, Tegan Miller, Caleb Paige, Leah Paige, Anabelle Park, David Randall, Joan Ringenberg, Lux Ringenberg, Katie Seregina, Anna Stone, Eliza Stone, Natalie Thakur, Liam Wheeler, and Averie Zitterkopf.

"We have 18 returning youth this year and 10 new," explained Treash. While most of the returning kids have been with the camp for just two to four years, two kids have been with SYT for a notable amount of time - Marlena Farinas (16), who is in her 12th year, and Jane Malcomson (15), who has been in the program since 2017's "The Lion King" when she played Young Nala at the age of 8. Farinas and Malcomson are portraying the lead pair of Troy and Gabrielle respectively in this year's production.

The "High School Musical" cast will preview their performance Thursday, Aug.1 at 6 p.m. before Bomba de Aqui hits the stage at BarnArts Feast & Field Music Series The production team includes Director Ryan Paige, Music Director Carol Cronce, Choreographer Samantha McLoughlin, Costume and Prop Designer Aura Paige, and Set Designer and SYT Artistic Director Linda Treash.

For tickets and more information, visit: barnarts.org, email Executive Director Linda Treash at info@barnarts.org, or call 802-234-1645.



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Rockin the Region with Remember Jones

This Saturday marks the return of the great Taps and Taste event to Okemo Mountain Resort, held in the Jackson Gore Courtyard from noon – 6 p.m. This is your opportunity to sample some of Vermont's favorite local brews and ciders while enjoying live music, fantastic food offerings and over 50 craft beers from the region. Live music will be headlined by Remember Jones, who is one of my favorite bands to see live. I'll be kicking things off with a DJ set from noon-1, followed by the Chris Pallutto Trio from 1-3 p.m. I go back on at 3 p.m. while Remember Jones sets up for their 2 hour set from 4 – 6 p.m. Okemo's Adventure Zone will be open throughout the duration of the event. Tickets for Taps and Taste can be purchased at okemo.com. Bring a lawn chair, a blanket but please leave your furry friends at home.

Chris Pallutto Trio plays all over the region from Rutand to Quechee, up north and down south. They play classic rock, and blues. Each member of the band is an excellent musician. Chris has some solo acoustic shows as well, every other Wednesday at the Public House Pub in Quechee and every Thursday at Rivershed in Killington, both at 6 p.m. The Chris P Trio played this event back in 2022. They get rave reviews wherever they play.

Remember Jones puts on a show you do not want to miss. At Taps and Taste, they'll be an 8-piece band for two hours of non-stop entertainment. You can expect to see a high energy, super soulful front man backed by an entertaining funky soul band. They'll do bombastic original music, mixed in with stylized funk, soul, and rock covers of many favorites to keep you entertained and dancing. There's really something for evervone. Remember Jones is both a band and the lead singer's stage name. Recently called one of the Most Influential Artists for 2024 on the Jersey Shore (alongside Bruce Springsteen, Kevin Smith, and more), and harking back to the presence of some of music history's most notable entertainers, Asbury Park native Remember Jones is nationally known for his overthe-top theatrical events and funk rock/soul showmanship, with unique, feel-good live performances. R.J. said, "We don't take many lulls in our set. We cross genres pretty much all the time. It's under the umbrella of entertainment and personality which brings a really unique show experience. I've shared the stage with Springsteen, George Clinton and many more. There's bits of all the people I've performed with, in our show too. We get down in a P-funk way, or I tell a story like Springsteen. We're going to have a party for sure."

Remember Jones has been touring a bunch this summer, sometimes playing six shows a week. R.J. said, "We've been doing a lot of festival type stuff, which is really cool but really hot. It feels like this is the hottest summer ever. We're doing a mixed bag of all the stuff from my three albums, which is a lot of fun. We have a lot of new covers we're doing."

I love everything about this band, the originals and the covers, so I'm really looking forward to the new ones. What's great about them is they put on a show. Each member is really good at what they do so there's a lot to watch. R.J. added, "With a two-hour show you get to see all the musicians. You get a chance to see everyone's talent, in a longer form. Everybody sings, so in two hours you get a really neat experience of all different types of music." Besides how great they sound, I like to say their show is a visual masterpiece. There's a lot to watch with their talent and how colorful they all dress.

Remember Jones was just featured in Rolling Stone Magazine. R.J. said, "It's mostly about me, and what I do in relation to recreating Amy Winehouse's music. It's a really cool feature. It's highlighted as one of the only people in the world to dedicate a night of music to Amy Winehouse. Being in Rolling Stone as a music and pop culture kid is pretty cool."

Remember Jones, the man, focused his energy this year on producing with recordings for himself, and other people plus a

lot of stage stuff and theater. He recently finished a symphonic run of "Jesus Christ, Superstar" and "Evita". What impresses me most is his versatility. He has starred as Meatloaf, Freddy Mercury, Jeff Buckley and Amy Winehouse, but in his own way. He is working on a Tom Jones show that will debut in a couple of weeks. It will be with a 17-piece big band. He's doing Tom Jones' 1969 "Live in Las Vegas" arrangements, plus some other hits. R.J. said, "As far as I know, I'm the only guy in the world doing a young Tom Jones tribute type thing. It's cool to have a bunch of young cats, excited to do this music" You can see all those personalities come out on stage. He's not dressing as these people but he's acting like them. He added, "I love when the



Rockin' the Region By Dave Hoffenberg

rock and theater thing is a hybrid. I feel my band is sort of that too. It's fun to do it on a big level." What's different about these shows are you can't call it a tribute act, this is Remember Jones doing Meatloaf, etc. R.J. said, "I kind of do myself. It's more of a celebration of the music, like a review. It's really cool. I put it all together. I envision it, I music direct, I star. It's kind of me behind the scenes, risking it all. For the bands, I pull people from different walks of my life, from different music projects. I try and cast the

right people. You need the right Brian May (Lead Guitar Queen)." The Queen show he said is, "a unique interpretation of the music of Queen. We have a horn section, strings, a whole choir and we do it at different theaters here and there."

That's what I mean, there's so much versatility to Remember Jones, he's musically unique. R.J. said, "I've been very fortunate in this area because when we do a show, it's special and we pack theaters. We also tour around the country in clubs, different outdoor venues and do my original music but also take pieces from all these shows and pull them together. Some of the covers I do are smaller versions of some of the big, crazier things we do on the East Coast."

One of my favorite things about a Remember Jones show are the cover songs, because they do them in a unique way. Some bands are afraid to do covers. He added, "A lot of people look down on it. I'm the type of artist that falls in the lineage of so many people; Tina, Frank Sinatra. The minute a song was released, they were doing their version of it. I hear something and I like to stylize it, re-envision it, put it in my own way, and allow the audience to hear it as if it's the first time they're hearing it. I love that audience and band connection."

His original music was inspired by other music so he'll weave his originals in throughout a show. R.J. said, "I have a song 'Radio Said She Loved Me' and I was totally inspired by 'Cult of Personality' when I wrote it. Now when we do the song live, we kind of hybrid the two. People go nuts for 'Cult of Personality' so it allows them to remember my original song even more. They're all tools to entertain people. I love putting on a show and interacting with the crowd. It's all about the show. It's colorful, it's loud, it's funky. No two shows are the same. I tell my band no matter what happens, it's for the audience so just entertain and have a good time. Everybody has a good sense of what to do."

R.J. has performed with the Everyone Orchestra which is an American improvisational musical project that features a constantly revolving roster of musicians. He said, "I did a bunch of dates with that. Toured with Robert Randolph, Claude from Ween, the guys from moe. and me just singing songs. I'm the only singer when I do it. It's so fun because I love making stuff up, evoking that audience and having to trust these guys. They can improv musicianship, and I can improv comedy and improv the audience thing. It's an experience."

Remember Jones loves entertaining people and ended by saying, "I was born to do this. I love the community aspect of this. I love when people get together and enjoy live music. When they put their minds together and create this spiritual thing. It's really cool. There's nothing like it, there's nothing like live entertainment you don't find anywhere else. You can't do it without other people so to have a community for me is really it."

Enerjazz Big Band returns to Fair Haven's Concerts in the Park

Thursday, Aug. 1 at 7 p.m. —Fair Haven— The big band sound of Enerjazz returns to Fair Haven's Concerts in the Park, beginning promptly at 7 p.m. Classic tunes from Glenn Miller and Count Basie will be featured alongside some modern favorites. Enerjazz promises an evening where toes will tap, and you might even want to clap and sing along. Concertgoers are encouraged to join in the fun, and wearing dancing shoes is recommended. This concert is the seventh in the summer series.

The park's new lights are installed and will illuminate the area starting at 7 p.m. each night, making it easier to exit as daylight hours shorten. The park offers plenty of picnic tables and benches for early arrivals to enjoy the surroundings. The Farmers' Market is also open from 3-6 p.m. at the north end of the park, offering a chance to visit local vendors before the concert. Ample parking is available, but arriving early is encouraged.

In case of thunder or lightning at setup time, which begins at 4 p.m., the concert will be moved indoors to the Congregational Church at the north end of the park.

For more information, visit: members.rutlandvermont. com/events/details/fair-haven-concerts-in-the-park.



Enerjazz big band

Courtesy Fair Haven Concerts in the Park

The winners from the 2024 Vermont Film Festival

The 2nd annual Vermont Film Festival, held from Thursday, July 25 to Sunday, July 28, was filled with three days of films. The festivities included comedic shorts, a lively DJ Dave Dance Party, an industry event, and the festival concluded with a wrap-up party on Sunday night. Winners

Best Short Comedy "Viva Extra" — Written and Directed by Kevin Samar **Best Short Drama** "10 Minutes to Showtime" - Written and Directed by Logan Keefe **Best Thriller** "Grafton" - Directed by Bryan Santiago **Best Documentary** "Bearing Witness: A Name And A Voice" — Directed by Dina Jane Rudick **Best Feature Comedy** "Mother Father Sister Brother Frank" - Written and Directed by Caden Douglas **Best Feature Drama** "The Ghost Trap" — Directed by James Khanlarian Most Vermont "Connected" - Directed by Chad Ervin

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from page 8

Swan Dive Trail is an advanced mountain biking trail known for its steep descents and technical challenges. We headed up this route. The trail features a series of sharp climbs, rocky sections, and narrow, twisting paths that require precise bike handling. Once we got up Swan Dive we took a left up onto Swans Mill Road, a fourth class road with an easy climb and a grassy soft single track. With an e-bike it's an easy decision to take the offshoot intermediate trails off of Swan Mill Road. You'll have several really fun choices. Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Mute Swan and Whistling Swan. These all circle back to Swans Mill Road where we headed back up. Following the fourth class road to the Tunnel Ridge Trail is a steep climb to the peak with some amazing views, a nice log to rest on, and the beginning of an exciting descent.

Tunnel Ridge has over 100 perfect berms (thankfully downhill) back to the car. It's a machine made trail that combines thrilling technical sections with some amazing scenic overlooks. It's mostly smooth and flowy and some argue the best single track trail in the east. Out and back is another great way to enjoy this trail. Park on the east side off of Route 100, make the climb to the peak and come back down the 100 berms to where you started. It's well worth the effort on powered and non-powered bikes. If you are looking to enjoy this area in a way that is unique and different, try the one way track from Bingo Brook over the mountain down Tunnel Ridge. You won't regret it.



Emery Mikula, 16, and Sam Mikula, 14, navigate the thrilling technical sections and scenic overlooks on their downhill ride through Tunnel Ridge in Rochester, reveling in the excitement of the trail's twists and turns, including over 100 perfect berms.



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Friday Night Live kicked off summer series

By Adam Davis

Friday Night Live opened with the first show in its outdoor summer concert series in downtown Rutland on Friday, July 26 with the Jimmy Buffet cover band Captain Mike and the Shipwrecked. In addition to the free live music, the event featured multiple food trucks, vendors, and activities for the whole family lined up along Center Street and Merchants Row. A portion of businesses along Center Street stayed open well past their typical closing times to cater to the bustling downtown crowd, and restaurant patios were filled with patrons making for a vibrant nightlife scene.

Captain Mike and the Shipwrecked, flanked by fluorescent palm trees on stage, contributed largely to the party atmosphere by playing beloved hits like "Margaritaville," "Cheeseburger in Paradise," and "It's 5 o' Clock Somewhere."

The large nine-piece group dug well into Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer's catalog, playing deep cuts with high energy enthusiasm that pleased parrotheads and novices alike. The Charlotte, North Carolina-based group were thrilled to play their first show in Vermont, frequently remarking on the beauty of the area and the event, as well as the low humidity weather.

A variety of food trucks and family-friendly activities drew an audience of locals and tourists to downtown in addition to the music, with giveaways and giant kids games like Connect Four and large-piece chess, face painting, a bouncy castle and slide, as well as a dunk tank.

"This is a beautiful event," said Kevin Olson, a part-time resident who owns a vacation home nearby. "This is our 38th wedding anniversary, and we wanted to celebrate it with dinner and some live music."

Center Street merchants like Mountain

Music and the Grateful Vermonter kept their doors open well into the event taking advantage of the extra foot traffic that Friday Night Live brings. Attendees took advantage of the additional time to shop as well, with both stores seeing a consistent flow of people in and out.

"We always stay open during Friday Night Live, it's always a good turnout," said Meshach Tourigny of Mountain Music. "We do some extra sales and it gets more people in the store. It definitely adds some visibility."

Brooke Caputo, owner of the Grateful Vermonter, echoed that sentiment.

"I wanted to stay open and be a part of this. It brings out the best people and some of the best music," she said. "And it's such a safe atmosphere, it's just a lot of fun."

The next Friday Night Live will be held on Friday, Aug. 16 from 5 to 10 p.m. in downtown Rutland and will feature the Grateful Dead cover band Zach Nugent's Dead Set. For more information, follow Friday Night Live on Facebook.



By Adam Davis Friday Night Live summer concert series kicked off on Friday, July 26 in Rutland.



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friday night

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July 26

Sept. 6





Aug. 16



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downtownrutland.com starts 5pm • headliners at 8pm free parking at the LAZ Parking Garage

Cı	Crossword Solutions from page 15													
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30 · PETS

Rutland County Humane Society



months. Spayed female. Pitbull Terrier.

Wolfie-1 year old.

Shorthair.

Shorthair.

Neutered male. Domestic



Reese—2 years old. Spayed female. Hound mix.



Peanut—13 years old. Neutered male. Domestic Medium Hair.



Princess—2 years old. Spayed female. Domestic Shorthair.

Petunia—13 years old. Spayed female. Domestic Shorthair.



Tinkerbell—5-6 years old. Spayed female. Domestic Shorthair.









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Apollo-2 years old.

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l Rusty—Adult. Guinea Pig.

mix.

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Julius-1 year 10 months. Neutered male. Hound

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Aries

There are no medals for being a martyr. Sure, you can do more, give more and be more but chances are, it will never be enough for some people. In fact, the more you give, the more they take. This week, do consider thinking differently about the way you're being of service to others. Are you doing it for them or for yourself, secretly hoping you'll get something you're likely never to get in return? Be brutally honest about your intentions.

April 21 - May 20

Everyone thinks it's better to bend trather than break. Though sometimes, breaking is exactly what needs to happen. When you draw that line and say to yourself or to others, that enough is enough, then you're likely to command the respect you need now. Sure, bend if that's all you can do, but the more you bend, the more they'll push and you'll only end up breaking anyway. This week, be authentic. Whether you do or don't, the result will be the same.

You're so keen for action, momentum and to advance your personal goals and intentions. By all means, do so. Just be aware that as you move forward, do so with discernment. For you, life for a little while is going to resemble the adage, "measure twice cut once." While there are many options available to you now, not every one is worth pursuing. Only you can figure out what is right and not right for you. That said, do cast your net wide.



It's easier said than done, but if you can think differently about a problem, then the problem will be different. You're going to get the chance to put this into practice. It may have something to do with your self-talk, ingrained habits and fears or simply the way you communicate to others. Whatever it is you want to improve in your life, you're going to get the chance to improve it. Look within rather than without for the areas in which needs improving.



Sometimes you just need to do what is right for you, regardless of the range of consequences it may bring. There are certain scenarios in life that whether you do or you don't, people are still going to behave or respond in whichever way, shape or form they are going to. So the lesson here is to just be unapologetically you. More often than not, it's better to be respected than liked anyway, especially when it comes to your reputation and professional life.

.eo

August 21 - September 20

Despite your reputation for having paralysis analysis, do remember that you do have the right to change your mind. When you realize this, then you'll understand that there really is no such thing as the right or wrong decision. All you can do is make choices based on the information you have at hand at any given time. If that information changes, then you can change your mind. It really is that simple! There is no such thing as the wrong choice, only trying your best.

September 21 - October 20 You're renowned for your grace and elegance, especially among your friends and your professional peers. It's one thing to keep the peace when peace is required, but it's also another thing to ruffle some feathers and put your needs first when that is needed too. You may have to make an out-of-character move this week, which may not be an easy one to make. But sometimes, you have to choose between keeping the peace and creating a war within yourself for keeping quiet.

Libra

Scorpio

People so often talk about toxic relationships but so rarely speak of toxic workplaces. For many people, they spend more time with their work colleagues than they do their partners. This week, do draw a definitive line between where the toxicity actually lays in your life. Chances are it's not where you think. Stand up for yourself at work and you'll discover all your relationships, personal and professional, will improve exponentially.

you know rather than what you know that is what will open doors for you. That being said, keep your cards close to your chest. If you're researching your options for a new role, remember that loose lips sink ships. Don't make

any announcements until whatever

you need to be in the bag is definitely

in the bag.

ll vour efforts look set to show

Asigns of paying off. If you're

looking to make a move professional-

ly, then it really will be a case of who,

Sagittarius

r 21 - December 20



Life may feel as though you're Istuck in the daily grind. To be fair, we all are to some degree. What can make it better or worse all comes down to your attitude about it. When you can define your "why" you can whether any "how." To do this, open your mind and get curious about life and all its endless possibilities. Do let go of the Capricorn-famous line of, "It is what it is." It really can be so much more than that.



Do be prepared for the apple cart to get upset this week. Just because someone else may have tipped their apples over, so to speak, doesn't mean it's your fault or you're to blame. Don't go pointing any fingers neither. Instead, do see this as a much-needed opportunity to shift your attitude toward your relationship. Upsets and changes can be a good thing. See it as an opportunity to make adjustments rather than throw out the baby with the bathwater.



It may be wise to curb your enthusiasm when it comes to your family and domestic life. This isn't to put a downer on the good things that are happening, but rather, in your excitement, you may forget to communicate your intentions. Do check in with your significant other or whoever else may need to know what your plans are. You know what they say about paved roads and good intentions, so do be wary of that. Do think twice.









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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.

Focus on commonalities

32- COLUMNS

One month ends, another begins. I do hope you get the chance to catch your breath a bit. Not just because you're tired and not just because you need rest. But because the month of August is set up to be one of the most dynamic months when it comes to information overload, constant barrages of word salads and propaganda.



There is so much going on in the world and chances are, very little to nothing of it is impacting your daily life. Alas, it's difficult to not connect to it, feel empathic to it or wonder what on Earth is going on. Each time you open your social media, every other account you follow posts about the same thing. Each time you turn on the news — if you still do that, you're being told what to think about it.

Tyndall

You might have a conversation with family or a friend and they have a 180-degree take on the very topic that's on your mind. You see, that's how they want it. It's the old school divide and conquer tactic. Savages thrive in chaos and chaos provides the savages a sense of purpose with their purposeless lives. Instead of fighting over differing beliefs and opinions,

try focusing on the common values and the peace and prosperity we still

have time to enjoy.

Elegy: saying goodbye to my baby boy Charles Wallace the Magnificent – A Tribute Part 8

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 - in Part 7, Charley met new significant people who loved him: Maureen McKenna Padula (my new love) and the Walkers who became his "step-family" as we began to vacation in Mexico. Upon

our return in April of 2023, from our third winter in Mexico, Charley was diminished. He had a faraway look in his eyes and we were reasonably certain that his hearing was starting to wane and his eyesight was fading.

And so, it was, with trepidation, that we approached our fourth trip to Mexico in early 2024. With the full support of the Walkers, we left, delivering a promise on my part that I would return immediately in the event of any catastrophe.

Charley had seemingly stabilized a slender degree, and though not the ripsnorter of his youth, or the track star of his early adulthood, at 100+ dog years, he was able, with difficulty, to get around, and take short walks. His tail continued to wag, and of course, he could not wait for his next meal.



By Bruce Bouchard and John Turchiano

return, in early April of this year, we arrived at a different story altogether; his decline had worsened markedly; his mobility diminished, and his cognition impaired. On our shorter and shorter walks, he would stand stock still, sniffing the air for many minutes. His body jerked, as if frightened, looked up at me, vacantly

Things were quiet back in Vermont, and

seemingly under control. However, upon our

and seemed to say, "Ohhh.... who are you? Do I know you? Do you know where I live? I need to go home now." We were 90 feet from our front door

Incidents of incontinence

multiplied, and as the weeks wore on well into the month of May, he began panting vigorously. We were alarmed to learn that continued panting was a probable sign that he was nearing the end of his life.

As to the state of my mind, the first thing I had to come to terms with was acceptance. It felt like the settling of a dense fog upon my inner moorings. My emotions began to run wild, through a wall of pain, the pain of too much tenderness. I fought that pain with denial...if only!! I had the conviction (resistant to all rational consideration) that he would live alongside me, or at least live a bit longer. That denial had a backstory.

When I was 12 years old my mother, aged 42, had a radical mastectomy and a hysterec-Charley \rightarrow 35

White admiral butterflies winging through the woods

Walking on a woods road beside a stream in early July, I spotted several tight clusters of butterflies perched on scat piles and on wet sand near the brook. When one of the butterflies spread its wings, I saw that its topside was black with blue shading, and had a broad white



band running through the center of its fore and hindwings, creating a U-shape. Red dots and light blue-and-white dashes decorated the margins of its hindwings. Most of the butterflies had their wings folded together perpendicular to the ground, showing their dark brown undersides with colored dots and dashes similar to those on top.

These attractive butterflies are white admirals (Limenitis arthemis arthemis), a subspecies of the red-spotted admiral butterfly. Al-

By Susan Shea

though it may seem strange to find such beautiful creatures gathered on scat, this behavior known as puddling — is common among many butterfly species. Butterflies

puddle to replenish fluids and obtain nutrients, especially sodium, essential for reproduction and flight. They take up nutrients with their long, tubular tongues, or proboscises.

Congregating this way makes it easier for females to find mates. Most puddling on salty substances, however, is done by males. They incorporate sodium into the spermatophore, a package containing the sperm, which a male will transfer to a female during mating. Researchers have found that sodium increases egg viability in some butterfly species.

White admirals are notorious puddlers, and also feed on rotting fruit, carrion, sap, and honeydew made by aphids. They are attracted to road salt remaining from winter and to sweat

on clothes hanging outdoors. White admirals do not nectar as much as other butterflies do, but do occasionally visit woodland flowers. This northern forest butterfly ranges across northern New England, New York (where it is the official state butterfly), the Great Lakes states, much of subarctic Canada, and into Alaska. White admirals inhabit conifer and mixed woods, especially along watercourses, clearings, and woodland

edges.

In southern Vermont and New Hampshire, the white admiral hybridizes with the red-spotted purple admiral, a subspecies common in southern New England that does not have a white band. In the zone of hybridization, these butterflies often have partial white bands. The red-spotted purple does not have a white band because it has evolved to mimic the poisonous pipevine swallowtail found in its range as a

defense against predators.

White admirals fly in our region from late May to early September, but are usually most abundant in late June and early July. Sometimes there is a smaller second generation in August. Look for butterflies that take short flights, staying low to the ground. White admirals also bask in the sun on leaves and gravel roads.

Individuals live only one to three weeks, during which time they must reproduce. Females lay pale green eggs on leaf tips of preferred host trees such as birch, aspen, willow, and cherry. The

emergent caterpillars become brown-green with white saddles as they feed on the leaves of these trees. As these caterpillars outgrow their skin, they shed to reveal new skin beneath. White admiral caterpillars go through three of these growth stages, or "instars." In fall, a third instar caterpillar will attach to a twig on a host tree and make a leafy case around itself. It develops a hard-shelled chrysalis in which to spend the winter. In spring or summer an adult butterfly emerges from the chrysalis, and the cycle begins again.

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.

'Dance, dance wherever you may be'

In the summer of 1518, the city of Strasbourg in France (then part of the Holy Roman Empire) was enjoying a rebirth after many troubling years. The markets were alive, merchants were trading, and the townsfolk were in high spirits, their worries swept away by the promise of a prosperous year.

One bright July morning, a woman named Frau Troffea stepped into the town square. Without warning, she began to dance. Her movements were rhythmic and joyous, and passersby couldn't help but be drawn in by her infectious energy. At first, they watched with smiles, assuming she was

celebrating some personal good fortune.

As the day wore on, Frau Troffea continued to dance, her feet moving tirelessly across the cobblestones. Concern began to creep into the onlookers' faces, but the sight was so bizarre that they couldn't look away. ple

By the second day, more peohad joined her, caught up in the strange compulsion. The square, once a place of mundane daily life, had transformed into a scene of inexplicable merriment.

But as the days turned into weeks, the mood shifted. The dancers could not stop. They moved with a frantic, uncontrollable energy, their faces twisted in expressions of pain and fear. Attempts to intervene or to reason with them were futile. Doc-

tors and priests were called, but their remedies and prayers did nothing to break the spell. The dancers continued even with their bodies growing weaker and weaker with each passing hour.

The city officials, desperate to end the mysterious plague, constructed a stage and hired musicians, believing that more music might somehow exhaust the dancers and bring an end to their torment. But this only seemed to fuel the frenzy. It was as if the dancers were possessed, driven by an unseen force that would not release them.

What had started as a curious spectacle soon became a nightmare. The relentless dancing led to exhaustion, dehydration, and in some cases, death. The town square, once filled with laughter and music, now echoed with cries of anguish and despair. Families watched helplessly as their loved ones succumbed to the mysterious affliction.

Weeks passed before the dancing finally began to subside. The survivors were left with broken bodies and haunted minds,



The Movie Diary By Dom Cioffi

forever scarred by the ordeal. The townspeople were left to ponder the cause of this strange and deadly phenomenon. Some believed it was a curse, others were convinced it was a divine punishment.

> Modern historians speculate it may have been a case of mass hysteria, perhaps triggered by the stress and extreme poverty that inhabitants in the area were exposed to for decades. Others suggest that the dancing could have been instigated by food poisoning, perhaps caused by the toxic and psychoactive chemical products of ergot fungi, which grows commonly on grains used for baking bread. (Ergotamine is the main psychoactive product of

ergot fungi and is structurally related to the lysergic acid diethylamide, also known as LSD-25.)

No one knows for sure how many people died during this odd event. Some speculate that it was between 50 and 400, but these numbers come from accounts written many

years after the initial incident. In fact, the records of Strasburg fail to men-INARY ORIGIN STORY tion any deaths, which puts the final determination into question. The Dancing Plague of 1518 remains one of history's most enigmatic and unsettling events-a stark reminder of how quickly the line between joy and horror can blur.

In this week's feature. "Pearl, - An X-traordinary Origin Story," we meet a young woman who also experiences an awkward transformation. Initially she appears to be soft and innocent, but by the end of the movie, she is anything but.

"Pearl" is the origin story of the wildly popular horror film "X" and the second installment in the three-part series. I bypassed these films when they were released during the pandemic but decided to revisit them on the advice of several friends who vouched for their quality.

Actress Mia Goth portrays Pearl, and to say that she is mesmerizing would be an understatement. Goth carries an odd aura throughout this picture, encompassing a unique combination of innocence and creepiness that helps propel the storyline.

Check this one out if you're in the mood for a horror film wrapped in the stylistic packaging of a "Mary Poppins" movie. That may not sound enticing initially, but the creative filmmaking is what set this apart from your average horror offering.

An effervescent "B" for "Pearl," now available to stream on Amazon Prime. Got a question or comment for Dom? You

can email him at moviediary@att.net.

I chose Killington

I went home last week. For the first time in almost a decade. Well, not exactly home because my mom sold my childhood house in New York almost a decade ago, but back to my family. My dad's family. The kind of family where the first cousins were all so close growing up that all the second cousins still get together on a regular basis and the third cousins are now growing up



each other. They are committed to each other. It was beautiful to see, really, how close they all were. How they all knew everything about each other, had all kinds of private jokes and took photo after photo of all of them together. It was stunning to see how many cousins gathered for a

wedding, with pure excitement and filled with joy. My family was truly

together. They all still live close to each other or constantly travel to see

impressive to behold. From the outside. Because that's where I was.

While they continued to have all these meetups and get togethers, I have not seen my family. There were little ones I hadn't met and didn't know their names. Cousins I hadn't seen since the last wedding ...

Having made the decision to move to Killington over two decades ago, I left my family behind. I chose skiing over family holidays and

weddings and birthdays and ... everything. That's the harsh reality of becoming a ski bum that no one tells you: that for skiing you will give up everything and everyone. For the magic of powder turns, you will make yourself forget that you have cousins.

Honestly, I had almost forgotten I had a family until social media came around. It was there that I was able to learn about new cousins and exciting milestones. So much was happening to them and I was missing it ... but nothing ever seemed as important as making sure that all the powder was tracked up and by me.

I was selfish. Seriously selfish. Everything became subservient to skiing 200 days a year. I was addicted, the same as any addict would be, not caring for anything or anyone except the skis on my feet and then training all summer to be ready for the next winter. A complete cycle of selfishness.

Living the Dream \rightarrow 38

Sailing escapades, narrow escapes, tragedy on the home front and healing in Vermont

Building a Killington Dream Lodge part 23

Duane and I spent time in Vermont when we could get away for long weekends. Duane enjoyed helping Dad catch up with two-man jobs delayed due to his cancer surgery. They talked while they

worked about their lives, careers, golf, fishing, and other guy stuff. Dad listened intently to Duane's neighborhood projects, and wanted to see them for himself while visiting us in Virginia in the fall. They also related stories from childhood— Duane's life in Charlotte. North Carolina, where his father was a mailman and mother an accountant, and Dad's boyhood adventures in the wilds of

Mexico when his dad was American Consul General. The two men I most loved in the world developed a close father-sonin-law bond together.

Duane's work continued at the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA). I was recruited to become a field representative for the Commonwealth Girl Scout Council. Since we were living in Richmond, Virginia, the



and South Dakota mother. Duane was a Southerner, born and bred. His father's family was Swiss-German Mennonite. Duane's mother's grandparents were English and Scottish immigrants who settled in the mountains of North Carolina. Duane felt more at home in Richmond than I did, but Duane had convinced me to "Bloom where you're planted." I was adapting to the beautiful,

historic, city of contradictions. Duane and his boss co-owned a 23foot Chrysler sailboat. Many weekends we spent exploring Chesapeake Bay from the Mobjack Bay Marina. Sailing on the largest U.S. estuary was limitless and thrilling. It extends from Norfolk, Virginia north to Baltimore, Maryland and Washington D.C. It crosses eastward from Virginia's coastline to Delaware's

Meditation \rightarrow 37

Mountain

Meditation By Marguerite Jill Dye





The Mountain Times • July 31 - Aug. 6, 2024

from page 32





tomy during a long stint in the Anaheim, California Hospital. She went into the hospital a vibrant and lively Carmen Miranda and came out aged and wrecked — robbed of her beauty and her dignity. Her transformation forever influenced my deep seated fears of serious illness, incapacitation and hospitals. Without any doubt it influenced my denial functions.

Those fears were tuning forks of death and destruction, high-pitched vibrations, dissonant symphonies in my ears. But reality was the tidal wave that blew away my house of denial, for now, we were rapidly moving to the time of reckoning.

Charley's needs prevailed over my fears and attempts to resist the truth. Charley was going to die, and soon...and his eyes — his eyes, frightened and wary, spoke volumes, "Hey Da – I'm not good, this is bad, really bad, I'm not happy. I hurt and I'm scared. I really need you now."

I spent lots of time with my arms around him, cheek to jowl. I would pet him, scratch him and love him up deep into the night, sooth his whimpering, whispering in his ears, "Charley is my baby boy, he's just a big baby boy, my big, big baby boy."

A time a while back, on a day free of false convictions, I was pondering a final resting place. One Saturday morning at the Farmers Market my friend Greg Cox, owner and lead farmer of Boardman Hill Farms, had a unique offer. The burley, curly-haired leader of the Rutland Farm movement, said, "Why don't you consider putting him down on my property, I have a farm animal graveyard and Charley would be most welcome, and I am only 4 miles away from your home. I also have a backhoe."

It was a wonderful offer and I accepted immediately.

My shaman friend, Luis Robles, from Baja Norte, Mexico, had challenged me "You will not burn your dog!" You will put him in a shroud and then put him 6 feet in the earth...let the elements return him to the elements; and plant a tree!" Seemed like a much more civilized plan.

And then the final slide... on May 25 at 6:30 in the morning, on the floor of the dining room, Charley was hit by a grand mal seizure, a 10+ Richter Scale earthquake inside his body — every square inch jerked and jolted with high-velocity tremors, and worst of all, his mouth opened like the jaws of a crocodile making deep guttural sounds as if he was drowning and trying to swallow simultaneously. It was terrifying.

I stayed close and rammed down tears of fear and panic. I was certain he was going to die, right there and right then. But no, not just yet. He slowly rebounded, the seizure subsided, and he was in a stupor for the remainder of the day.

At dinner time, that evening, while eating in the laundry room, he had a second seizure. We came upon it at its conclusion, Charley was splayed on the floor, amidst food and the contents of his guts. We knew it was time.

The next day, we called Carol at Riverside Vet. She listened carefully and said, "This is entirely your decision to make, and it is very difficult, but I would council you that he will not rebound, and this extreme discomfort will continue."

"Tomorrow... can we do it tomorrow?"

11:30 a.m. May 23, 2024, the time was set.

We called our key people and invited them to pay a final visit. It was just too painful for the Walkers, and they passed. My son-in-law Sam, our artisan friend Warren, a couple of neighbors, and lastly young Mallory and her mother, all spent a few precious moments. Poor Mallory's expressionless face was protecting the war inside. She got on her knees, hugged and kissed him. He spent the majority of the day sleeping. I slept next to him for much of the night. An occasional sigh was the only noise of his last sleep.

At 11 the next morning, we put his bed in the car, helped him gently onto it and made our way to Riverside Vet. When we walked into the building, I had a sixth sense that he knew why he was there. I could tell that he was scared, "What's going to happen, help me...I need you. I really need you now."

I began to fall apart. We entered a small room in the clinic, and they took him out to insert the IV. When he returned, he had two blue bandages, one on each arm, and he looked so very vulnerable. The young assistant chirped, "We had to do both arms to find a willing vein."

I suppressed saying, "He's going to die, and you had to hurt him??!!"

I got on the floor on my stomach, my chin on the floor looking directly into his eyes. Vet Carol came in and hooked up the IV. We were eyeball to eyeball, his jowls in my hands. "Let go baby boy, just let go. I'm here – I'm with you, I love you, baby boy."

There was a final deep connection with me, perhaps one he had saved for this special occasion. The years of our glorious eye contact winnowed down to this precious moment. A deep sigh escaped him, and his lids closed slowly as the sleep and then the heart-stopping meds were induced. Tears flowed and my guts turned inside out. Gone. My baby boy was gone...forever. Is, then Isn't.

We made our way to Boardman Hill Farm, in a stupor, Charley's remains in the back of the car. Greg Cox anticipated our arrival and invited us in for tea. He said, "Before we take Charley to his resting place...I want to tell you about my experience I have had around the death of animals on my farm. He focused upon the death of a beloved pig, his prized lady who had birthed over 200 piglets." We saw his pain at the passing of a girl he had loved. He told of a few others. Our shared experience made the short journey to the grave and the business there more bearable. He was so kind and attentive to do that.

We arrived at his freshly dug grave and lowered him, and then his monogrammed bed, for a blanket, into the earth. Greg smiled and said, "You don't need to stay for this next part, I got this." I hovered at the edge of the grave, transfixed upon one paw sticking out from under his bed.

"Goodbye my friend, goodbye to the only son I ever had, goodbye to your sweet, gentle nature, loved by so many, goodbye to morning licks on the face, good bye to running in my rear view mirror, and the swim we took on the first day, goodbye to your regal bearing as you sat at our feet, three in the family. Goodbye to your zest for life, Goodbye my baby boy, my baby boy

In Thorton Wilder's masterpiece, "Our Town," Emily, after dying in childbirth, is allowed back, as a spirit, to visit her family on the day of her 12th birthday. As she watches her family quietly going about their mundane everyday tasks, she turns to the stage manager and asks: "Does anybody live life, every, every minute?" The stage manager, replies, "The saints, and the poets...they do some." And of course...our Charles Wallace the Magnificent.

Charley, my big, big baby boy Charley."





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Meditation:

from page 33

eastern shore. Duane was so Zen on the sailboat, gazing peacefully across the bay, I hardly recognized him. He was living a dream he'd had for eons, maybe from an earlier lifetime. He had a natural knack for sailing that calmed his nervous energy. Except, just like in Vermont, not even the Weather Service could always predict the day ahead...

One warm sunny afternoon, as we sailed along at a good clip, the emergency alarm on our weather radio sounded then a voice shouted: "Batten down the hatches! Head for shore! Extreme weather conditions for the next 20 minutes."

In a flash, the sun disappeared. Wind violently whipped the sails around. Duane raced to secure them before they became uncontrollable or ripped. I threw the radio into the cabin and grabbed the railing as severe warnings continued. Waves crashed over us. The downpour began. Pitching and rolling started in ernest. As the boat tossed, Duane grabbed the mast to avoid catapulting in the turbulent sea.

I screamed "May Day" on the CB. "The storm has hit us really hard. We're off the coast by the Mobjack Bay Lighthouse. We're dragging our anchor. I think we're in trouble."

No one answered. Did anyone hear me or take my plea seriously? I prayed we'd make it safely to shore. Twenty minutes later, still clutching the CB, the rain and wind ceased and the waves calmed down. The peril had passed. We were safe.

When I returned to my new job the next day, my female coworkers gasped at our near brush with death (which repeated itself, week after week). It reminded me of close calls in the Alps when terrifying storms arrived from nowhere.

We returned to Killington, which seemed quite tranquil after our harrowing sailing experiences. It felt good to be on solid ground.

Overcoming adversity, even self-inflicted, strengthened our union and built our trust. The pluses of marriage seemed to outweigh the negatives of constant compromise. Give, take, then give some more, like taking turns leading a dance. Sensitivity was necessary, along with frequent mind reading. Conversation was essential. Learning how to talk with each other (and not clam up) was imperative. Sharing our values and beliefs helped overcome challenges in our cross cultural union. Vermont was neutral ground that helped unite us. It gave us the pause to dream big dreams, and the strength to carry them out.

Lots was going on in our lives, then suddenly, I became pregnant. I was excited and filled with joy. I did everything right in the realms of food and exercise. All was well until Week 12 hit. Spotting revealed there was a problem. It led to a horrible miscarriage.

The doctored explained it was the most common time to occur when the pregnancy wasn't viable.

I was devastated, and for a time, depressed, hopeless, and withdrawn. Our minister's wife wrote me a note. "Better luck next time."

I was dumbfounded. I was mourning the loss of our dream to become a family. My body and hormones were all askew. I felt as if my body had betrayed me. Duane was compassionate and mourning, too. Six months later, he developed hair loss, a case of alopecia. It was his symptom for the loss we felt.

After the tragedy of the miscarriage, I was discouraged and wondered if our family would ever manifest. We needed something positive to focus on to recover from our anguish and grief. We retreated to Vermont to heal. We talked heart-to-heart, regained our perspective, and dreamed a new dream for our future. I couldn't foresee one day our Killington Dream Lodge would become our multi-generational family homestead.

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 jilldyestudio@aol.com.



By Margeurite Iill Dye The author's painting of Duane and her son fishing together in Killington.



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Living the Dream: from page 33

And then Covid happened. Like detox, Killington being closed for almost eight months left me bereft and without my drug. I didn't know what to do, but over time I realized that I could enjoy skiing without being overwhelmed by it. I began to find balance. I started focusing more on my work and celebrating the moments that I was outside. I found joy in one run and stopped shaking when we weren't at the mountain by a certain time every day. I started to miss days of skiing — on purpose — when I didn't feel well or just didn't feel like going. I started to find balance.

And I started noticing things. Like how I had severed the relationship with my dad's family. How I knew nothing about them.

That showed at my baby cousin's wedding this past weekend. I was an outsider, a stranger looking in on something beautiful that I was no longer a part of. I mean, I had been the older cousin of a large group of younger cousins, so I could always blame that but ... I chose Killington a long time ago while they chose each other.

So although it was heart wrenching to watch my family

from the outside, I reminded myself that I chose to leave. That I chose to walk away from the closeness and safety of our beautiful family. I chose adventure, mountains and a life that I built entirely on my own. Okay, with the bf by my side. Although I felt I had to sacrifice my family to do it, this new life was so important that it was a decision I was willing to make.

Do I regret moving to Killington and building my entire life around skiing and the mountains? Absolutely not. This mountain carries my soul. Do I wish that I could have done so without severing my relationship with my family? Absolutely. I would have loved to be Cousin Meri, to be part of the inner cousin circle and see those little cousins grow up. But I was a lot dumber 25 years ago and didn't know any better. I could not see how to be a ski bum while maintaining that link with the real world. And so I did the only thing I thought I could in the moment: I chose Killington.

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



Courtesy Merissa Sherman





This **4-bedroom**, **2-bathroom**, fully furnished chalet just off the Killington Rd is ready for you to move in and enjoy! Flat level driveway on the end of a quiet town maintained road makes access easy to the large front wraparound deck complete with a private sunken hot tub. The lower level contains 2-bedrooms, full bath and an open kitchen/dining area with a wood stove. Upstairs there is a large family room, 2 additional bedrooms, another full bathroom and wood burning fireplace. This home is perfect for year round use! This property is permitted as a two-family duplex. The current owners have used it as a single family primary residence but it could be converted back to two units to use as a multi-family if desired. **Listed by Laura Derderian**.



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The Pond

I look out onto the pond, at the ducks happily swimming, at the frogs hopping from rock to rock and at the people kayaking. I hear the crickets and birds, as the sun just barely peeks through the mountains. The sky is a beautiful display of red, orange, pink and yellow. I wish I could stay, look at it forever, but I must carry on with the day that awaits me.

Tales By Izzy Gieder



Crashing waves

Ocean waves crashing on the sand, Making the sand sparkle, As if it was a beach made of glitter, Crystal clear water, Colorful fish swimming below, Sunset reflecting on the water, Showing beautiful shades, Of pink, Yellow, Purple, Orange, And Blue, How gorgeous, Shimmering and shining, Waves crashing on the sand.





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This dessert bar recipe is perfect for summertime fun

Summer is a time of year when people can enjoy their pick of fresh fruit at farm stands, supermarkets and other retailers. Many fruit trees, plants and bushes are ready for harvest in the spring and summer, meaning there's no limit to the number of delicious recipes one can whip up with these sweet offerings.

Peaches are a favorite ingredient in many different types of desserts, from cobblers to pies. But in this recipe for "Fresh Peach Crumble Bar," peaches are presented as a cross between a cake and cookie. Enjoy this recipe, courtesy of Saving Room for Dessert, as adapted from AllRecipes.com.

Fresh Peach Crumble Bars

Yield 20

- Crust/Crumb topping:
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup unsalted butter cold, cut into cubes
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten

Peach layer:

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 5 large peaches, peeled and diced
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

Icing:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 tablespoon milk (more or less for desired consistency)

1. Preheat oven to 350 F if using a glass pan or dark metal pan, or 375 F for a light metal pan. Lightly grease or spray a 13 x 9-inch baking pan and set aside.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk together 1 cup of sugar, 3 cups of flour,

baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Using a pastry cutter, blend in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse sand. Add the lightly beaten egg and mix until the dough starts to hold together, but is still crumbly. Gently press a little more than half the dough into the prepared pan. (Optional: Use a food proces-

sor to process these ingredients.)

3. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the sugar, cornstarch and cinnamon. Add the diced peaches and toss to combine. Drizzle the lemon juice over the peaches and toss to coat. Pour the peach mixture over the crust and spread evenly.

4. Using your hands, press together handfuls of the remaining crumb topping to create clumps. Scatter the clumps and remaining crumbled topping over the fruit layer, leaving some peaches showing through.

5. If using a glass pan, bake at 350 F for 50 to 55 minutes or until lightly browned. If using a metal pan, bake at 375 F for 40 to 45 minutes. Cool completely, then chill before cutting and icing.

6. Whisk together the powdered sugar, almond extract and milk. Drizzle on the bars just before serving.



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