



LABOR DAY IS MONDAY

Labor Day, a federal holiday observed on the first Monday of September, celebrates America's labor movement and workers' contributions to the nation's prosperity.



STUDENTS RETURN TO THE CLASSROOMS

This week students returned to the classrooms for the start of the school year. Some returned to find surprising changes.

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By Pat Wise

KILLINGTON ROAD REOPENS, NEW SIDE-WALK DEBUTED

Finishing touches are now underway at the base of Killington Road in Killington which has been under construction all summer. The slope just before the intersection with Route 4 is safer and there's a new 8-foot paved sidewalk.

Passholders purchase Killington and Pico

What does independent ownership mean for Killington Resort, community?

By Polly Mikula

Thursday, Aug. 22, Killington Resort announced that Powdr will be selling Killington Resort and Pico Mountains to a passionate group of local passholders.

Phill Gross and Michael Ferri are the lead investors of the group and will be joined by a yet-to-be-determined additional number of minority investors. The group of investors is officially called Killington Independence Group, LLC.

"We've already raised the capital to close this transaction," said Ferri. "But we believe now that the word is out, we're going to get another few phone calls from other people interested."

"All of the equity investors are Killington families," Ferri added. "There is no private equity money in this. There's no third party money."

All the investors have strong ties to Killington and are committed to "building relationships on shared values and goals for the resort, and maintaining the community spirit that's forged Killington's identity," according to a statement from the resort. All investors have the same goal: "Keep Killington independent and invest in the Resort as if it is our home, because it is."

The purchase and sale agreement was signed on Wednesday, Aug. 21, with the deal expected to be finalized by the end of September, pending standard closing conditions and necessary approvals.

No sales price has been publicly announced. In 2007, Powdr and SP Land Company purchased Killington and Pico from American Skiing Company for \$83.5 million.

The sale will include all of Killington Resort properties, including: Pico Mountain, the Wobbly Barn, Killington Sports, Killington Golf Course, the

Killington sold → 4

Who is Phill Gross?

Phill Gross is a co-founder of Adage Capital Management, L.P. serving as managing director and healthcare portfolio manager at the firm since its founding in 2001.

His Killington story began in 1986 when he purchased his home and raised his family in the shadow of Killington Peak. He now owns two properties in the area, including one on the Great Eastern Trail. He cites his unique kinship with the resort, the community, and the mountain itself as the core reasons for joining the ownership team.

Phill is a director at several winter sports related non-profits including: Share Winter Foundation, Youth Enrichment Services, Winter4Kids, World Cup Dreams Foundation, the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Board of Trustees and the Killington World Cup Foundation.

Q&A with Phill Gross → 5

Who is Michael Ferri?

Michael Ferri has been an active part of the Killington community since 1970 when his parents bought a condo here. He's a skier, homeowner, and parent of three former Killington Mountain School students.

Ferri is a driving force in the automotive industry, spearheading dynamic business ventures alongside his brother, Paul. Together, they own and operate Valvoline Instant Oil Change and Mr. Sparkle Car Wash franchises.

As part of a family-owned business, Ferri places great importance on contributing to the communities where their businesses operate. He recognizes that their success is deeply intertwined with the wellbeing of local communities. This understanding drives him to engage actively in community development initiatives, including sponsoring local events, supporting educational programs, and partnering with local charities.

Q&A with Michael Ferri → 5



Courtesy Killington Resort

Killington Resort, the largest ski resort in the East with six peaks and 3,000 acres of skiable terrain, is being bought by a group of local passholder investors.

Canada lynx, a rare native wild cat, spotted in Rutland County

A rare native wild cat—the Canada lynx—has been confirmed in Vermont for the first time since 2018 from video recorded on Aug. 17 in Rutland County, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. (VTF&W).

"Canada lynx are endangered in Vermont and threatened nationally," said Brehan Furfey, wildlife biologist and furbearer project leader with VTF&W. "That makes any verifiable lynx sighting in our state important. This newest sighting is especially exciting because the cat was spotted in Rutland County, far south of most confirmed lynx reports in Vermont."

Vermont is on the southernmost edge of

the Canada lynx's range. Most confirmed sightings are in the Northeast Kingdom, which supports the best climate, habitat and food sources for lynx in the state.

"Lynx are specially adapted to hunt snowshoe hares," said Furfey. "Both species need young forest habitats and reliable snowpack to thrive. In Vermont the best combination of climate, habitat and enough hares to support lynx is in the Northeast Kingdom, and even that is on the low end compared to areas of New Hampshire and Maine where lynx are more common."

Rutland County, where this lynx was seen walking along a road edge and caught on video

Lynx → 2

Tom Yennerell named interim Killington town manager

By Polly Mikula

Starting Tuesday, Sept. 3 Killington will welcome Tom Yennerell as its new interim town manager. The Select Board approved the contract at its regular meeting Monday, Aug. 26.

"Tom will be hired on as an interim town manager, with full powers of a town manager," said Select Board member Jim Haff. "It's an 8-month contract and he'll run the day-to-day business

Yennerell → 2



Courtesy MMS

Yennerell has spent 25+ years in municipal management.

Jennifer Koch is engaged to Matthew March

Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Koch of Killington are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer, to Matthew March, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve March of Howell, of Michigan. Matthew is also the grandson of Dorothy March of Fenton, Michigan.

Jennifer Koch is a 2016 graduate from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and a 2018 graduate from Simmons College of Boston, Massachusetts. Matthew March is a 2011 graduate from the University of Michigan. Jennifer is a digital librarian at the Harvard-Smith-



By Annie Koch Photography
Matthew March of Michigan and Jennifer Koch of Killington are engaged to be married December.

sonian Center for Astrophysics, and Matthew is a senior quality assurance manager for Nestle. A

December 2025 wedding is planned, and the couple will be residing in the Boston area.

Yennerell: from page 1

of the town and be the lead for the hiring process of a new town manager.”

The contract has a clause to extend the time period week-to-week after the eight months until a town manager is found. The contract is scheduled to end the day before a new town manager is hired, Haff explained.

Yennerell was referred to the town by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VCLT).

“The town contacted Ted Brady at VLCT after Ramsey put in his resignation,” Haff explained. “We asked for a recent list of available interim town managers, which is

a service provided by VLTC. We were given multiple options. Tom fit the profile for where the town wants to go while also living the closest out of the group,” Haff noted.

Tom Yennerell... has been the manager or interim manager for six municipalities in three states.

Yennerell lives in Springfield and is the founder and municipal management consultant for Municipal Management Services Inc., a consulting service. Tom Yennerell has spent over 25

years in municipal management. He has been the manager or interim manager for six municipalities in three states.

Yennerell was the Springfield town manager

for over five years and a municipal administrator for Henniker, New Hampshire, West Rutland, and Marcos, Colorado, as well as interim town manager for Thetford and Woodstock.

Lynx: from page 1

by several locals, is not considered a suitable habitat for large numbers of snowshoe hare or, by extension, lynx.

However, like much of Vermont, Rutland County sports plenty of well-connected wild landscapes that allow wildlife to move between different habitats. With that in mind, Furfey suspects this lynx was a male moving through the region looking to establish its own territory, a behavior called “dispersing.” Dispersing lynx can move quickly over long distances and it is possible that this individual is no longer in Vermont.

“Although this lynx appears to be on the thinner side, its calm behavior around passing cars as reported by observers is not unusual for a dispersing individual,” said

Furfey. “This lynx was probably just focused on finding food in an area where hares are not abundant and on avoiding competition with bobcats and fishers while passing through southern Vermont.”

Since 2016 the VTF&W has received over 160 reports of lynx, but only seven of these were confirmed. The most recent credible report was from Jericho in 2018.

“If you think you’re looking at a lynx the most helpful thing you can do is take a photo or video and send it to the Fish and Wildlife Department,” said Furfey. “The large majority of photographs our biologists receive are bobcats, but that doesn’t exclude the possibility that a Canada lynx will show up one day.”



By Gary Shattuck, courtesy VTF&W
A screen capture of the Canada lynx from a video taken by Gary Shattuck of Shrewsbury, on Aug. 17. Lynx can be distinguished from the much more common bobcat by their shape and coloration. Lynx have a distinctive posture that slopes down from their elevated hind quarters. Lynx have completely black tail tips and light-colored heels. Bobcats in contrast have white and black banded tail tips and distinctive black heels.

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Courtesy CEDRR

Rutland named one of ‘Best Small Towns to Live in the U.S.’ by Travel + Leisure

Staff report

Travel + Leisure magazine named Rutland No. 7 of its Top 12 best small towns to live in the U.S. “These small towns are some of the country’s most sought-after communities to call home, according to real estate experts,” the article stated. The magazine classifies “small towns” as those with less than 25,000 residents. Rutland has a population of about 15,000. The article stated: “In 2020, almost half of Americans said they preferred to live in a small or rural town, a significant increase since 2018, according to a Gallup Poll. “The best small towns in America provide residents with many of the amenities and conveniences of larger urban areas, like hospitals, schools, cultural and sports activities, and entertainment. And while those often come at a much smaller scale, the benefits of living in a small town are many — a stronger sense of community, tranquility, less stress, and often a much more scenic setting immersed in nature that encourages an active lifestyle.” Rutland has a lively downtown area with mostly locally-owned restaurants and shops, a large theater, the state’s only farmers’ market open year-round, a major supermarket, a department store, and an active business hub. When extrapolating on the reason Rutland made the list at No. 7, author Dobrina Zhekova quoted Freddie Ann Bohlig, a local real estate agent at Four Seasons Sotheby’s International Realty, who said: “The beautiful skyline of landmark buildings, set against the backdrop of the stunning Green Mountains, consistently leaves newcomers in awe. But, it’s the people

Rutland is No. 7 → 12

Winter Farmers’ Market to return to Farmers Hall following successful environmental remediation

The Vermont Farmers’ Market announced Aug. 22 that it will be returning to Farmers’ Hall at the Vermont Farmers’ Food Center (VFFC) at 251 West St. in Rutland, beginning Nov. 2. The Winter Farmers’ Market will run every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April, providing a vibrant space for local vendors and the community. Additionally, its holiday craft shows will also be held at the VFFC, on the second Sundays of November and December. This move follows a thorough environmental remediation process to address indoor air contamination concerns in Farmers’ Hall. The Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has confirmed that corrective actions, including the installation of a vapor barrier, sealing cracks, and grouting the interior of the concrete masonry unit walls, have significantly reduced the concentrations of trichloroethylene (TCE) in the building. Recent indoor air sampling conducted in June 2024 showed TCE levels ranging from 0.48 to 0.94 µg/m3, well below the removal management level for short-term exposure. Work is ongoing to install a sub-slab depressurization system (SSDS) in the northern portion of the building to further reduce TCE levels. The indoor air will be retested after the SSDS installation, and quarterly indoor air sampling will be conducted over the next year to ensure the effectiveness of the remediation. “We are excited to be back in Farmers’ Hall for the Winter Farmers’ Market,” said Paul Horton, president of the Vermont Farmers’ Market. “The successful remediation efforts have made it possible for us to continue providing this vital space for our vendors and patrons.” The Rutland Summer Market is currently running in Depot Park every Saturday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. through the end of October. For more information, visit: VTFarmersMarket.org.

Vt to receive \$2.1m in community development block grants

City of Rutland receives two of six grants That Wednesday, Aug. 21, Governor Phil Scott, the Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and Vermont’s congressional delegation announced \$2,155,468 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) federal funding awards through the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP). These investments will support renovations to existing rental units in the City of Rutland, the redevelopment of underutilized and vacant housing in the city of Rutland and town of Castleton, construction of water and wastewater infrastructure to support the development of eight Habitat for Humanity homes in Underhill, and making the Vergennes Opera House fully accessible. “These grants will help build stronger communities by supporting housing projects, public infrastructure improvements, and economic development,” said Governor Phil Scott. “Without this funding, many projects across the state

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MOUNTAIN TIMES

is a community newspaper covering Central Vermont that aims to engage and inform as well as empower community members to have a voice.

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Killington sold:

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Adventure Center, the Killington Grand Hotel, the employee housing locations, wastewater treatment facility, etc. The resort occupies 3,000 acres and boasts 92 miles of diverse snow sports terrain spread across six peaks served by the most expansive lift network and snowmaking system in eastern North America. In the summer, Killington offers 30 miles of mountain biking and 15 miles of hiking trails.

What does this mean for Killington Resort, its community?

“For starters, everything you love about Killington and Pico is staying the same,” stated Killington Resort on its Insider Blog post titled “A new era of independence begins at Killington Resort.”

“Killington season pass offerings will have no changes and we will remain on the Ikon Pass. Guests can expect daily operations to be business as usual, with a continued focus on offering unsurpassed year-round mountain adventure grounded in hosting the longest winter season in the East and hosting the Killington Cup, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2024. Killington Resort, the town of Killington and Great Gulf’s partnership will continue to build out the new mountain village. There will be no changes to the leadership, management or front-line teams, ensuring continuity and stability in our operations,” the blog post continued.

“Both of these investors have been in the community for decades,” said Mike Solimano, president and CEO of Killington Resort and Pico Mountain in a resort video. “What does this mean for the community? I would say it’s all positive. The staff stays the same, the management team stays the same. Whether you’re a business owner in this community, a season pass holder, or an employee, we’re going to have the resources to continue to improve the resort... we’re going to continue to open early and have really long seasons. We’re looking to have a really smooth transition and the future is bright!” Solimano said.

“It’s big news for the mountain, for the people that work there, for the skiers and the community,” said Ferri in an interview Thursday, Aug. 22. “It’s exciting to be involved in it. Phill’s and my job is really to support what the management team comes up with.”

How independent ownership came to be

Phill Gross has a long history in the winter sports community serving as a board member of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association and the World Cup Dreams Foundation and as a founder of Share Winter Foundation and the Killington World Cup Foundation. He and his family have been Killington homeowners since 1986.

“A long time ago, when Powdr bought Killington in 2007, they were considering (as part of the slim-down measures) shutting down the Skyeship Gondola,” Phill Gross explained in an interview Thursday. “So I reached out to John Cumming, who’s the head of Powdr (he’s a fellow U.S. Ski Team board member). We started talking about keeping that lift open, which they did... Since then, I’ve kind of been off and on in touch with John... So when the other alternative transactions fell apart last fall, he called me up and said, ‘You know, Killington doesn’t really fit in with our plans, I’d like to sell it to the to the locals (well, actually, he said ‘I’d like to sell it to you’) and I said, ‘I can’t do that, but I’ll try to put a group together to do it.’ And that was the start,” Gross said.

“Phill’s first phone call was to me,” Ferri added. “Phill and I’ve known each other for years.”

Michael Ferri has been involved in skiing and ski racing since he was a boy coming up to Killington in the winter. He and his family have owned a home in Killington since 1970. Ferri is a partner and owner of Valvoline Instant Oil Change franchises on the East Coast and has served as a Killington Mountain School trustee since 2008.

In February, Gross and Ferri met Cumming in Utah and they’ve been working to put the deal together ever since.

“In addition to Killington, Powdr is selling three other

mountains [Mt. Bachelor, Eldora Mountain in Colorado and SilverStar Mountain Resort in British Columbia]. Killington Resort was originally going to be part of that group,” Gross explained. “We really owe a debt of gratitude to Powdr and John Cumming for sticking with the local group. It’s pretty clear that they probably could do better financially if they would go with one of the conglomerates. It’s really, really great that he decided to stick with us,” Gross said.

“Powdr is a big company with different capital constraints and requirements and, you know, their motivation for selling really wasn’t our business, right? It’s their business. It just meant we’ve had the opportunity to do it. They’ve been terrific through all of this,” Ferri added.

Powdr retains a minority ownership stake in the new entity and will have a seat on the board of directors, reflecting the company’s continued belief in the future of Killington.

Justin Sibley, CEO of Powdr said, “We are proud of all that we have accomplished with the team at Killington over the last 17 years to enhance the skier experience with investments in new lifts, tunnels, and snowmaking, all while delivering the best customer service in the industry. Over the years Killington celebrated the opening of two lodges: the Peak, and most recently the K-1 Base Lodge,” Sibley continued. “We will miss the entire team there, but cannot wait to see the amazing things that lie ahead.”

Locally funded and governed

“All of the equity investors are Killington families,” Ferri added. “There is no private equity money in this. There’s no third party money. It’s all Killington-vested families, every single dollar. And that was our strategy to begin with. That was our goal... that gives us the ability to execute our vision of reinvesting just about every dollar we make into this mountain through the long term.”

Gross echoed the same. “We’re gonna just plow everything back into the mountain for the next decade or so and then see what we have,” Gross said. “I think we’ll have a really valuable asset. There will be a new village, a new Crystal Lodge, a new Bear Mountain Lodge, all the lifts will be upgraded... we’ll see what we have.”

“I think, automatically, when you tell somebody that all you’re doing is plumbing the money back in the mountain for a decade. You get everybody all on the same page,” he added. “That’s as simple as you can put it. You’re not going to get somebody who’s trying to make a profit, right? At least, short-term profit. It’s going to be somebody who lives here and wants it to be a better place, and if the investment happens to have some decent returns down the road, then so be it. Automatically, you get people that are culturally and strategically aligned.”

“Phill and my job is to support Solimano and the management team, to provide any resources they may need. It’s really up to them. He [Solimano] knows where the needs are and where it makes sense to invest,” said Ferri.

“From governance perspective, it’s really going to be a very, very narrow group that will formulate decisions with the leadership team at the resort,” said Gross. “Operationally, we’re just going to let them run the resort. Most of the board level decisions are going to be around capital spending, moving those projects forward. We expect to have at least three independent board members [non-investors], and then there’ll be four or five other members, depending on who else comes into the deal,” he said.

“Solimano and his team know how to operate the resort day to day,” Gross added. “We’ll leave that to them and try to support them the best we can, while accelerating capital improvement plans to pave the way for a better future.”

“For our families, Killington is more than just a business or asset to own; it is our home,” said Phill Gross and Michael Ferri, two of the lead investors.

Village development

The local investor group plans to invest profits back into the mountain. “This dovetails nicely with the village coming about,” said Ferri. “They’re about to spend a couple billion dollars to build a village out over the next 10 years, just as we invest our money (or the profits from the mountain) in the infrastructure and the skiing experience and enhancing those — the two couldn’t be timed better!” he said.

“I know it’s been a stop-start scenario for 20 years, but the group that we’ve gotten to know — the people that run Great Gulf — they’re a very big company, very professional, and they have a handle on this, and they’re going to do it,” he added. “They didn’t show up here not to, they’re going to execute this right.”

Gross agreed. “One of the things I don’t think people

understand is how likely the village is to be developed by Great Gulf. We would put a 99% probability that that’s all going to happen. Part of our due diligence was looking into that, and we really believe that Great Gulf is the right partner, and they’re going to execute on it. And then the lift plans that we have are absolutely

all going to happen as well. So everything’s really in place.

“We look at things 10 years out, absolutely everything in the village will be done by then. So we don’t care if it happens in two years or it happens next week. We know that at the end of that 10 year period, everything’s going to be done in the village and with the lifts,” he added. “That’s the way we look at it.”

Community reactions

“When I heard news of the sale, I was excited,” said Ed Herson, an associate Real Estate Broker with Killington Pico Realty. “I have been impressed with Powder Corp’s investment in Killington. We’ve thrived under Mike Solimano’s excellent management. We have come along way since I was a ski instructor here in the late ‘80s. As a Killington community we need and deserve the infrastructure and leadership that a world class team can deliver. With our new local owners, veteran Killington management, and Great Gulf as our developer, I see new energy, a passion for Killington and a clear vision for a great future.”

Dave Manning, owner of Black Dog Sports, said, “Having Killington owned by a group of passionate local investors is a really great thing. I have learned in life one the only thing that is constant is change. Not to diminish the many great things that powder corporation has done for Killington but I personally feel that this is definitely a change for the better.”

Julie McGuire, a long time spring skier from New York, chimed in, saying: “I think that whenever Killington has changed ownership, the concern among the diehard skiers has been, ‘How will this impact spring skiing?’ It’s not profitable to keep the mountain open that late. It’s something that’s done for the people who don’t want to stop skiing and for bragging rights to be the last to close. My questions for the new owners are will they try to remain open until June and will they still offer their affordable spring pass?”

Kelly Kelly, from Long Island, New York, added. “This sale is a total shock! It feels like this sale came out of left field! Why would Powdr sell Killington? ...[It] will be worth so much more once the base village is done... This sale will have huge effects on thousands of skiers. We don’t want to lose the amazing mountain operations and vibe that Killington has!!!!”

Many others echoed similar sentiments about being cautiously optimistic, anxious about changes to the mountain and culture they love, hopeful for future investments and relieved to know Solimano will remain at the helm.

Columnist and die-hard Killington skier Merisa Sherman writes about her choice to “embrace this new change of ownership with enthusiasm and encouragement,” on page 33.

Victoria Gaither contributed to this reporting.



Phill and Liz Gross

Submitted

← Q&A with Phill Gross:
from page 1

Do you ski or ride?

I ski.

What are your ties to Killington?

I learned how to ski at Killington in 1985, bought a house there in '86 and have been there with my family for winter/skiing since. We now own two houses over in Killington East.

My background is not operational whatsoever. It's more being very engaged in the winter sports community with Share Winter Foundation, the Killington World Cup Foundation and the U.S. Ski and Snowboard team. Skiing is a very energizing and uplifting sport. My passion is thinking about philanthropy and creating opportunity out there for inner city youth to experience the great winter outdoors. That's why we started the Share Winter Foundation.

My wife, Liz, and I have four kids that all (obviously) ski Killington. They're in their 20s and 30s now, but we're still here. Last year we enjoyed the truly great skiing in March and April.

What's your personal favorite trail on the mountain?

Scarecrow and Tin Man (those used to be unnamed trails, now they're named) also The Stairs, Nowhere and Somewhere.

What's your favorite type of skiing?

I'm a tree skier. I like to get away from the crowds. I gotta try to carve time out mid-week. I'm still a weekend skier, because of my schedule. If you're able to ski on a weekday at Killington, it's like a private mountain.

Best case scenario, how would you like to see Killington look 10 years from now?

It'll have a brand new village. It'll not only be the No. 1 physically, it'll be the No. 1 ski mountain in the East — which it clearly is given the type of terrain, the variability the terrain, all the great things about Killington that we know and love — it's also going to have probably the best village and ski-in, ski-out opportunity in the East. It'll be a much more centralized community right around Killington's base area, along with all the offerings up and down the Access Road.

So in that situation, everything about it will be the best in the East. But it's not even best case scenario, it is the only case scenario!

What do you think Killington's greatest strengths are?

The management team. The third party we used to help vet Killington told us they were "one of the best in the business." And that told us to just leave them alone and let them do what they do. None of us [investors] have operating experience.

Is there a specific project that you'll be pushing to prioritize?

No. One of the first things we did was look at all the lifts and kind of prioritize what needs to be upgraded and when, both from a customer flow basis as well as just the the age of the lifts themselves. So there's a whole plan that's been laid out that we're going to follow, if not accelerate.

How does Pico fit into the mix?

I don't think we're going to do anything different. Pico is profitable and is a popular mountain the way it is. It's got its own culture and community. We're not going to disturb that at all. It's definitely part of the acquisition and part of the Killington atmosphere, so to speak, but at least for the foreseeable future, it's doing what it needs to do.

The Killington World Cup Foundation has given some significant grants to help the racing slopes there in recent years and we'll continue to upgrade snowmaking.

What changes can the community expect to see first?

We'll probably spend more money than Powdr did on things like maintaining the existing lifts and the existing infrastructure, because that enables everything to last longer... it's something that Mike [Solimano] really wants to do. And it makes sense to do when you're planning for the long-term.

I think after the closing there'll be some announcements that give people better clarity on investments planned for the next two to three years. I think people will be surprised with what our plans are over the next five to seven years. We are accelerating plans on some capital spending. We actually already got permission from Powdr to spend some money before we closed. I think that tells you how aggressive this group is going to be.



Michael Ferri

Submitted

← Q&A with Michael Ferri:
from page 1

Do you ski or ride?

I ski.

What are your ties to Killington?

I started skiing here as a little kid in 1970 when my parents bought a condominium at Killington. My sister went to the Killington Mountain School and went on to ski for Dartmouth, and she owns a home there with her family. I now have a house here and so does my brother. I have three boys that matriculated from KMS, two of them went on to ski for Colby, one of them skied for Dartmouth.

I've been involved with the Killington Mountain School for a number of years. My father's 85 and my mother's 83 and they still ski 10 to 15 days a year.

So our roots inside the community and our commitment to the mountain have been there for a long time.

What's your favorite trail on the mountain?

I have four favorites. I love Cascade, Needle's Eye, Highline and I love what they've done with Bunny Buster into Mousetrap, with the tunnels on those trails. I think it's amazing.

What's your favorite type of skiing?

I'm not a mogul skier. I love the wide open groomers, and the steeper, the better.

[Editor's note: While he's not personally into uphill travel his sons are.]

Why this investment?

Well, I probably wouldn't have been the slightest bit interested in another resort. It's the tie to the community and the mountain and the roots we have here — and the scale of it all. It's the biggest mountain in the East, by far. No matter how you measure it, it's the biggest. And the timing of what's going on here is really exciting: the timing of the village and the new housing in conjunction with investment in the mountain itself. I think it's really going to be great to see over the next 10 years.

Best case scenario, how would you like to see Killington look 10 years from now?

I think Killington has the potential to be one of the best mountains in the country certainly — from a guest skier experience point of view — after we get through a new village and reinvestment strategy to bring infrastructure up to top notch.

What do you think Killington's greatest strengths are?

The third party company that we engaged to give us their take on Killington couldn't have been more complimentary of Mike Solimano and the leadership and management team at Killington. It really made us much more comfortable getting involved in this. I mean, Phill and I have no experience running a ski resort. It's great that we have them [the leadership team] in place, and they're completely committed to staying on and guiding this mountain. You couldn't ask for anything better than that.

Is there a specific project that you'll be pushing to prioritize?

No, I don't think so. I mean, they [Solimano and the leadership team] know what's working and what's not. They know what's needed. There's lots of opportunities that have been pointed out. It's up to him and his leadership team to figure out.

What changes can the community expect to see first?

Well, we've already ordered a bunch of new snow guns to save energy, which is great for the mountain. They've already starting to arrive at Killington. So I would say, that's the first thing they're going to see this winter: those new Low-E snowguns. The resort has some already and there's a program in place in conjunction with Green Mountain Power... we're helping to accelerate that investment specifically. Some of those guns will end up at Pico as well.

What response have you heard so far from the community?

I've gotten a lot of responses today [Thursday, Aug. 22] from all of our friends and family that have been in Killington for years. They are excited that it's in our hands and in local hands.

Change creates naysayers, which I'm sure there'll be some out there, but they'll be proven wrong.



By Pat Wise



By Pat Wise



Courtesy KPAA

Killington Road reopens, road and sidewalk are paved

After a week of paving, the base of Killington Road reopened Tuesday with new blacktop from the intersection with Route 4 to Anthony Way. An 8-foot sidewalk on the west side was also paved.

OBITUARIES

Patrick Max, 81

Born on St. Patrick's Day in 1943 to an Irish mother and German American father, Patrick Max was the only one among his six siblings to receive a full dose of the Irish chromosome. Pat spent a lifetime recreating the best parts of Irish culture wherever he lived—immersing himself in Irish writers and poets from Beckett and Behan to Wilde and Yeats. It was traditional Irish music, though, that magically connected him to his purpose in life, the old sod and other terrain closer to home.



Submitted

Patrick Max

Irish history and music are inseparable, especially its rebel tunes. Pat's grandfather, John Giffen, was

Obit Max → 12

Hartland Farm Store struggle is not over

By Curt Peterson

Ever since Sunnymede Farm announced its intention to build a 9,000 sq. ft. "Farm Store" on former Lamb Farm land 100 yards from Exit 9 on I-91, the Hartland Planning Commission (HPC) has been fighting the project.

The Select Board transferred \$10,000 to the HPC, specifically for "legal fees incurred in pursuit of the appeal."

HPC objections include expected negative effect on Hartland's Three Corners businesses, conflict with the 2017 Town plan, and alleged conflict with definition of a "farm store" – Sunnymede's farm is two miles from the site, and the wares in the store would not be produced at the farm. And the site isn't within the town plan's description of the commercial development area.

Hartland has no zoning ordinance, so HPC opposition to the project relies on the town plan. The Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) also filed an objection based on conflict with its regional plan.

HPC chairman David Dukeshire told the Mountain Times the town plan has always been successful when applied.

So, when environmental court judge Thomas Walsh decided in July in favor of the farm store, partly based on the word "objectives" rather than "must" or "shall," Dukeshire said, the HPC was taken by surprise.

He cited terminology in the HPC appeal, writing "The Farm Store makes efficient use of land, energy, roads, and other infrastructure without contributing to a pattern of strip development."

The judge also wrote the proposed store "... is properly classified as a Resource-Based Commercial Use and there are no provisions within the Town or Regional Plans upon which to deny the project."

Sunnymede has declared that 60%-70% of its gross revenue will come from sale of products from its farm.

On Aug. 7, members of the HPC voted 5 to 1 in favor of accepting the decision and to focus on the town plan. The Sunnymede fight was over, at least publicly.

The TRORC also accepted Judge Walsh's dismissal of their appeal.

Farm Store → 12

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GRACIE'S GRILL IS NOW OPEN

Where is the state road construction this week?

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) published its weekly report of planned construction activities that will impact traffic on state highways and interstates throughout Vermont, Aug. 26-30 and ongoing.

I-89 Royalton: Work continues on the northbound and southbound I-89 bridges near Exit 3 in Royalton. A new traffic pattern is in effect until fall 2025: For southbound traffic, all vehicles will use the low-speed lane. For northbound traffic, all vehicles will cross over onto I-89 South and then back to I-89 North north of the bridges. Traffic using the I-89 North Exit 3 off ramp will use the ramp crossover north of the bridges to the newly constructed I-89 North Exit 3 off ramp. The speed limit is reduced to 55 mph in the work zones on northbound and southbound I-89. When work is occurring over Route 107, traffic on Route 107 will be diverted to avoid being directly under the work. The speed limit has been reduced to 30 mph with a 14' height restriction under the bridges on Route 107.

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, and shifting traffic.

Hartford: Monday through Thursday during nighttime hours, motorists should expect minimal delays with traffic shifts and alternating one-way traffic on Route 5 from the intersection of Hartford Avenue and North Main Street to Veteran's Drive and on the Hartford Avenue bridge over the White River between North Main Street and Route 14. During daytime hours, motorists should expect minor delays with traffic shifts and alternating one-way traffic on Route 5 and sideroads from the Hartford/Hartland town line to Veteran's Drive. Flaggers and uniformed traffic officers will be present to assist motorists through the work zone.

Hubbardton: Slope stabilization work continues on Route 30 between Hortonia Road and Columbia Drive. Motorists should expect alternating one-directional traffic at all hours controlled by a temporary traffic signal or flaggers and should be prepared to stop as they approach 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 traffic from Pleasant Street to Elm Street, Main Street, and Pleasant Street Ex.

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 travel on Route 7.

Rutland: A Class I highway resurfacing project will require nighttime lane closures with alternating one-way traffic from Sunday night to Friday 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 on Route 4 and Route 7. Expect grooved and uneven surfaces with raised structures and limited pavement markings.

By 7 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, Route 4 between Bellevue Avenue and St. John Street/Hillside Road and Route 7 between Kendall Avenue/Temple Street and just north of Field Avenue will be reconfigured to a single lane in each direction with a center two-way left-turn lane, respectively. Pay attention to traffic pattern changes and follow pavement markings, road-way 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.

Suspicious car fire under investigation at South Main Street in Rochester

On Aug. 17, at approximately 2:20 a.m. the Rochester Fire Dept. was dispatched to a report of a vehicle fire at 398 S. Main St. in Rochester. The Rochester Fire Dept. responded to the scene and found the vehicle fully involved. Fire suppression efforts were conducted and immediately put the fire out. Unfortunately, the fire destroyed the vehicle prior the suppression of the fire.

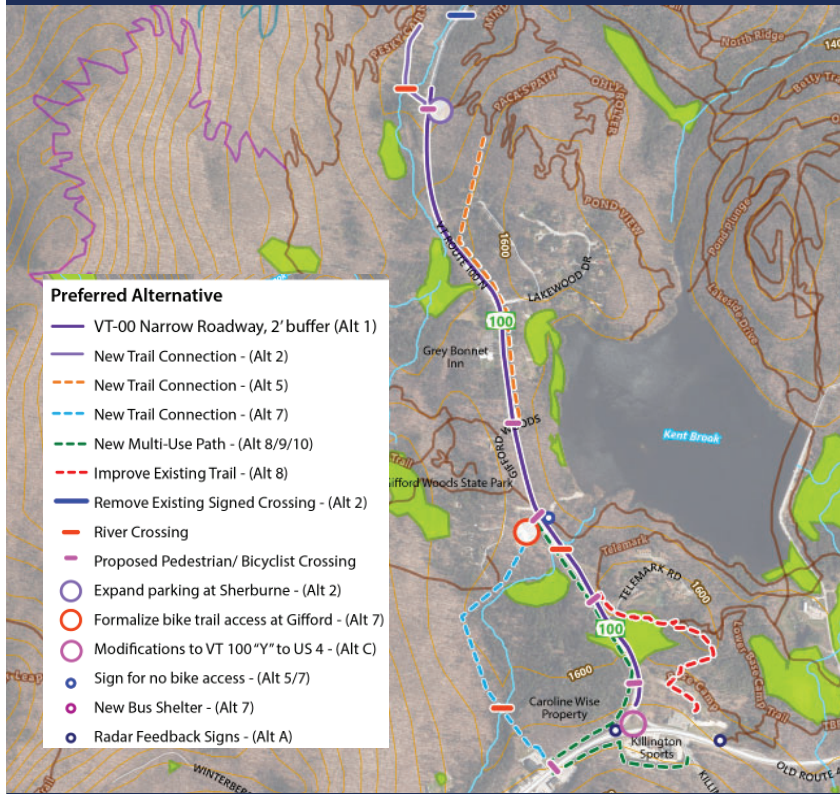
The vehicle was owned by Chalamish Alexander of Rochester. As part of his scene assessment,

Rochester Fire Chief Terry Covery contacted the Vermont Dept. of Public Safety Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit for assistance in determining the origin and cause of the fire. Members of that unit responded to the scene and conducted an investigation. The vehicle had been parked in the driveway of 398 S. Main St. awaiting repairs to be sold. Information has been obtained that indicated a vehicle had been seen driving up and down S. Main St. in Rochester setting off various fireworks as it drove along the road and in very

close proximity to the victim's vehicle. The investigation as revealed that it is likely embers from the exploded fireworks are most likely the cause of the fire.

This fire remains under investigation and is considered suspicious. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Det. Sgt. James Wright at the Royalton Barracks at 802-234-9933 or by contacting the Vermont Arson Tip Award Program (VATAP) hotline at 1-800-32-ARSON (1-800-322-7766).

KILLINGTON CONNECTING TRAILS SCOPING STUDY



MEETING DETAILS

DATE: Wednesday, September 11th, 2024
TIME: 7:00 PM

IN-PERSON LOCATION:
Killington Public Safety Building
800 Killington Road,
Killington, VT 05751

VIRTUAL OPTION:
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 861 9104 2719
Passcode: 261897
By Phone: +1 929 205 6099
By Link: <https://tinyurl.com/4txe4473>

PUBLIC MEETING

Please join us for the Final Public Meeting of the Killington Connecting Trails Scoping Study. The Town of Killington worked with VHB to develop improvements to bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and safety in the area around several multi-use, off-road trail networks: Gifford Woods trails, Sherburne trails, and trails around Kent Pond.

VHB has prepared a DRAFT Scoping Report and will present their findings and the recommended trail connections along and across US Route 4 and VT Route 100 in Killington.



State gets \$3 million for public safety and rehabilitation initiatives

U.S. Senator Peter Welch (D-Vermont), a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, celebrated major investments by the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs to support public safety and rehabilitation community projects in Vermont, totaling over \$3.1 million, Aug. 22.

The announcements include funding from the Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, which provides support for initiatives that improve the criminal justice system, prevent young adults from offending, and help victims of crime. Funding will support projects across the state, including a grant of \$1.9 million to the Vermont Department of Public Safety, \$979,000 to Youth Services to enhance restorative interventions, and \$300,000 to Burlington.

"As a former Public Defender, I know firsthand how important public safety in our communities is—and I also know how important it is that those who are in our justice system are given the opportunity to reenter society. Vermonters deserve to feel safe and supported in their communities, which is why federal investments that bolster community-driven public safety initiatives to support both accountability and rehabilitation are essential to making Vermont a safer place to live," said Senator Welch. "This funding will support projects across the state to promote and improve public safety."

Administered by the DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), JAG Program grants provide communities with the funding needed to support mental health and substance use disorder treatment programs, the implementation of state crisis intervention courts, funding for law enforcement and courts, funding for prevention and education, crime victim and witness assistance, and more.

DOJJAG grants that support Vermont initiatives include:

- \$1.9 million for the "Beyond Us and Them" program, which includes:
- The Peace Officer Wellness, Empathy & Resilience (POWER) Training Program for law enforcement, first responders, and correctional staff; and
- The Council for Insight, Compassion and Resilience (CICR) program for individuals who are incarcerated.
- \$979,000 to develop the Community Restorative Practices Project to enhance restorative interventions in Windham County, minimizing reliance on the justice system. This project will offer free programs focused on community conflict assistance, support for victims, and reentry opportunities,
- \$300,000 to the Community Justice Center (CJC) to move into the new Post Apartments—formerly the VFW. The City of Burlington is leasing the space from the Champlain Housing Trust. This grant will support costs associated with moving into the new space, which will finally be designed for the CJC with its intended purpose in mind.

In January, Senator Welch advocated for additional measures to further reform the criminal justice system including expanding funding for mental health services.

"I know firsthand how important public safety in our communities is—and I also know how important it is that those who are in our justice system are given the opportunity to reenter society," said Welch.

Interim regulatory exemptions in place to allow more affordable housing until 2027

The Dept. of Housing and Community Development and the Natural Resources Board announced Aug. 22 the release of the Act 250 Interim Exemption Map to help developers and investors create and improve housing that is more affordable.

The new interactive map is an exceptional planning tool and shows potential areas where housing may be built without triggering Act 250 review. The interim Act 250 exemptions displayed on the Act 250 Interim Exemption Map will be in place until 2027 when the larger Act 181 reform begins to be implemented. Act 250, Vermont's landmark land use and development law, will be modernized over the next five years as part of Act 181, which passed during the 2023/2024 legislative session. Before Act 181 takes full effect in 2027, the public will have opportunities to engage and shape its implementation.

"My team and I have focused on the urgent need to create housing faster and more affordably.

While we need more lasting tools in the toolbox, these interim exemptions in Act 181 will help us do that," said Governor Scott. "Reforming Vermont's regulatory framework is an important part of our overall strategy to ensure that every Vermonter has a safe, affordable place to call home."

These interim Act 250 exemption areas will allow the development of housing now in designated downtowns, villages, and other desirable areas that already have

sufficient infrastructure as well as nearby jobs, amenities, schools, and transportation options.

"These new exemption areas are a breakthrough, but they don't get us to the finish line," said Department of Housing and Community Development Commissioner Alex Farrell. "We need more housing now. We hope builders will take advantage of this limited window where development can happen more affordably without Act 250 review, but we also need long-term solutions allowing for the creation and rehabilitation of units in every corner of Vermont."

The Act 250 Interim Exemption Map is interactive and user-friendly. Users can learn if a property may be eligible for the interim Act 250 exemptions. The Natural Resources Board's website provides additional guidance on the interim exemptions and how to use the map. You can also learn more about Act 181 by reading DHCD's legislative summary.

"The long-term regulatory changes stemming from Act 181 will take time to implement, so the interim

exemptions are invaluable to speed up housing production now by removing Act 250 review in smart growth locations," said Natural Resources Board Chair Sabina Haskell.

"These reforms are important to housing and targeted to continue protecting our natural resources."

For more information, visit the *Interim Act 250 Housing Exemptions* page on the Natural Resources Board: nrb.vermont.gov/interim-act-250-housing-exemptions.



Block grants: from page 3

wouldn't have the financial resources to get started at all."

This year, 2024, marks the 50th anniversary of the national CDBG program. Vermont's congressional delegation spoke of its incredibly support of the CDBG program and its investments in Vermont.

"In these difficult times, this federal investment is an important step toward addressing the housing crisis and building stronger, more resilient communities across Vermont," said Senator Bernie Sanders. "The Community Development Block Grant program helps jumpstart essential improvements in our towns and cities and I am proud to help secure this valuable resource for our state."

"Vermont's housing crisis will only be improved when we work together, at every level, to support the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing. Federally-funded Community Development Block Grants are important investments for communities across Vermont. These awards to help construct, renovate, and upgrade housing across Vermont will make a real difference in the lives of Vermonters," said Senator Welch.

"This kind of investment to meet

our state's affordable housing needs are truly transformational," said Representative Balint. "Federal dollars will get projects across Vermont off the ground, creating renovated and new housing opportunities, providing essential infrastructure, and making historic community spaces accessible. I'm so proud to support programs like these that address the critical needs of our communities."

Six projects are receiving this latest round of Community Development Block Grants:

1. City of Rutland to the Housing Trust of Rutland County to complete the renovation of four affordable rental properties with 22 existing housing units and 13 new housing units being created resulting in 35 total affordable housing units located at 194-208 Columbian Ave. and 74 Park St. in Rutland and 18 Drake Road in Castleton.
2. City of Rutland to the Housing Trust of Rutland County (HRTC) to complete plans to merge HRTC and NeighborWorks of Western Vermont into one entity.

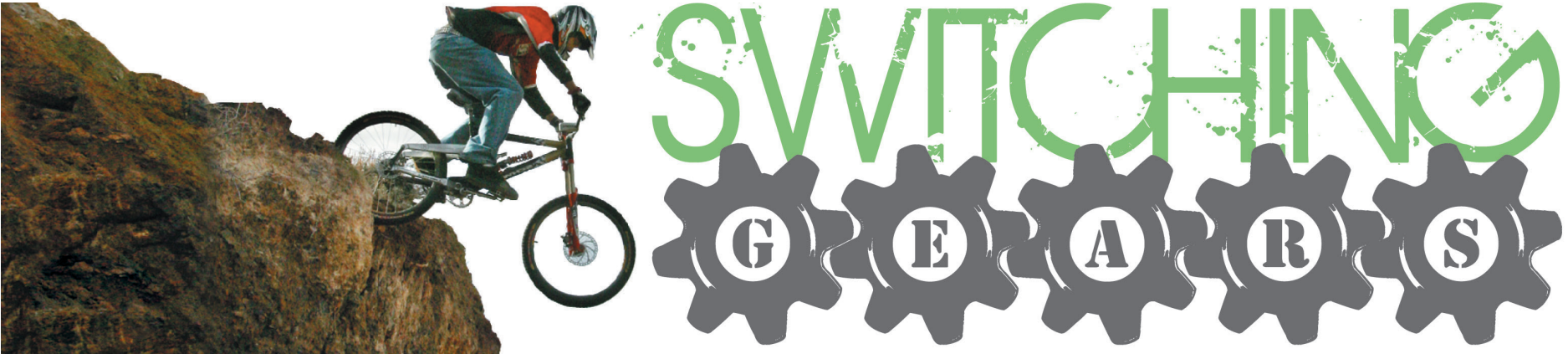
3. Town of Underhill to construct infrastructure that will serve eight new units of affordable homes.

4. City of Vergennes to complete renovations to the historic Vergennes City Hall/Opera House that will make the facility compliant with ADA regulations.

5. Town of Granville to bring the historic town hall into compliance with ADA regulations.

6. Town of St. George to complete planning activities related to accessibility and ADA compliance upgrades to the Town Office and Old Schoolhouse/Emergency Shelter located at 21 Barber Road.

"The CDBG program continues to be a valuable resource the State of Vermont is using to increase our supply of safe, affordable housing for all," said Department of Housing and Community Development Commissioner Alex Farrell. "By leveraging these federal dollars, communities can advance vital affordable housing projects and create more opportunities for residents by making our common spaces more accessible to everyone," he said.



Talk the talk, get dialed into mountain bike lingo

Staff report

When embarking on a new sport, one of the many intimidating obstacles to overcome is the terminology associated. From trail features to riding styles to bike parts, it can be complicated to even keep up with the conversation, let alone on the trails. Here’s a quick list to get you started (or freshen up your vocabulary).

Trail features

- **Berm:** noun, a banked corner that can be ridden faster than a flat corner. A common feature in any mountain bike park.
- **Booter:** noun, a large jump that requires a lot of commitment.
- **Flow:** adjective or noun, the way a trail is constructed, much of the time by excavation machines, for a more smooth, predictable surface. Flow trails consist of berms, rollers, and/or jumps.
- **Rake & ride:** adjective or noun, an old-style method of trail building that uses the terrain’s natural fall line and exposes roots, rocks and other natural features. Some are so rough they’ll “chatter the fillings out of your teeth.”
- **Gap:** noun, a jump takeoff and landing with no dirt in the middle, increasing the risk for the rider.
- **Kicker:** noun, a jump with a steep takeoff, giving the rider a lot of lift.
- **Loam:** noun, specific type of loose, dry dirt, which is desirable for its driftability.
- **Roller:** noun, a bump in the trail used to gain speed by pumping over it.

- **Skinny:** noun, a narrow piece of wood (similar to a balance beam) for riding a bike across, requiring balance skills.
- **Step-down:** noun, a jump where the landing is lower than the take off.
- **Step-up:** noun, a jump where the landing is higher than the take off.
- **Table-top:** noun, a jump where the gap is filled in with dirt.
- **Singletrack:** noun, a narrow MTB trail that’s the width of a single bike.
- **Doubletrack:** noun, two trails that run parallel to each other; also called a Jeep trail.

Riding style

- **Boost:** verb, to go fast and high off a jump.
- **Bottom out:** verb, to use up all the travel (suspension) on the bike from a large impact off a drop or jump.
- **Case:** verb, to not clear the landing of the jump or gap.
- **Clean:** verb, to complete a section of trail without crashing, stopping or taking your feet off the pedals.
- **Gnarly:** adjective, an especially difficult feature or part of trail.
- **Huck:** verb, launching off a big jump, often without



much regard for the consequences.

- **OTB:** acronym, over the bars, as in, a crash.
- **Pump:** verb, a technique where a rider gains speed without

pedaling.

- **Scrub:** verb, a Motocross technique used to keep low and fast over a jump.
- **Shred:** verb, negotiating trails with a higher-than-usual level of expertise.
- **Whip:** verb, when a rider pushes the bike sideways in the air. (See photo demo, left.)

Misc. terms

- **Dialed:** verb, when everything is working and runs smoothly.
- **Granny gear:** noun, the lowest (easiest) gear, as in, only your grandmother would need to use it; but good for extreme steepes (or for the profoundly out-of-shape.)
- **Lunch laps:** noun, when you have about 40 minutes to get in a quick ride mid-day.
- **MTB:** acronym, for mountain bike.
- **PSI:** acronym, pounds per square inch, the measurement used for tire inflation.
- **Session:** verb, to repeat a section of trail until you have perfected it; or simply, to go out and ride with friends.



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Vermont's education funding system is overdue for an overhaul

By Karen Horn

Editor's note: This commentary is by Karen Horn of Moretown, where she serves on the planning commission. She retired as director of advocacy for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns in 2023.

As for so many others, our property taxes went up by 26% this year, an appalling and unsustainable amount. Of our total tax bill, 79% is education property tax. The new rate will be the base for education property tax bills going forward unless the next Legislature takes a drastically different path toward both constraining pre-K-12 education costs and paying for them.

On June 17, the Legislature overrode Gov. Phil Scott's veto of what is now Act 183, the property tax yield bill. This action followed the initial defeat of nearly one-third of school district budgets this spring. In the district in which I live, voters passed the Harwood Union Unified School District budget on the third vote. Nothing like that has ever happened before and it happened despite general support for our schools and students.

The Legislature has collectively been wringing its hands over the broken and complex Vermont education funding system for more than a decade. They took no action this year to make structural changes to the education funding system that would relieve the burden on those who pay education property taxes. Reports and commissions are not actions. There have been plenty of those.

Depending upon what you count, the Legislature has required at least 15 studies of education funding, going back all the way to 2006. That includes the most comprehensive study of Vermont's tax system by the Tax Structure Commission, which issued its final report and recommendations in 2021, and the Joint Fiscal Office 2023 Report on Vermont's Education Financing, which contains a seven-page section on cost containment options.

Additionally, every session, the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees receive frequent reports on the "education funding outlook," which projects average homestead and non-homestead tax rates based upon school budget votes, other education fund revenue sources, tax yields per weighted pupil and projected "long term weighted average daily membership" or the number of pupils the education fund will be paying for — which is not the number of actual students in the school system.

This year, in Act 183, the Legislature created a new "Commission on the Future of Education" and a "steering group" to provide leadership to the commission. The commission's report and recommendations are not due until Dec. 1, 2025. Thus, it is unlikely significant changes, which Vermont property taxpayers need badly, will be made in the 2025 legislative session. The bill also created a 10-year Education Fund Advisory Committee, initially recommended by the Tax Structure Commission, to monitor our education funding system, conduct analyses and recommend updates.

What will the people you are voting for this election season do to make Vermont a place in which Vermonters can continue to pay reasonable taxes and call home? I urge you to ask that question of every candidate you meet and to require an unambiguous answer from them.

The Legislature has required at least 15 studies of education funding, going back all the way to 2006.



Back to Chap GPT by Frank Hansen, PoliticalCartoons

LETTERS

Power vs. peace

Dear Editor,

Kamala Harris' acceptance speech showed she is capable of being firm in her convictions when it comes to ensuring "safety, dignity, and justice" for rising American generations.

The two authoritarians in charge ... will never allow peace when war ensures them ... power.

However, she came off as much less firm about ensuring "hope," "joy," and "love" for Muslim women and children living in Gaza. She said, "I will always ensure that Israel has the ability to defend itself." However, Israel is currently not engaged in a defensive war, but rather an expanding offensive war against religious freedom and hope in the Middle East.

Netanyahu will go down in history as Israel's second clearly evil king, the first one

Power → 12

Winter Farmers' Market returns home in Nov.

Dear Editor,

I am delighted to share some wonderful news with the Rutland community. The Winter Farmers' Market is officially returning to Farmers' Hall at the Vermont Farmers' Food Center, starting Nov. 2!

Once the Summer Farmers' Market at Depot Park wraps up at the end of October, we are excited to invite everyone to join us Saturdays starting Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. indoors at 251 West St. in Rutland, for a vibrant and bustling Winter Farmers' Market.

Additionally, our holiday craft shows will also be held at the VFFC, on the second Sundays of November and December.

After an extensive cleanup process to address

concerns about trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination, Farmers' Hall is now safe and ready to welcome back shoppers and vendors.

This reopening is more than just a return to familiar surroundings; it's a chance for our community to come together, support local vendors, and enjoy the best of seasonal produce and goods. Whether you're looking for fresh vegetables, unique gifts, or simply a chance to catch up with neighbors, the Vermont Farmers' Market has something for everyone.

We can't wait to see you there! For more details visit VTFarmersMarket.org.

Paul Horton, president of the Vermont Farmers' Market

Animals don't get Labor Day off

Dear Editor,

Labor Day often brings to mind long weekends, barbecues, and the close of summer. But it's also an opportunity to make compassionate choices. Each day, over 23 million land animals and 150 million sea animals are killed in the U.S. for food.

The worldwide numbers are even more staggering. Choosing to eat animals, and their byproducts, harms our health and contributes to the climate crisis.

This Labor Day, why not opt for a cruelty-free celebration? Our daily dietary choices save the lives of thousands of animals each year.

Plant-based burgers, sausages, and hot dogs are widely available, and most sides are already vegan.

Top off your meal with delicious dairy-free desserts.

Let's celebrate a kinder, healthier holiday for all this year.

Sincerely,
Rudy Hitchcock, Rutland

WRITE TO US:

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

Please limit submissions to 300 words.

Email letters to editor@mountaintimes.info



CAPITOL QUOTES

On Tuesday, Aug. 27, Special Counsel Jack Smith filed a superseding indictment in the election interference case against former President Donald Trump, reducing the allegations against the 2024 presidential candidate following the Supreme Court's immunity ruling. Prosecutors have retained all four charges originally brought against the former president. However, the updated indictment has removed certain aspects of Trump's alleged conduct, including claims that he attempted to use the Justice Department to advance his false election fraud assertions.

"The superseding indictment, which was presented to a new grand jury that had not previously heard evidence in this case, reflects the government's efforts to respect and implement the Supreme Court's holdings and remand instructions in Trump v. United States,"

said the **special counsel's office**.

"In an effort to resurrect a 'dead' Witch Hunt in Washington, D.C., in an act of desperation, and in order to save face, the illegally appointed 'Special Counsel' Deranged Jack Smith, has brought a ridiculous new indictment against me, which has all the problems of the old indictment, and should be dismissed IMMEDIATELY. His Florida Document Hoax Case has been completely dismissed. This is merely an attempt to INTERFERE WITH THE ELECTION, and distract the American People from the catastrophes Kamala Harris has inflicted on our nation.

wrote former president **Donald Trump** on TruthSocial, Aug. 27.

"Congress has bestowed on the Attorney General, like the heads of many Executive Departments, broad authority to structure the agency he leads to carry out the responsibilities imposed on him by law...The district court's contrary view conflicts with an otherwise unbroken course of decisions, including by the Supreme Court, that the Attorney General has such authority, and it is at odds with widespread and longstanding appointment practices in the Department of Justice and across the government."

wrote **Jack Smith** in his brief, according to Reuters

COMMENTARIES

Why wood is good for our waterways

Editor's note: This commentary was written collaboratively by Vermont Natural Resources Council, Conservation Law Foundation, Connecticut River Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and Lake Champlain Committee.

This commentary was written in response to concerns from Vermont community members, our own observations as landowners, and road crews cleaning up post-flooding damage. What we have heard and witnessed raise significant concerns that some of the activities are causing more harm to Vermont waters and violate Vermont's laws that protect our public waters. As floods become more frequent in Vermont due to climate change, we must respond to these disasters in a way that protects our natural resources and does not exacerbate the impacts of flooding.

Drive for a few minutes in any direction in Vermont and you'll notice the significant changes the rivers have had on the landscape this past year. Guardrails are falling into rivers, streams are flowing over and under our roads, sediment deposits of all sizes are providing nutrients to our floodplains, and woody debris and upstream garbage has left drift piles in unexpected places. The rivers are actively reshaping our communities.

As we clean up and move forward from the disastrous flooding, we need to remember that flooding is a natural process and, as a result of a changing climate it will happen again — this is how rivers function. At the same time, maintaining our built environment is critical for our own safety and function. We need to be able to travel along our roads and feel safe in our homes, schools, businesses, and other buildings.

It makes sense to remove woody debris that might compromise the integrity of our bridges and culverts. However, it doesn't make sense to devoid the stream of all wood, which provides sustenance and

helps maintain the integrity of the water cycle. Wood is good for our waterways because fallen trees trap sediment, and provide anchors around which the river can scour and undercut, shaping deposition, dissipating energy and even regulating water temperature.

Having a mix of habitat types is critical to river health, structure and biodiversity. Fallen trees act as nurse logs for new islands of growth — algae grows on decaying wood, and then traps seeds for native plants to establish. Water that pools around the wood traps small sticks and vegetative matter providing a food source for aquatic macro-invertebrates.

Complexity is key.

Aside from the habitat implications, when a river is dredged, straightened, armored, and "cleaned" its velocity increases downstream. We have been making these mistakes for decades, and while this may appear to provide a short-term fix for our backyard or our community, it amplifies the stream's force, causing down-cutting which deepens the channel, consequently eroding stream banks and sending faster, more damaging flood waters downstream. Ultimately, dredging and removing all woody debris exacerbates flood damage and removes an important food source from the ecosystem, together degrading river system health. Leaving wood in the river, and giving the river room to meander, help slow the flow and reduce the force of floodwaters. In Vermont, we built many of our communities along our rivers, and for our own safety, we all must be stewards of our waterways.

We need to consider how our management of rivers worsen both flooding and ecological health. Conversely, a thoughtful and well-informed relationship with our waterways can help us live safely alongside thriving rivers, and support the health of this system, which provides us with the clean, cold water that we depend on.

LETTER

Response to Republican choice

Dear Editor,

In response to the guest editorial titled "Vt. Republicans face a choice," published in the Aug. 14 edition, the author implies being a Republican is amusing. He goes on about previous Republicans and the past. Reality check: it's a new world. People talk about the "far right," you know those that don't think it's OK for children to be changing their gender (as if that was even possible) and

those who think the border should actually restrict entry unless vetted and approved.

Donald Trump has been called a liar by the left. He likes to exaggerate, everyone knows that. Most of his "lies" are exaggerations but are in the same direction of the truth. For example, "the biggest crowd ever." Now maybe not, but a big crowd none the less. How much does it matter for anyone's life? Not at all.

Now, let's talk about the lies (told by HRC, Pelosi, Adam Schiff and many others—penalty, treason and potentially death) told about Donald Trump; he colluded with Russia. For two years. Politicians, mainstream news outlets, pundits, et al. all said this with unwavering conviction so much so that a federal investigation was put forth to find out costing \$30 million.

GOP choice → 12

← **GOP choice:**
from page 11

The result was they found nothing damning. This is a fact. Was there any apology? Was there any acknowledgment even? No, nothing.

The author goes on to talk about “immobilization of the house.” These are the dems who threaten to shut down government if they don’t get their way, and then blame the Republicans for it. Each bill should be specific regarding one thing and have an up or down vote on it. This would go a long way in eliminating pork, but I digress. I’m also a bit curious how the author defines nihilistic anti-government conservatism. Here’s a thought for you; the more government you have the less freedom you get. I’m going to need a reference on that supposed quote from Steve Bannon, too, by the way.

Kamala ... listen to her speak extemporaneously. I can’t believe she is the candidate. The left wing media is totally corrupt. They are propping her up. Fox doesn’t like Trump either so don’t bother going there. When Trump was shot, the initial headlines were Trump goes down at rally.

Freedom is not guaranteed. If you like to live in freedom, you have to do something to keep it. If it goes down here, the whole world is done. Vermonters, be careful what you wish for. You may just get it good and hard.

The author wants to compare today’s Trump movement with McCarthyism. I would suggest the left is far more in line with it. Google, YouTube, Instagram, Apple, Microsoft censor content

they don’t like. That is McCarthyism. The left wants to ban anything it deems “hate speech.” Who defines that? That is exactly the speech that needs to be free. The cure to that is more speech not less.

If Trump loses and the left gets control of government, you can expect a weak economy, never ending wars, rampant inflation and gas prices, restrictions on what you can eat, drive, say and do. Because it’s all for your own good. Trump is bold and brash, but ask yourself, what does he have to gain by being president? He’s already rich and can live his life out in luxury. Ask yourself what does the other side have to gain. It’s scary to consider. Many won’t.

George de Luna, Berkeley Heights, NJ, and Killington

← **Power:**
from page 10

being Manasseh, of whom the Hebrew Bible judges, “He shed innocent blood very much.”

Taking 20 or more Palestinian civilian lives for every Israeli civilian life lost clearly puts him in that category.

Harris refused to allow a Palestinian American to speak at the convention, which betrays her promise that she and Joe are doing everything they can to bring an immediate ceasefire to the conflict.

The two authoritarians in charge of the action in Israel and Gaza will never allow peace when war ensures them an extension of power in their respective countries.

Kimball Shinkoskey Woods Cross, Utah

← **Farm store:**
from page 6

Select Board chair Phil Hobbie told the Mountain Times selectmen were shaken when the HPC revoted on Aug. 22 to renew their efforts, based on perceived vagueness in Judge Walsh’s decision.

“Over time we re considered our situation. Basically, we weren’t satisfied with the decision’s recognition of the facts,” Dukeshire said. “We voted to pursue a further appeal.”

Advisors say a Supreme Court appeal would be very expensive. Dukeshire said he has about \$10,000.

“We feel that’s enough to get the process started,” he said. “We’ve spent only a few hundred dollars on the appeal so far.”

Hobbie is worried that the HPC’s new appeal might incur hefty legal fees and expect the town to cover them.

Dukeshire said any additional spending would require Select Board approval.

The new appeal was filed as Town of Hartland. Previous litigation was pursued by the planning commission itself. The Supreme Court website is vague as to who can file an appeal – it might be that the HPC on its own isn’t qualified to be the appellant.

“An appeal in the Town’s name was not authorized by the Select Board,” Hobbie said, “or by the voters.”

Dukeshire wasn’t aware the appeal had been in the town’s name.

This isn’t the only complication. Aug. 22 was very close to the filing deadline. Unfortunately, their attorney, Peter Raymond, suffered a serious bicycle accident, and filed the appeal one day beyond deadline.

The HPC has asked the environmental court for a one-day extension on the basis of unforeseen circumstances. If the extension is granted, the appeal can go forward. If not, the appeal will die.

“We’ve been told an answer regarding the extension may take a week, or it might take six months. All we can do is wait,” Dukeshire said.

If the environmental appeal is deemed timely, and the HPC is facing the financial reality of a Supreme Court appeal, the Select Board will have to be approached, Dukeshire said, and they can always say “No.”

← **Obit Max:**
from page 6

a leader in the Belfast division of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and was active in the Irish independence rebellion that was sparked by the 1916 Easter Rising. While most of the leaders of the Rising were found and executed, John Giffen stowed away on a ship bound for Portland, Maine in 1922. The rest of his family emigrated through Ellis Island in 1922 aboard the SS Columbia.

Pat began playing and performing Irish music in the ’70s and ’80s in South Bend, Indiana, first the acoustic guitar, then the bodhrán and finally the tin whistle, cussing all the way (squeek-Shit!). Later, after moving to Killington, he founded his long-time band Extra Stout with talented local musicians Mary Barron, Sandy Duling, Helen Mango and Marcos Levy, who still play as a group in the area.

Among many stories still uncorroborated is a tale of the night that a reputed boss of the Boston’s Irish mob sat one table away from Extra Stout’s stage performance at McGrath’s Pub and sang along before departing and slipping the grip of the FBI, again.

For Pat, life was a story to be lived and told—with each retelling an opportunity to improve upon the prior.

Pat’s story began in Detroit in March 1943, the son of Emma T. Giffen and Joseph A. Max. Early on, he became a paperboy and worked his way up to station captain, a job from which 64% of his life stories came. He ran track and played football at Detroit Catholic Central where he graduated in 1961, before going on to earn undergraduate degree from the University of Detroit in 1965. From there, he earned a Master of Arts in English and a Master of Science in Library Science from Wayne State University.

In 1965, he married Alice Shugdins, with whom he had four children, Rosemary, Brendan, Kevin and Brian. The family moved to South Bend, Indiana in 1976, where Pat became part of the University of Notre Dame faculty and a director at the Hesburgh Library, whose southern face is the famed “Touchdown Jesus.” A Notre Dame football fan to

Home for him and the band was always McGrath’s Pub, where they played songs of love, whiskey and fighting to local and visiting Hibernophiles.

the end, Pat never dared look past the next game, knowing that his Irish superstition could end an otherwise promising season.

In South Bend in the late 1970s, Pat and friends were founding members of the area’s first youth soccer organization, the Michiana Soccer Association (MSA). Pat coached his kids’ soccer and hockey teams until they would no longer listen to him.

Pat moved to Vermont in 1988, where he taught Irish film at Castleton State College, and where he was also library director and president of faculty. He married Patricia Bick in 1995.

For three decades, Pat and Extra Stout traveled to play to audiences in Bend, Oregon, Mackinac Island, Fargo, North Dakota and Key West among others. But home for him and the band was always McGrath’s Pub, where they played songs of love, whiskey and fighting to local and visiting Hibernophiles.

Patrick Max was a husband, father, grandfather, an athlete, a coach, teacher, scholar, musician, an Irish film critic and, to the end, an arse kicker.

He leaves behind sisters, Kathleen Sees and Ann DiMezza; a daughter, Rosemary (Mamadou), sons Brendan (Stephanie), Kevin (Kimberly) and Brian (Stephanie); grandchildren Evan and Julia, Fiona and Isabel, Alice, Emma and Joseph; stepdaughters Molly Sullivan, her children Quinn and Geroage; and Jessica Janicki, her children, Silas and Lillith. He is preceded in death by his parents Emma and Joseph, his brothers Matthew and Joseph, his sister Mary and his wife, Patricia.

Sláinte, Patrick Max. We will celebrate your life in scratched book notes, musical notes and across the pond, where your rebel soul never left!

An outdoor celebration of Pat’s life will be held at Riverside Cemetery, River Road in Killington, Vermont at noon on Sunday, Sept. 15.

Arrangement are being made by Aldous Funeral Home, Rutland.



Courtesy CEDRR

← **Rutland No. 7:**
from page 3

that make this gem of a place so special, so friendly, and always looking to help.”

Rutland is “conveniently located near the largest ski area in the northeast [Killington Resort] and the largest freshwater lake in Vermont [Lake Bomoseen], offering a wide range of activities that cater to diverse lifestyles,” added Bohlig.

While Rutland (like all of Vermont) gained popularity with families and young professionals during the Covid-19 pandemic, housing has remained relatively affordable, with median home values just below \$270,000, according to Bohlig.

WORDPLAY

FROZEN DESSERT WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back

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

BANANASPLIT
BROWNIE
CHERRY
CHOCOLATESYRUP
COLD
CONE

COOKIE DOUGH
CUP
FROZEN YOGURT
GELATO
HOT FUDGE
ICE CREAM

ICE MILK
ICES
MIXED
NUTS
PEANUT BUTTER
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →30

CLUES ACROSS

1. Microgram
4. After B
7. Everything
8. An unfortunate development
10. Coat with sticky substance
12. Cylinder of tobacco for smoking
13. Minimum interval take off
14. Yuck!
16. NBA sensation Jeremy
17. Where some rockers work
19. Midway between northeast and east
20. Snake-like fishes
21. Groups of homes
25. Swiss river
26. Useful towel
27. "The Wire" character "Moreland"
29. Oafish creature
30. A major division of geological time
31. Bird-like Chinese dinosaur
32. Sporting events
39. Body part
41. Clerical

vestment
42. Shows data
43. Some are "special"
44. Expression of disappointment
45. Students' rights document (abbr.)
46. Vacation locale Costa ____
48. Pop singer
49. Distract outside a city
50. Mark Wahlberg comedy
51. Coniferous tree
52. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Lunatic
2. Actress Danes
3. Buttock muscles
4. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
5. Popular 70s rockers
6. Electronic communication
8. Trigraph
9. Sea eagles
11. Low-pitched, resonant sound
14. Northeastern US university (abbr.)
15. Home of the Bulldogs
18. Exclamation of surprise
19. Make a mistake
20. Advantage
22. Monkeys love them
23. Wood
24. Paddle
27. Past participle of

be
28. Tall, rounded vase
29. Device manufacturers
31. Financial institution (abbr.)
32. Paper product
33. A type
34. Atomic #43
35. Red Hot Chili Peppers' drummer

36. Behaviors
37. Decays
38. Walked confidently
39. Voice (Italian)
40. Class of adhesives
44. Bar bill
47. One-time aerospace firm

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

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in New York on August 29, 1986. I began as a child star on the Broadway stage, and starred with fellow musical theater icon Jonathan Groff on Broadway as well. Fans probably know me best for my role on a TV show about a glee club.

Answer: Lea Michele

SUDOKU

Solutions →30

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Otter Valley avoids delaying start of the school year, other schools can't

Staff report

Otter Valley Union Middle and High School in Leicester is one of a few Vermont schools that has had to scramble ahead of the first day of school — rearranging classes, or in some cases have delaying the start of the school year begins due to mold.

Otter Valley Union Middle and High School is shutting down a middle school wing due to mold and moving students to a different part of the school.

The issues was larger then school administrators originally thought, according to Rene Sanchez, the interim superintendent of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union.

Milton Town Elementary School has had to delay the start of its school year to Sept. 3, also due to mold growth.

State senators on the Education Committee blame a culmination of aging infrastructure and the increase in rain for the problem.

"We are seeing a lot of flooding, a lot of rain, a lot of moisture and similar to our roads and other infrastructure, our schools are not ready, they're not prepared for these kinds of changes," Sen. Brian Campion, the chair of the Senate Education Committee, reported.

Moretown Elementary School is also delaying the start of its school year to Aug. 27 due to flooding issues, and North Country Union High School is being pushed back to Sept. 3 due to a high rate of PCBs.

The Vermont Agency of Education said in a statement, "Some schools have suffered water damage from recent weather events. Some schools have had historic issues from original construction flaws or deferred maintenance, while all of Vermont this summer has experienced sustained high levels of humidity, all of which could contribute to interior mold issues."



Submitted



By Victoria Gaither

Sarah and Emilee painting the art room in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Preparing for the first day of school 2024

By Victoria Gaither

PITTSFORD—When Lothrop Elementary School students return to the classrooms on Wednesday, Aug. 28, administrators and teachers have been busy as bees in the summer preparing for the big day.

"As soon as students leave, we have a schedule for the summer of what needs to get done," explained Principal Stacey Farrington.

This school term marks Farrington's first official year as principal.

"I came in mid-year to this position. I started in elementary school, moved to high school, and then returned to elementary school, which has been fantastic," said Farrington.

Her previous position was dean of students at Mill River Union High School.

Summer doesn't mean stopping time but rather start-up time for Farrington and her staff of teachers, administrators, office staff, and maintenance crew. It's an all-out effort at Lothrop School, from getting the building into shape to making over classrooms.

Special Educator Sarah Gecha and Head of Student Support Team Emilee Sweatt were painting when the Mountain Times caught up with them.

"We have painted both the Kindergarten classrooms downstairs; the entire school matches royal blue and white. Now, we are painting the art room," said Sweatt.

Sweatt, handy with a paintbrush and steady hand, can't wait to see the students, "I am very excited for the kids to come back to school to hear about what they did over the summer and all the activities and new places they get to see."

Gecha echoed that excitement and can't wait to meet her fifth-grade special edu students: "I will have five to seven kids, I believe, this year, so as the school year gets closer and we have our in-service days, I will be making sure my curriculum and programming are ready for them."

At the Killington Grand, Farrington and some of her teachers participated in the BEST/VTMTSS summer institute this summer.

The learning program offered an immersive experience for school teams and educators.

Farrington explained, "Experts in Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) come in and share their approaches, so we took some new approaches on things like how best to welcome the students into the school building, not only in the morning but also in their individual classrooms throughout the day. Those types of positive interactions welcome the students and make them feel safe in the classroom."

It wasn't only about the students. "We also talked about finding a buddy partner to help ground you so you can reset when something isn't working. Teachers can support each other by stepping in and working together as a team," said Farrington.

Farrington added that besides the institute training, "We have a lot of staff this summer taking professional courses; they are trying to improve their practice. We are lifelong learners."

So, as the building floors get polished, boxes of supplies come into the office, phones ring, emails flow nonstop, and all the things that go along with the first day, remember, for many educators work was happening all summer.

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Expeditionary School at Black River is prepared for the 2024-2025 school year

LUDLOW—With the start of the 2024-2025 school year on Wednesday, Aug. 28, the Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) has announced several new updates.

There'll be a new head of school, Michael Kell, at the helm this year to guide the vision of ESBR. Kell has an extensive educational background and he is always eager for new experiences and to learn about innovative opportunities firsthand, stated the ESBR board of trustees in a news release Aug. 16.

The board of trustees also announced updated roles and positions with in the board. After serving as the most recent chairperson, Gary Blodgett will be succeeded by Patrick Pullinen. Blodgett will continue as a board member.

Lastly, ESBR is planning to set up a volunteer lunch program this school year. One is currently not available but ESBR is hoping to collaborate with community members to help prepare and provide a meal to the 10-12 students on Wednesdays.

ESBR is still accepting applications for interested students.

For more information, visit: esblackriver.org.



Courtesy of ESBR



Courtesy of ESBR

Schools seek to limit cellphone distraction

Rutland High School solidifies formal policy, Woodstock High School considers bell-to-bell ban

Staff report

There's a growing movement across the county for schools, particularly high schools, to go phone free. The issue of cellphone distraction is universal and problematic in a classroom setting. While the problem is not a new, formulating a campus-wide policy restricting use is.

State lawmakers debated a bill last session (S.284) on limiting phones in schools, but ultimately let it die on the Senate floor, opting instead to allow schools to shape their own policies.

That debate furthered the conversation in many area school districts, which were now tasked with creating unique policy for their school community. Some are tackling the issue district-wide, others school-by-school. Some will be enacting new policies starting the first day of school; others haven't quite finalized a plan but aim to this fall.

Rutland High School has issued a formal policy on the matter that will take place the first day of school — though it's not a complete ban.

RHS Principal Greg Schillinger wrote an email Aug. 16 to students and families outlining the new policy. While students will be allowed to bring their devices to school, they are expected to put them away during class time, he explained. Adding that that practice isn't new, it's just been formalized into a school-wide policy.

The policy is outlined in the 2024-2025 student handbook. It reads:

"At Rutland High School, we recognize that the healthy use of tools such as electronic devices is a

Cell phones→ 16



Submitted

For school year 2024, schools across Vermont are implementing phone-free policies to limit distraction, with Rutland High School implementing a formal policy and several Vermont schools implementing 100% phone-free measures.

Cell phones:
from page 15



learned skill, and that a healthy and effective learning environment requires that learners are fully present and attentive to the learning process. To that end, students are to put all cell phones, earbuds, and other electronic devices and

accessories away when in class. These devices must be inaccessible and silent during these times. If a student is found to be using an electronic device during class time, they will be required to leave their phone in the attendance office for the remainder of the school day. Subsequent incidents will result in the

need to leave their phone in the office for a period of 20 days or the remainder of the semester, or at least 40 days.”

The policy is intended to help keep students focused and engaged in the learning process.

While use is prohibited during class time, students at RHS

While use is prohibited during class time, students at RHS can keep them with them and used them between classes or on break periods in the lobby, hallways and cafeteria, in a manner that “respects the rights of others.”

can keep them with them and used them between classes or on break periods in the lobby, hallways and cafeteria, in a manner that “respects the rights of others.”

In Vermont, Thetford Academy 7-12, Harwood 7-12, Hartford Memorial Middle and all of the Lamoille South Supervisory Union (which operates seven schools between Morristown and Stowe) will begin this school year as 100% phone-free schools.

At Harwood students are required to store their personal devices in a locking pouch in their lockers. They will lock away their devices in front of a designated staff member each day and unlock the pouches at several unlocking stations when school is out.

Students within Lamoille South Supervisory Union will be required to leave their devices at home or stash them in their lockers for the duration of the school day.

At Woodstock Middle/High School the topic of “phone-free schools” was introduced by Sarit Werner during public comment session at the Mountain Views Supervisory Union (MVSU) board meeting Aug. 5.

Reception of the idea among meeting attendees was generally positive.

Werner, who is creative director at Plymouth Cheese Co. in Plymouth, read a letter from the Phone-Free Coalition of Parents bearing more than 120 signatures.

The “letter of support for Woodstock Middle and High School to be fully phone-free all day” read in part: “It’s abundantly clear that bell-to-bell mobile phone-free school environments will

make huge strides to create a positive environment where the health of students is prioritized. The presence of mobile phones, earbuds and smartwatches distracts from learning and also interrupts opportunities for students to learn healthy interaction with each other.”

The devices would be locked up in the administration office until the end of the school day, when they would be returned to their owners.

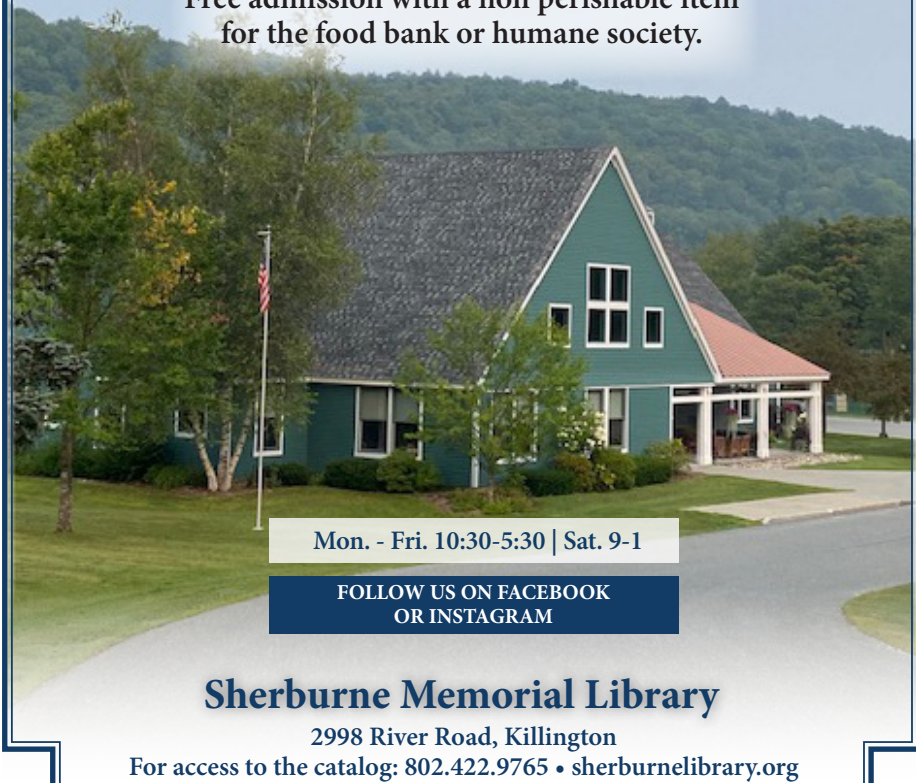
While a phone-free program won’t launch by the first day of school, the parents group hopes to formalize it in the fall.

To read the MVSU letter in full, visit: [Tinyurl.com/MVSUPhoneFree](https://tinyurl.com/MVSUPhoneFree).

Sherburne Memorial Library The Vermont Fairy Tale Festival is back!

September 21st 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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The 19th Plymouth Folk and Blues Festival features a lively two-day festival of folk and blues music

Saturday, Aug. 31 and Sunday, Sept. 1, from 2-5 p.m. —PLYMOUTH—During Labor Day Weekend the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth Notch, comes alive with authentic Folk and Blues music with the Plymouth Folk and Blues Festival 2024

The Festival will take place at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 VT-100A, Plymouth.

Last year the festival was named by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce as a 2023/2024 Signature Event.

Stars from Vermont and internationally known musicians team up forthetwo-day festivalwith music performed in the festive historic Plymouth Notch, birthplace of the 30th U.S. President.


All concerts are free, and cash donations are appreciated. Food donations of unexpired non-perishables for the Vermont Food Bank are encouraged.

For more information, visit: plymouthfolk.com.



Courtesy Plymouth Folk and Blues Festival

Grace Morrison (l) and Sister Speak (r) will perform at the Plymouth Folk and Blues Festival.



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WEDNESDAY
8/28

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

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

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

Market on the Green

3-6 p.m. *(Wednesdays)* The Green, Woodstock. Produce, crafts, live music, and more. woodstockvt.com or 802-457-3555

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

3:30-4:30 p.m. *(Wednesdays)* Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class focused on weight training and balance exercises to increase strength, balance, and bone density. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Cribbage for Adults

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

OVRCC August Mixer

5-7 p.m. Calcutta's at Fox Run Golf Club, 87 Fox Lane Ext., Ludlow. Okemo Valley Chamber members gather for a night of networking with appetizers, and a raffle with gift certificates. tinyurl.com/8ua9w4f5

Music at the Riverbend

6 p.m. *(Last concert)* Brandon Inn, 20 Park St., Brandon. Free. brandon.org/events-and-happenings/music-at-the-riverbend-summer-concerts

Women's Wednesday MTB

6-8 p.m. at Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Road, Poultney. 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: Prickly Heat Tantalizers

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

19th Annual Plymouth Folk and Blues Fest

Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.



Jazz Cafe: Bossa Nova Night

7-8:15 p.m. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$20. Live jazz concert featuring Harry Drum, Dan Notto, Ron White, Gary Schmidt, and Nick Aloï, focusing on the Bossa Nova style. The evening will include a poetic interpretation by local poet Burnham Holmes. stonevalleyarts.org

THURSDAY
8/29

Essentrics Stretch and Strengthen

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

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

Rutland Urban Legends and Pizza War

5-7 p.m. Depot Park, 49 Evelyn St., Rutland. 1-mile sidewalk and street tour through historic downtown Rutland, discovering historical facts and tall tales. The event is wheelchair and walker friendly and includes local pizza sampling at the finish. All ages are welcome. Space is limited. RSVP at comealiveoutside.com/events

Public Meeting on Camping Loop Proposal for Lake

St. Catherine State Park

5:30-7 p.m. Lake St. Catherine State Park, 3034 State Park Road, Poultney. See website for pricing information. The Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation will present plans for a new camping loop at Lake St. Catherine State Park. The proposal includes RV sites, tent sites, and new recreational activities such as a disc golf course and mountain bike trail access. vtstateparks.com

Feast and Field Music Series

5:30-9 p.m. *(Thursdays through 9/26)* Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$25. Point Noire Cajun Band Tickets: feastandfield.com/tickets

The River Road Concert Series: Stone and Snow

6 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. 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. mounthollycommunityassociation.org

One Room Theatrics Presents: 'No Exit'

8 p.m. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$20. One Room Theatrics presents Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit," directed by Marisa Valent. Two women and one man are locked together for eternity in a hideous room in Hell with no escape. Tickets: paramountvt.org/events-calendar. stonevalleyarts.org

FRIDAY
8/30

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

11 a.m.-noon. *(Fridays)* Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class that focuses on weight training and balance exercises to improve strength, balance, and bone density. chaffeeartcenter.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. Hartland Pulic Library Fields, 153 US Route 5, Hartland. Free. The Hartland Farmers Market offers a variety of local produce and goods every Friday afternoon. Contact Market Manager Trischa Wass at hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com or 1-360-223-0438 for more information.

Porcupine x SVT Group MTB Rides

6-8 p.m. *(Last ride)* Country Club, 2725 VT-30, Poultney. 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: Satin & Steel

6-9 p.m. *(Final concert)* 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

Sunset Serenade: Vermont Symphony String Quartet

7 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Free. The Vermont Symphony String Quartet will perform a program featuring music from Elgar to Gershwin and Bach to the Beatles, celebrating summer in Vermont. RSVP required: paramountvt.org/event/sunset-serenade. PittsfordVillageFarm.org

Storytelling - Summer Moth

7 p.m. Abbott Memorial Library, 15 Library St., South Pomfret. Free. Listen to stories or tell your own stories. All ages encouraged. Snacks provided. abbottmemoriallibrary.org

One Room Theatrics Presents: 'No Exit'

8 p.m. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$20. One Room Theatrics presents Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit," directed by Marisa Valent. Two women and one man are locked together for eternity in a hideous room in Hell with no escape. Tickets: paramountvt.org/events-calendar. stonevalleyarts.org

SATURDAY
8/31

Run with a Ranger

8 a.m. *(Saturdays)* Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 54 Elm St. (Route 12) 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, bug spray and sun protection. Meet at the Forest Center; parking is at Billings Farm & Museum. Registration required. nps.gov/mabi/planyourvisit/index.htm

Fairy Festival & House Building Contest

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 149 Natures Way, Quechee. General admission plus \$10 contest entry fee. Participate in a day of hands-on activities, including building fairy houses and exploring the forest. The event features a fairy hunt, mushroom walk, storytelling, crafts, face painting, and themed live animal programs. vinsweb.org/event/fairy-festival-house-building-contest-24

Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes info.....
from page 14

Soldiers Atop the Mount Living History Weekend

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mount Independence, Orwell. \$9 adults, \$1 ages 6-14, under 6 free. Reenactors honor the 1776-1777 history of Mount Independence with a living history weekend. Features include the Baldwin Trail Walkabout, military tactics, a reading of the Declaration of Independence, and camp life demonstrations. Snacks and lunch available while supplies last. Call 802-948-2000 for details. historicsites.vermont.gov

Mt. Tom Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-1 p.m. (Saturdays Through 10/16) Skadadena Six parking lot, 247 Stage Road, South Pomfret. Free. Local produce, goods, fresh vegetables, fruits, homemade items, and more.

Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club

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

Meet Artist Lynn Adams

11 a.m.-5 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. Meet artist Lynn Adams as she paints next to the Neale Pavilion. Lynn, a jeweler and watercolor artist, will showcase her "Seasons at VINS" collection, depicting the nature center's landscape through the seasons. A portion of artwork sales supports VINS. vinsweb.org

"Shakespeare Alive!" A Bard-Based Variety Show

Noon. Union Christian Church, 43 Messer Hill Road, located on the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Route 100 A, Plymouth Notch. Free. A performance of Shakespeare-based entertainment featuring professional actors and singers from New York City. Donations are accepted. coolidgefoundation.org

Art at the Chaffee: Drop N' Paint

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

19th Annual Plymouth Folk and Blues Fest

2-5 p.m. Plymouth Notch, 3780 Route 100A, Plymouth. Free. Stars from Vermont and internationally known musicians perform in this lively 2 day outdoor festival featuring Hayley Reardon, Jay Psaros, Sister Speak, Rick Redington & Tuff Luv, Todd Thibaud, and Mikahely. Bring a lawn chair, picnic, and enjoy the music in the pure country air of historic Plymouth Notch. Donations appreciated. Non-perishable food donations collected in support of the Vermont Food Bank. historicsites.vermont.gov

Cooler in the Mountains: Annie in the Water

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

Devil's Bowl: Vermont 200 Weekend

4 p.m. Devil's Bowl, 2743 VT Route 22A, West Haven. Call 802-265-3112 for pricing. The event features weekly divisions, X-treme Open Wheel Midgits, a "Non Winners Shootout" for Sportsman Modifieds, and Limited Sportsman "Win & You're in the Vermont 200." Includes a barbecue, bonfire, music, and fireworks. myracepass.com/events/507807

Eaglemania at Pittsford Village Farm

7-9 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. \$39 + tax/fees; 12 and under free. This rain or shine event features EagleMania, known for their faithful reproduction of The Eagles' music. Gates open at 6 p.m. Bring a lawn chair for seating. Tickets available at the venue. paramountvt.org/event/eaglemania-at-pittsford-village-farm

Pond Hill Rodeo

7:30 p.m. (Last rodeo) Pond Hill Ranch, 1683 Pond Hill Road, Castleton. Adults \$15, ages 6-11 \$10, 5 and under are free. Cash only. pondhillranch.com

One Room Theatrics Presents: 'No Exit'

8 p.m. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$20. One Room Theatrics presents Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit," directed by Marisa Valent. Two women and one man are locked together for eternity in a hideous room in Hell with no escape. Tickets: paramountvt.org/events-calendar. stonevalleyarts.org

SUNDAY 9/1

Bear, Canada Goose Hunting Seasons Begin

Legal shooting hours for the taking of waterfowl begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at sunset daily. The early bear season requires a special bear tag. Nonresident hunters using dogs cannot start bear hunting until Sept. 15. vtfishandwildlife.com

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 loca produce, fresh baked goods, handmade crafts, cold beverages, live music and more. Join us for fresh food, community, and fun. Info: ludlowmarket.org

Soldiers Atop the Mount Living History Weekend

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Mount Independence, Orwell \$9 adults, \$1 ages 6-14, under 6 free. Reenactors honor the 1776-1777 history of Mount Independence with a living history weekend. Sunday's events include military tactics, a reading of the Declaration of Independence, and camp life demonstrations. Snacks and lunch available while supplies last. Call 802-948-2000 for details. historicsites.vermont.gov

New World Festival at Chandler Center for the Arts

Noon-11 p.m., Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N Main St., Randolph. Adults \$60, students under 21 \$35, kids under 12 free. The 32nd annual New World Festival features performances on four stages, including a mainstage concert by festival veterans Le Vent Du Nord from Quebec. Activities include arts and crafts, performances by the No Strings Marionette Company, and food and craft vendors along Main St. chandler-arts.org

19th Annual Plymouth Folk and Blues Fest

2-5 p.m. Plymouth Notch, 3780 Route 100A, Plymouth. Free. Stars from Vermont and internationally known musicians perform in this lively 2 day outdoor festival featuring Hayley Reardon, Jay Psaros, Sister Speak, Rick Redington & Tuff Luv, Todd Thibaud, and Mikahely. Bring a lawn chair, picnic, and enjoy the music in the pure country air of historic Plymouth Notch. Donations appreciated. Non-perishable food donations collected in support of the Vermont Food Bank. historicsites.vermont.gov

One Room Theatrics Presents: 'No Exit'

2 p.m. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$20. One Room Theatrics presents Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit," directed by Marisa Valent. Two women and one man are locked together for eternity in a hideous room in Hell with no escape. Tickets: paramountvt.org/events-calendar. stonevalleyarts.org

Rochester Chamber Music Society Season Finale

4-6 p.m. Federated Church, 15 North Main St., Rochester. The Rochester Chamber Music Society concludes their 30th summer season with a concert featuring The Overlook Quartet. The program includes contemporary works by Pauline Oliveros, Leila Adu, Shelley Washington, Trevor Weston, Shanan Estreicher, and Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson. rcmsvt.org or call 802-767-9234 for pricing



Soldiers Atop the Mount Living History Weekend

Sunday at 10 a.m.

Devil's Bowl: The 2024 Fabian Earth Moving Vermont 200

6 p.m. Devil's Bowl Speedway, 2743 VT Route 22A, West Haven. Call 802-265-3112 for pricing. The event includes all Sportsman Modified qualifying rounds, the 2024 Vermont 200 race with a \$10,000 winner's prize and lap money, as well as Mini Sprints and Novice Sportsman races. myracepass.com/events/507807

MONDAY 9/2

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

Farm & Forest Yoga Flow

5:15-6:30 p.m. Billings Farm Visitor Center, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free. Farm & Forest Yoga Flow resumes at Billings Farm, led by National Park ranger and yoga instructor Jen. Check in by 5:25 p.m.; class starts at 5:30 p.m. FarmForestFlowYoga

TUESDAY 9/3

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

Rochester Chamber Music Society Season Finale with The Overlook Quartet

Sunday at 4 p.m.



The second annual Imagine Zero Music Festival will take place Saturday at Fable Farm in Barnard

Saturday, Sept. 7 at 11 a.m.—BARNARD— The second annual Imagine Zero Music Festival will take place Saturday at Fable Farm Farm, 22 Orchard Hill Road in Barnard from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. at Fable Farm in Barnard with a unique vision for a future free of carbon emissions and single use waste.

The festival organizers have placed a focus on bringing top tier musicians who are aligned with the mission to help celebrate a new wave of festival stewardship. World-touring Haitian band Lakou Mizik will headline the event, joined by New England favorites, Billy Wylder, The Wolff Sisters, Saints & Liars, Chad Hollister Trio, Ben Kogan Band, Beecharmer, Seth Glier and more.

The dynamic performers will play a range of global music, indie-rock, American folk, bluegrass, and rock & roll that will make you want to dance!

Imagine Zero has partnered with Fable Farm to host the festival on its beautiful farmland. Fable Farm is a community gathering place, known for its delicious wines and farm to table food that will be offered alongside local sustainable vendors.

As the world faces the existential threats caused by climate change, Imagine Zero rises to the moment, offering Vermont's first sustainable music festival. Record breaking global temperatures, rising sea levels, violent earthquakes, unprecedented storm systems, and drought are destabilizing communities and ecosystems around the world. Vermont experienced these impacts first hand with severe flooding in July 2023. The live music industry as we know it is a significant contributor to climate change, through its large carbon footprint, consumption, and waste. The good news Imagine Zero is spearheading sustainable solutions for the live music industry. Live music is one of the most powerful art forms to reach people's hearts, create community, and transform beliefs and behaviors. "We couldn't be happier to offer this multi-generational celebration that builds



Saints & Liars
Courtesy Saints & Liars

community around environmentalism, great live music, dance, local food, all while making the path towards a more sustainable live music industry," stated Cliff Johnson, festival co-founder.

Festival sustainability goals

- 100% renewable energy on site
- Zero waste (reusable cups, plates, water refill stations etc.)
- Incentivize low carbon/zero carbon band and fan travel
- Comply with all 6 musicians for

sustainability initiatives

Transforming our systems and how we inhabit our planet will take uninhibited imagination and community driven action. The reality of the existential challenges can feel bleak, but the road towards a more sustainable future is possible and can be joyous. The Imagine Zero Music Festival aims to do just that.

The festival is rain or shine, open to all ages, adults \$75, children 3-12 \$25, and 2 and under free. Imagine Zero is made possible through partnership with Fable Farm and sponsorship by Norwich Solar, Revision Energy, Efficiency Vermont, and Mascoma Bank.

Performance Schedule

- Path of Totality - 11:30 a.m.
- Seth Glier - Noon
- Beecharmer - 12:45 p.m.
- Saints & Liars - 1:30 p.m.
- Ben Kogan Band - 2:30 p.m.
- Chad Hollister - 3:30 p.m.
- Billy Wylder - 4:30 p.m.
- The Wolff Sisters - 5:45 p.m.
- Lakou Mizik - 7:15 p.m.

For tickets and more information visit: imaginezerofestival.com



Courtesy Chandler Center for the Arts
Kalos is made up of three innovative interpreters and composers of Celtic roots music: Ryan McKasson, Jeremiah McLane and Eric McDonald



Courtesy Chandler Center for the Arts
Le Vent du Nord perform in the dance tent in 2023.



Courtesy Chandler Center for the Arts
Le Vent du Nord receive a standing ovation, Sept. 2023.

New World Festival marks 32nd year at Chandler Center for the Arts

Sunday Sept. 1 at Noon— Chandler Center for the Arts, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N.Main St., Randolph will host the 32nd annual New World Festival, Vermont's premier Celtic and Quebecois music and dance festival. Main St. is shut down each Labor Day Sunday performances are held on four stages, featuring over a dozen bands and artists from noon to 11 p.m. Headlining the event, festival veterans Le Vent du Nord from Quebec will perform a mainstage concert and close down the festival in the dance tent.

Advance adult tickets are \$60, students (under 21) \$35, children under 12 Free. The festival offers activities, from arts and crafts, to two performances by No Strings Marionette Company. Main Street is open to the public, offering food and craft vendors from across the state, as well as performances by the Morris Dancers. The full festival line up includes: Cantrip, Conor Mallon (Connla), Hiraeth: Claire Boucher, Brad Hurley, Lysandre Chartrand, Footworks, Kalos, É.T.É, Le Vent du Nord, Le Winston Band, Mick McAuley, Morris Dancers (Midnight Capers & Border Morris), No Strings Marionettes, The Reel McCoys and Traverse.

For more information, visit: Chandler-arts.org.



Courtesy Billy Wylder
Imagine Zero Music Festival promotes sustainable solutions in the live music industry, featuring top musicians including Billy Wylder as seen above

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
8/28

BOMOSEEN

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

BRANDON

6 p.m. Brandon Inn (Behind) – Music on the Riverbend with Red Hot Juba

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 George Nostrand's Back Pocket

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

SOUTH POMFRET

6:30 p.m. Artistree – Music on the Hill Summer Concert Series with Prickly Heat Tantalizers

THURS
8/29

BARNARD

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Feast & Field with Pointe Noir

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 – Max Cassano

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 Stone and Snow

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B

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

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

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

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

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Artistree – Open Mic Night

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Nick Bredice

FRI
8/30

BOMOSEEN

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

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 – Phil Henry

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed – Jeremiah Strauss

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Scott Forrest

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Rhys Chalmers

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Tom O'Carroll

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Calcuttas – Liz Reedy

6 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Summer Music Series with Satin and Steel

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Mike Schwaner

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Sammy B

RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Songwriter Circle feat. Karl Lucas, Jack McKeon and Sarah Bell

RUTLAND

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

SAT
8/31

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Scott Forrest

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Joe Pontillo

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Ryan Fuller

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. Annie in the Water with special guest opener Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Rivershed – Tboneicus Jones

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Sammy B

7:30 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Rhys Chalmers

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Tom O'Carroll

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Calcuttas – Liz Reedy

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Patrick Sargent

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

10 a.m. Farmers Market – Scott Forrest

STOCKBRIDGE

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Tad Davis

SUN
9/1

BOMOSEEN

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

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

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Bredice

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

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

RUTLAND

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

STOCKBRIDGE

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

MON
9/2

BOMOSEEN

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

KILLINGTON

5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n

LUDLOW

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Live Music

TUES
9/3

KILLINGTON

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

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

PITTSFIELD

7 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Jam

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



DRUM JOURNEYS OF EARTH

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More Cajun music from to liven up Feast and Field

Thursday, Aug. 29 at 6:30 p.m.—BARNARD—Feast and Field summer music series continues its summer concert lineup every Thursday evening through Sept. 26 at Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, in Barnard. This week, it welcomes Pointe Noire, a Cajun band which finds its rhythm deeply seated in Southwest Louisiana, where many of its members have studied music.

Katie Trautz is a seasoned fiddle player, who drifted south to the Bayou after many years of playing old-time music. Chris Hollis, the Montpelier-based old-time guitar player, also found an interest in Cajun music, and together he and Trautz traveled to Louisiana to learn the musical traditions there. Helen Doyle plays bass, and grew up surrounded by many different styles of traditional music. Cannon Labrie is a long-time Cajun and Zydeco accordion player, playing with well-known New England bands Yankee Chank, Jeannie and the High Tops and Planet Zydeco. Walker Blackwell is a percussionist and fine art printmaker

who has been surrounded by Cajun music his entire life and has been performing percussion in several local bands — including the Clayfoot Strutters — on and off since he was 4 years old. Christiana Athena-Blackwell is a multi-instrumentalist and music educator who founded School of Honk in Boston (a New Orleans inspired second line band/and community school serving over 100 students every week). She started singing and drumming in bands in Vermont when she was 14 years old, and continued her performing career for the past two decades in many cities including Boston, Baltimore and Los Angeles. She currently teaches music at U-32 Middle/High School in East Montpelier.

Pointe Noir plays an uplifting combination of dance music, country songs, and Cajun tunes from Lafayette and beyond. The music series is produced and curated by BarnArts Center for the Arts.

Admission is \$5-\$25 on a sliding scale.

For more information and tickets, visit: feastandfield.com.



Pointe Noir

Courtesy BarnArts



CourtesyPittsford Village Farm

Sunset Serenade: Vermont Symphony String Quartet performs a free concert at Pittsford Village Farm

Friday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m.—PITTSFORD— This Friday at Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St. in Pittsford, the Vermont Symphony String Quartet perform a Sunset Serenade. From Elgar to Gershwin and Bach to the Beatles, this end-of-the-season program celebrates the beauty of a Vermont summer in music!

This is a free event produced in collaboration with the Paramount Theater, but does require a ticket through the Paramount box office — and tickets are going fast!

Pittsford Village Farm sits in the center of Pittsford village, with 22 acres of recreational land fully accessible to the public and connected to the Pittsford Town Trails. The historic farmhouse on the property offers many opportunities to serve the community's needs even further through plans for: a community center, an early childhood education center, and two affordable apartments.

For more information, visit: PittsfordVillageFarm.org.

Devil's Bowl Speedway's to host historic Vermont '200 weekend'

Saturday-Sunday, Aug.31-Sept. 1—WEST HAVEN— Since 2018, the best sportsman and modified drivers from all over the Northeast have gathered in West Haven in September for the biggest crate sportsman modified race in the country, the Vermont 200.

This young but historic event will run for the seventh time this year. It's a two-day event of racing at Devil's Bowl Speedway, with music, fireworks, a bonfire, barbecue and of course, the same thrilling, high-stakes action race fans have come to expect from this weekend.

Saturday will feature the return of the Sportsman Modified non-winners race, where any driver without an A-main win in the 2024 season is eligible to compete. Additionally, the Limited Sportsman will have a 40-lap, "win and you're in" feature that will send its winner to the Vermont 200, or the

highest finishing driver who accepts the ticket. Last year, Fair Haven's Bob Kilburn won the race, but turned down the guaranteed starting position for Sunday's 200, handing it off to second place finisher Scott Towslee.

Saturday's program will also host the midgets in a one-off appearance for the 2024 season along with a full program, heats and features, for the Mini Stocks and the 9th State Cannabis Crown Vics. The 500cc Mini Sprints will run heats and segment 1 of a three-segment weekend. The Novice Sportsman will run heat races Saturday night as well.

As is tradition, Saturday's program concludes with a barbecue with music and a bonfire in the camping area.

Sunday is a one-day show for the Sportsman Modifieds with time trials, all

Race → 25

Highlights from the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival

By Bruce Bouchard

Editor's note: Bruce Bouchard is former executive director of The Paramount Theatre.

The Middlebury New Filmmaker Festival (MNFF) celebrated its 10th birthday last week. The festival has grown into a formidable venture and is now recognized as a first-rate small festival. The festival welcomed Oliver Stone this past week, a great “get” for the festival and for Vermont. What follows are a few suggestions of excellent films from the festival. Some are available on streaming devices. Special note: If you don’t have the free app, JUST WATCH, download it and click the notification button to hear of available viewing platforms.

“Totem” (Narrative feature, subtitles)

Totem: noun, is “the natural or inanimate being or symbol assuming the emblem of clan, family or group.” A large party, in an urban Mexican city (Monterrey? Guadalajara?) both anticipated and dreaded, is in a swirl of preparation activity. Seven-year-old Sol (Sun) the soul of this film, and a revelation, is paying close attention. Mothers, fathers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, multiple cousins and friends, come together for this very special event. Sisters squabble, argue and laugh, the children act up. Cakes are baked and decorations hung. A shaman arrives and performs a Mayan ritual of banishing evil spirits. Sol is swept up in a headwind of the birthday about to unfold. The party is for her father, Tona, a celebrated painter. The party arrives and Sol begins to realize the depth of the situation. Near the conclusion of the party young Sol offers a “coming of age” performance unequalled in my experience. For a deep dive into the beautiful Mexican culture go to AppleTV+



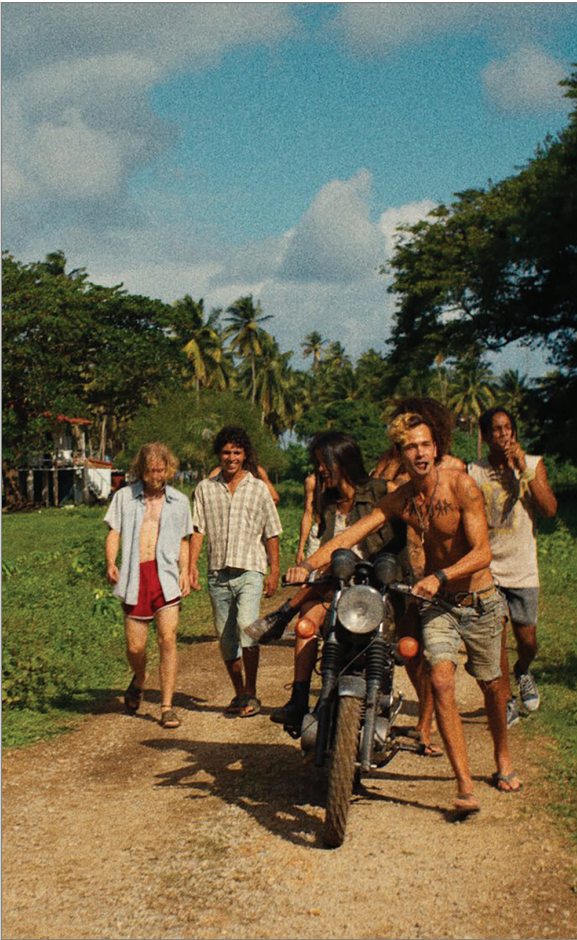
“Just Getting By” (Documentary)

This film is by Vermont’s own Bess O’Brien, Vermont’s premiere documentarian (“The Hungry Heart” and many others). Formidable director Bess O’Brien flies directly into the face of the homeless plight in Vermont today with this sweeping yet intimate story. Vermont has the second highest population of homeless people per capita after California. She also shines an unblinking light on the motel housing initiative (just terminated this past June — in which thousands of families and individuals were evicted). Preconceptions and stereotypes are deconstructed as we walk into the lives of the people living in motels — families of five living in a single room, seniors and veterans who cannot survive on their Social Security — in this era of inflation and skyrocketing housing costs. O’Brien humanizes everything she touches with the skills of a truly gifted documentarian, empathy and trust, as she gains entry and takes her camera inside many lives of Vermonters struggling with housing and food insecurity. I would guess that this one will show up on Vermont PBS.



“Los Frikis” (Narrative feature filmed in Dominican Republic, with an all Cuban cast, subtitles)

Two dynamic American writers/directors bring a story set in the early 1990s, a severe time of Castro repression. AIDS has come to Cuba. The story, inspired by true events, centers around a group of punk rockers (listening to American music puts people in jail; arguing with the soldiers in the cane fields gets them shot dead) who in search of freedom and living in dire hunger, deliberately inject HIV-contaminated fluids so they can live at a government run sanatorium to create their own utopia. The story centers around two Cuban brothers, Paco (Hector Medina) and Gustavo (Eros de la Puente) and a kindly nurse (Adria Arjuna) at the sanatorium. All three actors are breakout stars, and the performance by Medina is as fine a performance as you will see. This unified cast and the brilliantly constructed arc of the movie makes it one of the finest narrative features I have seen in a long time. It is a perfect film. It was the winner of the Best Narrative Feature in the Festival. Download the app “Just Watch” for notifications.



Photos courtesy Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival



“Robert Shields: My life as a robot” (Documentary)

Anybody remember “Shields and Yarnell?” This delightful and heartfelt documentary is a one-of-a-kind and I loved it without reservation. Robert Shields, born in Los Angeles, did not speak until the age of 5. He did, however, dance, cavort and dive onto and over furniture. His mother knew he was destined for show business. His evolution as a performer (he perfected the “robot moves” which have become ubiquitous today as a distinct performance style), were wholly unique at the time. Shields quickly went from working as a mime on Hollywood Boulevard to playing to thousands of people in Union Square, San Francisco. He once opened for the Rolling Stones, he played for two presidents and a queen, and after teaming up with (and marrying Lorene Yarnell) they appeared as “Shields and Yarnell,” becoming huge hits on prime-time television and in Las Vegas. Interviews with Hollywood agents and producers abounded. Robert Shields was kissed by angels and the time spent with him seated and talking directly into the camera is time well spent. Caution: he cannot stop performing. Download the app “Just Watch” for notification.



“Hangdog” (Narrative fiction)

This delicious little feature wins the viewer over through the huge talent of the central character. Set entirely in Portland, Maine, anxiety-riddled Walt (he has a nerdy Sacha Baron Cohen vibe) has been charged with caring for his and his girlfriend’s dog while she is away on business in New York. The dog is stolen after he ties it up outside a weed dispensary (for anxiety, remember). The stakes are through the roof as the girlfriend might just love the dog more than she loves Walt. His uber-hyper odyssey takes him throughout Portland, as he mixes with colorful and eccentric locals and confronts his anxiety and his ability to make human connections. A sweet little movie of affirmation and unity. Desmin Borges’ Walt carries the film. I predict he will have a huge career.





VINS hosts fairy festival, house building contest

Saturday, Aug. 31—QUECHEE—Join VINS for a fairy special day! Discover the forest through hands-on play and celebrate creativity with the art form that is fairy houses, build for fun, or enter in our contest for a chance to win a private experience! Participants will hit the

trails for a fairy hunt for the chance to explore and learn about the forest around you while searching for our fairy friends. Enjoy the day with other magical activities such as, a guided mushroom walk, tales of the fae, crafts, face painting, a bubble lab, some frozen sweet treats, and fantastically themed live animal programs. Costumes are highly encouraged!

Fairy house building contest

The contest is open until the deadline of 1 p.m. on Aug. 31.

All natural materials (with the exception of adhesives) must be non-living when sourced from nature. Materials cannot be gathered from a pre-existing fairy house.

Placement: houses must be placed trailside at a lettered spot, along the Fairy Town Trail. Upon placement the letter may be replaced with an information card provided (which includes name, age, contact information, house title, and materials used). Houses may be constructed and placed as early as Aug. 30 during regular business hours (10 a.m.-5 p.m.) and must be placed no later than 1 p.m. on Aug. 31.

Houses can be built on site, or off sight and brought in for placement.

Houses must be built to fit within an area of 2 feet by 2 feet. There are no restrictions on height or weight.

Winners for each age category will be selected by a panel of judges and awarded with a gift bag from the VINS Nature Store. A crowd favorite will be voted on from within all the categories to receive a grand prize of a VINS private experience animal encounter.

There is a \$10 contest entry fee in addition to general admission.

Vins Nature Center is located at 149 Natures Way in Quechee.

For more information, visit: vinsweb.org/event.

Stand-Up Shakespeare Company presents free performance

Saturday, Aug. 31 at 12 p.m.—PLYMOUTH—The Stand-Up Shakespeare Company will present one free performance this Saturday at the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth. The 2024 annual “Shakespeare Alive! A Bard-Based Variety Show” returns for an all-new performance. It’s a delightful mélange of Bard-based entertainment for all ages! The Stand-Up Shakespeare troupe of professional actors and singers from New York City will share its talent, passion and creativity to amuse and amaze with the best of Shakespeare’s canon as well as Bard-based skits and songs. And, lo, verily, the show is always free! (Although donations are gratefully accepted.)

Who is Stand-Up Shakespeare?

Stand Up Shakespeare is a collective of New York City-based actors who have become a veritable Vermont institution over a 24-year period. The beloved troupe travels to Killington and Plymouth each Labor Day weekend to present a new one-hour show made up of romance, tragedy, history, comedy and music, all based on the works of William Shakespeare.

The show will take place this year at the Union Christian Church, 43 Messer Hill Road, located on the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Route 100 A, in Plymouth Notch. The 183-year-old Union Christian Church has perfect acoustics making it ideal for Shakespeare performances.

Stay for the 19th annual Plymouth Folk and Blues Festival, which begins at 2 p.m. and runs until 5 p.m. on Saturday, also Sunday during the same times. This event is also free, with donations appreciated.

The Calvin Coolidge Presidential foundation is the official foundation dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of America’s 30th president. The Foundation was formed in 1960 by a group of Coolidge enthusiasts, including John Coolidge, the president’s son. It maintains its offices at the president’s birthplace in Plymouth Notch. The Foundation seeks to greatly increase Americans’ understanding of President Coolidge and the values he promoted.

For more information on the Coolidge Foundation, visit: coolidgefoundation.org; Phone: 802-672-3389



Courtesy Stand Up Shakespeare

Hillary Parker (Countess Olivia)



Courtesy Stand Up Shakespeare

The cast of “Stand Up Shakespeare” poses for a photo ahead of their free performance this Saturday at the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth.

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Vermont Bear Hunting starts in Sept. 1

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. (VTW&W) remind folks that bear hunting season starts Sunday.

Vermont has two bear hunting seasons. The early season, which requires a special bear tag, starts Sept. 1, and continues through Nov. 15 with one exception. Nonresident hunters using dogs cannot start bear hunting until Sept. 15. The late bear season begins Nov. 16 and continues through Nov. 24.

A hunter may take only one bear during the year.

In addition to a hunting license, a bear hunter using a bow or crossbow must have a prior or current bow license or a certificate proving completion of a bow hunter education course.

The hunter must field dress the bear before taking it to a reporting station. It is also legal to skin the bear and cut it up in order to carry it out of the woods. The bear must be reported within 48 hours. The hunter must also collect and submit a pre-molar tooth from the bear at the time the bear is reported or within 30 days. The tooth provides important data on the age structure and size of the bear population.

Upon the request of a game warden,
a person harvesting a bear is required to

return to the kill site with a game warden.

“Bears will be feeding along power lines and in forest openings and old fields where berries and apples can be found as well as in forested beech and oak stands,” said Jaclyn Comeau, Vermont’s bear biologist. “They also are likely to be feeding on standing corn.”

ComEAU said are bears abundant in Vermont and properly prepared bear meat is highly nutritious. The key to successfully securing good meat is to skin the bear as soon as possible and process it immediately if you do not have

access to a large cooler.

Comeau asks hunters to refrain from shooting a bear with cubs as well as bears observed in groups as they are usually made up of sows with cubs. "Black bear cubs are dependent on their mother through the following spring. It is important to maintain these family groups," she added. "We have tips for identifying sows with cubs on our website."

A new law now in effect prohibits the sale of paws or internal organs of a black bear.

VTF&W urges hunters to download and read the 2024 Black Bear Hunting Guide from its website.

"Black bear cubs are dependent on their mother through the following spring. It is important to maintain these family groups," said Comeau.

Resident Canada Goose hunting season runs Sept. 1-25

Vermont's resident Canada goose hunting season will be held Sept. 1-25 to help control Vermont's resident Canada goose population prior to the arrival of Canada geese migrating south from Canada according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. (VTF&W).

The season will be open statewide with a daily bag limit of five Canada geese in the Connecticut River Zone and eight in the rest of Vermont.

A second Canada goose hunting season for resident and migrant birds will be held Oct. 12-Nov. 10 with a daily bag limit of three Canada geese in the Lake Champlain Zone and Interior Vermont Zone.

In the Connecticut River Zone, the second Canada goose season will be Oct. 9-Nov. 11, and Nov. 27-Dec. 22 with a daily bag limit of two Canada geese.

For a third year, a late Canada goose season will be held targeting resident birds. Within the Lake Champlain and Interior zones, the season will be held from Dec. 1 to Jan. 19, with a five-bird daily bag limit. The season will run Dec. 23 to Jan. 11 in the Connecticut River zone and applies only to the lands of the zone, not Connecticut River waters.

A hunting license is required, and a waterfowl hunter 16 or older must carry current federal and Vermont duck stamps. Federal stamps are sold at post offices, federal refuges and on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website (fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp.php). Vermont is not one of the states where you can buy an electronic federal duck stamp, but you can purchase one from any state that sells them.

Vermont duck stamps can be added to your hunting license at: vtfishandwildlife.com and through license agents. The hunter must sign the federal duck stamp.

All migratory game bird hunters must also be registered with the Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.). This can be done on VTF&W website or by calling toll-free 1-877-306-7091. After providing some basic information, you will receive your annual H.I.P. registration number, which you then need to record on your hunting license.

A printable copy of migratory bird hunting regulations can be downloaded from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website under "Hunt" - "Waterfowl." A printed version is available from license agents and post offices.

Race:
from page 22

qualifying and consolation rounds and the Vermont 200. An important change in driver eligibility rules has been announced: Only drivers with at least five starts in a 602-crate sportsman car prior to Aug. 1 are eligible to enter the 2024 Vermont 200. The feature will pay \$10,000 to the winner. If a Devil's Bowl or Airborne Park Speedway Regular can win

the 200, it will pay a \$2,500 bonus, resulting in a \$12,500 winner's share, plus lap money.

Laps are on sale now and the mandatory driver-pre-entry form is also available for download on the Devil's Bowl Speedway website.

For more information, visit: DevilsBowl-SpeedwayVT.com.





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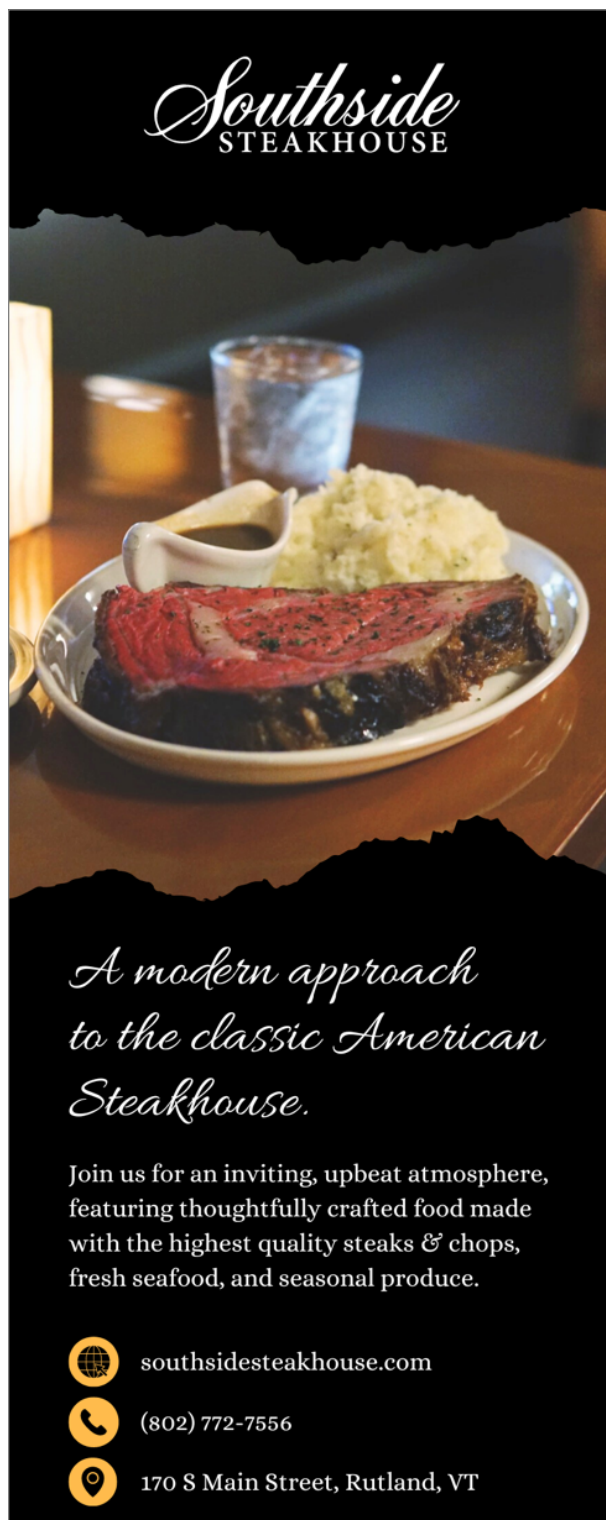
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The Overlook to close out Rochester Chamber Music series

Sunday, Sept. 1 at 4 p.m.—ROCHESTER— The Rochester Chamber Music Society will close its 30th summer season in Rochester on Sunday, Sept. 1 at 4 p.m. in the Federated Church in Rochester. Artistic Director Adda Kridler will present a concert of exciting new music with The Overlook Quartet. The program includes works by contemporary composers Pauline Oliveros, Leila Adu, Shelley Washington, Trevor Weston, Shan-an Estreicher, and Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson.

The string quartet The Overlook is a unifying, community-building force, whose dedication to a more representative musical tradition reverberates throughout their industry.

The Overlook formed from a simple need to make and share music with others during the pandemic shutdown. The longtime friends, some of New York's most accomplished string players, gathered to play outdoors in parks and on street corners in upper Manhattan, and their community stopped to listen. Through these casual outdoor performances, they built a following in person and on social media, connected with local businesses and residential enclaves, and partnered with important neighborhood cultural centers for their first official performances. They witnessed firsthand the power of music to unite and inspire—all without playing a single note of the string quartet repertoire that has been held up as "standard" for hundreds of years.

Since their inception in June 2020, The Overlook has worked to effect permanent change in the "classical music canon" by developing a body of repertoire composed by BIPOC, female, and non-binary creators. The quartet has presented masterworks from the past by Florence Price, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and Chevalier de Saint-Georges, as well as works by living composers Trevor Weston, Eleanor Alberga, Carlos Simon, Jessie Montgomery, Shelley Washington, Leila Adu, Forbes Gra-

ham, and many more. The Overlook has enjoyed collaborating with such artists as New York Philharmonic principal clarinetist Anthony McGill, Wilco guitarist Nels Cline, multi-Grammy nominee Curtis Stewart, and noted visual artist Linda Sormin. To support their work, the quartet has been awarded grants by the Eastman School of Music, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Bronx Council on the Arts and Local 802's Music Performance Trust Fund.

The Overlook has developed and presented a new performance series "If the Stars Align" in Uptown-NYC, with concerts at Washington Heights/Inwood cultural institutions including Hispanic Society of America, Morris-Jumel Mansion, Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, Fort Washington Collegiate Church, and United Palace Theatre. The quartet recently brought their mission to Lincoln Center at Kaufman Music Center's "Musical Storefronts," Chamber Music NY at Bruno Walter Auditorium, GatherNYC at the Museum of Arts and Design, Symphony Space, Fotografiska New York, and Wave Hill. Further afield, the quartet has performed at Chatter ABQ, WOCO Fest, The Arts Club of DC, Music for Montauk, Mass MoCA, Lehigh University, Tuckamore Festival in NL, Canada, as well as in a virtual performance presented by the Metropolitan Museum of Art that has been streamed nearly 70,000 times.

By building relationships with composers and championing new works, collaborating with interdisciplinary creators, re-thinking the concert experience to include non-traditional spaces, and consistently engaging with their Uptown NYC community, The Overlook upholds its mission to create a more representative and relevant musical practice.

Described as "lyrical and precise" by the New York Times and lauded in the Miami Herald for her "incisive energy and lovely tone," violinist and violist Adda Kridler has cultivated

a diverse career in New York City. As a vital member of the contemporary and avant-garde music scene, Kridler has worked with over 100 living composers and premiered more than 60 works, including Georg Friedrich Haas, Talea Leon. She appears frequently with the Talea Ensemble, is on faculty of the Composers Conference, and is a former member of the Momenta and Overlook Quartets. With the avant-metal string quartet Seven)Suns, she has performed at the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival as well as on the Dillinger Escape Plan's 20th anniversary shows in New York.

As a chamber and orchestral player, she has played and toured with the Argus Quartet, performed in Cuba with the Third Sound Ensemble, and appeared with many of New York's finest ensembles including the Mark Morris Dance Group, The Knights, New York City Ballet, and the New Jersey Symphony. Kridler frequently records and performs for film, television and recording artists; she has toured nationally with Adele, played on "The Tonight Show" and "Saturday Night Live," recorded film scores for Ryuichi Sakamoto, and appeared on-screen in Succession and Maestro. She is a member of the Vitamin String Quartet collective, and has played in many Broadway productions and cast albums, including Hamilton, Moulin Rouge, Beetlejuice, and The Great Gatsby.

She graduated *cum laude* from Harvard University studying cognitive neuroscience, and completed her musical studies at the New England Conservatory. Kridler is thrilled to join RCMS as artistic director in the 2025 season, and even more thrilled to have found her second musical family in the wonderful Rochester community.

Admission is by donation.

For more info, visit: rcmsvt.org or call 802-767-9234.



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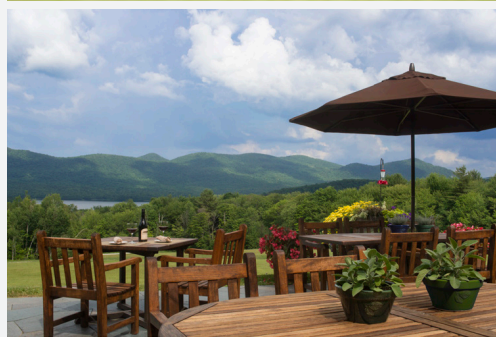
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Vermont's hunting season for gray squirrels opens Sept. 1

The Vermont hunting season for gray squirrels begins Sunday, Sept. 1 and continues through Dec. 31, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. (VTF&W).

“Vermont has a healthy population of gray squirrels, concentrated in southern Vermont and the Champlain Valley,” said Hunter Education Coordinator Nicole Meier. “They’re a fantastic small game species for new hunters to learn the basics of reading the landscape, making a safe and ethical shot and cooking wild game.”

In Vermont, gray squirrels are often hunted with a .22 rifle, a shotgun or archery equipment. The department recommends that squirrel hunters wear a blaze orange vest or hat anytime they are afield.

The best habitat for squirrel hunting is stands of nut-bearing trees like oak, hickory and beech. The daily bag limit is four gray squirrels, and the possession limit is eight.

“Gray squirrels are incredibly tasty — many would say better than rabbit,” said Meier. “You can find great gray squirrel recipes in classic cookbooks, trendy culinary magazines, and of course anywhere that publishes wild food recipes.

Hunters need a small game license to hunt gray squirrels with any lawful means other than a trap.

It is illegal to buy or sell a wild bird, rabbit, hare or gray squirrel at any time.

For more info, visit: vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt.

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By John Hall, VTF&W
Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. mandates blind placement by Sept. 7, permanently displaying owner's name and address, and removal by May 15 or Feb. 15.

Waterfowl hunting blinds forbidden until Sept. 7

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. reminds hunters that waterfowl hunting blinds may not be placed on or in the waters of the state earlier than the first Saturday in September. This year that's Sept. 7.

Anyone who places a blind must have their name and address permanently and legibly shown on the blind by waterproof paint or rustproof tag.

Waterfowl blinds located on any waters of the state except Lake Chaplain must be removed on or before May 15 of the following year. A blind located on Lake Champlain must be removed by Feb. 15 of the following year.

Placement of signs for the purposes of claiming waterfowl blind locations has no basis in law and is unenforceable.

"Finding a good place for a waterfowl hunting blind can be challenging," said Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick, "but we urge hunters to show respect for each other so they can all have an enjoyable, safe hunting experience."

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Crossword

Solutions from page 13

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

Sudoku

Solutions from page 13

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

Rutland County Humane Society



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



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



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



Stefani Bananas—7 months. Spayed female. Pitbull Terrier.



Buttons—8-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic Mediumhair.



HARLEY

Harley—3-year-old. Neutered male. German Shepherd mix.

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Gizmo—6-7-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic Shorthair.



Rusky—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic Shorthair.



Pluto—4-year-old. Spayed female. Feist mix.



Victor—2-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic Shorthair.



Stardust—1-year-old. Neutered male.



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

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SANDY

Cosmic Catalogue



Aries March 21 - April 20

Everything to do with fun and romance looks set to get back on track now. Confusion and missed opportunities may have turned out to be a blessing in disguise. As attention turns toward the more serious side of relating, you may have to start thinking about what you really want in this area of life. If things aren't working out the way you want them too, stop complaining and take action. Things may work out better than you expect.

Leo July 21 - August 20

A cycle of confusion and frustration comes to a close this week. As things begin to improve, it's not the time to take your recent experiences for granted. You either win or you learn, you don't lose. That's provided you heed the advice the Universe as just delivered and dare to change course. This isn't the time to go back to old ways of thinking. In fact, you really do need to think outside the box when it comes to your approach to life overall.

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

You might like to get a head start on your good luck phase and start scheduling catch ups with your friends and favorite people. As lucky star Venus arrives in the most fortunate area of your horoscope, it's time for you to make some magic happen. A little effort will go a long way now, not only to have some good times but also to dramatically shift the trajectory of life. Your connections are the key to everything now.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

Turning your attention to the health and wellness rituals that you know work well for you is now required. So if you've been indulging in the good things in life, then good for you. But, all good things must come to an end. Do attempt to seek some balance in this equation. While you can be an all or nothing type, that isn't going to work for you now. Make changes that are sustainable. There are no quick fixes.

Virgo August 21 - September 20

When you put yourself in your best light and show up regardless of external circumstances, you'll win! Think of it like this, people tend to only watch a sunrise or a sunset, not the midday sun. Right now, you're on show, whether you like it or not. So put your best foot forward because you've got some cash to earn. When it comes to abundance in all its forms, it's available if you show up and take it.

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

The best thing you can do for yourself this week is to reflect on the past 15 or so years. What have you learned? What do you regret? What would you change if you could? As an old chestnut prepares to be reopened, don't fear looking back. In fact, looking back is the key for you to really launch into your future, stronger, better and wiser than ever. Adopt a come at me bro attitude and you'll be unstoppable.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

It's your time to really live it up a little. When was the last time you went on a date? It matters not whether you're single or spoken for, but it's time you shook a little sugar on your life. Be it romance, having fun or doing something you really love – and with whom, hopefully – your time is now! The action you take this week could really change things up in this area of your life. Take a chance on joy!

Libra September 21 - October 20

This week may see a turnaround in your optimism as well as your general luck. As Venus arrives in your sign, it will be easier for you to generate the support and attention you need. On the flipside, there may also be temptation for you to fall back into the old habits and patterns you've worked so hard to break. Do play your cards right because you can turn things around for the better, not only this week, but beyond as well.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

The sense of doom you've been experiencing will slowly begin to lift. That being said, you know the story is not done yet. With this reprieve, you've got the chance to turn your attention inward again and attempt to learn the lessons you need to learn. You don't have to heed this advice of course, but if you don't, you will wish you had. You've been warned. Do the (inner) work. It's not easy, though you'll never regret it.

Cancer June 21 - July 20

Money has been a little funny of late. Mishaps, delays and general confusion around your cash flow may have left you lacking in confidence in your ability to attract the abundance you need and want. Just because the Universe sometimes messes with you in this department, it really is just a test to make sure you're still aligned with your desires. Never stop wanting more or the more you want will stop. As things improve, don't stop wanting.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

When it comes to your longer term financial security, you're caught between reality and what you dream about. The thing is, no dreams ever really eventuate by being practical. In fact, you do have to embody the ridiculous a little bit. You might deny yourself the chance to have some fun, but penny pinching in and of itself isn't fun neither. Do your best to have the best of both worlds, at least in respect to your attitude out outlook on life.

Pisces February 21 - March 20

Your inner landscape is about to be all churned up this week. Old issues, old friends, old problems. Just when you thought it was done, chances are, they are far from it. As you move forward, do remember all the boundaries you've implemented and the work you've been doing. What you do now that seems harder than it should, will repay you three-fold in the months to come and beyond. You haven't come this far to come this far.

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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.

Proceed with caution

All the things that have been slow to gain momentum over the past few weeks look set to get back on track. The thoughts, the ideas and the logistics and plans that have been on the back burner are now back on the table. Reason being is that Mercury hits the brakes and starts to move in a forward direction again. This is what you can expect from all that has been stuck, stagnant or just plain frustrating recently.

That said, things may not be as simple as they appear. There is still

the potentiality for things to go a little haywire or not quite how you expected. So, do expect the unexpected. A change of mind or a change of heart may be required.

As one area of life slowly starts to move forward, so does another. The topic of relationships, diplomacy and going along to get along also looks favorable. That said, there is a catch here, too. Don't make a deal, a decision, a contract or arrangement that you aren't prepared to go all in on. This may be a case of speak now or forever hold your peace.



Mountain Meditation

By Marguerite
Jill Dye

You can't put out my flame

Editor's note: The following is the first poem that Bree Sarandrea ever had published. It was in the Rutland Herald when she was 10.

Look into the flames,
Glowing so brightly.
They make you feel so happy,
Free of all cares and warm inside.
Spread your wings and take flight to the air.
Now free in your mind,
And free in your heart,
Free of all the sadness,
That was once tearing you apart,
You notice how light,
You can be in your heart.
Then the wind starts to blow...
This feeling tries to break away.
Keep hold of it, my friend,

Don't let it blow away.
Keep it safe in your heart,
When hard times come through.
Just say to them —
And let them know,
They can try all they want —
But make sure to tell them,
"You can't put out my flame!"



Poetry Is Power

By Bree
Sarandrea

The flood

My first spring in Killington, 2023, I started dating a friend who lived locally. They had introduced me to the community a few years earlier and helped me connect with so many awesome folks, opening the door to a lot of opportunities for me. I felt so welcomed by her energy.

As a local for a few years prior to my arrival, I was invited into her group as her "Plus 1." Finally, I thought I had a start at some close friendships and a support system beyond myself. Despite some hiccups early on, this was becoming the best year.

As the summer progressed, it felt like almost every weekend was a new adventure around the region. Visiting friends and family with the pup (who I probably have more awesome photos of than my concert

friends), exploring great trails with so many waterfalls, and really getting into the thick of the area.

Things seemed to culminate in June after a particularly enjoyable music festival in New Hampshire. We volunteered and got to meet some awesome musicians from around the region. It was a great experience, though a little wet — A lot of our trips and events seemed to be getting met with rain.

In July of 2023 Vermont, New York and other states in the Northeast were hit with tremendous rainfall. Roads crumbled into nothing as they became

completely washed out. Businesses were destroyed, homes and properties left in pieces, massive power outages and the overall sacrifice of one of Vermonts most



Dream in Color

By Will
O'Donnell

Dream in Color → 35

The eye-opening realm of avian sleep

Birds exist in a fluid and unpredictable world. Survival depends on remaining constantly alert, adapting and responding to encounters with predators and environmental conditions that change with the seasons, weather, and geography. But sleep is also essential, providing rest, rejuvenation, and healing.

Normally, day-active (diurnal) animals sleep at night, and night-active (nocturnal) species sleep by day. During the sleep cycle, brain activity diminishes, as do metabolic rate and sensory awareness of an animal's surroundings. When people (and many forms of wildlife) sleep, both sides of our brains disengage in a process known as bihemispheric slow-wave sleep (BSWS).

Being fully asleep for hours at a time, however, would leave wild animals susceptible to predation and other environmental threats. How do birds balance the need for sleep with the necessity for vigilance — and for undertaking epic uninterrupted flights? Unlike the nightlong rest of humans, birds can sleep in multiple short cycles that often last just a few minutes, but repeat hundreds of times each day. Each avian sleep cycle includes both deep slow-wave sleep (SWS) and rapid eye movement (REM) sleep. (In humans, REM is when most dreams occur.)

Some birds possess an extraordinary ability for short-cycle sleep. According to

researcher Niels Rattenborg of the Max Planck Institute for Biological Intelligence in Germany, his team's study of breeding chinstrap penguins showed the birds "obtained large amounts of SWS, but via over 600 microsleeps per hour, lasting on average 4 seconds."

In order to remain aware of and responsive to their environments, birds — and some marine mammals — engage in unihemispheric slow-wave sleep (USWS), keeping one half of the brain and the associated eye active, while the other side sleeps. Birds of all stripes — from sparrows and falcons to parakeets and waterfowl — can engage in USWS.

Mammals that are fully aquatic, such as dolphins and whales, rely almost exclusively on USWS, during which the awake side of their brain enables them to swim and continue surfacing to breathe.

Birds can rest with both hemispheres of the brain asleep when they're in a relatively safe environment, or with one hemisphere asleep and the other awake when they need to remain aware and active. When only one side of their brain is asleep, the eye associated with the awake side remains open. Scientists have studied this sleep behavior in blackbirds, pigeons, mallards and other species.

When mallards rest in groups, individuals



The Outside Story

By Michael J. Caduto

Outside Story → 37

Tarpping, solarization and occultation

By Deborah J. Benoit

Editor's note: Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension master gardener from North Adams, Massachusetts, who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.

Are you looking for a low-labor, chemical-free method to help eradicate weeds and soil-residing pests in the garden? Solarization and occultation, often referred to as "tarpping," may be just what you're looking for.

Simply put, tarpping covers the soil with plastic, clear or opaque, depending on which method you're using. Solarization utilizes clear plastic sheeting. Occultation uses black plastic sheeting or opaque tarps.

Solarization uses the sun's rays to heat soil, mulch and other organic matter to temperatures that can kill certain pests and soil-borne diseases. It works best on hot days when the sun is shining brightly. Solarization is unlikely to work well in shaded areas.

Occultation blocks the sun's rays. While it does heat the soil somewhat, it stops plant growth by blocking the sun's light and photosynthesis. This method works

well in sun or shade.

The tarpping process for both solarization and occultation is simple. Trim any plants growing in the area close to the ground. Using a rake, level the soil surface. Give the soil a good soak.

Lay plastic sheeting over the area as close to the surface of the ground as possible. Bury the edges in the soil or use heavy objects to hold the edges down, creating a closed environment.

Solarization can take anywhere from two weeks under optimal conditions (clear, hot days at the peak of summer) but more likely four to six weeks. If conditions result in less heat generated by sunlight and temperature, the process can take longer.

Solarization can heat the upper 12 to 18 inches of soil, with its greatest benefit in the top six inches. When temperatures reach above 110 degrees Fahrenheit, solarization can help control soil-borne diseases such as early blight (*Alternaria* sp.).

Solarization can also be useful in com-

Tarpping → 36

Liar, Liar...

I just returned from a conference, and to get back quicker, I decided to take the redeye. Every time I do this, I regret it because of the disrupted sleep, but there's something about getting home sooner rather than later.

I was hoping for a whole row to myself but that wasn't the case. As soon as I arrived at my seat, there was already a 20-year-old asleep against the window. And the middle seat was also occupied by a bookish looking woman in her 50s.

I threw my bag into the overhead bin, sat down, and accepted my fate.

After a few minutes, the woman next to me — in a very kind and unobtrusive way — inquired about my musical tastes since I was fiddling with a Spotify playlist on my phone. I told her they ran the gamut, but on this occasion I was looking for something in the realm of soft jazz since I was hoping to fall asleep.

At that moment, I came across Sting's 1985 album, "The Dream of the Blue Turtles," which immediately felt like the perfect choice. I turned my phone toward the woman and said, "This feels right."

Her eyes lit up and jumped quickly from my phone screen to my face. "I love Sting!" she stated. "I mean seriously, is there a more talented and diverse artist alive today?"

I agreed with her and said this particular album was by far my favorite, but there were a few others I liked as well. She concurred, and then named a couple songs she was fond of.

I don't know why, but at that moment, I decided to do something I've always thought about but never had the courage to pull off: I told a huge lie.

"I met Sting years ago," I said with an understated tone.

Her eyes swung back around in utter disbelief. I could tell by her reaction that she was wildly interested in my story.

"Oh my god. What was he like?" she said intently.

The truth is, I've never met Sting. I did see him on the street years ago when I was in New York City, but that was it. The moment lasted maybe 30 seconds, just long enough for me to realize that a famous musician was standing nearby. I stared at him for a few moments and then he got into a waiting car and drove away.

"He wandered into a bar I was at," I said to the woman.

As soon as the words came out of my mouth, the adrenaline in my body surged. "Wow, you're really going to do this," I thought.

"I was in New York City for a conference

and I had some time to kill before my flight home. I decided to check out this little club I'd heard about in the Village. You know, one of those places that doesn't even have a sign outside, just a door and a staircase down to the basement."

She nodded excitedly, completely engrossed in my story.

"So, I go down there, and it's exactly what you'd imagine—dim lighting, smoky atmosphere, a small stage with a three-piece band playing. I grabbed a drink and found a seat at the bar. I'm sitting there, enjoying the music, when suddenly, there's a bit of a commotion at the door. I turn around to see what's going on and in walks Sting. He was with one other guy and they came over and saddled up right next to me at the bar."

"I would have died!" she exclaimed. "Did you speak to him?"

"I tried to play it cool, act like it wasn't a big deal that Sting was sitting two feet away from me. The television above our heads was playing a Yankees game and he eventually asked me what the score was. I replied, then mentioned that Jeter pulled off an acrobatic play at shortstop that would

likely be considered for his career highlight video."

"No way!" she said, eyes wide and immersed.

At that point, I had had my fun, so I told her once I finished my beer, I threw \$20 on the bar and told the bartender that Sting's next drink was on me, and then walked out.

"Wow. You actually bought Sting a drink," she said softly while rested her head back onto her seat.

I took that opportunity to slide in my earbuds and turn on my music, happy to have ended my massive lie, but also content in the fact that I gave a stranger a thrilling story to ponder.

In this week's feature, "Blink Twice," starring Channing Tatum, we meet another guy who likes to lie, but in his case the lies are at the expense of several beautiful young women that he's lured to a private island.

Channing Tatum is the real deal. His good looks sometimes overshadow his acting chops, but the guy will be around forever simply because he casts an interesting allure. In this film, he's given the chance to fully express a character that embodies a multitude of psychopathies.

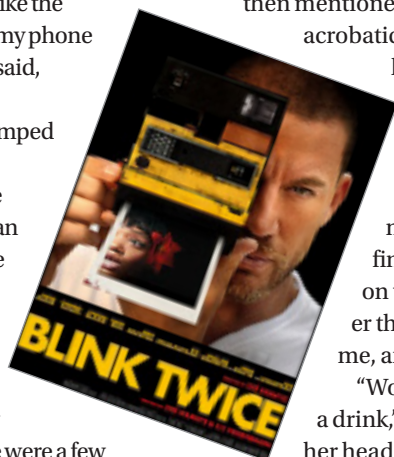
Check this one out if you're a fan of Tatum's work or are in the mood for a bizarre psychological thriller. It's not on Hitchcock's level, but it's as good as the genre gets these days.

A deceitful "B-" for "Blink Twice," now playing in theaters everywhere.

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



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Change at the mountain: choosing better over bitter

When the news came out on Thursday, I went numb, which took me completely by surprise. I mean, rumors had been flying for months, we all knew that the president of Powdr has been struggling with his health and I had been privy to some interesting conversations. We all knew this was coming, but what we didn't know was exactly when and how and ...

I couldn't function for most of the day. I went through the motions at work, but everything seemed a little hollow inside. After watching the initial video and reading the press release, I took a deep breathe and let the forces of change barrel into me.

Whether Powdr or the Killington Independent Group or another corporation owns Killington is not something that I, personally, have any control over. I cannot control what lifts are replaced, what trails are widened or enhanced with snowmaking. I cannot control when bike trails are placed across my favorite tree trails or the price of a beer at the U Bar. These things are out of my control. I cannot change them, just as I cannot change others.

But what I can control is my reaction to change.

In her book, "Change Enthusiasm," Cassandra Worthy talks about embracing change, becoming an enthusiast of

change. That it is our reaction to change that determines whether or not that change will be successful — not the actual change itself. Very simply, she wrote that one can choose to get bitter or you can get better. It's your choice.

As an historian, I will be the first to admit that change is downright scary. Those of us that were here when Powdr first took over witnessed that first hand, as many of our beloved employees were fired and then rehired without insurance. Talk about a scary change! They refused to open early and stay open late, and May Away became the norm instead of making the hard push into June...

But we, the community, persevered. We did what we always did and when a big storm came in early November, we all hiked up and went skiing anyway. Eventually Powdr realized that us Killington folk were all crazy winter sports enthusiasts like nothing they had ever seen before. Instead of choosing to continue building up the bitterness, they changed. They promoted Mike Solimano to president and away we went into the bright, shiny Powdr future.

Instead of bitter, we got better.

So now we are once again faced with change. Although many of us might know these investors as individuals, have coached

Living the Dream → 35



Living the Dream
By Merissa Sherman



Courtesy VTDigger

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← Dream in Color:
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beautiful and reliable summer months. Towns like St. J, Montpelier, Ludlow, Londonderry, Barre, Stockbridge and even Killington saw destruction that everyone thought had ended with Irene.

Once again, the people banded together to bail each other out. Vermont-based band Phish raised \$3.5 million for flood relief with a pair of shows in late August. People put differences aside and showed up for each other without hesitation. It was a terrible tragedy that brought the best out of so many of us.

One day, when things settled down a little bit, I was invited to a great gathering of folks at The Clear for a big family dinner. It can be tricky to get so many folks in the same room when schedules are so hectic. During a time where I was working hard to establish myself in the community and make my own friends, this was special to me. I was incredibly grateful that my partner had included me in so many things like this.

I took one sip of my drink as the last friend sat down. My partner got a phone call and got up abruptly from the table. Considering how many of her friends were right with us, I was immediately concerned. As she rushed back to the table I could see that there was an emergency. We were leaving immediately. There had been an accident with her parents.

That moment and the next 48 hours were a blur. Seeing her family, who were always very sweet to me, come together was very powerful. Knowing there was nothing any of us could do, but be there for each other, we stayed. Unfortunately, we lost them.

The next few weeks were tough. Suddenly, she had so much on her plate and all of it was difficult. Seeing so much of the community come together during this time for her was incredible. It was a true testament to how well Vermonters take care of each other in times of need. I did what I could to help with arrangements, planning and basic needs like pet care and meals. We wrote a touching bit of poetry for her parents and talked about songs to play. This was a different level of closeness that I'd never experienced.

So many people turned up for the funeral and celebration of life. Many locals drove the two and a half hours up to the White Mountains. The legacy left by these two high-school sweethearts, turned guardians of the community, was apparent.

The time that followed, through the rest of the year, had some great moments. I was able to introduce my partner to my friends and family in Ohio. She showed me some of the cool spooky fall things, like a trip to Salem and cool haunted houses. There were extra cute Willy Wonka themed dog costumes happening and a Halloween concert in Burlington. There were some nice foliage and waterfall hikes ending with delicious beverages.

Things were good, but we had begun to forcefully grow apart.

As the cold weather started to approach, I had considered how we would spend the holidays. Our shared focus on family led us to a loose agreement to split those times in the past. I won't forget the great Christmas in 2021 with her folks and the subsequent party. But this year was different. My deep, sensitive, expressive side was not meshing with her tendency to be more guarded and paired with the recent tragedy, we were both starved for intimacy. She decided to spend Thanksgiving away from me, so I went to visit family. I'd hoped this would help her in her healing process.

When Christmas came around, I was desperately looking for some close time with her, as she was the center of my Vermont family, but she had decided to go to Costa Rica on a volunteer trip. Wanting to do what I could to honor her fierce independence, without sacrificing too many of my own needs, and hoping to offer any opportunity to enable some healing, I encouraged her to go. I spent time with friends and hung around the Access Road.

By the time she returned to Vermont, I knew something had changed. She no longer knew herself, and I did not know her any longer. This distance that had been building wasn't going to improve, it was just going to amplify. After much discussion, we decided to part ways.

A year that started with such intensity and a struggle to find my footing, ended with one of the greatest connections of my life slowly crumbling until finally being put out of its misery. We ended the year with some good music and started to move on.

As we moved into 2024, I promised myself that this would be the year I chased my dreams. This would be the year it all came together. This would be the year I began to paint my masterpiece.

Next week, look for Part 3 of this story: "Here Comes Sunshine."

← Living the Dream:
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their kids or even skied with them ourselves, we do not know who they will be as owners. We do not know how Mike Solimano will lead us when he is disconnected from the Powdr framework. And we have no idea if such a large independent ski area can even survive in this era of corporate conglomerates. The potential for failure is scary.

I took my lunch and sat in the K-1 parking lot last Thursday, thoughts of past and future all swirling around in my brain like electrons. I couldn't control my thoughts and so I just let them float around, bouncing off each other. The Killington of the 1980s and my childhood; the massive transition of the 1990s, snowboards, shaped skis and parks; the hell of the ASC years; Powdr and now the KIG.

It was almost as if we were in a staring contest, Killington and I, of who would blink first, who would bend their knee in gratitude to the other. Each one of us showering the other with love and caring and hope. Hope for a future together that will be brighter than the future we had dreamed about before. But also acknowledging that we will, always, be there for each other, the mountain and I. For no matter how ownership changes, the strong beautiful mountain will continue to rise to 4,241 feet.

I left that afternoon feeling emboldened.

Like I, too, was strong like mountain and could withstand whatever was thrown at me. That I not only would survive, but that I would perhaps even embrace these changes. That I would become not bitter and resentful over the movement forward, but rather embrace the opportunity that is before us. That I would do my very best to support this move forward and work to maintain the soul and integrity of the mountain.

We have the greatest of opportunities here. If we choose to see the possibilities that come with this change, we can choose to grow, to be better, to be greater in all things. As a community we stand at that crossroads now. We will embrace this new change of ownership with enthusiasm and encouragement, or we will choose to become bitter, lesser versions of ourselves. Will we choose to join together, as One Killington, to move our community forward? I have made my decision and I stand by it, proudly.

Yes, I am still absolutely petrified about what is to come. But hey, at least it's not Vail.

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 Coach PomPom. She can be reached at merisa.sherman@fourseasonssir.com.

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Courtesy Killington Resort

EAT

DRINK

SHOP

Local

TARPING:

from page 32

bating pests such as the invasive Asian jumping worms (*Amyntas agrestis*, *Amyntas tokioensis* and *Metaphire hilgendorfi*) many of us have encountered in our gardens. These worms live and multiply near the soil's surface, making solarization a good method to help control their spread.

Organic materials such as mulch, compost and topsoil can be solarized before being introduced into the garden. Simply spread the material on a tarp in a smooth, even layer 4-6 inches thick. Cover with clear plastic sheeting. Tuck the plastic sheeting under the tarp's edge securely to enclose the material and prevent any worms from escaping.

It will take a minimum of three days of internal temperatures of at least 104 degrees Fahrenheit to kill jumping

worms and the worms' cocoons (eggs). After that time, the mulch or other material should be jumping worm free.

The occultation process is similar to that of solarization, but opaque plastic (black sheeting or dark colored tarp) is used instead of clear plastic. Follow the steps outlined above for tarping.

Occultation can work well to rid an area of grass or weeds, but any heat generated will not raise the soil temperature sufficiently to kill soil-borne diseases or pests. For the same reason, it will work best to rid an area of annual weeds but will be less successful with perennial weeds and weed seeds hidden beneath the soil's surface.

For more information on solarization and occultation, visit: go.uvm.edu/tarping. For more information on Asian jumping worms, visit: go.uvm.edu/jumping-worm.



By Becky Maden/UVM

Occultation, which uses black plastic sheeting or opaque tarps, effectively stops plant growth by blocking the sun's light, thereby halting photosynthesis and nutrient absorption.



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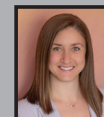
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← **TOS:**
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on the outside of the gathering who need to remain vigilant are more likely to sleep with one eye open (one half of the brain awake). “They direct the open eye away from the other ducks, as if watching for approaching predators,” said Rattenborg.

During a study published in the journal Nature Communications, for which Rattenborg was the lead investigator, researchers used electroencephalogram recordings to demonstrate that great frigatebirds on non-stop oceanic foraging flights that last for several days can sleep with one or both hemispheres of the brain at a time. Frigatebirds in the midst of long-range flights of up to 10 days spent just over 7% of the time sleeping (about 45 minutes per day), but slept for more than 12 hours upon returning to the nest.

When frigatebirds are circling in flight, Rattenborg said, “There is a strong relationship between which hemisphere is sleeping and the direction (left or right) in which they are turning.” Frigatebirds keep the eye facing into the turn open, likely to avoid colliding with other birds. Similarly, depending on which eye it needs to see by, a dolphin can alternate which side of its brain is active, and which is asleep.

“Mother dolphins and their calves keep the open eye on each other as they sleep unihemispherically while swimming,” said Rattenborg.

Do people share avian ability to remain aware while asleep? An Indiana State University study on ducks inspired research which demonstrated that although human brains cannot induce a full USWS response, in unfamiliar environments our right hemisphere can maintain deep sleep while the left hemisphere experiences relatively shallow sleep and heightened awareness. While we can’t sleep with one eye open, anyone who has spent the night in an unfamiliar environment can likely relate to feeling half-awake, and half-asleep.

Michael J. Caduto is a writer, ecologist, and storyteller who lives in Reading, Vermont. He is author of “Through a Naturalist’s Eyes: Exploring the Nature of New England.” 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.



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