



MEADOWS & MOUNTAINS FESTIVAL HELD SUNDAY

Mission Farm in Killington hosts its second annual Meadows & Mountains Festival Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The popular event features live music, kids' activities, food trucks and vendors.

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BARNARD STREET DANCE RETURNS

Barnard Street Dance is Saturday! This free event at Barnard Town Hall, features boat races, live music, contra dance, bouncy houses, games, face painting, and raffles.

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POPULATION OF BLACK BEAR IS HEALTHY IN VT

New data shows population of black bears is growing by 8%.

Page 6

A year after Act 76, childcare offerings surge

By John Flowers, Addison Independent

A recent, massive infusion of new money into Vermont's childcare system through a new law has helped create 1,000 new slots statewide and spurred a renaissance in the industry, which had sustained major losses in childcare offerings during the Covid pandemic.

State and local officials on Aug. 7 converged on Middlebury's Mary Johnson Children's Center (MJCC) to celebrate the impacts of Act 76, a sweeping childcare revitalization law that since its passage last year has generated an additional \$125 million to allow childcare centers to expand their enrollment, upgrade their facilities, and increase compensation and professional development opportunities for their educators and staff.

Fueled by a 0.44% payroll tax, the new mandate has also broadened the number of Vermont households eligible for assistance through the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP). That program in April began offering tuition aid to families earning up to 400% of the federal poverty level (or \$124,800 for a family of four), a bar that'll move up to 585% (or \$182,520) this October.

The current federal poverty line is \$31,200 for a family of four.

"We are turning a corner; this has been a remarkable amount of progress in a short period of time," said Aly Richards, CEO of Let's Grow Kids, a nonprofit childcare advocacy organization based in Burlington. "Public investment in childcare is working"

Implementation of Act 76 resulted in a quick turnaround in MJCC's fortunes

Childcare → 14



By Victoria Gaither

Rodeo days wrap up at Pond Hill Ranch

This Saturday is the penultimate rodeo of the summer season at Pond Hill Ranch in Castleton. The Pond Hill Pro Rodeo Company has produced rodeos for over 50 years in western Vermont. The ranch hosts 10 events throughout the summer on Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. The final rodeo of the season will take place Aug. 31. See page 22 for more information and photos.

Vermont's new motel room limits are primed to push out hundreds of households this fall

A new statewide room cap is prompting officials to prioritize who gets a spot

By Carly Berlin/VTDigger

When Mary Mojica's Waterbury apartment flooded last summer, all she could grab were a couple of boxes, some clothes, and her dog, Bella. Since then, Mojica, 59, has taken up residence at the Days Inn in Colchester, with the aid of a voucher from Vermont's emergency housing program. Her efforts to find a rental she can afford on her disability income have stalled. And her days at the Days Inn will soon run out.

On a recent afternoon, Mojica stood in the hotel parking lot, peering up at Bella, who was poking her nose through the

blinds in Mojica's balcony window.

"It's hard for her to be in, like, a room," Mojica said. "But it's better than being outside. That's what scares me."

This past legislative session, lawmakers passed new limits on the emergency housing program in an attempt to rein in costs as the state scales back the program's pandemic-era expansion. Those limits will largely come to bear in September. Beginning July 1, participants' stays were capped at 80 days a year – outside of the winter months, when the cap will be lifted. For many, including Mojica, that 80-day limit will hit early this fall.

The new law also imposes a cap on the total number of rooms the state will pay for this fiscal year: On Sept. 15, an 1,100-room limit will kick in (it will also be lifted during the winter). No such cap exists now. One month out from that date, the program is oversubscribed: 1,416 households remained in the program as of Aug. 12, the latest data available.

By definition, all of the households currently sheltered through the motel program meet vulnerability criteria, including families with kids, people with disabilities, and people fleeing domestic violence.

Officials had speculated whether program participants would ration their 80 days throughout the year, or use them all in one go – potentially allowing the state to reach the new

Hotel limits → 13



Submitted

A homeless man and his dog attempt to sleep on the sidewalk.



Courtesy Arra Derderian

Junior Golf League: Killington falls to Rutland, looks toward fall

Monday, Aug. 14, marked what was intended to be the first of two matches against Rutland Country Club for the Killington Junior Golf League. The first was held at Green Mountain National Golf Club (GMNGC); the second scheduled for Monday, Aug. 19, at Rutland Country Club, but was postponed a week due to rain.

The match-up on Aug. 14 consisted of three pairings from each team. Two players from Rutland and two from Killington made up the three foursomes. They played a scramble format for three holes and the team with the lowest score won

that hole. Overall Rutland took the win 3-0 but Killington left with high hopes to fight back the next time the teams meet.

Local junior golf leagues are close to wrapping up their summer sessions and getting ready to head into fall with some fun competitions.

Over the summer Killington Junior Golf League athletes practiced on Monday nights at GMNGC where they learned etiquette and the rules of the game, while on Tuesday morning they were given swing instruction by golf coach Jonathan Brisbane. The season lasted eight weeks and the

golfers have shown great improvement in that short time. “We would like to thank Green Mountain National for hosting us all season. It’s great to see the numbers of the program grow from last year,” said coach Arra Derderian.

Derderian was assisted by coaches Jason Evans, Tim Ryan, and Evan Ehmann throughout the summer.

The Killington Junior Golf League will continue into the fall with 3rd/4th graders on Tuesday nights and 5th/6th graders on Monday nights. If your child is interested please reach out to the Killington Recreation Department.

UVAC hires Kevin Blum as head swim team coach

The Upper Valley Aquatic Center (UVAC) announced Aug. 15 that Kevin Blum will be its head swim team coach.

“With an impressive and diverse background in both collegiate and club coaching, Blum brings a wealth of experience and a track record of success to UVAC,” the organization stated.

Blum joins UVAC after serving as the associate head swim coach at the University of Hawaii, where he helped lead both the men’s and women’s teams to dominant MPSF championship titles. During his time, the team broke eight school records in 2023, and another seven school records in 2024. Blum’s collegiate coaching experience also includes his tenure as assistant coach at Boston College from 2019 to 2021, where he co-led Alex Sobers to the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Prior to coaching at the collegiate level, Blum spent 18 years coaching club swimming. He started the Rattler swim club in Los Angeles, and over 11 years coached swimmers to Nationals, Olympic Trials, and onto the USA National Junior and National Teams. Additional club coaching stints included being the director of coaching at Surrey Park swim club in Australia, as well as with the Marlins of Raleigh,

where the team took first place at the 2015 Futures championships and earned USA Swimming Club Excellence Gold status, ranking as the No. 2 club team in the U.S.

Blum’s dedication to coaching excellence is reflected in the numerous awards and recognition he has received throughout his career, including the American Swim Coaches Association (ASCA) Award of Excellence and being named to the USA coaching staff for the 2013 World University Games. His commitment to athlete development is evident, having coached over 40 athletes at club level to achieve their first Futures, Junior Nationals, or Nationals qualifying performances.

“We are thrilled to welcome Kevin Blum to the UVAC family,” said Joe Major, executive director of UVAC. “Kevin’s extensive coaching background, his proven ability to develop top-tier athletes, and his passion for swimming align perfectly with our mission to foster excellence in aquatics. We are confident that Kevin will lead our swim team to new heights.”

Blum holds a B.S. in recreation management from California State University, Northridge, where he was also a Division I swimmer for the CSUN



Submitted
Kevin Blum

Matadors. His personal playing history and deep understanding of the sport have shaped his coaching philosophy, making him an invaluable asset to the UVAC community.

Kevin Blum is set to begin his role immediately.

The Upper Valley Aquatic Center, located in White River Junction, is a state-of-the-art facility offering a wide range of aquatic programs, including swim lessons, competitive swimming, water fitness, and family recreation.

For more info, visit: uvacswim.org.

New vehicle emissions repair pilot program to provide funding assistance, protect air quality

The Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is launching the Automotive Emissions Repair Assistance Program Pilot with partner repair facilities in Shelburne and Bennington, the state announced Aug. 19.

As a small-scale pilot, this program will help low-income vehicle owners with repairs required to pass the emissions portion of the annual state inspection. The pilot can provide funding for vehicle emissions systems repairs, covering up to 50% of the vehicle’s fair market value, with a maximum limit of \$2,500. Examples of eligible repairs include fixing a faulty catalytic converter or replacing a sensor.

“In a rural state like Vermont, owning and properly maintaining a vehicle can be costly,” said DEC Commissioner Jason Batchelder. “This critical program will not only reduce transportation-related costs for those who can least afford them, but also protect public health and air quality for all Vermonters.”

Malfunctioning vehicle emissions control systems can lead to poor engine performance, rough idling, and reduced power. Vehicles with these malfunctions emit more air

Emissions program → 14

Rutland County Humane Society is still seeking new location

By Curt Peterson

Sewage limitations and surrounding wetlands preventing expansion are forcing the Rutland County Humane Society to seek new digs, according to RCHS Executive Director Beth Saradarian in an Aug. 14 letter to supporters.

Since RCHS announced last spring that the organization needed a new home, they have investigated about 30 suggested sites. To qualify, a prospective location would comprise 5-10 acres, be near a major road, be central in the county, have appropriate commercial zoning, access to water, electric power and sewer or potential septic approval.

"We are still searching and are following up on a few new options, which we are optimistic about," Saradarian said.

"Our current building's systems are failing, we're out of room, and our ability to provide the animals with a healthy environment to thrive is diminished," wrote Saradarian.

The very active rescue organization has occupied its current site on Stevens Road in Pittsford since its founding in 1967. Animals available for adoption include dogs, both working and cuddling cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and white mice.

The shelter operates "in the black," but fundraising for the prospective new facility will be crucial to success. A feasibility study approached "various factors such



By Curt Peterson
RCHS's "Hattie," a 6-year-old female hound mix, was recently adopted by Peterson.

as donor interest, feedback on the proposed project, and our capacity to manage the campaign effectively ... new donors and volunteers, potential challenges and opportunities to help us develop a realistic fundraising goal and appropriate fundraising strategies," Saradarian wrote.

She told the Mountain Times no formal fundraising goal has been set yet, but they have raised funds dedicated to the new facility project. They are seeking an experienced fundraising campaign manager.

"We have a very loyal base of long-time, consistent, passionate and committed donors," she continued. "There is a clear understanding among donors and stakeholders of the need for a new facility."

Study respondents, however, think the planned facility "too ambitious and costly ... given the size and capacity of the Rutland County community." Donors who could give sizeable gifts, or leadership donations (\$1 million+ is typical) are relatively scarce, according to the study.

A redesigned, more affordable and achievable facility includes accommodation for expansion at a later time, a "phased approach," the study suggested.

"For example, a surgical suite would allow us to provide more services to our animals and our community, such as rabies clinics, spay/neuter for low-income county residents' pets, and more," Saradarian added.

Pittsfield's Tweed Valley Travelers receives \$60K for snowmobile trail grooming

Part of \$1.3 million to state for rural development

On Friday, Aug. 16, U.S. Senator Peter Welch (D-Vt.), Chair of the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy, celebrated major investments by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development in Vermont communities, totaling nearly \$1.3 million.

The announcements include funding to advance economic development across Vermont through the USDA's Rural Business Development Grants Program.

Locally, the program included a \$60,000 investment to Tweed Valley Travelers to purchase grooming equipment for snowmobile trails in and around Pittsfield. The trails are vital to many small businesses as they directly account for a significant portion of revenue. Well-maintained trails are an important part to the areas overall economic development. It is estimated that this project will maintain 28 full-time jobs while creating two new ones.

The total project cost is \$245,000, according to the Tweed Valley Travelers application. So the organization is still looking for \$185,000 in additional funding.

"Vermont's farmers and small businesses are the backbone of our communities and economy. Federal investments that expand access to new wholesale markets are crucial to spurring job growth. This funding will support economic and community

USDA grants → 14

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United Way of Rutland County announces 2024 Community Impact Grant recipients

The United Way of Rutland County (UWRC) announced the recipients of its 2024 Community Impact Grant cycle, Aug. 12. This year's cycle awarded 18 programs across 16 nonprofits within Rutland County. The Community Impact Grant process is guided by UWRC's three pillars of impact: health, education, and financial stability. All organizations that applied were required to demonstrate that their program or project aligns with one or more of these core mission values. Community leaders with backgrounds in healthcare, education, and finance united to review and score applications by sitting on one of the three subcommittees that represented each pillar.

Recommendations were given to the UWRC board of directors that aided in the overall decision making process for dispersing these funds. The teamwork between the subcommittees and board was focused on ensuring grants were awarded to programs that would amplify the capabilities of organizations serving the Rutland community, meet relevant needs in the Rutland Community, and reflect UWRC's three pillars of impact.

"Because of the extensive generosity within Rutland County, United Way of Rutland County can continue to help support enriching programs that better the lives of our neighbors in need," UWRC stated.

2024 grant awardees:

Come Alive Outside (passport program), The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center (stone bench project, Carving Studio 'mini'), ARC Rutland (vital community enrichment program), Rutland County Free Clinic (community based healthcare), Rutland Community Cupboard (food shelf), Rainbow Riding ('YES WE CAN' program), Vermont Farmers Food Center (farmacy and educational food series "mini"), RSVP and The Volunteer Center through Rutland Community Programs (One2One & RSVP Bone Builders "mini"), Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County (scholarship program), VNA Hospice of the Southwest Region (Choices For Care program), Housing Trust of Rutland County Inc. (resident services program), Turning Point Center of Rutland (peer recovery support to high-risk populations), Slate Valley Unified School District (snack sack), BROC (P.I.E. Pantry International Experience), The Compassionate Friends (monthly newsletter "mini") and Companions in Wholeness (meal programming).

For more information, visit www.uwrutlandcounty.org.

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 **Rutland Regional Medical Center**
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By Jason Mikula

Killington Road is prepared for paving

This week Killington Road is closed again from Anthony Way to its intersection with Route 4 for paving. The detour is up West Hill Road. The road will reopen Monday, Aug. 26.

Where is the state road construction this week?

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) publishes this weekly report of planned construction activities that will impact traffic on state highways and interstates throughout Vermont, Aug. 19-23 and ongoing.

I-91 Springfield-Hartland: Lane closures will be in place on I-91 South from north of Exit 9 to just south of Exit 7. A speed limit reduction to 55 mph is in effect through the work zone. The on- and off-ramps for Exits 7, 8, and 9 will remain open during final pavement marking, but motorists should be aware of limited widths, speed reductions, shifting traffic patterns, and wet paint.

Hartford: On Sunday evening, the slip ramp on the I-91 northbound off-ramp will be permanently removed. Sunday through Thursday during nighttime hours, motorists can expect minimal delays with lane shifts and alternating one-way traffic on Route 5 between Bugbee Street and VT 14. Monday through Friday during daytime hours, motorists should expect significant delays on Route 5 from the Hartford/Hartland town line to the intersection of the on-ramps for I-91 south and I-89, Route 5 from the intersection of North Main Street and Hartford Avenue continuing just north of Devin Street, and Route 5 from the intersection of the on-ramps for I-91 south and I-89 to the intersection of North Main Street and Hartford Avenue. Flaggers and uniformed traffic officers will be present to assist motorists through the work zone.

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 along 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 of the Gorge Bridge will be closed through fall 2024. Signal permits alternating travel over the bridge. The trail at the bridge underpass is closed through fall 2025. The adjacent trail is open via a signed detour through the visitor center.

Rutland: A Class I highway resurfacing project will require nighttime lane closures from Sunday night to Saturday morning, 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 Ripley Road and Route 7. Intermittent width reductions will affect intersecting side streets. Traffic control will allow alternating one-way traffic. Expect grooved and uneven surfaces with raised structures. By 7 a.m. Saturday, Route 4 between Bellevue Avenue and St. John Street/Hillside Road will be reconfigured to a single lane in each direction with a center two-way left-turn lane. Pay attention to traffic pattern changes and follow pavement markings, roadway signage, and traffic signals.

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. After work hours, the roadway will be open to two lanes of traffic.

Full Quechee Road rehab estimated at \$6 million, options considered

By Curt Peterson

Perhaps because of traffic volume on Quechee Road, and although there are much worse and less-used Hartland roads, conditions on the main route from Hartland Three Corners to Quechee village is the topic of frequent complaints on the local listserv.

The section between Gilson Road and Webster Road is particularly bad, featuring cracks, potholes, large patches of missing asphalt layers and failing road edges. For some years the common refrain has been “poor base that has to be replaced.”

At Monday’s Select Board meeting Scott Williams of Pathways Consulting in Lebanon reviewed a current eight-page engineering report regarding a detailed study of the 6-mile road that was financed with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The tests and engineering were performed by M&W Soils Engineering of Charlestown, and the report authored by Randal Rhodes.

Williams described how the engineers drilled approximately 40 holes 2-3 inches in diameter and up to 2½ feet deep that took soil samples from the actual roadbed. The soil was then analyzed for components in a laboratory.

What they found was multiple layers of asphalt over a sub-base of gravelly sand from 18 inches to 30 inches deep, originally meant as base for a gravel road. “Movement” within this layer causes cracking in the road surface. When ruts are formed and overlaid with asphalt, Williams said, they remain as non-conforming parts of the base, exacerbating the movement and cracking effect.

“The overlayment on this road is actually in good condition,” he said. “It’s what’s underneath that’s causing the problem.”

The problematic section of Quechee Road has ledge

on one side, and a steep slope on the other. Williams said inadequate ditching, ponding of water on the road, and subsidence on the slope side are also factors in the obvious surface failure.

He offered four options the town might use on the road.

- Option 1: just to do another 1- to 1½-inch layer of asphalt paving over the entire road.
- Option 2: involved “inlay and overlay,” milling the road surface to assist in bonding the new application to the existing road surface.
- Option 3: remove and reclaim the existing base and overlay before replacing, adding 4 inches of gravel or crushed stone and overlaying with new asphalt. “This option would not be very effective for the bad areas,” Williams said.
- Option 4: Excavate 18 inches (maybe 24 inches) of material and replace with appropriate sub-grade and sub-base component before overlaying with new asphalt. “This will be very expensive,” Williams said. “But if you consider your current ongoing and repetitive costs, you will save money in the long term.”

His rough estimate for Option 4 was \$1 million per mile, or \$6 million total, including a 20% contingency for unexpected issues.

Williams recommends doing the entire road, or at least significant sections, rather than limiting the project to the bad areas, as contractor costs for multiple smaller jobs will be higher.

“The contractor will probably execute the work one lane at a time, for minimum traffic disruption,” he said.

The culverts that were inspected are also in bad shape — some clogged, about 30% rusted through. These issues and

some guardrail damage would be mitigated separately, by the town.

Williams offered his help when the town begins planning and budgeting for the work.



Submitted

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Vermont bear population is healthy

Vermont's black bear population is estimated at roughly 6,300 to 7,600 based on 2023 data, the most recent available, according to a Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept (VTF&W) news release Monday, Aug. 19.

"The 2023 population estimate is a little lower than in 2022, which was a five-year high for Vermont's bears," said wildlife biologist Jaclyn Comeau, who leads the Black Bear Project at VTF&W.

There are many factors that influence a bear population. These include habitat quality, year to year changes in the availability of wild foods, the balance of female

Over the past five years the population has averaged an 8% increase.

to male bears as well as the proportions of different aged bears in that population, the number bears harvested by hunters each year, and the number of bears killed from non-hunting causes each year.

"A healthy bear population like Vermont's has a natural cycle of peaks and dips that plays out over years," said Comeau. "It is important to look at an individual year's population estimate in context to larger trends over time."

After a consistent overall increase from the 1970s through the 1990s, Vermont's bear population has been relatively stable through the 2000s, with periods of short-

er-term growth and decline. Over the past five years the population has averaged an 8% increase. Time will tell whether this increase is part of a shorter-term population cycle of peaks and dips or a longer-term change.

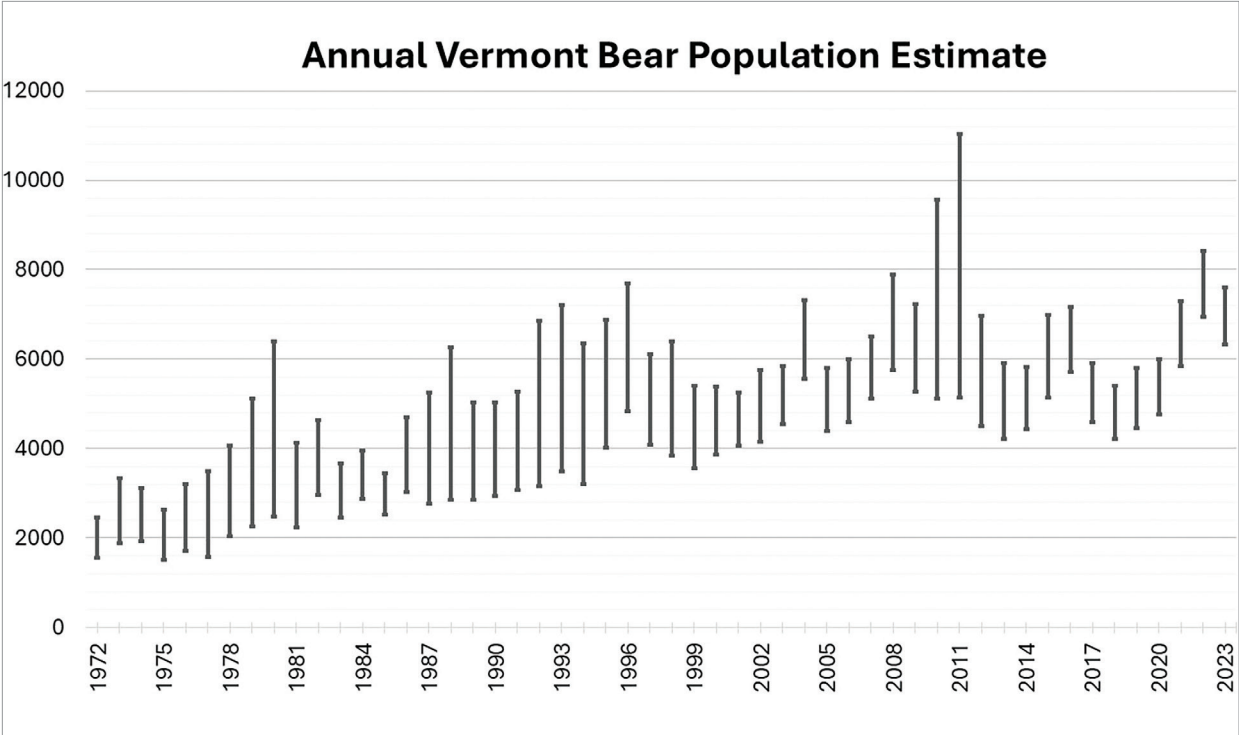
Today, Vermont's healthy bear population is the result of a decades-long research and conservation effort that includes land protection, regulated hunting and significant public education on preventing conflicts with bears. As recently as the early 1970s Vermont's bears were found only in mountainous areas and the Northeast Kingdom, and likely numbered between 1,500 and 3,500. Today they are found in every Vermont

town except communities on the Lake Champlain Islands.

"Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story, but our work isn't done. If you live in Vermont, you live in bear country and you are responsible for preventing conflicts with bears," said Comeau. "More than

If you live in Vermont, you live in bear country and you are responsible for preventing conflicts with bears," said Comeau.

anything else, that means keeping human food like garbage and birdfeeders out of bears' reach."



Courtesy VTF&W
The graph shows Vermont's bear population estimates from the 1970s through the most recently available data year, 2023.



Courtesy VTF&W
A black bear peeks around a tree at the photographer.

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GRACIE'S GRILL IS NOW OPEN

Incumbents hold most contested primary races

Election saw lowest turnout in a decade

Staff report

The fact that there were few contested statewide races likely contributed to the lowest voter turnout in a decade. Those that did vote, last Tuesday, overwhelmingly voted for the incumbents.

Governor

Republican Governor Phil Scott ran unopposed for the Republican nomination. He will run for a fifth term as governor.

Democrat Esther Charlestin, of Middlebury, will face Gov. Scott in the Nov. 5 General Election, after beating Peter Duval, of Underhill. Charlestin is the first Black woman to secure a major party's nomination for governor.

Charlestin won 49% of the vote to Duval's 19% (24,016 to 9,387), according to unofficial results from the Secretary of State's Office. An unusually high 32% of voters wrote in another name or left their ballot blank.

Lt. governor

Incumbent Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman, of Hinesburg, defeated challenger Thomas Renner, of Winooski, 28,671-18,843 for the Democratic nomination.

On the Republican side, John Rodgers, of West Glover, defeated Rutland's Gregory Thayer, 13,839-8,619 for the Republican nomination.

This race was the most closely watched statewide contested race in this election cycle.

Senate races

In Bennington County, both seats were in play following the death of Dick Sears and Jane Champion's decision not to run again.

Democratic Rep. Seth Bongartz, of Manchester, handily won one of the seats. Rob Plunkett, a deputy state's attorney from Bennington, won the other seat in a write-in campaign garnering 20% of the vote, according to the Secretary of State's office. According to VTDigger, write-ins accounted for 30% of all votes cast and were directed at more than 10 different candidates.

In Windsor County Democratic voters re-elected Senate Majority Leader Alison Clarkson of Woodstock and Sen. Rebecca White of Hartford to the State Senate. The remaining Democratic seat nomination, vacated by Sen. Dick McCormack, of Bethel, who is retiring, was won by newcomer Joe Major, the Hartford treasurer, executive director of the Upper Valley Aquatic Center, and current president of the White River Junction Rotary. Major also sits on the boards of the Upper Valley Haven and Northern Stage Theater and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.



Submitted

Jim Harrison holds a campaign sign along Route 4 in Mendon. He won re-election as state rep for the Rutland-11 district (Chittenden, Killington, Mendon and Pittsfield).



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Esther Charlestin hugs a supporter after winning the Democratic Party nomination for governor in Burlington on Primary Day, Tuesday, August 13.

On the Republican ballot, a four-person race for the three GOP nominations resulted in three victors crossing the finish line — Jack Williams, Andrea Murray, and Jonathan Gleason.

House races

In the Rutland-Bennington House district race, Chris Pritchard, of Pawlet, claimed the Republican nomination over Ronald W. Lacoste, of Wells, 360-122.

Low turnout

Not since 2014 had so few people voted in Vermont's primary elections.

On Tuesday, fewer people participated in choosing the Democratic and Republican nominees for November's general election than in any of the four previous election cycles, according to the state's unofficial results.

Only 15% of Vermont's registered voters cast a ballot, according to state elections director Séan Sheehan, a sharp drop from the 27% turnout rate in 2022, or the record-breaking 34% turnout rate in 2020. According to the Secretary of State's website, the highest turnout was in Guilford at 42%.

The Democratic primary saw about half the number of voters — around 50,000, according to preliminary totals — as the 2022 primary, when more than 102,000 voters turned in a ballot.

On the Republican side, participation dropped from over 30,000 votes cast in 2022's primary, to fewer than 25,000 votes in Tuesday's election. There are over 506,000 registered voters in Vermont, according to the Secretary of State's office.

This summer's primary season was particularly sleepy, with competitive primaries in only 14 of the state's 109 House districts and in just seven of the state's 16 Senate districts. For the first time in 68 years, four of Vermont's major party federal primary races featured no competition at all.

"How much of a turnout happens in August is often fairly dependent on how many contested races there are,"

Sheehan said.

Sheehan contrasted Tuesday's election with the 2022 primary, when staggering levels of turnover — from Vermont's first two open congressional seats in 16 years, to four open statewide races — led to much higher participation rates.

The unsurpassed 2020 turnout, Sheehan said, was due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which prompted the state to mail a ballot to every registered voter. That year, 73% of voters turned in absentee ballots, according to Sheehan.

Since then, Vermont has reverted to its previous election system, wherein voters must request a mail-in ballot if they want one. Although this year's rate of absentee voters — about 30% — was lower than the 2020 primary, it is still about double the 2018 primary rate, according to Sheehan.

"That is a shift that happened with the pandemic. The plateau (for absentee voter rates) is significantly higher now than it was before then," Sheehan said. "I think a lot of people like getting their ballots, doing their candidate research, in the comfort of their own home."

A longer view of Vermont's turnout in the August primaries reveals that Tuesday's 15% rate is not so extraordinary. The state has seen lower rates in three other election cycles in the past 20 years, including 7% in 2008, 12% in 2012 and 9% in 2014.

Higher turnout rates often correspond to hotly contested races, such as an open governor's seat, like the 23% in 2010 — when Republican Gov. Jim Douglas did not seek reelection — and the 25% in 2016, when Democratic Gov. Peter Shumlin decided to retire.

Nevertheless, at a press conference Wednesday, Gov. Phil Scott expressed his disappointment at Tuesday's low turnout rate and questioned whether the state had really gotten "the will of the people."

"You hear a lot of complaints about what's happening in our state, and we need people to vote to change it," Scott said. Sarah Mearhoff/VTDigger contributed to this reporting.



Green Mountain Care Board approves double-digit increase in health insurance premiums for third year in row

By Kristen Fountain/VTDigger

For the third year in a row, the Green Mountain Care Board has approved double-digit increases in the cost of annual premiums for individual Vermonters and small organizations who purchase their health insurance plans on Vermont Health Connect.

The approved premium increases will affect both individual and small group plans available on the state-run Affordable Care Act marketplace in 2025, affecting approximately 70,000 people.

The state’s health care regulator will allow Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont (BCBS) to increase individual premiums by 19.8% and small group premiums by 22.8% over this year’s rates, according to a Green Mountain Care Board press release. MVP Health Care, the only other insurer to offer plans on the marketplace, will be allowed to raise its individual premiums by 14.2% for individuals and 11.1% for small groups over 2024 rates.

Double-digit increases in premiums were also approved in these markets for 2023 and 2024.

“These rates reflect deep fundamental failures in our healthcare system and the immediate need for systematic change,” Green Mountain Care Board Chair Owen Foster said in a written statement. “Vermont must address its underlying healthcare cost structure, demographic and housing challenges, and transform its healthcare system if we are to alleviate the healthcare affordability crisis we are facing.”

The care board’s announcement noted that people who purchase a plan on the individual marketplace will continue to have access to expanded federal subsidies next year. Those subsidies would increase to cover the jump in prices. The board encouraged all individuals to explore their eligibility for that assistance.

However, the board acknowledged in the release that for purchasers of small group plans — generally small businesses and nonprofit organizations — and individuals whose income is too high to be eligible for subsidies, “the approved premium increases are painfully high.”

The board reduced each insurer’s request slightly based on the findings of its own actuarial consultants. However, the board largely accepted an amended increase request filed by BCBS of Vermont in July, in which they cited “extraordinary cost pressures” as the reason.

The Vermont Dept. of Financial Regulation had warned the nonprofit insurer that its reserve funds — which are used to cover higher than anticipated claims — were low enough to trigger a “company action level event,” a circumstance spelled out in state law that requires the insurer to come up with a plan to stabilize its reserves. BCBS of Vermont told the care board that it needed the larger premium increase for that purpose.

“While these rates are plainly unacceptable, the alternative of an insolvent insurer unable to pay for patient care was worse,” Foster said in his statement.

“These rates reflect deep fundamental failures in our healthcare system and the immediate need for systematic change,” Green Mountain Care Board Chair Owen Foster said.

Vermont joins lawsuit against Live Nation-Ticketmaster

Attorney General Charity Clark announced Monday, Aug. 19, that she has joined an antitrust lawsuit against Live Nation-Ticketmaster. The lawsuit, initially filed by the U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ) and state partners, alleges that Live Nation and its subsidiary, Ticketmaster, formed an illegal monopoly and engaged in anti-competitive conduct to maintain that monopoly. Attorney General Clark’s office has been investigating Live Nation-Ticketmaster since May.

“Competition is vital to a healthy economy, including in the live music industry,” said Attorney General Clark. “Live Nation-Ticketmaster has engaged in anticompetitive conduct that has ensured its dominance in the live concert and ticketing markets — at the expense of Vermont consumers, workers, and businesses. Their conduct makes live music less accessible for fans, artists, and the industry that supports them, and that is a shame.”

The amended complaint alleges that Live Nation-Ticketmaster unlawfully exercises its monopoly power in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act. As a result of its conduct, music fans in the U.S. are deprived of ticketing innovation and forced to use outdated technology while paying more for tickets than fans in other countries. At the same time, Live Nation-Ticketmaster exercises its power over performers, venues, and independent promoters in ways that harm competition. Live Nation-Ticketmaster also imposes barriers to competition that limit the entry and expansion of its rivals.

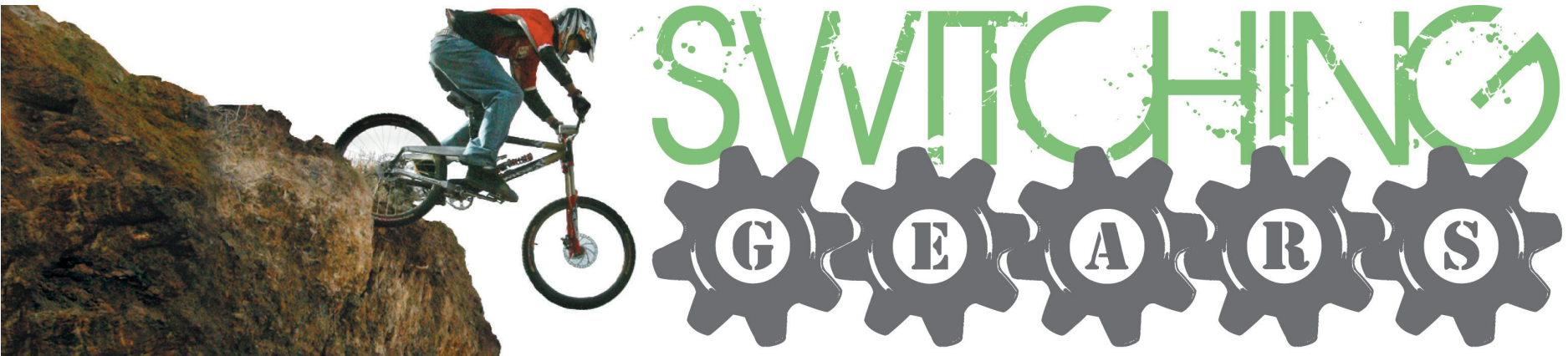
The lawsuit, initially filed in May in the U.S. District Court for Southern District of New York by the DOJ and its state partners, alleges:

- Live Nation has maintained its anti-competitive monopoly in ticketing markets by locking up venues through restrictive long-term, exclusive agreements and by threatening that venues will lose access to Live Nation-controlled tours and artists if they sign with a rival ticketing company.
- Live Nation leverages its extensive network of amphitheaters and other venues to force artists to select Live Nation as a promoter instead of its rivals, maintaining its promotions monopoly.
- Live Nation’s conduct has harmed fans through higher fees, lack of transparency, fewer consumer choices, and stifled innovation.

The lawsuit asks the court to restore competition in the live entertainment industry by:

- Ordering Live Nation to divest Ticketmaster.
- Awarding financial compensation to consumers who paid more than they should have for tickets in a competitive market.
- Prohibiting Live Nation from engaging in its anti-competitive practices.





Public opinion sought for mountain bike trail access, more camping at Lake St. Catherine State Park

The Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation is holding a public meeting to present plans for an additional camping loop at Lake St. Catherine State Park, located in Poultney.

The meeting will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. on Aug. 29, in the Nature Center at Lake St. Catherine State Park. The public is invited to attend the presentation and view a draft plan of the proposed expansion. A public comment period begins on Aug. 15, 2024, and closes on Sept. 12, 2024. Comments and questions should be sent to Rick Hedding, parks regional manager, at rick.hedding@vermont.gov or 802-770-0297. If emailing, please include "Lake St. Catherine Proposed Design Feedback" in the email subject.

To be clear, there is no funding or timeline yet in place for the plan. The goal is just to seek comments on the draft before engaging more costly services, including engineering and design work.

The plan reviews the opportunity to provide more camping sites at the park to support new recreational activities including a disc golf course and mountain bike trail access. The drafted plan proposes a new camping loop, which provides the opportunity for new services like hookups for waste, electric, and water.

No other state park currently offers water and electrical hookups at its campsites for guests, according to Hedding, so Lake St. Catherine State Park could be the first, if the draft plan is brought to fruition.

The plan includes 21 back-in RV sites (minimum electrical hookups), 15 new tent sites, formalizes circulation patterns, minimizes the impact on existing east loop campsites, separates campsite types (RV, tent) and designates quieter tent sites along the southern edge, and creates central common space with bathhouse, playground, and open lawn areas within RV camp area.

The new loop would be expanded onto park-owned land that had formerly been leased for growing corn but no longer is. That portion of the property has sat dormant for a couple of years, according to Hedding.

Now it will be utilized for expanding sites and create an access point for mountain biking, which will connect to the popular Endless Brook Trails (part of the Slate Valley Trails System) whose trailhead is just across Route 30.



View from Hardy's Hill lookout to Lake St. Catherine. The trailhead is near the state park.

By Polly Mikula



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Health care costs rise, access to affordable care diminishes and our leaders fail us

By Leslie J. Matthews

Editor's note: Leslie J. Matthews, co-chair of the Vermont Workers' Center campaign team.

On August 12, the Green Mountain Care Board approved a 19.8% increase for BlueCross BlueShield premiums on Vermont Health Connect individual plans, along with a 22.8% increase for small group plans. This is the third year in a row with double-digit rate increases.

As a longtime member of the Vermont Workers' Center, I've been helping to lead the "health care is a human right" campaign since 2008. In 2011, the Vermont Workers' Center and our partners were instrumental in gaining passage of Vermont's landmark universal health care law that remains in state statute, with its promise unfilled.

As a unionized state employee for 18 years (recently retired) I benefited from a mostly publicly funded, comprehensive health insurance program. Before landing a job with the state, though, I experienced the kinds of struggles to afford health care that I hear about when I speak with people around the state. I joined the Vermont Workers' Center's "health care is a human right" campaign because I know what it's like to struggle to afford care, and because I feel a moral imperative to work to extend what state employees have — or better — to everyone in the state.

In the 10 years since the governor and legislature abandoned universal health care, Vermont's health care crisis has grown exponentially worse. The costs for care and insurance premiums continue to skyrocket. Nine out of 14 hospitals in the state ended the last fiscal year in the red, with the threat of hospital bankruptcy closures imminent.

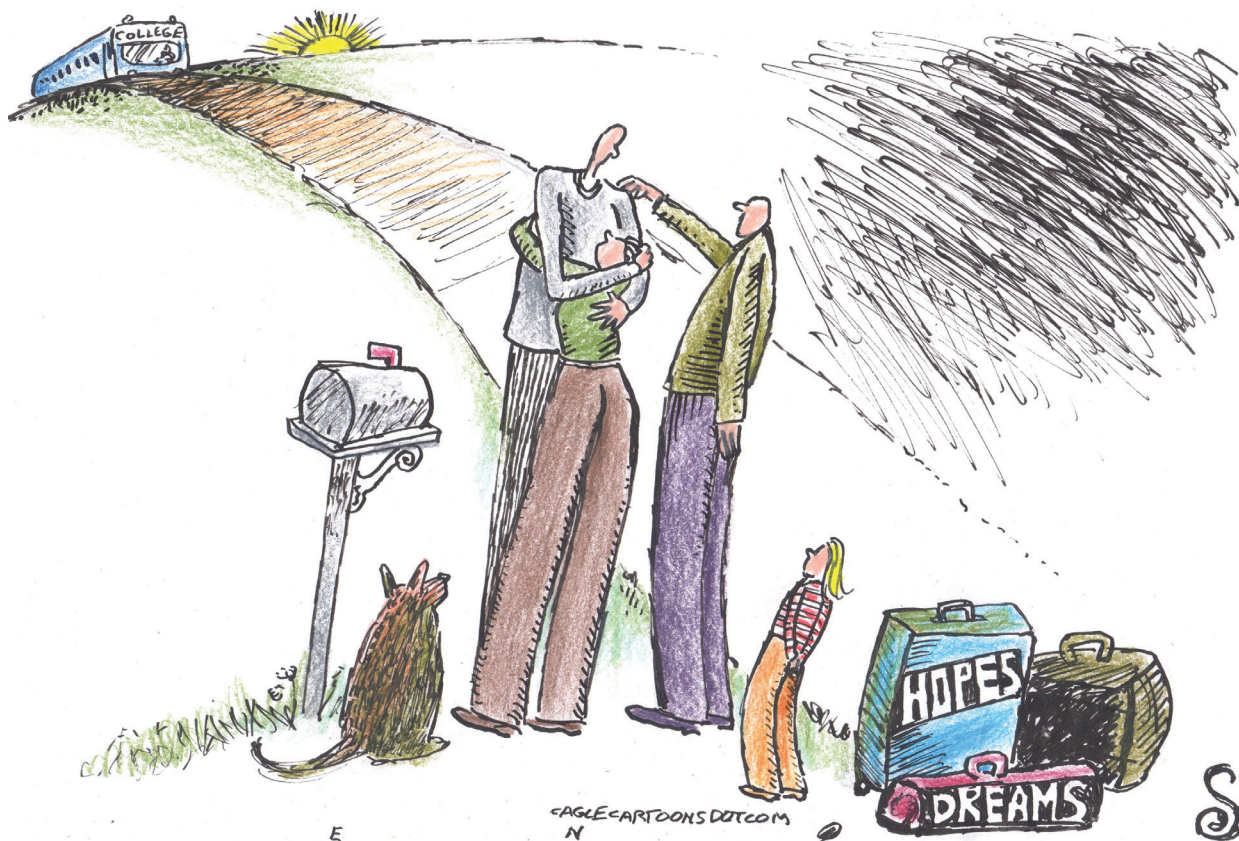
Close to 30,000 Vermonters were kicked off Medicaid from April to December of 2023, forcing many to buy into high-deductible, expensive, marketplace insurance plans. Many must simply go without health care or insurance because they can't afford it. Everyone, from policy experts and consultants, to legislators, health care providers, and the average person seeking care, agrees the system is failing us. In the words of consultant Dr. Bruce Hamory, "the health care system in Vermont, unfortunately, is badly broken."

While bold action is needed, meaningful political leadership is severely lacking. During this year's legislative session, the House Health Care Committee advanced a significant and long-overdue proposal to substantially expand Medicaid, while increasing reimbursements to providers to ensure that hospitals and medical practices remain solvent. The bill was introduced with the support of 80 representatives and 14 senators.

Listening to testimony before the House health care committee last winter, I heard a wide range of constituencies voice their support for the concept, including representatives of the Scott administration, provider organizations and patient advocates. I listened to gut-wrenching stories from health care providers who can't afford health care for themselves, or who worry about their ability to stay in practice and care for patients. I heard Vermonters speak about the stress of living with constant uncertainty about whether they will be able to remain on Medicaid, or afford increasing insurance costs,

Many must simply go without health care or insurance because they can't afford it.

Healthcare → 12



Leaving for college by Randall Enos, Easton, CT

LETTERS

Remembering Dan Kelly

Dear Editor,

We are so sorry to hear about the passing of Dan Kelly. He was truly a "Great Waiter" and most importantly a great person. He was an unique character, not short on personality. Many customers asked to be seated in his section and would wait until tables became available. He might not remember your name but would remember what your favorite breakfast order was and would have the coffee, tea or other beverage on your table before you sat down.

He was a very responsible person who only missed one day in his years of employment. He was never late even on those stormy blizzard days. He had the

restaurant open at 7 a.m. ready for the skiers/riders who wanted first tracks. He was employed for several years prior by John Petroni when the restaurant was Johnny Boys/Killington. He managed the front end of the Weathervane Restaurant in Rutland. He would greet a customer within 20 seconds of their arrival which he did in his resounding tone.

Customers from New Jersey would want to hear his take on Housewives of NJ and his opinion on most every gossip story in the news. Despite those "conversations" your breakfast would arrive without delay.

He loved his dogs and
Dan Kelly → 15

Predicting the unpredictable: budgeting for flooding and climate change

Dear Editor,

As Vermont recovers from yet another round of flooding and braces for what's left of Tropical Storm Debby, it may come as no surprise that Vermont is ranked seventh in the nation for the most federal disaster declarations due to extreme weather since 2011.

And some parts are harder hit than others: Washington County is tied for second as the most disaster-prone county in the country, while Lamoille, Chittenden, Orange, Orleans and Essex are all tied for fourth.

In addition to the very real emotional toll, these disasters cost the state money. Damage estimates from last summer's flooding exceed \$600 million—and over \$90 million of that fell on state and local government. In other words: disasters are expensive, and the state needs to start accounting for unanticipated costs from flooding and other disasters.

While the hope is that the federal government continues to pick up most

of the tab, the current funding structure of federal programs and increasingly localized flooding can leave communities stranded. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance program—which helps to rebuild public infrastructure—is one of the largest emergency relief programs, but these dollars are not guaranteed. To access this money, the state and each recovering county must hit a per-capita damage threshold set by FEMA. If the county does not hit the threshold, it cannot—except in limited circumstances—access FEMA dollars for disaster recovery. Likewise, if a county hits the threshold but the state does not, FEMA can choose not to provide federal recovery dollars.

Even with access to public assistance dollars, there are still costs that must be carried by state or local governments. Larger projects are funded on a reimbursement basis, so the Disaster costs → 13

WRITE TO US:

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CAPITOL QUOTES

The Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago on Monday, Aug. 19. President Joe Biden closed the night with a hand-off to Vice President Kamala Harris.

“She’ll be a president our children can look up to. She’d be a president respected by world leaders, because she already is. She’d be a president we can all be proud of. And she’d be a historic president who puts her stamp on America’s future,”

said President **Joe Biden**.

“A vote is a kind of prayer for the world we desire for ourselves and our children, and our prayers are stronger when we pray together,”

said Georgia Sen. **Raphael Warnock**, who is also a pastor at the Atlanta church where Martin Luther King Jr. once preached.

“When a barrier falls for one of us, it falls – it falls and clears the way for all of us... I want my grandchildren and their grandchildren to know I was here at this moment, that we were here, and that we were with Kamala Harris every step of the way. This is our time, America. This is when we stand up. This is when we break through. The future is here. It’s in our grasp. Let’s go win it,”

said **Hillary Clinton**, eight years after she made history as the first woman to be a major party’s presidential nominee.

“Her father is a Marxist professor, and I believe he taught her well, you know, he’s a Marxist professor. Can you imagine? Does anyone know that?... If Kamala gets in, the United States will rapidly become a deindustrialized third world nation,”

said **Donald Trump** Monday night addressing a crowd of fewer than 200 people in York, Pennsylvania.

COMMENTARIES

Climate action candidates overwhelmingly win primaries

By Justin Marsh

Editor’s note: Justin Marsh is the political director for Vermont Conservation Voters.

Vermont’s primary election saw candidates running on strong climate action platforms overwhelmingly win their races across Vermont. Vermont Conservation Voters (VCV) endorsed candidates facing primary challenges in races in all corners of the state. Of those candidates VCV endorsed in contested primaries, 95% received enough votes to secure their party’s nomination and will advance to the general election on Nov. 5.

Through its endorsements, VCV aims to educate voters across the state on candidates whose values and actions align with our vision for Vermont to advance and defend policies that protect the environment and promote health, while also advancing civil rights, social, racial, and economic justice, and strengthening our democracy.

The majority of VCV’s endorsed candidates were incumbents who voted in support of Vermont’s transition to clean energy, increased flood resilience measures, Act 250 reforms, the creation of a first-in-the-nation Climate Superfund, and the banning of neonicotinoid pesticides and further

PFAS regulation, among others.

For new contenders, VCV endorsed candidates who submitted a questionnaire that demonstrated aligned priorities and values on environmental and other important issues facing Vermont.

The primary election once again showed that pro-climate action candidates — whether incumbents who consistently vote in support of environmental policies, or first-time candidates who prioritize climate policies — win elections. It’s clear that Vermont voters want strong climate champions in elected office.

VCV political action committees were activated ahead of the primary election. VCV Action Fund supported priority candidates in three races with direct mail and phone calls that reached 11,060 Vermonters. VCV Victory Fund supported candidates in five priority races with efforts including door knocking, phone calls, and volunteer engagement.

VCV will continue rolling out endorsements leading up to the general election. To see all of VCV’s endorsed candidates, visit: vermontconservationvoters.com/endorsements.

Emerge Vermont alums win big in Vermont primary

By Elaine Haney

Editor’s note: Elaine Haney is the executive director of EmERGE Vermont.

EmERGE Vermont, the state’s premier organization that recruits and trains Democratic women to run for office, saw big wins up and down the ballot in this week’s primary election. The organization had 48 alums and trainees on the ballot with 46 wins and a 96% win rate. Along with all incumbents winning their races, several first-time candidates saw victory and one made history.

Alum Esther Charlestin became the first Black woman in Vermont history (and only the second in the country) to win a major party nomination for governor. Alums Congresswoman Becca Balint, Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas, and Attorney General Charity Clark all ran in uncontested primary races.

Alums and trainees of EmERGE Vermont were on the ballot for offices at every level, from the Legislature to Governor to Congress.

EmERGE Vermont alums were once again a dominant force on the primary ballot, and we are thrilled that so many of them have succeeded. Some of them had tough races, and their success speaks to the strength of the network of the women who

train with us. EmERGE Vermont women support each other. We’re incredibly proud of these candidates and look forward to their success in the general election.

The success of so many women candidates in Vermont stems from a strong support network provided by the alums of EmERGE Vermont, and continues a statewide trend of increasing women’s representation in government, the opposite of a recent national trend that shows fewer women running for office this election cycle.

“More women are winning when running for office in Vermont than ever before, thanks in part to EmERGE Vermont, which recruits and trains Democratic women to run,” said former Vermont Governor Madeleine M. Kunin, who founded EmERGE Vermont in 2013. “I’m thrilled that EmERGE Vermont is making a difference in women’s high success rate.”

EmERGE Vermont has made a name for itself not just for the comprehensive and effective campaign training it provides, but also for the close-knit support network maintained by the women who train in the program. The program participants run for

EmERGE → 12

CARTOONS



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Woodstock 55th reunion by Dave Granlund, PoliticalCartoon



JOHN COLE
NEWSLINE.COM
CARTOONS 101

Harris' rising poll numbers by John Cole



ADAM ZYGLIS
POLITICALCARTOONS.COM
THE BUFFALO NEWS

PFAS in Fish by Adam Zyglis, The Buffalo News, NY

Healthcare:

from page 10

while working to support their families.

In the end, this effort to expand Medicaid was too ambitious for legislative leadership, who declined to include even a study of Medicaid expansion in the state budget. An updated study of the economics of publicly financed, universal health care was never on the table.

We are tired of the excuses for a lack of action that is long overdue. The excuse we hear repeatedly for why we cannot move forward with universal, publicly financed health care is that “we can’t afford it.” Yet this week the Green Mountain Care Board approved double-digit increases in private health insurance premiums for the third year in a row. This is completely unaffordable for the vast majority of Vermonters, and unsustainable for our health care system. According to an analysis commissioned by the governor in 2014, universal health care would actually have increased income for 93% of Vermont families, by shifting health care spending from private insurance premiums to tax-funded public

financing, while controlling costs.

What does it mean to say “we can’t afford” universal health care? It means we willingly accept that Vermonters will be forced to delay care, suffer, and even die due to lack of access to health care today. The refusal to act in the face of this crisis may seem abstract, but in fact, it amounts to policy violence that causes unnecessary suffering.

So many of us are affected by this health care crisis or are outraged by the moral failure of a system that rations health care according to ability to pay. Our collapsing health care system necessitates an all-hands-on-deck moment — we need a sustained effort of people impacted by this crisis to compel our elected government to respond to the will of the people.

On Monday, Sept. 23, we’re holding a rally and Poor People’s Trial of the health care system on the steps of the Vermont Supreme Court. Join us at 12 p.m. in Montpelier or tune in via Facebook or Instagram livestream to share your health care story.

Emerge:

from page 11

office, but they also serve as staff on scores of campaigns across the state, contribute to campaigns, and turn out in droves to volunteer for each other. A campaign is a team effort and our alums exemplify that better than anyone.

Incumbent Senator Martine Larocque Gulick ran in the hotly contested Chittenden-Central Senate district race. She came out as the top vote-getter and attributes her win to the campaign support she received. “While I’ve been campaigning the past few months, Emerge kept coming up in conversations, interviews, and forums. When asked about my motivation to run, I couldn’t help but mention the incredible training and support I’ve had from Emerge Vermont. It was what launched me onto a path of leadership and service, and I am ever grateful to this incredible organization,” Gulick said.

First-time candidate Leanne Harple of Glover won her primary race for the Orleans-4 seat being vacated by Rep. Katherine Sims, herself an alum who won her own primary race for the open Orleans Senate seat. Harple, who participated in an Emerge Vermont bootcamp earlier this summer, received similar support from the Emerge network. “Emerge invited me into a supportive network of women helping women. Emerge alums helped me by offering me political contributions, providing me with volunteer hours canvassing in my district and cheering me on throughout a tough campaign. When I won my primary, it felt like it was not only a win for me, but a win for women,” she said.

A national organization, Emerge alums support each other across state lines, too. Erica Deuso is an Emerge Pennsylvania alum who was vacationing in the Northeast

Kingdom during the primary week and spent part of her time campaigning with Emerge Vermont alum candidates. “As an Emerge PA alum and newly elected board member, I am committed to supporting women leaders who will bring positive change to their communities, no matter where they live. That’s why I chose to dedicate part of my vacation to helping Emerge VT alums win their primary races—because I believe in the power of women in politics and wanted to contribute to their success on the ground,” Deuso said.

Wins experienced by 46 of the 48 Emerge Vermont trained women on the primary ballot resulted in a 96% overall win rate. Emerge Vermont trained women also made up 43% of all women candidates from all parties on the primary ballot.

Emerge Vermont has a proven track record for getting Democratic women elected. Since the organization launched in 2013, the program has trained over 200 women in their Signature Training Program and dozens more in shorter trainings. Prior to Tuesday’s primary, 52% of alums have gone on to run for political office or been appointed to local boards or commissions, and of those who have gone on to run for an elected position, 39% have won.

Nationally, Emerge has trained more than 6,000 alums since 2002—including Vice President Kamala Harris, the organization’s original alum—and currently has more than 1,200 alums in elected office across the country. The organization is committed to reaching 100,000 women of the New American Majority over the next 15 years, fostering a lift as you climb culture for women in politics, and repowering political structures.

For more information, visit: [EmergeVt.org](https://emergevt.org).

← **Hotel limits:**
from page 1

room cap through attrition. The current data suggest that most motel program participants have stayed put since July 1.

That poses a timing problem. If they don't leave within the next month, about a third of the households in the program will use up their 80 days by Sept. 19, said Miranda Gray, deputy commissioner of the Department for Children and Families' economic services division, in an interview on Thursday. More households will run out their clocks later in September and early October; because they pay a portion of their income toward their motel and hotel stays each month, they have essentially bought themselves more time before their 80 voucher days run out.

Come Sept. 15, then, DCF anticipates it will have more people currently in the program than it can legally shelter anymore, because of the room limit.

"We would have some households who would remain eligible for, beyond the 15th, that could potentially not have access to a room," Gray said.

DCF has put forth a prioritization policy aimed at determining which households will be placed in available rooms. Anytime the number of eligible households surpasses 90% of hotel and motel room capacity, certain households will get priority access to available rooms: families with children ages 19 or under, people who are pregnant, people experiencing domestic or other types of violence, and people over the age of 65. People over the age of 50 who also meet another criteria — such as having a disability, having experienced a natural disaster or having been evicted — will get priority, too.

Asked how the department decided on these priorities, Gray acknowledged that everyone currently in the program "has a significant need." DCF considered who might have the hardest time living unsheltered if they are not able to stay with someone else, Gray said, and arrived at prioritizing older people.

But the prioritization scheme will put younger people with extreme disabilities in danger, said Brenda Siegel, executive director of End Homelessness Vermont.

"What happens if somebody is on oxygen and they are put outside?" Siegel said. "If that oxygen cannot be plugged

in, those people end up in the emergency room. And essentially, if they are left outside, they die. And that is the reality of what is being done here."

Siegel argued that the new law does not give the department an avenue to create priority categories. But Gray responded that she "met with several attorneys, and it is within our purview," and noted that the law mandates the department to get to 1,100 rooms. The prioritization policy "will get us there," she said.

The motel program room cap emerged as a contentious issue during the final weeks of the legislative session. Lawmakers and members of Gov. Phil Scott's administration pointed fingers at one another when asked who came up with the idea. DCF Commissioner Chris Winters expressed a desire for lawmakers to provide more clarity around whom to prioritize

when motel room spots became more limited, but the law itself ultimately offered little guidance.

When asked what she expected DCF to do as it prepared to downsize the program, Rep. Diane Lanpher, D-Verdennes, a lead budget writer, emphasized that lawmakers spelled out vulnerability criteria in the bill. Yet lawmakers' new vulnerability criteria were nearly identical to what the state had already been using to decide who needed a room.

As the state prepares to shrink the motel program, there are signs that need for shelter exceeds its current capacity. Since July 1, over 300 additional households have contacted DCF trying to access a voucher, Gray said. Even without a cap in place, the department has not had hotel and motel space for those households.

At the Days Inn, Mojica is counting the days until her voucher expires.

"Hopefully something changes," she said. "Otherwise, I don't think I could last in a tent, not even a day, right now, with my dog."

Mojica is counting the days until her voucher expires. "Hopefully something changes," she said. "Otherwise, I don't think I could last in a tent, not even a day, right now, with my dog."



← **Disaster costs:**
from page 10

state or town must have funding on hand to receive federal dollars later. FEMA typically covers 75% of the funding for a project, leaving state and local funding to pick up a quarter of the tab, which can add up quickly.

Other resources can be brought to bear in the recovery—insurance payouts, private donations, and property owners' pockets. But these are not dependable sources of relief available to all flood victims. For enrolled renters and homeowners, flood insurance typically covers more costs than the government. However, less than 1% of Vermont households have flood insurance despite the fact that many communities sit along rivers. Private donations and volunteering are another important source of assistance following flooding around the state, but they are typically just a fraction of what the government can provide. And these sources may dwindle as disasters increase in frequency and donors experience "flood fatigue."

Climate change and its immediate effects are clear and present in the state, to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars last year alone. These are new problems that the state didn't face 10, 20, or 30 years ago, and they require new resources. Vermont needs to budget for the damage caused by more frequent extreme weather events and for mitigation projects to protect Vermonters, their homes, and other critical infrastructure. Even when a disaster is bad enough to warrant federal assistance, the state will face new, unanticipated costs. If the last two summers have taught us anything, it's that we need to be prepared for the unpredictable.

Katrina Menard, Strafford

Editor's note: Menard is a state policy fellow at Public Assets Institute, a non-partisan, non-profit, people-centered, data-first organization based in Montpelier.

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← **Childcare:**
from page 1

and prospects — including education and advancement opportunities for the center’s 24 full-time-equivalent staff, according to the nonprofits assistant director, Darcy Bean.

“We’ve been able to give bonuses to staff, increase wages, create a salary scale based on education, and we have a lot of our staff in college right now,” Bean said.

MJCC Executive Director Kristen Dunne elaborated on the Act 76 boost as she took visitors on a tour of center facilities.

“Our pay scale used to be like this,” Dunne said, pinching her fingers close together. “Most of our staff with children here were on subsidies themselves. With Act 76, we’ve been able to move that scale pretty wide.”

In other words, experienced, licensed teachers can be better rewarded for their credentials.

Dunne credited the new law with allowing centers to make it easier for their employees to become more credentialed.

She said with pride, “65% of our staff are in school, working toward a degree or a credential...Prior to Act 76, there were zero [in school]. They now have hope that there’s something to work for.”

Act 76 funds have allowed MJCC to increase its benefits package by around \$500 this year, according to Dunne.

“We’re also investing in professional development,” she added. “We’re able to send our staff on a

House Speaker Rep. Jill Krowinsk called Act 76 a “triple win” for the state.

flight, to a place to do some deep learning. I finally feel like we’re focusing on our pedagogy, creating time for that.”

Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, had plenty of reasons to smile at the Aug. 7 gathering at MJCC, which her children once attended. Hardy — member of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee and an architect of Act 76 — got to see some tangible effects of the law’s passage and got to see one of her daughters, Anya, a college student who’s working this summer at MJCC.

“It’s been very exciting to see all the progress that’s been made in the past year,” Hardy said.

“Most importantly, it’s what it means for our community — our kids and families here, and their ability to have a high-quality place to send

their kids, to be able to go to work knowing their kids are being taken care of, relieving some of the stress many young families are feeling in our state. I’m thrilled and proud of the work, and couldn’t be happier with the results,” she added.

Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, was also among those present. He chairs the House Education Committee

and believes a more robust childcare system will pay dividends down the road.

“Not only is the investment we’re making in childcare showing immediate, significant and important results right now, there will be big, long-term benefits to our school systems, in terms of students arriving in schools ready to learn and hopefully needing far fewer supports,” he said.

Among others making the trip to MJCC were Vermont Senate President Pro Tem Phil Baruth and House Speaker Rep. Jill Krowinski. The latter called Act 76 a “triple win” for the state, citing the new law’s impact on childcare access, employment and ability to attract and retain young families.

“Those investments are critical,” she said.



← **Emissions program:**
from page 2

pollutants, which can pose health risks, damage forests and crops, and lead to haze. Vermont has adopted the most stringent vehicle emissions standards, but a vehicle only continues to meet these standards if its emissions control systems are properly maintained.

Eligibility for funding from the pilot program:

- Live in Vermont
- Have registered their vehicle in Vermont
- Own a vehicle that has failed the emissions portion of the annual state inspection but passed the safety component, and
- Earn a gross household income of less than or equal to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$57,720 annually for a family of four)

VIP Tires and Service in Shelburne and All Service Citgo in Bennington will complete the repairs. Motorists who live in Shelburne or Bennington, or are willing to travel, are encouraged to apply.

Eligible vehicle owners may apply for funding by filling out an online form hosted on the program’s webpage: EmissionsRepair.Vermont.gov.

← **USDA grants:**
from page 3

development ... across the state,” said Senator Welch.

USDA grants in Vermont include:

1. \$200,000 investment to the Center for an Agricultural Economy to provide technical assistance to farms and food businesses across Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom. This assistance is offered in the form of direct support around food processing, food safety, marketing/packaging, aggregation, distribution and logistics. It is estimated that eight jobs will be created as a result of this project.
2. \$200,000 investment to the Town of St. Johnsbury to provide technical assistance to the Caledonia Food Cooperative (CFC) and several agricultural businesses. This assistance will include architectural and networking design, engineering plans for the renovations and outfitting of the CFCs vibrant, 10,000 square foot facility. The establishment of a food Co-op in downtown St. Johnsbury will have many benefits, including an estimated 47 new jobs. The targeted timeline for opening the store is early Fall of 2025.
3. \$200,000 investment to Northeastern Vermont Development Association Inc.’s Business Technical Assistance Program, from which small businesses can receive valuable technical assistance from qualified providers. This assistance includes a wide range of services including creating digital strategies, financial management and business operations support, and physical space design. An estimated 30 jobs will be created or saved as a result of this funding.
4. \$199,000 investment to the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund to provide training and

technical assistance in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. Activities will include business planning, market research, feasibility studies, professional/technical reports, and marketing support. It is estimated that 40 jobs will be created or retained as a result of this project.

5. \$99,657 investment to Vermont Farm to School to strengthen Northern Vermont’s local food systems and increase farm viability through marketing, sales and technical assistance for Green Mountain Farm Direct Farm partners. This project will create 10 and sustain 28 full-time jobs in the area.
6. \$90,000 investment to the Catamount Film and Arts Company to advance economic development in the creative sector community. Technical assistance will be made available to bring stakeholders together—public, private and community—to create a bold, comprehensive strategy establishing the towns of Lyndon and St. Johnsbury as a creative sector rural hub in the VT/NH region. It is estimated that six jobs will be created as a result of this project.
7. \$70,014 investment to Saint Johnsbury Works! to provide technical assistance activities to support small and emerging businesses in downtown St. Johnsbury. Assistance provided will include capacity-building activities like free racial literacy trainings and workshops for small businesses, and one-on-one technical assistance and networking events for Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC)-owned small businesses.
8. \$69,250 investment to Rockingham for Progress to provide technical assistance for the purpose of ren-

ovating and restoring the Miss Bellows Falls Diner. The architectural design and engineering plans supported by this grant will enable the historic diner, a fixture in the Bellows Falls community since 1942, to reopen after closing in 2020. Once reopened, the equivalent of six full-time jobs will have been created.

9. \$60,000 investment to Tweed Valley Travelers to purchase grooming equipment for snowmobile trails in and around Pittsfield, Vermont. The trails are vital to many small businesses as they directly account for a significant portion of revenue. Well-maintained trails are an important part to the areas overall economic development. It is estimated that this project will maintain 28 full-time jobs while creating two new ones.
10. \$59,987 investment to the Northeast Kingdom Collaborative to increase the capacity to plan and develop projects in the NEK to support economic growth and community development. A NEK-based cohort of experts in project/budget management, funding planning, and stakeholder outreach will enable 30 entities to develop business and project plans and better leverage other funds.
11. \$8,000 investment to Waterford Ridge Runners Inc. to purchase equipment necessary to groom and maintain recreational trails in and around Waterford, Vermont. This small grant will yield big results as the Waterford Ridge Runners will be able to better improve trails used by snowmobiles in the winter. The trails connect to many other communities and help support local businesses, such as gas stations, restaurants and others.

WORDPLAY

WHAT A BARGAIN WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back

P	R	I	C	E	S	N	O	I	N	V	E	S	T	S	B	I	G	Y	V
G	L	P	R	T	A	S	I	V	D	I	Y	P	D	E	A	L	S	F	P
B	R	D	M	N	L	S	A	O	E	D	E	V	L	H	N	H	I	E	Y
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ADVERTISEMENT
AUCTION
BARGAIN
BOGO
BUDGET
CODE

COUPONS
DEALS
DISCOUNTED
EVENT
FREEBIE
GARAGE

HAGGLE
HOLIDAY
INVEST
LOYALTY
MONEY
NEGOTIATE

PERCENTAGE
PRICES
SALE
STEAL
TRANSACTION
YARD



← **Dan Kelly:**
from page 10

the compassionate Dr. Bruce from Eastwood Animal Clinic would make house calls when help was needed. We know that our regular customers Carol, Dale, Carolyn, Bill and

many others will always remember him — a Killington local personality.

With much appreciation,
Karen and Steve Durkee,
The Back Country Cafe, Killington

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Mongolian city — Bator
 - 5. Coconut palms
 - 10. Rounded knob
 - 14. Japanese city
 - 15. Type of sandwiches
 - 16. A type of shape
 - 17. Son of Shem
 - 18. French modernist painter
 - 19. Grandmother
 - 20. Mammary gland of female cattle
 - 22. Hill or rocky peak
 - 23. Secret political clique
 - 24. Songs to one's beloved
 - 27. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
 - 30. Father
 - 31. Chinese philosophical principle
 - 32. Restrict the number or amount of
 - 35. Combined into a single entity
 - 37. Brother or sister
 - 38. Evil spirit
 - 39. Materials in the earth's crust
 - 40. Partner to cheese
 - 41. Of the sun
 - 42. Baseball great Ty
 - 43. After B
 - 44. Place to relax on the beach
 - 45. Folk singer DiFranco
 - 46. Partly digested food

- 47. Small dog breed
 - 48. Japanese honorific
 - 49. Salts
 - 52. Beard moss genus
 - 55. Mountain pass
 - 56. Type of sword
 - 60. Albanian language
 - 61. Metric weight unit
 - 63. Italian Seaport
 - 64. Longtime late night host
 - 65. Extremely angry
 - 66. Wading bird
 - 67. Days in mid-month
 - 68. Omitted from printed matter
 - 69. Upper body part
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Two-toed sloth
 - 2. Cooking ingredient
 - 3. Iranian city
 - 4. Accuses
 - 5. Corrie
 - 6. Delivered a speech
 - 7. Collection of sacred books
 - 8. Theatrical
 - 9. Very fast airplane
 - 10. Arm bones
 - 11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 - 12. ___ fide: legit
 - 13. Gemstone
 - 21. Counsels
 - 23. Corporate bigwig
 - 25. Cool!
 - 26. Touch lightly

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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60					61				62		63			
64					65					66				
67					68					69				

- 27. Small Milky Way constellation
- 28. Satirical website
- 29. Border lines
- 32. Soft drinks
- 33. Capital of Guam
- 34. Six-membered ring (chemistry)
- 36. Bar bill
- 37. Car mechanics group
- 38. Notable Bill Murray character

- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Gurus
- 43. A passage with access only at one end
- 44. Reduce
- 46. Spy organization
- 47. The upper surface of the mouth
- 49. Plants of the lily family
- 50. Type of reef
- 51. Oral polio vaccine developer

- 52. Mottled citrus fruit
- 53. Lose
- 54. Former Brazilian NBAer
- 57. Baseball great Ruth
- 58. ___ Clapton, musician
- 59. Chance
- 61. Spanish soldier
- 62. CNN's founder



Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Australia on August 23, 1949. I grew up between Australia and London due to my father's military career. I learned to play guitar at age 13, and achieved rock stardom in the early 1980s with several top 10 hits. I also played a doctor on a popular soap opera for some time.

Answer: Rick Springfield

SUDOKU Solutions →30

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	6		3				8	1
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		7	2			6		9

Level: Intermediate

WEDNESDAY 8/21

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

Wagon Ride Wednesdays

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Included with admission. Experience a horse-drawn wagon ride through the farm's beautiful pastures. billingsfarm.org/horse-drawn-rides

Killington Active Seniors Lunch

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

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival 10th

Anniversary

11:30 a.m. Town Hall Theater, 68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury. \$10 per screening, \$200 all-access pass. Enjoy 130+ films and meet 80+ filmmakers from around the world, featuring notable honorees like Oscar-winning director Oliver Stone, Tony and Pulitzer Prize winner John Patrick Shanley, and award-winning Vermont filmmaker Bess O'Brien. Includes Q&A sessions, panel discussions, and special events throughout the festival. middfilmfest.org

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. Last race. 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: Extra Stout

6 p.m. Wednesdays through 8/28. Brandon Inn, 20 Park St., Brandon. Free. brandon.org/events-and-happenings/music-at-the-riverbend-summer-concerts

Rutland Area Food Co-op Annual Meeting

6 p.m. 77 Wales St., Rutland. Free. Vegetarian and gluten-free dinner from Vermont Seoul food, live music by Phil Henry, raffle prizes, and free Cabot cheese samples. Stay informed about your co-op, ask questions, elect board members, and meet fellow member-owners. Rain location: Coworks, 67 Merchants Row, Suite 20. rutlandcoop.com

Women's Wednesday MTB

6-8 p.m. at Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Road, Poultny. Free. Weekly mountain bike group rides for women on the SVT trail network. Rides are no-drop and cater to all levels from beginner to advanced, with varying distances of 6-10 miles and climbing involved. Bring water, snacks, and an after-ride beverage. Check the event page for updates in case of extreme weather. Register for SVT membership at vmba.org/join

Artistree Music on the Hill: Grey Cats

6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays. Ends Sept. 11. 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

THURSDAY 8/22

Upper Valley E-Bike Lending Library

August 22nd-25th. North Chapel Church, 16 North St. Woodstock. Free. Try out an e-bike for a 24-hour period by reservation. On Aug. 25, bikes can be reserved for an hour from 9-5 p.m. Reserve your bike at <https://vitalcommunities.org/uvell>

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival 10th

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Essentrics Stretch and Strengthen

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

Advanced Line Dance

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

Thursday Threads

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Included with admission. Dive into the world of quilting, knitting, needlework, and more, with special demonstrations each week. billingsfarm.org/events

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

Artery

10:30am-noon. Thursdays. Adults. Connect and create with others. \$10-\$20. Painting in all mediums welcome. No set topic or instructor, attendees will work on their individual artwork. MUST PRE-REGISTER. chaffeeartcenter.square.site/ or call 802-775-0356

Ukelele Group

12-1 p.m. Thursdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Attendees will play a collection of sheet music. All levels welcome, ages 12+. Must pre-register by Wednesday at noon. chaffeeartcenter.square.site/ or call 802-775-0356

Play Bridge!

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

Thursday Farmers' Market (Fair Haven)

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

Junior Ghost Investigators

4-9 p.m. Wilson Castle, 2970 West Proctor Road, Proctor. Free for kids ages 11-17. Features a tour of Wilson Castle, ghost hunting equipment demonstration, hot dogs, hamburgers, s'mores, and ghost stories around a campfire. Limited to 30 kids. comealiveoutside.com/events

Green Drinks: Peecycling for Clean Water & Fertile Farms in Vermont

5:30-6:30 p.m. Virtual. Free. Learn about the practice of peecycling, which reclaims human "waste" as a resource to complete the food nutrient cycle and protect watersheds. The presentation will cover home garden and community-scale urine recycling and discuss building regional nutrient sovereignty and climate-resilient sanitation for Vermont. Register: sustainablewoodstock.org/event/green-drinks-peecycling-for-clean-water-fertile-farms-in-vermont

Feast and Field Music Series: Zikina Afro-folk

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

The River Road Concert Series: Moose & Friends

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. sherburnelibrary.org/adults-and-seniors/river-road-concert-series

Music on the Green

6:30 p.m. (Through 8.29) Belmont village green, Mt. Holly, 1 mile from the flashing light off Rt. 103. Jamie Ward, a.k.a. Mr Pianoman, plays classic blues, rock, and Motown hits, along with a patriotic-themed song contest. In case of rain, the concert will be held across the street at the community center/Library. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs for the outdoor event. For more information, visit: mounthollycommunityassociation.org

FRIDAY 8/23

Upper Valley E-Bike Lending Library

August 22nd-25th. North Chapel Church, 16 North St. Woodstock. Free. Try out an e-bike for a 24-hour period by reservation. On Aug. 25, bikes can be reserved for an hour from 9-5 p.m. Reserve your bike at <https://vitalcommunities.org/uvell>

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival 10th

Anniversary

9 a.m. Town Hall Theater, 68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury. \$10 per screening, \$200 all-access pass. Enjoy 130+ films and meet 80+ filmmakers from around the world, featuring notable honorees like Oscar-winning director Oliver Stone, Tony and Pulitzer Prize winner John Patrick Shanley, and award-winning Vermont filmmaker Bess O'Brien. Includes Q&A sessions, panel discussions, and special events throughout the festival. middfilmfest.org

Connections & Interconnections of Life Weekly Group

Noon-1 p.m. Fridays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St, Rutland. Free. A place to share thoughts, philosophies, spirituality, cultures, and more in a respectful way. All are welcome. Must RSVP: chaffeeartcenter.square.site

Hartland Farmers' Market

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

Porcupine x SVT Group MTB Rides

6-8 p.m., Country Club, 2725 VT-30, Poultny. Free. Join Slate Valley Trails and Porcupine Bikes for a Friday night trail ride series. All ability levels are welcome; groups will be formed based on pace. Expect to ride for a couple of hours. Bonus pizza night hosted by the TrailHouse with wood-fired pizza post-ride (by donation). slatevalleytrails.org

Jackson Gore Summer Music Series: The

Whatknots

6-9 p.m. Final concert Aug. 30. 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. okemo.com

Literary Open Mic

7-9 p.m. at Stone Valley Arts, 145 E Main St, Poultny. Free. Poets, storytellers, spoken word artists, and writers of all genres are invited to perform original works, poems, stories, and more. Musicians and singer-songwriters are also welcome. Performers can RSVP via email (stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com) or sign up on arrival. Audience members are encouraged to attend. stonevalleyartscenter.org

SATURDAY 8/24

Mendon Fish and Game Club 3-D Bow Shoot

7 a.m.-3 p.m. Mendon Fish and Game Club, 17 Chittenden RoadPittsford. 1st shoot \$15. Kids under 10, \$10 all weekend. \$15 Day One, \$10 Day Two, Children 12 and Under \$10 The annual 3-D bow shoot features a well-designed course with numerous targets. A concession stand and door prize giveaways will be available. 802.558.8528

Chittenden Day

8 a.m. Barstow School, 223 Chittenden Road, Chittenden. Free. The Bobcat Bolt Fun Runs start at 8:30 a.m. with registration at 8 a.m. A BBQ lunch hosted by the Chittenden Volunteer Fire Department begins at noon. DJ Dave will provide music from noon to 4 p.m. Vendors, games, and activities will be available throughout the day. Supermarket BINGO starts at 1 p.m. in the library, with free ice cream at 3 p.m. A silent auction by the Friends of the Chittenden Public Library runs all afternoon. In case of bad weather, events will be moved indoors. For more information, email chittendenday@gmail.com

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



Cooler in the Mountains: Rumboat Chili

Saturday at 3:30 PM

Annual Town Wide Celebration & Fireworks

8-9 p.m. Northwood Pool, 195 Northwood Park Road, Rutland Town. Free. Fireworks start at dusk. Parking is available inside Northwood Park. Please avoid parking along Post Road. rutlandtown.org

Run with a Ranger

8 a.m. Saturdays. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 69 Old River Rd, Woodstock. Free. Join a Park Ranger for a 4.5-mile trail run with a 600' elevation gain through historic carriage roads and trails. This intermediate+ run includes insights into the history of the Mt. Tom Forest. Water and restrooms available at the Forest Center. Bring sneakers, a water bottle, and bug spray and sun protection. Meet at the Forest Center; parking is at Billings Farm & Museum. Registration required. nps.gov/mabi/planyourvisit/index.htm

Drawing from Nature Class: Predators of the Sky

9a.m.-Noon. VINS Nature Center, Nature's Way, Quechee. \$47-\$52. Sketch raptors, vultures, and corvids from life, meet a bird ambassador, and learn tips for drawing and photographing birds. All skill levels welcome. vinsweb.org

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival 10th

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Upper Valley E-Bike Lending Library

August 22nd-25th. North Chapel Church, 16 North St. Woodstock. Free. Try out an e-bike for a 24-hour period by reservation. On Aug. 25, bikes can be reserved for an hour from 9-5 p.m. Reserve your bike at https://vitalcommunities.org/uvell

Quechee: The Scottish Games

10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays to mid-October. 45 Deweys Mills Rd, Hartford. Children free-\$25. Experience traditional Scottish culture with Highland dances, pipe music, and clan displays. Featured performers include Jamie Laval and Alex Cumming. quecheegames.org

Mt. Tom Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saskadena Six parking lot, 247 Stage Road, South Pomfret. Free. Local produce, goods, fresh vegetables, fruits, homemade items, and more.

The Best of Vermont Summer Festival

Noon-7 p.m. Okemo Field, Ludlow. Free. Features live music, food, beer, wine, antique tractors, artisans, crafts, and kids' activities. Full description page 29. okemovalley.org

Puppies and Pooches on Parade

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Woodstock Green, Woodstock. Free to attend; registration required for dog participants. The amateur dog show features various prize categories and a demonstration by Vermont State Police dog, "Cash." Rose Hill Pet Services, Kedron Valley Veterinary, and Lucy MacKenzie Humane Society will be present. Treats from the "Dog Gone Barkery." Event supports the Friends of the Norman Williams Public Library. Register online at friendsofnwpl.com/puppy-registration-2024

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

25th Annual Ralph D. Hogancamp

Memorial Duck Race

Noon-1 p.m. Depot Street Bridge, Ludlow. \$5-\$50. Rubber ducks race from Depot St. Bridge to Walker Bridge in the Black River. Prizes of \$200, \$100, and \$75 for the first three ducks to finish, and \$25 for the last duck. Raffle tickets available at Benson's Chevrolet, Fletcher Memorial Library, M&T Bank, Ludlow Insurance, any Ludlow Rotarian, and online at ludlowrotary.com

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

Barnard Street Dance

2-9 p.m. Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Road, Barnard. Free. Events include boat races, live music, contra dance, and food vendors. Sustainability efforts introduced with a designer reusable cup for drinks.barnarts.org

Cooler in the Mountains: Rumboat Chili

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

Silent Movie Festival

7-9 p.m. Heald Auditorium, Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot St., Ludlow. Free; donations appreciated. The festival will feature the 100th anniversary screening of the classic German silent film "The Last Laugh," directed by Friedrich Murnau. The evening includes an original musical score by Jeff Rapsis and a short Buster Keaton comedy. See write-up, p. 26. fola.us/coming-events

Pond Hill Rodeo

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

SUNDAY
8/25

Mendon Fish and Game Club

3-D Bow Shoot

7 a.m.-1 p.m. Mendon Fish and Game Club, 17 Chittenden Road, Pittsford Return day, 2nd shoot, \$10. Kids 12 & under, \$10 all weekend. The annual 3-D bow shoot features a well-designed course with numerous targets. A concession stand and door prize giveaways will be available. 802.558.8528

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival 10th

Anniversary

9 a.m. Town Hall Theater, 68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury. \$10 per screening, \$200 all-access pass. Enjoy 130+ films and meet 80+ filmmakers from around the world, featuring notable honorees like Oscar-winning director Oliver Stone, Tony and Pulitzer Prize winner John Patrick Shanley, and award-winning Vermont filmmaker Bess O'Brien. Includes Q&A sessions, panel discussions, and special events throughout the festival. middfilmfest.org

Upper Valley E-Bike Lending Library

9 a.m.-5 p.m. North Chapel Church, 16 North St. Woodstock. Free. Try out an e-bike for a 24-hour period by reservation. Reserve your bike at https://vitalcommunities.org/uvell

Ludlow Farmers' Market

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays through 10/13. So. Depot St., Ludlow. S. Depot Street in Ludlow. 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

The Best of Vermont Summer Festival

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Okemo Field, Ludlow. Free. Continues with live music, food, beer, wine, antique tractors, artisans, crafts, and kids' activities. Full description, p. 29. okemovalley.org

VMBA Day at Killington

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Road, Killington. Free. The Vermont Mountain Bike Association hosts a day of downhill riding with beginner rides, party laps, and a raffle to benefit Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports. Includes guided rides and adaptive MTB demos by VT Adaptive. The Killington Mountain Bike Club will host a free timed race down Rabbit Hole from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Click here to register and for more details: vmba.org

Meadows & Mountains Festival

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. \$10 suggested donation, Kids 12 & Under Free. Features food, beer, music, crafts, artisans, and kids' activities. A raffle will also be held. missionfarm.org

Sundays on the Hill: Brass Connection

3:30-5:30 p.m. Old Parish Church, Route 100, Weston. Adults \$5, kids 12 & under free. The Brass Connection will perform a pops-style eclectic program featuring various genres including classical, ragtime, dixieland, blues, patriotic, swing, Broadway, and Tijuana Brass. Doors open at 3:30 p.m., with no reserved seats or advance tickets. SundaysOnTheHill.org

Calendar → 18

VMBA Day at Killington

Sunday at 11 a.m.



← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info.....
from page 17

MONDAY 8/26

Community Lunch

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mondays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Over 60, \$3.50. Under 60, \$6. Donations welcome. In partnership with the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, the Godnick Center hosts congregate meals. Make new friends, connect with pals. 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

Maker Monday at The Mint

5:30-7:30 p.m. The Mint, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Free. Shop leads will assist with equipment and skills in the stained glass, electronics, or textile lab. Some shops may require registration for initial training. rutlandmint.org

Group Run/Walk

6-7:30 p.m. Mondays. Location and route changes weekly, check Facebook for details. The group will leave the trailhead by 6:05 at the latest. There are many options to cater to all abilities or shorten the route. Bring: plenty of water, snacks, bug spray, and an after run beverage of choice. Youth 14-18 must have a parent/guardian present, or have submitted our Youth Participation Waiver in advance. Info@slatevalleytrails.org

TUESDAY 8/27

Line Dance for Beginners

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

Tuesday Night Twilight League

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



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Rockin the Region at the Meadows & Mountains Festival

Sunday, Aug. 25 at 11 a.m.—KILLINGTON— This Sunday, Mission Farm in Killington will host its second annual Meadows & Mountains Festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival will take place at the beautiful 180-acre cooperative space at 316 Mission Farm Road in Killington.

There will be live music featuring talented local musicians, raffle prizes, kid-friendly activities, local food and drink vendors, and an artisan market. All proceeds raised from the event will go towards future community activities and charity efforts.

Admission is a \$10 suggested donation and kids age 12 and under free.

I deejayed the first event last year and will be doing this one, too. It's a great community event. The space is amazing, with beautiful views, and a lot to do. If you've never been, I highly suggest checking the place out. Tour around the property and take in all it has to offer. The church on the property is a work of art. Make sure to tour inside, too! It's known as the Church of Our Savior and it was built in 1894-95 of Vermont granite. They have a natural amphitheater, with beautifully constructed stone seats. You may have some chicken and rooster friends cozying up to you while you sit. My 1-year-old Judah really enjoyed seeing them.

I kick off the event at 11 a.m. and the first musician is Aedie at noon. He's been a monthly regular at the Killington Distillery. I've yet to see him play, but have heard good things. At 1:30 p.m. is Tboneicus Jones, a Liquid Art regular performer. I saw him there last month, and his song selection had something for everyone. He did a great version of "Slip Sliding Away" by Paul Simon. At 3 p.m. you definitely do not want to miss a super jam like no other. This is a first time collaboration, and Mission Farm is excited to host it. This 2-hour super set features Liz Reedy, Rhys Chalmers, Nick Bredice, Chris Pallutto and Krishna Guthrie. I've seen them all perform solo, and all are great. I'm stoked to see this jam, and I have a feeling it will be quite the highlight. The whole event will be something to see but this jam you

don't want to miss.

Chris Pallutto has been a staple in the Rutland/Killington music scene for well over a decade. Whether the stage is big or small, he plays with a passion, and sings with a soul that's guaranteed to entertain. Liz Reedy is a singer/songwriter from North Carolina who now calls Vermont home. Emily Oakes, manager of the Distillery, said "Liz Reedy is straight magic. Her grace on stage is warm, and her voice is nothing short of spectacular."

Rhys Chalmers has become a regular in the Killington music scene over the past few years. I really like the acoustic versions of '90s rock songs he plays, but his vast variety of songs has something for everyone.

Krishna Guthrie has quite the musical family tree. His grandfather is Arlo Guthrie and his great-grandfather is Woody Guthrie. He's been playing music before he can remember but it's his now music that you will enjoy a lot. I love when Krishna covers his great-grandfather Woody's "This Land is Your Land." It's magical. I like music that moves you, and this definitely does.

Nick Bredice is a new favorite of mine. He plays all over the state, but calls Bridgewater home. He recently quit his full-time job, to be a full-time musician. He's a regular at the Killington Resort base lodges, and currently plays every Sunday night at Jax Food & Games. His solo act draws on the indie-folk soundscapes, and improv-heavy influences from past projects, collaborations and favorite bands.

"We are thrilled to invite both visitors and our local community to celebrate this special space in the Killington Valley," said Lisa Ransom, executive director of Church of Our Savior at Mission Farm. "Mission Farm is a place to connect and share in the beauty, talent, and creative spirit of this community."

Mission Farm is located in Killington off Route 4 across from the Skyeship Lodge.

For more information, visit: missionfarmvt.org.



Rockin' the
Region
By Dave
Hoffenberg



By Dave Hoffenberg

Mission Farm in Killington hosts the second annual Meadows & Mountains Festival, featuring DJ Dave, live music, raffle prizes, kid-friendly activities, local vendors, and an artisan market, with proceeds going towards community activities.

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED 8/21

BETHEL
7 p.m. Bandshell – Scott Forrest

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

BRANDON
6 p.m. Brandon Inn (Behind) – Music on the Riverbend with Extra Stout

KILLINGTON
5 p.m. The Umbrella Bar at Snowshed – Bike Bum Party with music by Chris Pallutto

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

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

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

RUTLAND
7 p.m. Main Street Park – Seven to Sunset Concert with Eric King

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 Grey Cats

THURS 8/22

BARNARD
5:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Feast & Field with Zikina Music

BOMOSEEN
6 p.m. Lakehouse Pub & Grille – Aaron Audet

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

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

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. 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 Moose and Friends

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

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

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

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

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

RUTLAND
8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic hosted by Josh Cote

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

FRI 8/23

BOMOSEEN
6 p.m. Lakehouse Pub & Grille – Ryan Fuller

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

CASTLETON
6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Tony Grassi

CHESTER
6:30 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Down Boy

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Liz Reedy

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Ray Boston

6 p.m. The Foundry – Zach Yak

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Chris Pallutto

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Donal O'Shaughnessy

LUDLOW
6 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Summer Music Series with The What Knots

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Aaron Audet Band

POULTNEY
6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Matthew "Lobo" Willis

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Krishna Guthrie

RANDOLPH
7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Wild Couch, Connor Lin Frost and Cady Ternity

RUTLAND

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

STOCKBRIDGE
5:30 p.m. Fat Dragon Farm – The Sable Ensemble's "Water in the Wood" Showcase

SAT 8/24

BARNARD
3 p.m. Town Hall – Barnard Street Dance with music by Bow Thayer/Blind Squirrel Contra Dance/Billy Wylder

BRANDON
7 p.m. Town Hall – Middlebury College Community Chorus

BRIDGEWATER
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Matt Wayne

CHITTENDEN
12 p.m. Barstow Memorial School – Chittenden Day with music by DJ Dave

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

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

5 p.m. Charity's 1887 Saloon – Ryan Fuller

6 p.m. Rivershed – Rhys Chalmers

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Scott Forrest

7:30 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Chris Pallutto

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Donal O'Shaughnessy

LONDONDERY
5 p.m. Magic Mountain's Black line Tavern – Nick Bredice

LUDLOW

12 p.m. Okemo Field – Best of VT Summer Festival with music by Bear Mountain Boys/Rustie Bus/UnReel

POULTNEY
6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Electrostatic Cats

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Arthur James

RUTLAND
8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Drag Queen Karaoke hosted by Tenacious T, Amy Leigh Celestial and Bethadone Clinique

STOCKBRIDGE
5:30 p.m. Fat Dragon Farm – The Sable Ensemble's "Water in the Wood" Showcase

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

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

SUN 8/25

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS
3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Carlos Ocasio

CUTTINGSVILLE
5 p.m. Rustic Rooster – Sammy B

KILLINGTON
11 a.m. Mission Farm – Meadows & Mountains Festival with music by DJ Dave, Aedie, Tboneicus Jones and a Super Jam with Liz Reedy, Rhys Chalmers, Nick Bredice, Chris Pallutto and Krishna Guthrie

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia Night

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

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

LUDLOW
10 a.m. Okemo Field – Best of VT Summer Festival with music by Ida Mae Specker/Brooks Hubbard & Jay Nash

5 p.m. Main + Mountain – Sunday Funday with Zak Trojano

RANDOLPH
7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Suburban Samurai EP Release Show with Better Things and Adulting

RUTLAND
7 p.m. Main Street Park – Rutland City Band

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

MON 8/26

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

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

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

LUDLOW
8:30 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic Night with King Arthur Junior

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

TUES 8/27

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

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

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

POULTNEY
7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

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

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



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Enjoy Scottish Games in Quechee

Saturday, Aug. 24—QUECHEE— A fun-filled day of competitions, clans, vendors, food and entertainment will be held during The celebration of tradition Scottish Games at the Quechee Polo Field, Quechee Main Street, Saturday. Step onto the field and experience decades of timeless tradition. Immerse yourself in the vibrant essence of Scots culture as clans encircle the main field, Highland dancers gracefully take the stage, and the sound of the pipes fill the air from all directions. Join in for an unforgettable celebration of Scottish heritage, where generations unite to create cherished memories.

Quechee Scottish Games and Festival has been going on for 48 years in various forms. From its humble beginnings, this event has evolved over the years into a wonderful authentic and traditional Highland Games experience. Scottish Arts is a nonprofit and has been putting on events since 1984. Primarily a teaching focus, the organization also provides students with kilts and bagpipes to borrow as well as performing throughout New England.

Entertainment

Performers this year are Jamie Laval, internationally renowned Scots fiddler and guitarist, Eamon Sefton In addition to concerts, fiddle workshop, music sessions and a ceilidh all led by Jamie, famed accordionist Alex Cumming will host a kids ceilidh. There will also be an instrument "petting zoo" with Vermont Folklife and Young Tradition Vermont. Musicians from several of the organizations at the Quechee Scottish Games and Festival are invited to join in the sessions.

Schedule of events

- 8 a.m. at the South Field: Solo Piping Competition
- 8:30 a.m. at the Northwest Field. Competition begins for our athletic competitors.
- 9-9:30 a.m. at the Northeast Corner. Competitions begin for the highland dancing.
- 10:30 a.m. at The Hill. Sheepdog Demonstration by Liz Shaw of Morse Brook Farms with her dogs Poe and Cap.
- 11 a.m.-Noon at the Entertainment Tent. Live music by The Rebel Collective with their own booze-soaked style.
- Noon at the Main Field. Parade of Clans led on by this year's duty band, New Hampshire Pipes and Drums!
- 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Entertainment Tent. Live music by The Lissa Schneckenburger Trio.
- 1:30-2:30 p.m at the Entertainment Tent. Live music by The Rebel Collective with their own booze-soaked style.
- 2 p.m. at the Main Field. Pipe Band Competition begins!
- 2:30 p.m. at The Entertainment Tent: jam session, grab your fiddle or guitar, bodhran, or even small pipes and join in.
- 3:15 p.m. at the Entertainment Tent. Live music by The Rebel Collective with their own booze-soaked style.
- 4 p.m. at the Main Field. Massed Bands - Closing Ceremonies. Watch as the bands parade a final time into the main field to wrap up the games and the overall winners are awarded their trophies!

Clan heritage

The clans are at the very heart of what it is to be Scottish. They are the guardians of our culture. They deepen our understanding of, and connection to, Scots roots. They are not-for-profit organizations, so memberships go straight to work in preserving your unique Clan heritage for generations to come.

Organizers have announced that the honored clan for Quechee Games 2024 is Clan Cumming. Also joining the Gathering of the Clans this year are: Campbell, MacDougall, MacDowell, Buchanan, MacBean, MacAlister, Montgomery, MacLachlan, Buchan, Gunn, Thom(p)son, Fraser, Farquharson, Donnachaidh, Gordon, Graham, Hamilton, MacGillivray, Chattan representing: Mackintosh, MacPherson, Shaw, MacPhail, Davidson, MacQueen, MacThomas, Maclean of the North, MacIntyre (Badenoch), Donald, MacEwen, Lockhart, Cochrane, Ross, MacNeil, Maclean.

On-site general admission will be available at \$25. Children 12 and under are free.

For more information, visit: QuecheeGames.org.



Courtesy Quechee Games

Quechee Scottish Games and Festival celebrates tradition with competitions, clans, vendors, food, and entertainment, featuring performances by Jamie Laval, Eamon Sefton, and Alex Cumming, and Rebel Collective.

Barstow School hosts annual Chittenden Day

Saturday, Aug. 24—CHITTENDEN—The town of Chittenden will celebrate Chittenden Day on Saturday, Aug. 24 at Barstow School, 223 Chittenden Road.

The Barstow PTO-sponsored Bobcat Bolt Fun Runs begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration opening at 8 a.m.

At noon enjoy a barbecue lunch put on by the Chittenden Volunteer Fire Dept. — this is their big fundraiser for the year so come out and support them!

DJ Dave will be providing music from 12-4 p.m. There will be vendors, games, and fun for all ages throughout the day. Supermarket Bingo will be held in the library at 1 p.m. and the library will be offering free ice cream at 3 p.m.

The Friends of the Chittenden Public Library will be holding a silent auction all afternoon. Come out and enjoy this terrific community event!

In the event of uncooperative weather, everything will move into the school.

For more information, visit the Chittenden Day Facebook page.



Submitted

25th annual duck race is Aug. 24

Saturday, Aug. 24 at 12 p.m.—LUD-LOW—It's that time of year, when the ducks are preparing for race down the Black River in the Ralph D. Hogancamp Memorial Duck Race to help a local group on Aug. 24 at noon.

This year the race proceeds will go to Lake Rescue Association of Ludlow.

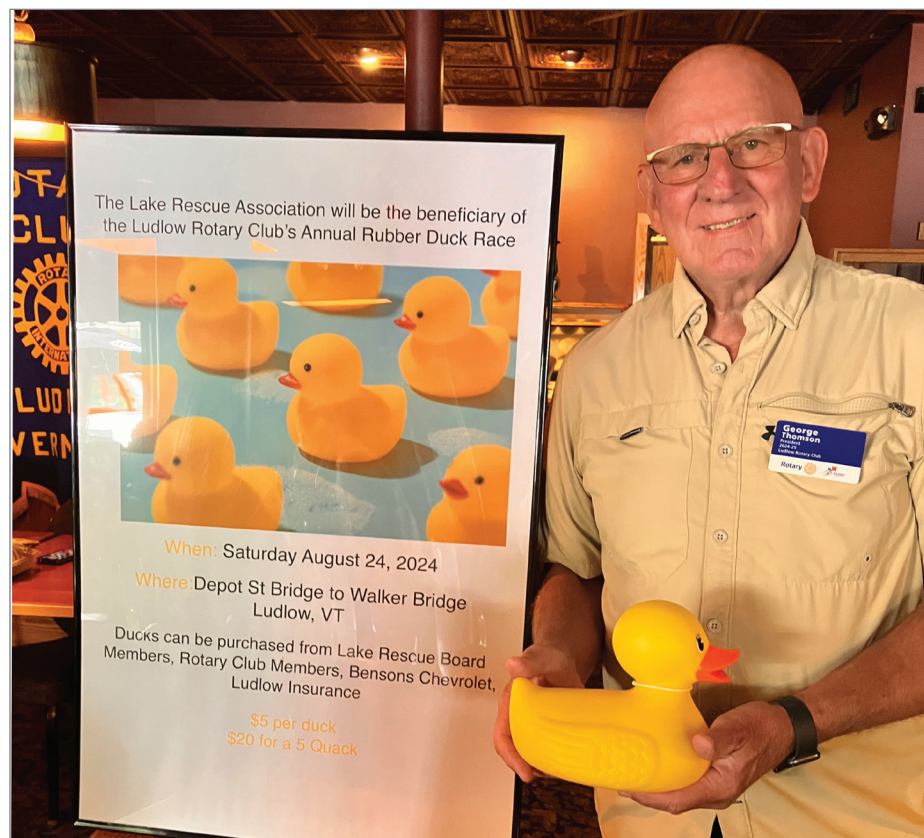
The Ludlow Rotary Club will host the 25th running of this traditional event on Saturday. The ducks will be dropped from the Depot Street bridge into the Black River and the race to determine the fastest duck to reach Walker Bridge will begin.

The first three ducks to reach Walker

Bridge will earn cash prizes of \$200, \$100, and \$75. Keeping with tradition, the last sponsored duck to make it across the finish line will also earn \$25.

Naturally, to be one of the winners, participants need to rent ducks by purchasing raffle tickets. Tickets are available in numerous “sizes:” \$5 for a single ticket, \$20 for a quack pack (5 for \$20), or \$50 for a corporate duck.

Raffle tickets are available at Benson's Chevrolet, Fletcher Memorial Library, M&T Bank and Ludlow Insurance and any Ludlow Rotarian. They are also available online at: ludlowrotary.com.



Courtesy Ludlow Rotary Club

George Thomson, president of the Ludlow Rotary Club, holds up a duck that can be rented for the annual duck race this Saturday.



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By Victoria Gaither

Penultimate Pond Hill Rodeo is Saturday

Saturday, Aug. 24 at 7:30 p.m.—CASTLETON — The summer rodeo season is nearing its end. This Saturday is the second to last rodeo of the 10-week season, which began June 29 and ends Aug. 31. Events begin at 7:30 p.m. each week. Pond Hill Pro Rodeo Company has produced rodeos

for over 50 years at Pond Hill Ranch, 1683 Pond Hill Ranch Road, Castleton. Each week the rodeo includes: bareback bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, girls' barrel racing, girls' break away roping, and bull riding.

Arrive early to witness stunning sunsets from the ranch, which is perched on a hilltop overlooking rolling farm fields, and grab a seat in the stadium — if you sit on the east side you can see the sunset while watching the rodeo. For more information, visit: pondhillranch.com.

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Puppies and Pooches on Parade held in downtown Woodstock

Saturday, Aug. 24 at 10 a.m.—WOODSTOCK—A amateur dog show, Puppies and Pooches on Parade, will be held on the Woodstock Green this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Anyone “with adorable pooches” were invited to register (registration closed Tuesday, Aug. 20). Prizes will be awarded to winners in several categories.

The Vermont State Police is bringing their police K-9, “Cash,” who will perform a lively demonstration. Rose Hill Pet Services, Kedron Valley Veterinary and Lucy MacKenzie Humane Society will also be present.

Bring a blanket and sit around the show ring. Visit the Dog Gone Barkery for a coffee and sweet treat or a hot dog.

All proceeds go to the Friends of the Norman Williams Public Library which in turn goes directly to the library for items that are outside of the operations budget.

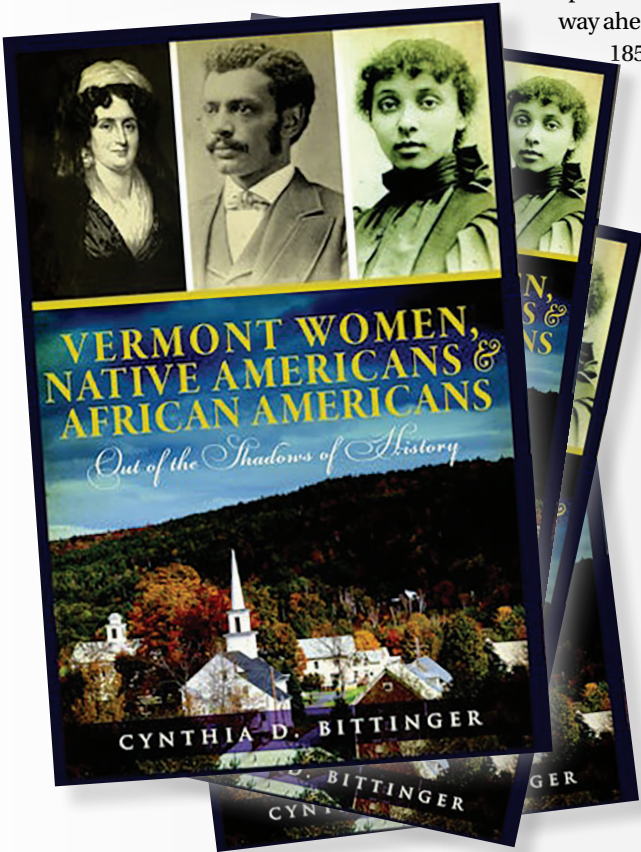
For more information, visit: friendsofnwpl.com.



Author to give talk at Bridgewater Grange

Sunday, Aug. 25 at 2 p.m. —BRIDGEWATER— Cyndy Bittinger author of “Vermont Women, Native Americans & African Americans: Out of the Shadows of History,” will speak at the Bridgewater Grange on Sunday. Her book takes a fresh look at Vermont’s history, uncovering hidden stories, from the earliest inhabitants to present day citizens.

One section includes Achsa Sprague of Plymouth, the famous spiritualist who spoke about important issues way ahead of her time in the 1850s.



Bittinger is on the faculty at the Community College of Vermont, where she has lectured on Vermont history and women in U.S. history for over 20 years. She was a commentator for many years on Vermont Public Radio.

This is not Bittinger’s first talk in Bridgewater, her previous talk for the Bridgewater Historical Society was in August 2023, when she spoke on her book “Grace Coolidge – Sudden Star.”

For more information, visit: BridgewaterHistory.org/events.



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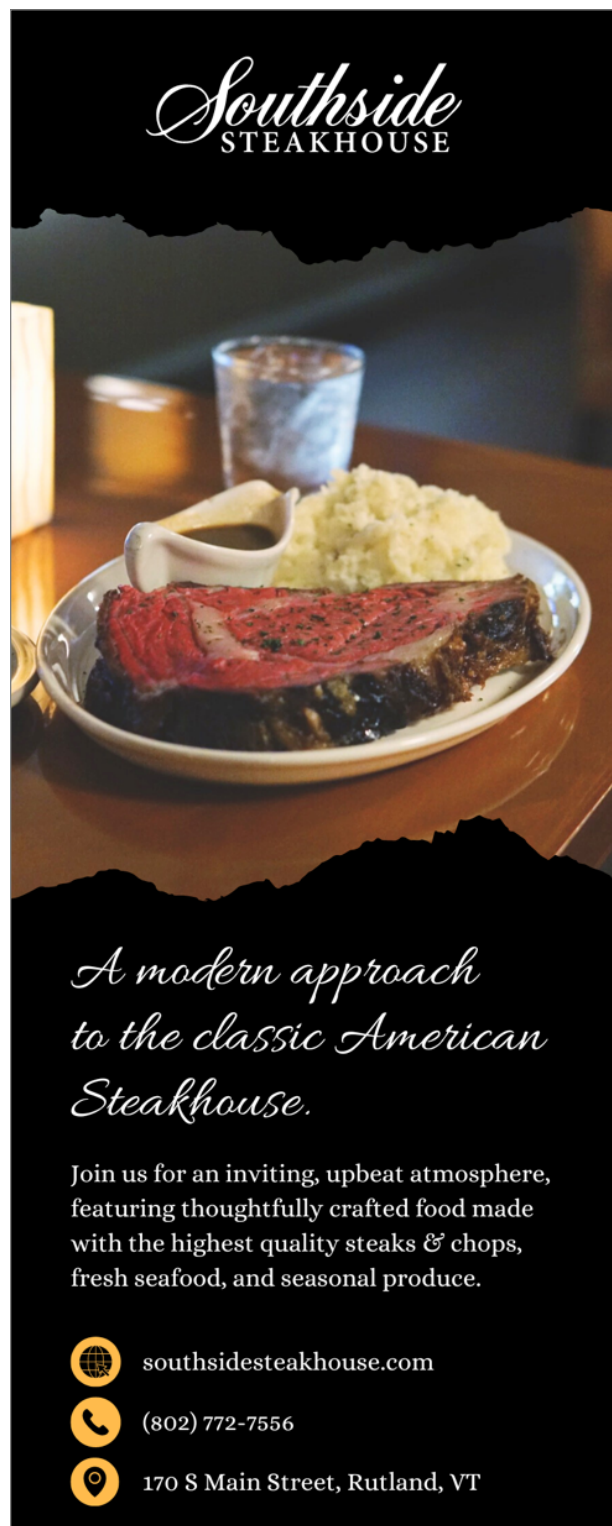


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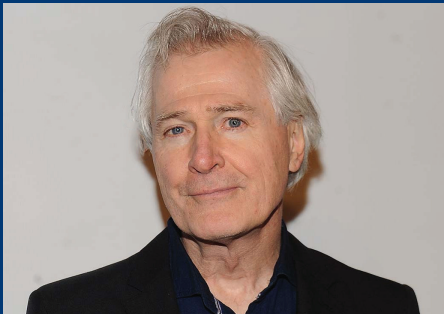
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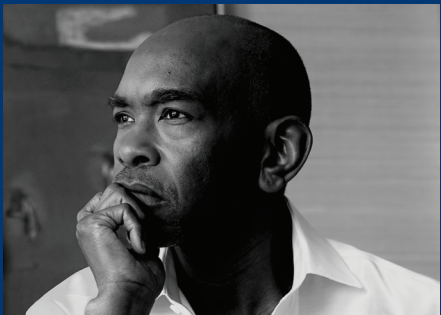
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Silent Movie Festival returns to Ludlow with 100th anniversary of a classic comedy

Saturday, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m.—LUDLOW—Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA) will celebrate the return of its annual Classic Silent Festival on Saturday, at 7 p.m. in the Heald Auditorium at Ludlow Town Hall. To make this a very special event, the main feature will be the classic comedy, “The Last Laugh,” which was first screened 100 years ago in 1924. The film was directed by Friedrich Murnau.

“The Last Laugh” is a German silent film (with English sub-titles) starring Emil Jannings. He is featured as a doorman to an elite hotel in Berlin. The action takes place during the Weimer Republic period of Germany. As the doorman, Jannings wore a highly-styled militaristic uniform. To his poor neighbors, trying to recover from the ravages of World War 1, this uniform made Jannings a highly-respected neighbor.

The hotel’s manager, however, decided that Jannings would be replaced as doorman by a younger man—due to his age, Jannings became a restroom attendant. This meant that he would no longer wear a uniform. This alters his neighbors’ opinion of him from extreme respect to disappointment and disrespect.

“The Last Laugh” traces how Jannings deals with this change in position and public attitude towards him. It is a cinematic example of the ‘Kammerspielfilm’ or “chamber-drama” genre, which follows the style of short, sparse plays of lower middle-class life that emphasized the psychology of the characters rather than the sets and action. The genre tried to avoid the intertitles (title cards) of spoken dialogue or description that characterize most

silent films, in the belief that the visuals themselves should carry most of the meaning.

The film was made in 1924, at the time of the Weimar Republic. The war reparation payments imposed on Germany caused skyrocketing inflation, economic collapse, food shortages, poverty, malnutrition and hunger. Germans were looking for some hope for improvement of their economic situation. Even such an unrealistic possibility as inheriting money from somebody else brought some hope. This need for hope and the director’s knowledge of the expectations of the general public were the reasons that “The Last Laugh” has a happy epilogue.

German cinema began co-operative ventures with Hollywood producers. One of the results of this early cooperation was that director Alfred Hitchcock went to Berlin and started working with Friedrich Murnau. Hitchcock was very impressed with Murnau’s unchained camera techniques and stated that his cooperation with Murnau was an “enormously productive experience” and that “The Last Laugh” was an “almost perfect film.”

Jeff Rapsis will return to provide his original musical background to this great silent film. The program will begin with a short Buster Keaton comedy. Glenn Brown will be featured at the auditorium’s classic piano for this sketch.

The Silent Movie Festival is open to everyone and is free; donations are appreciated to cover the many expenses of producing this event.

For more information, call 802-228-3238.



Submitted

Scenes from the silent film “The Last Laugh,” which was first screened 100 years ago in 1924. Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA) will celebrate the return of its annual Classic Silent Festival with a presentation of the film on Saturday, at 7 p.m. in the Heald Auditorium at Ludlow Town Hall.

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BarnArts hosts family-friendly fun at Barnard Street Dance

Saturday, Aug. 24—BARNARD—Block off your calendar for 7 hours of fun on Saturday as the Barnard Street Dance owns the day! This beloved, family-friendly event is in its third year of revival by BarnArts, and takes place primarily around Barnard Town Hall from 2-9 p.m. Local food vendors and a lineup of local bands set the stage for an afternoon of fun music, tasty food, contra dancing, and activities for all ages.

The event is free for all, but donations and purchases of raffle tickets are appreciated to cover costs and support future years of the event. In case of inclement weather, the event will move inside the town hall.

Boat race

Boat Races are returning to the Street Dance this year for the first time since 2015! Races start at 2 p.m. at Silver Lake State Park and are organized by the Silver Lake Association.

With a short course from the state park's dock out to a raft on the lake and back, fans of canoes, kayaks, stand up paddle boards, and paddle boats will all get a chance at the prize of free ice cream. All competitors and viewers get into the park for free and racers can use their own boat or borrow one from the park.

Town Hall party

The party at the Barnard Town Hall begins at 3 p.m. and goes until 9 p.m. with games from Barnard Rec out back and food and music around the side, front, and inside of the town hall. Food vendors include: Moon & Stars (arepas and empanadas), Panou (Haitian chicken & bean plates), and Kiss the Cow organic ice cream.

Music and dancing

Bow Thayer will kick off the musical lineup at 3 p.m. with his improvisational rock quartet Choirs of Aether.

Choirs of Aether is a relatively new project from Thayer, a beloved local musician based in Stockbridge. What began as



Submitted

Steve Ferraris (left) and Bow Thayer (right) will perform with their rock quartet Choirs of Aether at 3 p.m.

a tribute to Sun Ra is now an improvisational rock group that explores the boundaries of traditional music. Thayer, Krishna Guthrie, and Steve Ferraris share musical duties that give the impression of one big instrument playing a long, eternal jam.

At 5 p.m., all ages and abilities will get a chance to twirl and stomp along with Blind Squirrel. Caller Kevin Donohue teaches the contra dance steps so that all may enjoy this old Vermont tradition and smile ear-to-ear.

Blind Squirrel's repertoire draws on Celtic, Appalachian, and French Canadian grooves. The band features Upper Valley musicians and ardent dancers Erin Smith and Steve Hoffman on fiddle, Suzanne Long on cello, and Eric Faro on guitar. Many members have been playing together for nearly

a decade and their love of the music and the joy of creating music for dancing keeps them going. They will be joined by caller and BarnArts theater regular, Kevin Donohue, who will guide everyone effortlessly through each dance, ensuring beginners and experienced dancers alike have a great time!

The folk art rock band Billy Wylder will close out the evening with a dance party from 7-9 p.m. Billy Wylder is a group of life-long musicians who have been touring the northeast for many years under this named guise! The artists weave American folk and rock sensibilities with synths, violins, and drum machines and Leonard Cohen-inspired lyrical imagery. Band members hail from Vermont to Cuba to Chicago to Peru with Avi Salloway (vocals, guitar), Rob Flax (violin, synth, vocals), Jennifer Giammanco (bass, vocals), Ricardo Guerra (drums, vocals).

Basket raffles, Street Dance Cup

BarnArts will be raising money for the street dance by raffling off four themed baskets full of local goodies and gift cards. A kids-themed basket will be raffled off after the contra dance at 6:30 p.m. and the other three baskets (food, drink, and art themed) will be raffled off at 8 p.m.

New this year is a reusable signature Barnard Street Dance Cup, which can be purchased for \$5 and comes with free refills of ice tea, herbal tea, and water. Or, for an extra \$5, you get a serving of fresh-squeezed Maple Lemonade or Carin's Kombucha. All proceeds from the cups, drinks, and raffle baskets go to the Street Dance Fund. Parking is available around the Barnard Town Hall as well as along North Rd.

The Barnard Street Dance is a free, family-friendly event celebrating summer and the beautiful community.

For more info, visit: barnarts.org/mainstage/archives/barnard-street-dance.



Presents

The Silent Movie Festival
Saturday, Aug. 24 @ 7 PM
Heald Auditorium, Ludlow
Town Hall



"The Last Laugh"
A comedy

With the great music of Jeff Rapsis
after Glenn Brown tickles the
ivories for a Buster Keaton comedy

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AUGUST 24-25, 2024

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★ ENTERTAINMENT

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MUSIC!
FOOD
BEER
WINE

SAT 12-7 PM • SUN 10 AM-4 PM
OKEMO FIELD IN LUDLOW, VERMONT

SAT 12-7 PM • SUN 10 AM-4 PM

OKEMO FIELD IN LUDLOW, VERMONT

A stylized illustration of a wooden signpost with four directional signs. The top sign is rectangular and red with white text that reads "VENDORS!" and "MUSIC!". The left sign is octagonal and red with white text that reads "FOOD". The bottom-right sign is rectangular and red with white text that reads "BEER" and "WINE". The signpost is set against a background of green grass and a blue sky.

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Ludlow hosts fourth annual Best of Vermont Summer Festival

Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 24-25—LUDLOW—The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce will host the fourth annual Best of Vermont Summer Festival on Saturday, Aug. 24, from noon-7 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The event will take place at Okemo Field (Bixby Field) at the intersection of Route 103 & Bixby Road in Ludlow.

It's a pet- and family-friendly festival that welcomes everyone.

The festival showcases specialty foods, craft beverages, artisan products, fine art, a five-act music lineup, entertainment, agriculture demos, raffle prizes, and children's activities like new puzzle quests and giant games, as well as the imaginative blue block playground hosted by Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. The return of the popular alpacas from Stonewall Fields Alpaca Farms and the new addition of playful goats from Gran-Debra Farms add an extra touch. Additionally, Troy Wunderlee of Big Top Adventures will be joining again for circus programming.

The festival also features a display of antique tractors from Dan Moore of Barker Farm's collection. This showcase of Vermont made engines and machinery includes working exhibits from the 1900s. These beautifully preserved machines add a touch of nostalgia to your festival experience.

Food enthusiasts will enjoy a delicious array of options while visiting our many food trucks and a food tent, featuring Okemo Resorts' lobster rolls and fudge waffles from the Waffle Cabin. Throughout the festival, attendees can sample delicious BBQ, arepas, Italian sausage, Vermont-made ice cream, local award-winning cheeses, salsas bursting with flavor, small batch chocolates, and maple treats.

The artisan tent will feature over 100+ vendors with fine art, photography, original pieces of jewelry, ceramics, wood carvings, paintings, illustrations, handmade artisan furniture, gifts inspired by nature, and handcrafted goods of all kinds.

The five-act music lineup blends folk, funk, pop, rock, country, bluegrass and soul. Saturday headliners include Bear Mountain Boys, the Rustie Bus Band, and the more Americana type material of UnReel. Sunday will kick off with Ida Mae Specker followed by the duo of Brooks Hubbard and Jay Nash.

The new beer garden offers a place to relax and unwind with a refreshing craft brew in hand.

The Best of Vermont Summer Festival in Okemo Valley is a celebration of community, creativity, and joy.

For more information, visit: yourplaceinvermont.com/best-of-vermont-summer-festival.



Courtesy Your Place in Vermont

The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce is preparing for the Best of Vermont Summer Festival, a celebration of community, creativity, and joy.

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Downtown Rutland, Vermont

July 26

Aug. 16

Sept. 6



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books & crafts · bounce house
outdoor dining · shopping
activities and more

July 26th • August 16th • September 6th



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

Crossword

Solutions from page 15

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

Sudoku

Solutions from page 15

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

Rutland County Humane Society



Penelope—9 months. Spayed female. American Staffordshire Terrier mix.



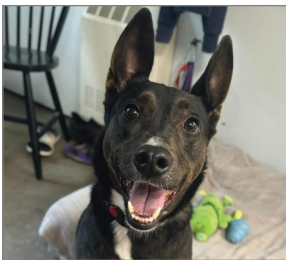
Gypsy Mae—5 years. Spay date set. Husky/Rottweiler mix.



Luna—2 years. Spayed female. American Staffordshire Terrier.



Al—2-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



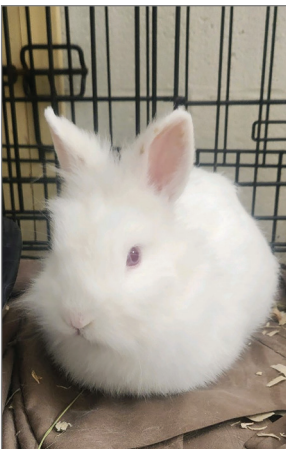
Pluto—4 years. Spayed female. Feist mix.



ANGELINA

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

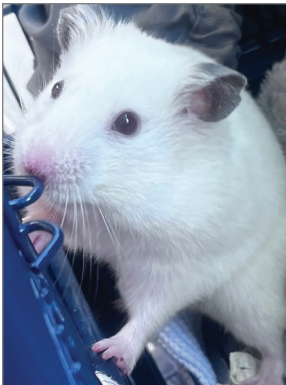
All of these pets are available for adoption at
Rutland County Humane Society
765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT • (802) 483-6700
Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Sun. & Mon. • www.rchsvt.org



Pie—Adult. Male. Rabbit. Lionhead.



Jenna—2 years. Spayed female. Boxer mix.



Lo Mein—Young. Chinese Hamster.



Joy—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Carfunkle—Adult. Male. Guinea Pig.



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SANDY

Cosmic Catalogue



Aries March 21 - April 20

As a result of the new things you've been learning and exploring, you may be seeing friendships in a new light. As you're spending more time with newer connections, you may be considering your longer established ones. Do you feel as close to them as you once did? Are you no longer aligned with them at some level? Do be cautious about letting ideologies get between you and those who've always cared for you. Finding balance won't be easy, but it is required.

Leo July 21 - August 20

Like it or not, the harsh light of reality is shining on your relationship. Whether you're single or you're spoken for, what is good, bad and ugly is now crystal clear. While you may have to face a few things in this stark light, you're better off for facing them. You can't fix what you can't see and right now, awareness is everything. Denial is the last avenue you want to be stuck in now. Dare to be different when it comes to your approach to love.

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

You're a big picture person who is hopeful and optimistic. The downside of this can be that you lose sight of the details. Getting back to your daily rituals and routines will do a lot to help you stay grounded and focus on what is important to you. While it's counter intuitive to your nature, when you can focus on the little things, the big things will just emanate from there. Get back to whatever it is that makes you feel good.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

You may get a clearer picture about what is and isn't working for you professionally or whatever it is that you're most known for. Balancing your own creative output and authentic expression with this new reality may not be easy. What others want from you may not be exactly what you want to be giving. While it's easy to kowtow to the mob, when you do, it will only be you that ends up getting disappointed. Don't sell yourself out.

Virgo August 21 - September 20

We all have problems in life. Some of these problems are hidden from view, like the thoughts and self-talk that may plague the mind. Then there are the problems we can see, point our finger at and fix. Fortunately, most of the problems you need to address now can be remedied by a little bit of hard work. That being said, you may also need to ask yourself why it is you've not addressed the problem sooner. That issue may take longer to solve.

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

The hard work, effort and toil you've been going through recently may begin to show signs of paying off. As the Full Moon lights up your Cash Zone, you may arrive at a turning point when it comes to your finances. Are you making inroads with your goals or are you in a situation that requires even more hard work from you? Whatever it is you need to do, do keep doing more of it. One way or another, rewards will arrive.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

Life has steered you in a different direction when it comes to the way you view the world. Faith, philosophies and the places you'd like to go to probably don't look the same as they once did. Try not to ask too many questions or attempt to figure out the unfiguroutable. All you need to do is trust in the direction that life is guiding you. Just stay open minded and available for anything and everything. Life would be boring if you had all the answers.

Libra September 21 - October 20

You may be tempted to fall back into old ways of being this week. If that happens, don't beat yourself up about it. All you need to do is get back on the proverbial horse and get back on track. Aiming for progress rather than perfection is not only going to make you so much happier, but also keep you trending in the right direction. We all need to blow off a little steam in one way or another sometimes.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

The Full Moon lights up your sign. You may gain some clarity around the self-development that is being asked from you. Your rigid habits or ways of thinking won't die easily, but they have to. You know this. Other people know this, so why not just admit it? When you can do this, you can fix things. When you can fix things, you'll be so much happier. Ask yourself what is it you're holding on to so tightly and why exactly are you holding onto it?

Cancer June 21 - July 20

Whether you choose to bury your head in the sand or you face reality, things are still what they are. If you've been ignoring your money situation, denial isn't going to solve your problems. When you can face your circumstances, you empower yourself to change them. So, it really doesn't matter if you like what you see or you don't, just see. From there, you can do what is required to put yourself in a better position.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

You may reach the conclusion that you're current living situation isn't sustainable. Perhaps it's the dynamics of your domestic relationships. Maybe it's the location or maybe it's the cost of it all. Whatever it is, you really do need to start changing things. Deep down, you've felt the current shift and have likely been ignoring it a while. Like it or not, change is beckoning on the home front. This week, you'll get the chance to address what requires your attention.

Pisces February 21 - March 20

This week's Full Moon may serve as a reminder that your soul needs rest. You've been carrying more load and more responsibility than you have in some time. While you've got a while to go, you can also take a break. A break when you need one is better than quitting altogether. You haven't come this far just to come this far. Pause, recharge and then you can come back stronger than ever. Clarity can be found by some additional time alone.

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

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This week, explore your options but delay decisions

Amidst the confusion, the change and the uncertainty there are a lot of options.

One option is to see things from a pessimistic perspective. That nothing can be as good as it once was. It can be easy to fall into the trap of romanticizing the past. Was it actually that good or is it simply a case of preferring the familiar rather than the new?

For other people, the change and uncertainty is welcomed. They can see past the present discomfort and seek out opportunities and potential. More often than not, these types of people are more hopeful and optimistic. They know change is inevitable, so

they welcome it rather than fear it.

You may have days where you prefer the past, the good ol' days. Then you may have days where you think "Anything has got to be better than this!"

While this week may not be ideal for making any decisions, it's definitely worth exploring your options and look at all possibilities.

A dramatic Full Moon began the week, Monday. Regardless of whether you see the glass half full, half empty or even refillable or a combination of all. The glass itself may not be what you think it is. So be careful about how, where and why you're hedging your bets.



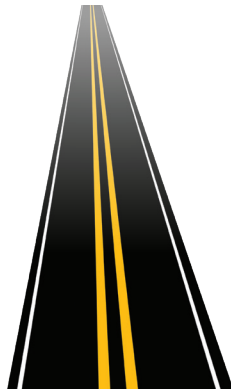
Mountain Meditation
By Marguerite
Jill Dye



Green Mountain Tales
By Izzy Gieder

Road trip

As we drive by I hear the cows moo. I see the green trees that sway gently, the leaves dancing on the branches. I watch squirrels and birds jumping tree to tree. I see deer feasting on the grass in a nearby field. The sun sets slowly behind them, outlining the mountains. A lake reflects the glittering sunset in its waters. I think about our destination, our journey and how they both impact us.



Wake of the flood

Part 1: The calm before the storm

After moving to Vermont in 2019 and spending the next few years there, I left for a brief outing in small town New York, just past the border. A beautiful

lake, a quaint small community and an intense education in horticulture was no match for the obstacles I faced there.

In January 2023, I escaped the town and ran to the Green Mountains again where I knew my heart remained. A then friend offered me



Dream in Color
By Will
O'Donnell

shelter from the storm.

Last year, I lived six different places. Trying to hang my hat anywhere I could afford in the state with intense unreliability. Whether it was an offer rescinded same day, an invitation met with no calls returned, a divorce leading to my room no longer being rentable a week after moving in, or an employee housing situation offered by someone with no per-

ception of the local Killington heartbeat, I found myself hanging on for dear life. Clawing for even the most basic of dwellings, knowing that the motherland would eventually provide for me, if only I would stay true to my dreams and give her the utmost respect that she deserved.

With a brief, but significant outing near the law school in Royalton, I finally found an opening. Someone finally given me a real chance to get myself established. I was able to use this place and my part-time employment to really start to establish some roots. An acquaintance help me find additional employment, paid at the lowest rate in town (unfortunately), and put in some effort to help me establish myself amongst the Killington community. But I wasn't a total newbie, I'd been hanging with them around town for a few years at that point. When my place near the law school had evolved into something untenable, they introduced me to one of their friends who was a prominent and respected member of the community who potentially had a place available in town.

I remember a blustery cold day in late spring, still wearing my Carhartt, ven-

Dream in Color → 35

How water striders manage raindrops

Water striders are a common sight on ponds, vernal pools, and puddles. During clear summer days, these insects seem to walk on water, a feat they accomplish through a combination of long legs that distribute their weight across the water's surface and micro hairs that make these invertebrates extremely water repellent. But what happens to these water walkers when it rains?

It seems logical that a shower of water would capsize tiny floating insects. During heavy rain, something the size of a water strider can be struck by a drop on average every seven seconds. And each of those drops can have five times more mass than an adult strider. Daren Watson, assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Florida Polytechnic University, set out to determine how these bugs stay afloat.

Watson set up a rainfall simulator in the lab. A nozzle at ceiling height dropped water into an artificial pool containing many water striders. Watson's lab-made "rain" fell at the slow end of the range of velocities for natural rain. He recorded video of the striders as they were struck by the drops, later analyzing their reactions in slow motion.

When a drop of rain strikes the water surface, it forms a crater of water. That crater collapses, then rebounds into a jet, which drops back into a second crater. Finally, the water ripples back into a rest state. This entire series of very fast events is one "splash." A raindrop splash happens much

too quickly for a water strider to anticipate and move out of the way.

"A direct, initial splash always pushes them underwater, mainly because of how light [the bugs] are," Watson said.

During his experiments in the lab, water striders were submerged by the initial strike and first crater formation, then carried upwards when the jet formed. In one case, however, a strider leaped from the top of the jet, landing well away from the splash zone and escaping further wetting.

Most striders in the lab fell back into the second crater as the jet collapsed. If a strider landed near the bottom of that crater, it was again dragged under the water surface. Water striders that were resubmerged were always able to propel themselves back to the surface, thanks to their adaptations for buoyancy, and their ability to swim under water.

The extremely water-repellent micro hairs covering their bodies help water striders resurface. These hairs trap a bubble of air, called a plastron, around a strider's body to create extra buoyancy. Water striders additionally use their plastron to breathe while submerged, like a scuba diver's air tank. Water striders can also swim under water, which they do by rotating their long middle legs forward and then paddling them back.

During Watson's lab experiments, he observed that repeated drop impacts are likely

Outside Story → 38



The Outside Story
By Rachel Sargent
Mirus

Rural animals visit Rutland City

When you live in Rutland City with houses very close to one another you don't expect to see animals and critters that are prevalent in rural areas.

But that hasn't stopped these "visitors" from checking out our urban setting.

Back in the '50s when I was a small child I remember playing in the sandbox when my mother scooped me up and hustled me into the house. No doubt I wondered what that was all about!

She brought me onto the back porch that overlooked our yard. There were three cows out there that had apparently wandered over from the upper Stratton Road area. I guess she thought I would be trampled!

Cows have not returned to our area since the '50s but deer have left the forest and tried "city living" on several occasions.

Back in 2015 a doe and her two fawns took up residence in the back yard of my late relative, Loyola McDonough. Her

property on Taft Avenue abuts our back yard so I got to see them. They stayed there for a couple of weeks. Nobody passing by would know they were there so they

had peace and quiet during their stay. The people who mowed her lawn were told not to mow out back for two weeks. She hoped they would be gone by then. Loyola enjoyed sitting out on her deck to watch them. The doe must have known she had a "time limit" because she adhered to Loyola's two week deadline. All three deer were seen by a friend at the intersection of Stratton Road and Killington Avenue. They headed

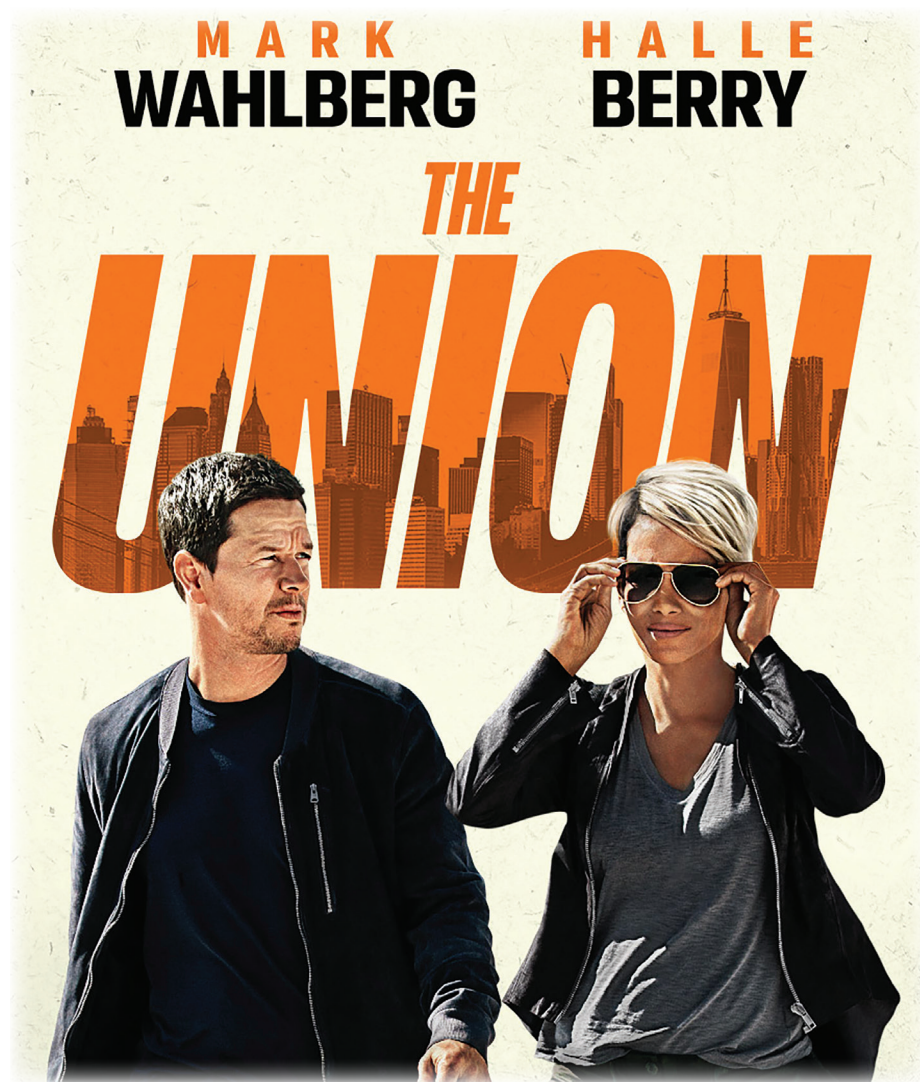
up Killington Avenue and were probably on their way back into the Mendon forest for the winter.

We had one deer in our yard on Howard Avenue last summer as well as this summer. Last year I spotted the doe as she ambled down our driveway and headed to the hosta plants in the back yard. I had noticed that they were being eaten several

Looking Back → 35



Looking Back
By Mary Ellen
Shaw



Service with a smile

My son just started a job waitering at a local Mexican restaurant. He also works at a grocery store, but he hadn't been getting enough hours, and since he needs money for his planned trip abroad next month, he knew he had to find additional employment.

The restaurant serves authentic Mexican fare and is decorated in traditional Mexican art featuring Aztec masks, statues of Mary, and plenty of colorful skulls. They also pipe in customary mariachi music to really set the mood.

The staff is primarily of Hispanic origin, which is expected. What wasn't expected was their desire to hire my son given that he's a 6'2" ivory-skinned redhead. That doesn't really fit the "theme."

He got the job via a friend who was already a waiter at the establishment. Apparently, they were having trouble finding reliable help, so they were willing to give my son a try. He has a good work ethic and apparently that came through in his first few shifts so they agreed to keep him on.

During his training period, he shadowed another server, bused tables, and cleaned as necessary. I found this ironic given that I've never known my son to clean anything without a knockdown,

dragout fight. He claims he's good at it, but I questioned this given that I've rarely seen him do it.

Initially, he made little money because there are no tips involved during training periods, so the payoff of all the invested time didn't seem worth it. I tried to explain to him that he had to pay his dues before the good money started rolling in.



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi

After a couple weeks they finally let him loose to wait tables on his own. He didn't get the best shifts so there still wasn't a lot of money, but he was working his way up. I repeated that hard work and dependability will eventually resolve to an increase in earnings.

Each night after arriving home, he tells us stories about his encounters. He waited on a couple that he was convinced were on a first date because they barely spoke and seemed

wildly uncomfortable with each other. He's also waited on an elderly couple that seem oddly preoccupied with his life and what he does in his free time. And then there was the lone businessman who came in at lunch and left him a huge tip simply because my son talked sports with him throughout his meal.

It didn't take him long to figure out that you have to play to the customer. If they

Movie Diary → 39

Big Bear takes stuffies on an adventure

Every year, just before school starts, the Sherburne Memorial Library hosts its annual stuffed animal sleepover. But this isn't just any sleepover. In fact, it doesn't even have any human people actually sleeping over!

Instead, the local kids (and even a few grownups) drop their stuffed animals off at the library for a unique toys-come-to-life experience that littles and bigs alike will remember for quite some time.

I've watched this wonderful event from afar, laughing at how the stuffed animals always seem to escape the confines of the library and get themselves into lots of trouble. One year, they even managed to somehow get into the police cruiser and set off the sirens! The images of Chief Montgomery lecturing stuffed animals on respect for police vehicles is ingrained in my memory forever.

This year, I was asked if I would be willing to loan my canoe to someone beary special to me so that they could borrow it for a little adventure during the stuffy overnight. Of course, I was absolutely honored to be included in this exciting town event — only to be absolutely horrified to discover that only one animal wore a state certified life jacket while the rest had absolutely no personal flotation devices at all! And not only that, but my bear friend loaded the canoe

with almost 45 of his friends — way over the five-person limit of my canoe! I was very upset to find out that my bear friend had completely neglected state laws, but I guess I should have known better. Bears of very little brain are always troublesome.

Of course, we grownups all know that stuffed animals don't really move themselves (if you ever read my column to your kids skip the next few paragraphs). Instead, an entire team of wonderful volunteers were following around Killington Elementary School K\kindergarten teacher Melissa Knipes as she creates these wonderful tableaux for the children to see when they come pick up their animals the next day. In this case, library volunteers Judy Evans, Sue Holt and library board president Nancy Sherman all came with shopping bags full of stuffed animals — including their own!

We quickly wrapped the big bear in my lifejacket and set him up with a paddle. As the sun was beginning to set, we had to move fast! I quickly threw all the stuffies into the stern of the canoe, as the ladies passed them to me knee deep in the water. This was probably the most dangerous tableau to put together — you cannot get some little kid's stuffed animal wet with even a drop of water! But we had to get them out in a canoe for a big adventure.

Some of the stuffies then sat on the Kayak King's bench, looking out from half-moon cove while the sun set and we took pictures of the big bear sitting in the canoe. Others threw themselves up into the trees, like the von Trapp family children did, squealing with laughter and being allowed out into

Living the Dream → 38



By Merissa Sherman

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Dream in Color:

from page 32

turing to a place I'd been a few times late night where it seemed only the hippest of locals hung out. As an "outsider," all I knew was that this place was where the magic happened. Like a Madison Square Garden, Grand Old Opry, or Red Rocks, this spot was etched into Killington lore as the "locals" spot. The place where certain bands would play that wouldn't dare touch another local stage. The place where crowds from all walks of life could come in and feel like part of the group. Rowdy pool shark exhibitions. Great music. Sassy, but professional bar tenders. Events all the time that brought locals together. And a kitchen that could bang out the craziest of no-warning bus drop-offs that could empty the building as quickly as it filled, dishing out local favorites like French onion soup, the only gyro in town, the perfect French fry and barbecue sourced right out front from the Iron Pig.

Typical of a ski-town, this was also the place that some locals went to stretch their legs within their open relationship, while remaining ever fearful of commitment well into their 50s-plus, terrified it would interfere with their own independence or compromise their need to stay forever young.

I remember settling on the patio with my acquaintance and my potential future friend and landlord. What I experienced was the most humble, yet bizarre amalgam of unrequited confidence mixed with the purest version of a rags to riches hero who certainly worked for every penny. While

I had heard stories from locals, nothing could have prepared me for this meeting.

This Rubik's Cube of a man invited me to sit with him and a few of his friends. I was being scanned up and down with the utmost scrutiny, while being accepted fully for exactly who I am. The simultaneous energy of a disappointed dad, paired with the perfect mix of an adoring best friend.

This was the SATs of community acceptance. The litmus test proving that the NO DB sticker I saw early on wasn't just a suggestion.

He spoke of my Carhartt, my lack of haircut and my general relaxed demeanor, paired with my commitment to paying dues, my treating house as a home, and dedication to hustling. As we got to know each other, he decided that I was going to be a good fit as a roommate for his sous chef.

This young family man is the perfect mix of well-deserved confidence and a sense of humility that couldn't be matched by the hero of any Disney film. Old country songs by Willie, Hank and Waylon only briefly touch on the level of gentleman that I was introduced to when I first met this young man who was 10 years my junior. As the move-in process started and I saw how the three of us supported each other, I knew I had passed the test. Not only was I here, but my chance to be part of a community I admired was finally here.

Look for Part 2 on the 'The Flood' in next week's edition.

Looking Back:

from page 32

days before I actually saw the "culprit." Apparently hostas were the preferred plant in my flower garden. But the deer didn't like all the varieties that I had to offer. She ate the variety I like the least, which was appreciated! The deer that was in our yard this summer apparently likes tomato plants as she chewed off the tops of two of them before I spotted her in the yard.

Not all our "visitors" are cute and gentle. We had a bear on our street a few years ago. All the neighbors remained in their houses until it was seen leaving our street.

Every summer we see both gray and red foxes slithering through our yards. Hopefully, that won't happen while I am sitting outside reading. If it does my scream will penetrate the neighborhood!

Groundhogs claim "city residency" in the summer as veggie gardens offer plenty of delicious options. Fencing may keep out some predators but groundhogs dig under fences and have a feast. A "Havahart live" trap has been tried at two of the homes but kale and broccoli were in short supply by the time that option was used.

The biggest surprise "visitor" came to our street a few years ago. My husband, Peter, told me to look out our living room window. A large turkey was strutting down the street.

I had never seen one of those go by the house before.

The cutest visitors are the bunnies! They have their babies in places that can surprise you when walking in the yard or working in the garden. I tripped in a hole that was in our side yard and soon discovered that it was a bunny nest. I read that choosing such a location is not unusual as predators are not apt to venture into open spaces. One other year I found a bunny nest in my flower garden.

Last summer I saw only one bunny but my neighbor, Allison, told me that she had seen two together in their yard. You know how that situation plays out. They multiply! Bunnies also make it necessary to grow lettuce and carrots in raised boxes. I came up with that solution after I saw one bunny working its way along my row of lettuce like it was a salad bar. The tops of my carrots were also a victim of bunny nibbling. My veggie boxes are 3 feet off the ground and covered with chicken wire. No bunnies or squirrels are going to eat what is intended for my husband and me. Problem solved!

So although Rutland is a city we do have "country" visitors. Our welcome mat will not be out for bears, foxes or groundhogs but the rest of them are pretty cute and fun to watch.

Preventing erosion at home

By Bonnie Kirn Donahue

Editor's note: Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a UVM Extension master gardener and landscape architect in central Vermont.

Did you know that the condition of your yard can have an impact on regional water quality?

Areas where soil is left open and unvegetated are spots that are susceptible to erosion. Erosion happens when unprotected earth is moved by water from one place to another.

Sediment from eroding soil can end up in rivers and eventually in larger water bodies, impacting water quality and aquatic health. Nutrients like phosphorus can travel with sediment and may accumulate and encourage the growth of algae and bacteria in water bodies.

Luckily, everyone can play a role in reducing the impacts of erosion.

One significant thing you can do is to vegetate any exposed soil that you aren't actively working on. This could include patches of lawn that just aren't growing well, ditches, hill-sides, large driveways or dirt parking areas that aren't often used. A simple way to do this is to use a seed mix.

If you have exposed soil in your vegetable garden, you could use a cover crop like buckwheat, oats, vetch or annual rye. These crops will only survive one growing season. If you are able to till or cut the crop back at the end of the season, the plant matter can add nutrients back into the soil.

If you have a patch of lawn that is open, and you need permanent cover, you could use a lawn mix with fine fescues and clover. For meadow areas, try a mix with native grasses and perennials. For steep slopes, mixes that include clover can help to stabilize banks.

If possible, try to use seed mixes that have native plants or are pollinator-friendly. This will not only help stabilize the soil but provide food and habitat for beneficial insects and pollinators.

Make sure to add mulch like hay or straw to open areas that you seed. If you want to avoid introducing weed species into the area, just use straw mulch instead.

This will help hold moisture in the soil and help prevent the area from eroding while turf is establishing. For slopes steeper than 30% (3:1), erosion-control blankets can be used for more protection.

Prioritize these improvements on exposed slopes or open soil near rivers or water bodies as these areas are most likely to have the most direct impact on water quality.

We all can help prevent sediment and phosphorus from ending up in larger water bodies. Sowing into exposed soil is a great start and one small technique that can make a big difference.



By Bonnie Kirn Donahue

To help reduce erosion, barren sloping areas can be seeded with a mix of fine fescues and clover and then mulched with hay.



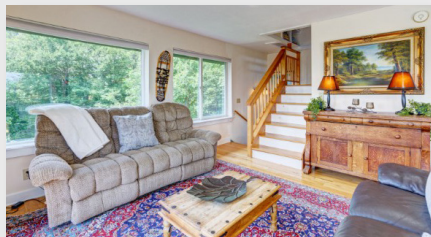
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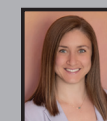
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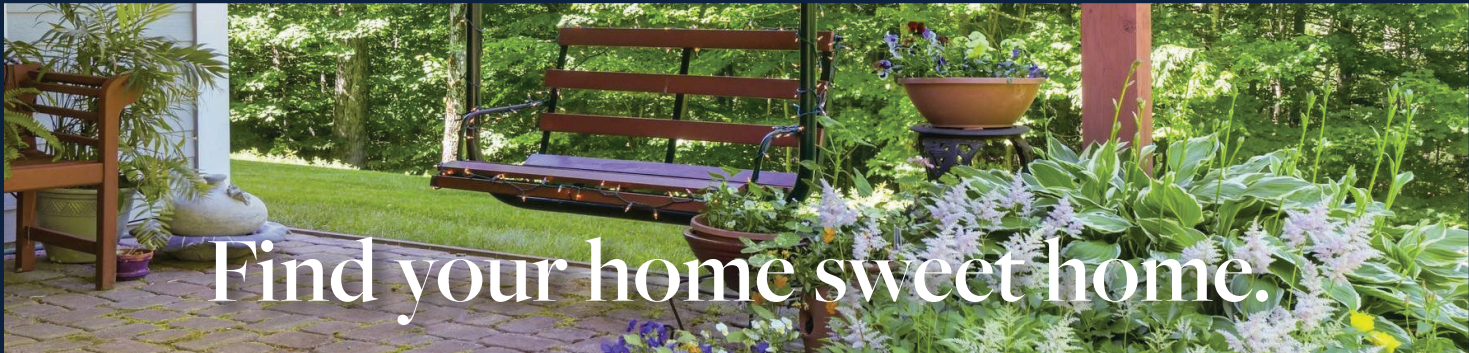
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NEW PRICE! DON'T MISS THIS EXQUISITE SINGLE FAMILY HOME!

This stunning Douglas Fir Timber Frame Home with 3 car attached garage was lovingly built by the owners in 2007 and has been meticulously maintained. Nestled in the woods at the end of a quiet cul de sac, yet right off the action of the Killington Road, this single family home is beautiful inside & out.

KILLINGTON, VT | \$1,390,000 | MLS#5003524
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ENCHANTING DUTCH COLONIAL

Nestled on a tranquil .47-acre lot, this home offers a unique blend of timeless charm and generous space suited for modern living. Ideally located just a few short minutes from Killington-Pico Resort and close to all in-town conveniences, this property is the perfect option as a vacation or primary home.

RUTLAND CITY, VT | \$349,900 | MLS#5003830
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AMAZING MOUNTAIN VIEWS! Immediate access to VAST snowmobile trails & hiking/mtn trails. 4 bed/ 2 bath mountain contemporary chalet on 14 acres. Close to skiing & lakes. **\$699k**



Gorgeous 2 bed + loft, 2 bath off grid custom build on 18 + acres w/ year-round brook. The setting is magical. Direct access to VAST trails, endless mtn biking/hiking trails. You must see this special gem! **\$675K**



Private spot close to Killington & Okemo. 10+ acres with a 2 bed/1 bath timber frame home. Currently the property is set up as a cannabis grow operation w/ 2 buildings totally equipped to continue a successful grow operation with a VT state license. Close access to VAST trails. Motivated Seller. **\$360K.**

← **TOS:**
from page 32

to reduce a strider’s plastron, indicating that during heavy rain, the insects may eventually become waterlogged, which could leave them trapped below the water surface. Nevertheless, a strider without a plastron still has options for resurfacing. Submerged striders in the lab used their legs to grab and climb onto floating acrylic squares in their habitat. In the outside world, water plants and floating debris may be important to their survival during heavy rain.

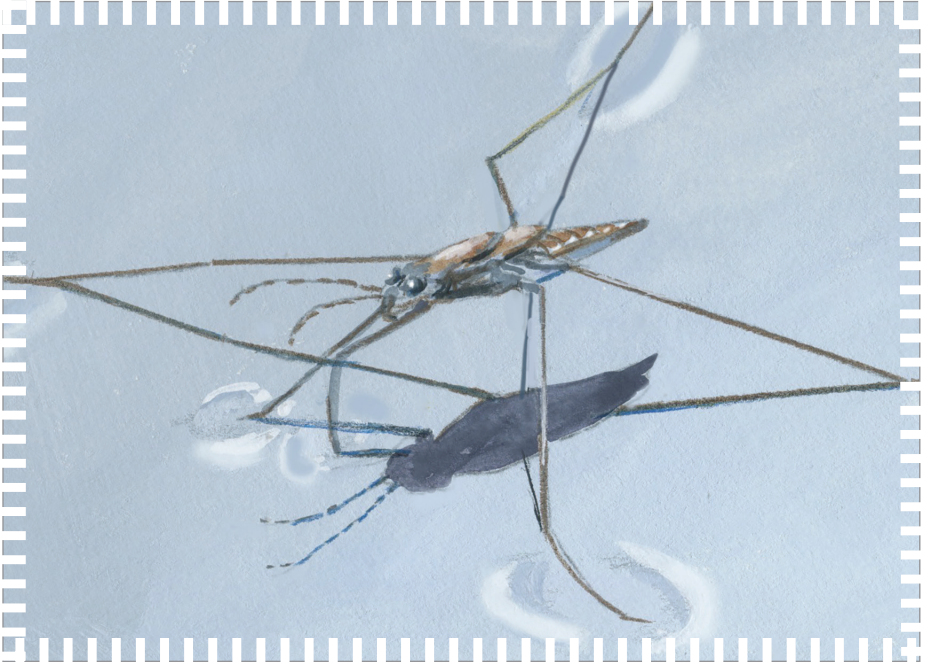
Watson also tested how water striders survive being compressed, as happens when they are struck by falling water drops. He found that striders can survive compression forces more than double the force generated by drops falling at the fastest possible speed of rain.

Watson is looking forward to researching additional questions related to water striders and physics. For example, he and his team hypothesize that striders can be a model for how other lightweight, hydrophobic items, such as microplastics, behave in aquatic environments.

“I totally enjoyed this project,” he said. “We stepped outside of the box — what mechanical engineers tend to do. This was a fusion of biology, fluid mechanics, and physics.”

It was also an example of how asking a simple question about a familiar insect can lead to new insights about nature.

Rachel Sargent Mirus is a teaching artist and writer. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



← **Living the Dream:**
from page 33

the woods. Please note that the big bear didn’t belong to any of the kids ... I will let you guess which grownup brought him down to paddle.

What amazes me even more than the dedication of the volunteers to making this overnight adventure happen, is the willingness of the children to forgo their stuffed animal for the night. My dad gave me a Steiff stuffed bear when I was 6 months old and I have not been separated from that bear for a single night since — except for vacations. He went with me to KMS — although he did not come home from that experience unscathed. He attended Deerfield with me and then college. He stayed with us at the hospital while my dad was dying and currently has a place of honor right beside my bed. The BF knows when my world

is crumbling down around me when he comes home to find my teddy wrapped in my arms. How much trust must these youngsters have in our library and Mrs. Knipes that they are willing to let go of their favorite stuffies for even one night of their childhood! Yes, some of these were brand newish but there were also “Velveteen Rabbit” kind of stuffies in the collection and you picked these up with reverence and respect. These stuffed animals can be a child’s whole world and we were honored to be allowed to even touch them, never mind have them for the evening.

So thank you, to the children who honored us with their stuffed animals for the evening. Thank you Mrs. Knipes for loving our children so very much. Thank you to our library for being such a wonderful, trusted place for our community. And thank you, Big Bear, for taking the little stuffies on such a wonderful paddle on Kent Pond. I was so lucky to be a part of this.

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, town lister and member of the Development Review Board. She is a global real estate advisor and coaches for KMS as Coach PomPom. Share your Killington stories at Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.



By Merisa Sherman

COMMERCIAL LISTING
KILLINGTON, VT
\$675,000



Newly Renovated Commercial Space
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This versatile space includes retail areas, a half bath, laboratory facilities, a commercial kitchen, offices, and storage spaces. Luce Farm Wellness has secured all necessary town and state permits for CBD manufacturing, internet sales, and retail operations. The premises previously housed the original Aspen East Ski Shop and Surf the Earth Snowboards retail, along with shipping and office facilities. Recently refurbished in 2022 and currently leased to Luce Farm Wellness until March 14, 2025. This separate parcel has shared circular driveway access, to be transferred with easement upon sale.

Listing Broker: **Cathy Quaglia**. The listing agent is a co-owner of the property



Bret Williamson
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Judy Storch
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Gary Thompson
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← Movie Diary:.....

from page 33

want to talk, talk; if they don't want to talk, don't talk.

This past Sunday night, my wife and I decided to visit the restaurant and see first-hand how he was doing. Before we left, I dug out some cash to leave as a tip. I'd heard enough stories about crappy customers, so I thought I'd give him a bonus.

We arrived and walked in and our son greeted us with a bit of hesitation. "What are you doing here?" he asked, looking slightly embarrassed that his parents would show up at his job. Once we explained that we weren't there to loiter but wanted to eat, he calmed down and showed us to a table.

We perused the menu and placed an order for margaritas and some appetizers then sat back and watched him work the room. My wife had been a waitress for years before she found a real career, so she was especially critical of his technique. Each time he wandered back to our table, she would hit him with another tip.

Once we finished and my son brought over the bill, I inquired one more time if the tips were shared. He assured me they weren't so I stuffed a \$100 bill into his hand and smiled.

"Good job, dude," I stated.

He smiled back with one of those smiles

that makes you love your kid even more than you thought you could, then headed back to the kitchen.

We left the restaurant with an odd sense of pride. My boy is breaking out into the world. And while a waitering job is minuscule in the grand scheme of things, it is an opportunity to navigate a new environment while trying to find success. And that's what life is all about.

In this week's feature, "The Union," starring Mark Wahlberg and Halle Berry, we meet a grungy Bostonian construction worker who is recruited into an international spy ring by his high school sweetheart, forcing him to navigate a new environment that wants to kill him.

"The Union" is exactly what you would expect. There's plenty of action, a lot of sexual tension, and some humor thrown in for good measure. And while it did encompass all these attributes, the flimsy storyline made it hard to swallow.

Check this one out if you need a distraction that doesn't require much depth. It's fun but ultimately forgettable.

A serviceable "C" for "The Union," now available to stream on Netflix.

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

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