



**HAUNTED HAPPENINGS**  
Halloween events start this week! Among them, Killington debuts its new Haunted House at the Welcome Center.  
**Page 18**



**BUTTER TASTING**  
Is the finest butter in the U.S. made in Vermont? Many chefs believe so. We had to try!  
**Page 28**



**SCAMS ABOUND**  
State officials warn voters about AI deepfakes and election scams.  
**Page 11**

**EAST MOUNTAIN RD TO REOPEN THIS WEEKEND**  
Saturday, Oct. 19, East Mountain Road will reopen after repairs.



**FINANCING EDUCATION**  
A public discussion on education financing will be held on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6 p.m., at the Woodstock Town Hall and via Zoom.  
**Page 2**

## New Killington owners address the community

Locals pack the K-1 lodge to hear about investments

By Polly Mikula

About 700 people packed the K-1 lodge last week for the Killington Community Meeting and Resort Update. The main draw was a chance to meet members of the new independent owners' group that recently bought the resort from Powdr and learn about the \$30 million planned investments.

Lead investors Phill Gross and Michael Ferri, along with resort president Mike Solimano, answered questions that were pre-submitted by attendees on Wednesday, Oct. 9. Their answers were refreshingly candid and transparent, including identifying the complete list of 16 investors/investor groups and the board of directors, which had previously been kept anonymous.

The board of directors will include six of the investors and three independent community members. The investors on the board are Gross; Ferri; William Buck, a Killington East homeowner since 1993; Michael Morse, a Killington Mountain School graduate and Olympic mogul

competitor; Tim Brennwald, chief operating officer of Powdr; and Michael Sneyd of Great Gulf. The three independent board members

are John Casella, director of Casella Waste Systems; Michael Hone, Killington Mountain School Board Community Update → 7



By Calvin Merrill, Killington Resort

## Killington warms up snowguns

Chilly temperatures on Tuesday, Oct. 15 enabled Killington Resort's snowmaking team to turn on the snow guns for the first time for the 24/25 winter season. The team completed a "long duration system test", firing about a dozen new HKD Phazer guns on Upper Superstar. However, with warmer weather in the forecast, this will not be a push towards opening, the resort said. Opening day is still TBD.

## Killington Resort makes investments in energy-efficient snowmaking

Killington Resort announced a massive investment in new energy efficient snow guns totaling 1,000 new pieces of equipment over the next two seasons and clarified exactly how that investment would be allocated at the community meeting Wednesday, Oct. 9.

For the 2024 season, Killington and Pico will be adding 36 HKD Snowmakers Phazer portable snowmaking guns and installing 454 HKD Impulse and Phazer R5 tower guns as well as four fully automatic HKD Diablo fan guns. In 2025, an additional 510 new HKD Impulse and Phazer R5 tower guns will be installed. This will more than double the total number of fixed tower snow guns between Killington and Pico, an unprecedented increase in equipment.

Killington Resort has partnered with Efficiency Vermont and Green Mountain Power to undertake this sizable project. Once completed, the resort will have 1,695 total tower guns and 764 "portable" guns for a total arsenal of 2,459 snow guns to service 3,500 sets of hydrants between both mountains, bringing the percentage of hydrants with fixed tower guns to 48%.

Snowmaking → 6



Courtesy Killington Resort

Hundreds of new snowguns have been installed at Killington.

## How much is too much?

Report says Vermont is spending at least \$400M more than needed on education, but it's not that simple

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

A new report issued Tuesday, Oct. 15, by third-party consultants says that as of last year, Vermont was spending \$400 million to \$460 million more on its schools than what it calls "adequate expenditure."

But the report, written by Picus Odden & Associates and commissioned by the Vermont Legislature, is based not on the educational landscape the state already has, but one that "differs substantially" from the current reality.

The findings rely on research into the staffing and resources needed to produce "high-performance schools." Factoring in Vermont's labor costs and statewide student body, the researchers determine their model's "estimated adequate costs."

"Addressing the cost of education is not going to come easily or quickly," Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, who chairs the Vermont House's tax-writing Ways and Means

Too much → 5

## There will be no encore for the Killington Music Festival

Staff report

When attendees of the July 20 season finale of the Killington Music Festival 2024 Classical Concert Series watched and listened to Daniel Andail, Calvin Falwell, Janet Jacobson, and Reed Tetzloff perform works by Dvorak and Somervell, they could not have known they were witnessing the final performance in the festival's storied 42-year run.

In a letter released on Thursday, Oct. 10, president of the KMF board of directors Baxter C. Holland and Executive Director Maria Fish sent word that after 42 years of providing aspiring students with classical music instruction during its one-month summer program, the Killington Music Festival was ending.

Holland and Fish cited declining interest

from students looking to participate in the program as a contributing factor in KMF's decision to shut down its program. Two years of the program's hiatus during Covid hastened the decline, and continuing the KMF's mission is no longer sustainable.

Holland and Fish stated their appreciation for the generous support of the program title sponsor, the Luc Walter Foundation, whose continued belief in KMF allowed the program to continue for several years.

"As the Killington Music Festival 'leaves the stage for the last time,'" Baxter and Fish said, "we encourage all who love classical music to continue their support of this musical genre within our community and within Vermont."



**LIVE Pumpkin Royalty Pageant**  
 Watch to see which Rutland County pair of students will be crowned  
**Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6pm**  
 Watch on Comcast channel 1075, VTel 163, pegtv.com or pegtv YouTube



**LIVE Halloween Parade**  
 Embrace the Halloween spirit and lively atmosphere and watch the parade Live exclusively on PEGTV  
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# Farm and Wilderness completes dam removal in Plymouth

By Katy Savage

Farm and Wilderness Camp has removed a 60-year-old dam that posed environmental risks to the surrounding area.

The dam, measuring 292 feet long and 31 feet tall, was capable of impounding 500,000 cubic feet of water but had become ineffective due to rotting. Concerns over warming water, sediment release, and potential flooding of nearby properties prompted the decision to dismantle it.

“The dam was no longer working the way it was designed,” said Jay Kullman, the sustainable resources director at Farm and Wilderness. Discussions regarding the dam’s removal began eight years ago, culminating in its drainage in 2019.

“We brought scientists in to assess the site, see what we had,” Kullman said. “And they wanted us to do a symmetry, which is, figure out the depths of the water.”

To gather data, Farm and Wilderness staff laid out a grid on the ice, drilling holes every 10 feet and measuring water levels with a pole.

Ron Rhodes, the director of programs at the Connecticut River



Courtesy Farm and Wilderness

Farm and Wilderness hosted an event, Oct. 2, for the community to learn about dam removal initiatives throughout Vermont and tour the site of its dam removal project.

Conservancy, who has been involved in dam removals across the state, said many dams being removed were originally constructed for mills that powered the textile and paper industries, but have since been deemed a threat to flood management and water quality—shallow water makes the water warm and uninhabitable for fish.

“Part of the process of getting permits to do a dam removal is you have

to go through historic preservation and cultural resources,” Rhodes said. “We often have areas that we have to cordon off and we can’t touch them. The contractor has to stay out. It’s a big deal.”

While it’s unclear why the dam at Farm and Wilderness was constructed around the 1970s, there are remnants of an historic lime kiln on the Farm

Dam → 5

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## MOUNTAIN TIMES

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Polly Lynn Mikula ..... Editor & Publisher  
 Jason Mikula ..... Marketing Manager & Co-Publisher  
 Lindsey Rogers ..... Marketing/Advertising Consultant  
 Pat Wise ..... Graphic Designer  
 James Kent ..... Publishers’ Assistant  
 Roger Rivera..... Distribution Manager

Call: 802-422-2399

**Write to us:**

For news: editor@mountaintimes.info  
 For advertising: lindsey@mountaintimes.info  
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 Killington, VT 05751 • 802-422-2399

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## Woodstock schools to help study cell phone-free learning

Staff report

“It’s not every day that a middle or high school student—and their school and family—get to participate in a study that contributes to academic research on both a national and global scale,” wrote interim principal of Woodstock Union High School/Middle School (WUHSMS) Aaron Cinquemani. “In partnership with the University of North Carolina (UNC) and the Winston National Center on Technology Use, Brain, and Psychological Development, we will be taking part in an anonymous longitudinal study to explore the effects of a cell phone-free learning environment.”

Parents received an informed consent form that provided detailed information about the study and the option to grant or withhold permission for their student to participate in the anonymous questionnaire. Participation is entirely voluntary but Cinquemani strongly encouraged parents to fill out the form as each person who completes the informed consent, whether granting their student permission or not, will earn \$5 via an Amazon gift card or can be donated to the school.

“By participating in this research, your family will contribute valuable insights that could help shape the future of education at both a local and national level,” Cinquemani wrote. “This is a chance for our community to be at the forefront of discovery, as we explore how reducing cell phone use can enhance learning, increase focus, and improve overall well-being for our students.”

## Vermont legislative leaders to discuss education financing at public forum, Thursday in Woodstock

Peter Conlon, chair of the Vermont House Education Committee, and Emilie Kornheiser, chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, will lead a public discussion on education financing on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6 p.m., at the Woodstock Town Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

The discussion, organized by Woodstock resident and former State Representative Charlie Kimbell, will include 30 minutes of presentations from Conlon and Kornheiser, followed by a moderated Q&A session.

“This is a very large issue for our community,” Kimbell noted, emphasizing the importance of the topic in light of recent property tax increases and a failed bond vote for a new school. He stressed that the event is not a campaign event but rather an opportunity to share critical information on a matter of public interest.

Peter Conlon, a four-term state representative from Cornwall, also serves on the State Aid for School Construction Working Group and the Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont. Emilie Kornheiser, a three-term state representative from Brattleboro, chairs the Committee on Ways and Means and the Subcommittee on Education Financing as part of the Commission on the Future of Public Education.

The meeting will also be available via Zoom at: us02web.zoom.us/j/87597515680?pwd=rhqlZkZkWNiGgi4eR-0WLVq7bDAl7J7.1.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | 7:30 PM

**CELTIC THUNDER**  
ODYSSEY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 | 7:00 PM

**Leo Kottke**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 7:00PM

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**NURSE BLAKE**  
SHOCK ADVISED TOUR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 | 7:00 PM

**Pat Metheny**  
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | 7:00 PM

**MICKY DOLENZ**  
OF THE MONKEES  
*Songs & Stories*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 | 7:00 PM

**ALMOST QUEEN**  
A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 | 7:30 PM

**Comedian BOB MARLEY**

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ANIMATION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 | 7:30 PM

**GRAND SHANGHAI CIRCUS**

SATURDAY, MARCH 1 | 7:00 PM

**Black Hawk**

FRIDAY, MARCH 7 | 7:30 PM

**GARRISON KEILLOR**  
"TONIGHT"

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- TOSCA (Puccini)..... Tuesday, November 26, 2024
- MAGIC FLUTE (Mozart)..... Saturday, December 7, 2024
- AIDA (Verdi)..... Tuesday, January 28, 2025
- GROUNDLED (Tesori)..... Tuesday, February 25, 2025
- FIDELIO (Beethoven)..... Tuesday, March 25, 2025
- LE NOZZE DI FIGARO (Mozart)..... Tuesday, April 29, 2025
- SALOME (R. Strauss)..... Tuesday, May 27, 2025
- IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA (Rossini)..... Tuesday, June 24, 2025

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# Why did Norwich University suspend its student newspaper?

The Guidon, Norwich's student-run newspaper, has been barred from publishing for the fall semester, raising concerns about censorship on campus

By Peter D'Auria, VTDigger

In May, at the end of the spring semester, Norwich University's student newspaper pledged to its readers that it would resume publishing after the summer break.

"The Guidon, your trusted student-run newspaper, will be back in action for the Fall 2024 semester, bringing you the latest news, features, and updates from our campus community," reads a May 12 article from the paper's staff.

But the newspaper has not published a single story since then. For the entirety of this semester, which began Aug. 26, the paper has been suspended by the university's administration — a move that has raised concerns on campus over what some see as censorship.

It's not entirely clear why Norwich, a 205-year-old military university in Northfield, decided to halt publication of the newspaper. The Guidon's digital editor declined to comment, and an email sent to The Guidon's general email address went unanswered.

Administrators have said that the decision was based on concerns that the newspaper's student journalists were unprepared for the challenges and responsibilities of reporting.

But the move came after a spring semester in which The Guidon published multiple stories critical of the university. They included pieces about a lawsuit from a former Norwich administrator, a reported sexual assault on campus and what the paper described as "a lack of transparency" in the administration's response to incidents of sexual assault.

Administrators had raised concerns about some of that reporting, according to Shane Graber, a professor of communications and The Guidon's faculty advisor.

## 'Evaluation and restructuring'

Norwich administrators declined VTDigger's requests for an interview. In an emailed statement, Karen Gaines, Norwich University's provost and dean of the faculty, characterized the suspension of the publication as a "pause" but said that the university is "very much committed to reinvigorating the publication as early as next semester."

The goal of the suspension is to find out how best to prepare students for the work in the future, she said, noting that Norwich currently has no journalism major or minor.

"We know that media is under attack across the country and a cornerstone of our democracy is a free press," Gaines wrote. "That requires us, as stewards of this publication, to be sure our students have what they need to succeed as student journalists and storytellers."



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Students walk across Norwich University's campus on a sunny day earlier in the fall.

Earlier this month, Gregory McGrath, Norwich's associate vice president and dean of students, told the university's student body president in an Oct. 1 email obtained by VTDigger that The Guidon was paused pending an "evaluation and restructuring."

A traditional brick building with a central white clock tower, surrounded by lush green trees under a partly cloudy sky.

"The President and Provost are not satisfied with the degree of academic rigor in this educational program and are reevaluating how we will move forward," McGrath wrote,

Student censorship → 10

**CHAMBER & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**  
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**StartUp Rutland  
Pitch Competition**



# History and culture come together for a special weekend in Rutland

By James Kent

The journey from Kyoto, Japan, to Rutland, Vermont, is 10,794 km or 6,707 miles distance. That is a long way to travel for a pilgrimage. For 30 dignitaries from Doshisha University in Kyoto, the opportunity to experience the history of their university's founder, Joseph Hardy Neesima, and connect with the church that helped launch Neesima's mission to start it and bring Christianity to Japan, made every kilometer traveled worth the trip.

On Saturday, Oct. 12, these dignitaries and students from Doshisha University arrived by tour bus at the Grace Congregational UCC in Rutland after a brief stay in Boston, where they toured the site of Neesima's seminary studies at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. At 4:30 p.m., the group of visitors enjoyed some local apple cider offered by hosts from Grace Church before embarking on a brief tour.

Split into two groups, the visitors from Doshisha explored the church and received details of Neesima's time in Rutland in 1874. The tour included a visit to the church library, set up with artifacts and information related to Doshisha's time with Grace Church, then known as the Congregational Church of Rutland. Included in the collection were original drawings from Neesima, artifacts left from previous Doshisha visits over the years, and the original bible Neesima placed his hand on while requesting funds to start a Christian school in Japan. The faces of these representatives from Doshisha told the story of why they made this trek to America. For them, 150 years of history came full circle in an instant. One could sense the connection to the past bringing these pilgrims close to Neesima, his presence filling the walls and halls of the Grace church with every footstep.

Saturday's tour concluded in the sanctuary, where Neesima once stood 150 years before, with Grace Church Senior Minister Terry Hanley addressing this congregation of visitors from Japan.

"We think highly of our partnership with you," said Hanley. "We think of you and pray for you. We pray for Doshisha. I can't imagine all of the people who have been affected over



By James Kent

*A collection of Joseph Hardy Neesima artifacts were on display at Grace Church UCC, Saturday.*

the generations by what you do, by the Doshisha, and by the mission of Joseph Neesima, but that, in many ways, was needed. You're planted here in some way. So, we're very proud of that. We're very happy to have you here. I'm sure excited."

The final highlight of the tour was the playing of Bach's "Fantasia in G bwv 576" on Grace Church's massive pipe organ by Director of Music Ministries Alastair Stout. This powerful piece stunned the attendees and left them applauding at the piece's conclusion.

The Doshisha visit concluded on Sunday, with a special worship service and plaque dedication, before these dignitaries returned to Boston for a Monday flight back to Kyoto, Japan. Although their visit was brief, it was an occasion that will stay in the memories of those who made the journey and those members of Grace Church who got to share in the experience.



By James Kent

*Dignitaries from Doshisha University in Kyoto Japan review artifacts related to Joseph Hardy Neesima at Grace Church, Oct 12.*

## ← Too much: ..... from page 1

committee, said in a Tuesday interview.

The report uses financials from last year, when education spending totaled more than \$1.7 billion — it does not factor in the additional \$180 million in costs added in the current school year. Among all states, Vermont is one of the top spenders, spending the fifth most per student in fiscal year 2022.

The ballooning cost of education — and with it, rising property taxes, the source of a large portion of the funding — defined this year's legislative session. Republican lawmakers and Gov. Phil Scott pushed for measures to immediately reduce both education spending and tax hikes, while Democrats favored a longer-term approach, fearing short-term relief could cause fiscal consequences down the road.

The Democrats won out, though they did include some short-term tax relief, and lawmakers ultimately created a Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont that is tasked with charting a more financially sustainable future for the state's schools.

This latest report, however, was commissioned separately as an update to a report issued in January 2016.

If the report's model, grounded in academic literature on education best practices, is followed, its authors said "student achievement in Vermont would substantially improve and the cost of education could be reduced."

Don Tinney, president of the teachers union Vermont-NEA, pushed back against the report's relevancy due in part to its lack of Vermont specifics, calling it a "distraction" from the changes lawmakers should implement.

"Picus's model does not fit the landscape of Vermont," he said, "I'm not sure how he can reach conclusions about Vermont's systems when he knows the model doesn't fit."

Gov. Phil Scott declined to comment, saying the administration had not yet had time to review the 133-page report.

In addition to school size differences, the report also uses different student weights, and does not factor in costs related to transportation, food service, debt service, capital construction and some special education expenditures.

## ← Dam: ..... from page 2

and Wilderness site that was used in the 1800s to produce lime, a key ingredient in toothpaste, plastic and soap.

"One of our goals was to make sure that the historic structure was not damaged by the dam failing, and we took great care in ensuring that in the construction process," Kullman said.

Farm and Wilderness received \$170,000 in federal funding from the Clean Water Initiative Program to remove the dam. Kullman said the organization saved money on the total \$230,000 project by undertaking the dam removal themselves.

The project has successfully restored 3½ miles of floodplain and established a quarter mile of aquatic organism passage. Farm and Wilderness plans to plant 1,200 trees in the area to stabilize the site and enhance conditions for cold-water species, like trout.

"The strong root networks will prevent erosion and help keep the water cool for fish," Kullman said. "We're really excited about how it looks. It's great to feel like we did the right thing. We're seeing all this wildlife return to the area. Beavers are coming back and enjoying themselves."

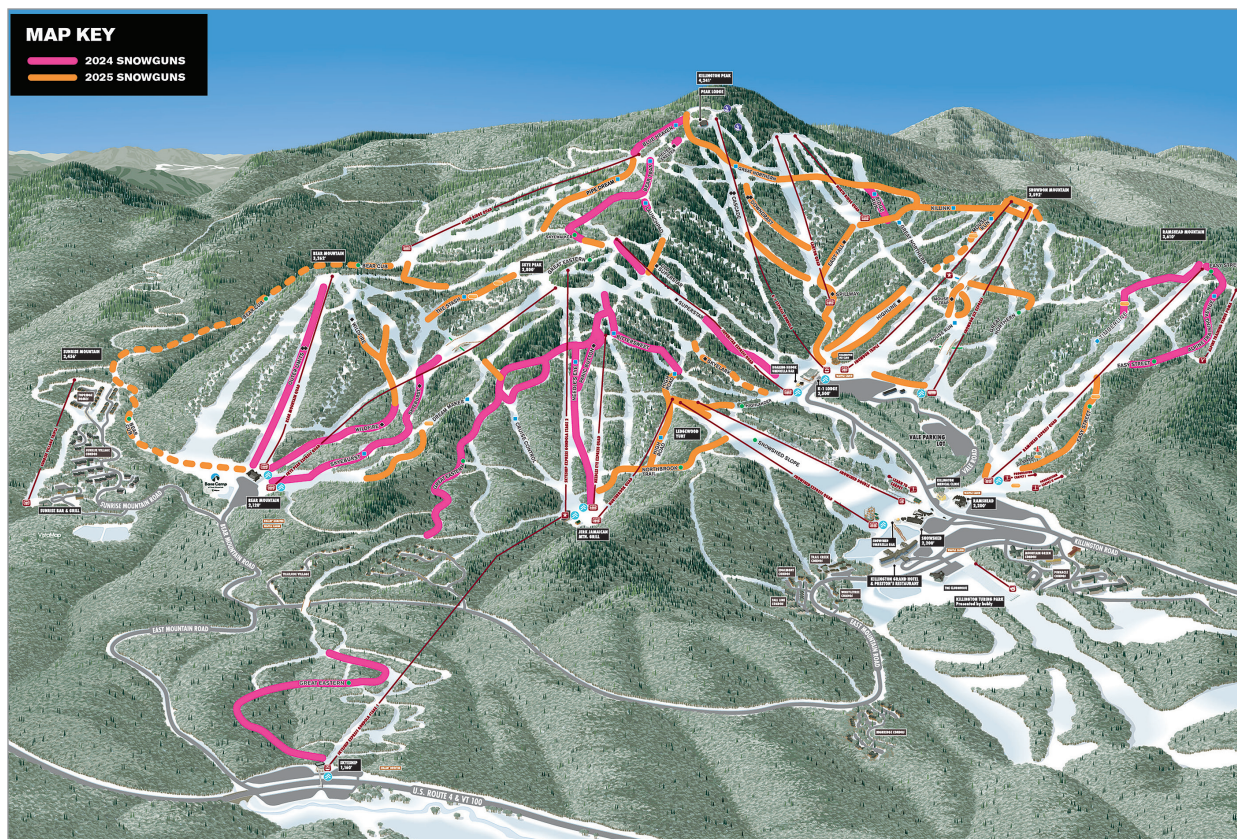
The organization also aims to use the restored area as an educational resource, demonstrating the benefits of site restoration with its conservation mission.

"We're seeing all this wildlife return to the area. Beavers are coming back and enjoying themselves," Kullman said.



By Jerry LeBlond

The K-1 Lodge was packed with about 700 attendees last Wednesday for the Killington Community Update where attendees heard from the new owners about new investments.



Courtesy Killington Resort

A map of new low-energy snow guns that have been or will be installed either in the 2024 (pink) or 2025 (orange) seasons.

**Snowmaking:**  
from page 1

Locations of the new and replacement guns this season include Cruise Control, Upper and Lower Needle's Eye, Outer Limits, Alpine Training Venue, Upper Header, Timberline, Upper and Lower Great Eastern, Blue Heaven, Bear Trax, Skyeburst, Upper Bittersweet, Panic Button and Superstar. Forty-four tower guns will also be installed at Pico Mountain on 49er, Swinger, Ace of Clubs, Upper and Lower Pike. Next season guns will be added to Cascade, Middle Chute, Lower Dreammaker, Lower Downdraft, Lower East Fall, Easy Street, Bear Cub, Great Northern, Highline, Upper

and Lower High Road, Kilink, Launch Pad, Mouse Run and Mouse Trap. Upper Pipe Dream, Northbrook Trail, Snowshed Crossover, Upper and Lower Skyelark, Spillway, Snowshed Slope, The Stash, Upper and Lower Wildfire and Upper Yodeler.

The new snow guns represent some \$7 million of capital investment, and will allow for a significant reduction in electricity, diesel fuel, labor while also reducing 5,818,850 pounds of carbon emissions per year.

In addition to the new equipment, Killington Resort will transition to a new control and hydrant tracking sys-

tem for the 2025/26 season, HKD ISno and HKD's hydrant tracker, to monitor production, automate controls and ensure maximum efficiency of the entire system at both Killington and Pico.

"This is the most transformative snowmaking project since Killington expanded over to Bear Mountain in the late '70s," said Snowmaking Manager Greg Gleason. "It's great to see the resort investing in low energy snow guns, not only will it save on costs, it will allow us to expand terrain at a much faster rate in the early season, while still providing a quality product to our guests."



By Victoria Gaither

KPAA President Beth Sarandrea presented Sal Salmeri (former owner of Moguls Sports Bar) with the Business Member of the Year award Wednesday, Oct. 9 at K-1.

**Sal Salmeri honored as KPAA Business Member of the Year**

Staff report

The Killington Community Update last Wednesday, Oct. 9, also doubled as the Killington Pico Area Association's (KPAA) annual meeting. KPAA president Beth Sarandrea presented key financials of the year as well as the Business Member of the Year award to Robert "Sal" Salmeri of Moguls Sports Bar.

"Sal's incredible work for the community over the past 30 years and his vision for our third Signature Event is truly appreciated. Thank you, Sal!" Sarandrea said.

The organization's newly announced third annual Signature Event is the Killington Haunted House. When Salmeri closed Moguls earlier this year, he decided to donate his haunted house collection of decorations — worth about \$10,000, he said — to the KPAA and Killington Elementary School so they could run it as a fundraiser.

"We like to call it... Sal-O-Ween," the KPAA wrote in its newsletter this week.

The Killington Haunted House will be constructed at the Welcome Center and it kicks off with a night dedicated to the Killington Elementary School, Thursday, Oct. 17 from 5-8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19, the haunted house is open 6-10 p.m. and will be scarier than Thursday. "Dare to enter if you're ready for the real scares!" the KPAA noted.



By Jerry LeBlond

## ← Community Update:

from page 1

member; and Carolyn Kepcher, owner of Snowed Inn.

### The investors:

Owner-investors include: the Gross family, including Liz and Phill Gross; Michael Ferri and the Ferri family; the Morse family; Jim Bianchi and the LEGS Fund (which includes a number of unidentified business people and local families from Killington); Mike and Christina Gordon; the Buck family, including William and April Buck; Alex Rozek and Mimi Rozek; Simon Yates, from Pico, with his husband Kevin; Matt Strobeck and Carey Strobeck and Delta Properties, based in Burlington and their business partners Rob Cohn, former U.S. Ski Team member, and Andrew McNealus; Peter Nassif; Adam Winkel; Brad Paul, former mountain ambassador at Killington Resort; Mike Hone, KMS Board Member; Scott Halpern; Jason Schwartz; Nick Leeper; Powdr; and Great Gulf.

No single person/entity has more than 20% ownership. Gross noted that there are more than 16 listed because of groups that put together partnerships to participate in the purchase. Several others wished to remain anonymous, he said.

"Everyone is a Killington skier, this is their home; they're not financially motivated," said Gross. "They've bought into the idea of reinvesting fully."

Ferri said the Killington Independence Group, LLC, had to turn investors away at one point because it had already raised more than enough. "We're fortunate that 100% of the purchase price came from equity that we

raised from 14 families that have strong ties to Killington, along with our partner, Great Gulf, and Powdr," he said Ferri.

The group is legally bound not to sell the mountain for at least 10 years, "not that any of us have an intention of doing that," Ferri added.

Ferri and Gross said that one of the most attractive features about the investment is that the current leadership team at Killington Resort was identified as "among the best in the business," according to a third-party team that vetted the management and operations.

"We're going to let them run the mountain," said Gross. "We're not going to get involved in anything other than giving them and the community the resources they need to improve the mountain and make it the best it can possibly be."

Gross said the all-but-certain village planned for the base of Snowshed and Ramshead was another attractive feature, as was the fact that Killington could generate more than enough cash flow to cover its costs and future investments, even in lean years — a rarity among ski resorts.

### \$30 million investment, plus

Solimano outlined the details of the recently released \$30 million investment plans at the resort over the next few years. Significant changes include 1,000 new low-energy snowguns, 500 of which were installed this summer (see related story in this edition), a new Superstar Chair (see related story), and the replacement of the Skyeship gondola's 116 cabins next summer (they'll look similar to the

K-1 cabins, he said). There will also be a new Skyeship gondola barn replacing the one at mid-station.

The new Superstar chair will be a six-pack and scheduled for installation starting this spring, possibly as early as April, which will cut the season short on Superstar.

"We will definitely push [the timeframe] later, but there's no doubt we're not skiing on Superstar probably after the middle of April," he said. "There's always going to be a tradeoff, and this is going to be one of those years... I think it's a good trade."

The resort will work hard to have skiing into May, but skiing through June is unlikely.

Additionally, Solimano announced that Pico will be getting some upgrades, too. Those will include 44 new guns (doubling the amount of low-energy guns currently operating), an expanded terrain park on Panhandler, and an improvement to the Bonanza beginner area. The plan for Bonanza illustrates how independent ownership will improve the resort's ability to make changes quickly.

Without any specified funding under Powdr, Solimano, and the team had planned to "regrade this, and move that, and turn the rope toe into a handle toe, you know, a really good effort," he said. "Then Phill calls me this week and says, 'What do you think about a magic carpet on Bonanza?' And I was like, 'Of course, that's what we needed, but we didn't have the money, so we just did all the other the best things we could do...' So that's kind of the cool part about being nimble... It's really been fun."

The details for the magic carpet are still being worked out. It will be a covered carpet and constructed in partnership with Vermont Adaptive, hopefully by next season.

"There are no words that articulate how positively significant it will be for our programs, our adaptive snowsports instructors, and participants with disabilities. Vermont Adaptive is so very appreciative that this project is being prioritized," said Erin Fernandez, executive director for Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sport.

### Village progress, timeline

"This is our premiere property," said Michael Sneyd, president of Great Gulf Resort Residential of the planned Killington village. "It's the one I spend most of my time on, and it's where Great Gulf is laser-focused on the future."

Sneyd said he even recently bought a condo at the Killington Grand Hotel that will "look out at the new village."

The planned village will be at the base of Snowshed and Ramshead commercial and residential space. Sneyd told the crowd Wednesday that the first phase of the village will include over 650 ski-in/ski-out condominiums, single units, and townhomes at Ramshead, over 110,000 square feet of retail and dining, over 85,000 square foot iconic ski lodge, as well as two public squares and a waterfront promenade. Sneyd also showed future ideas for a farm-to-table greenhouse/garden, a canopy boardwalk, and nature play structures for kids.

Great Gulf and Safdie Architects are "continuing to evolve the architectural studies," Sneyd said. "So I can't show you updated plans today," he told the crowd at K-1, emphasizing their focus on creating multiple offerings at the village. "A great destination offers experiences. It's already a great place to ski; it's got to be a great place after skiing, too," he added.

While new plans will be subject to new Act 250 permit approvals, water, and road infrastructure progress will be evident this winter and spring.

Great Gulf is working to finalize Act 250 permits for stormwater reconfiguration at its new parking area and stormwater pond. It hopes to secure those soon to begin clearing trees cleared there and in the approved Ramshead neighborhood this winter.

"The best time to clear trees is January," Sneyd said.

The town and Great Gulf are also working on necessary permits and easements to build out Road H this spring, which will intersect the new parking areas along Killington Road and connect with Old Mill Road and East Mountain Road.

Sneyd told the crowd Wednesday that they hope to finalize its village architectural plans and get them to the town's Development Review Board in the first half of 2025, then submit its Act 250 application in the second or third quarter of 2025. If all goes well, Great Gulf will begin selling units in the third and fourth quarters of 2025, and the building could start as soon as the second quarter of 2026.

"We're still on track to having the first occupancy before the 2027 ski season," Sneyd said.

### Future predictions: 10 years in the future

The night's final question, directed to all three panelists, Gross, Solimano, and Ferri, focused on the future. "There's been a lot of talk about that 10-year mark," asked Dave Beckwith, director of snow sports at Killington Resort, who was moderating the question/answer session. "What's your legacy? What does this resort look like in 10 years?"

Ferri answered first, "I would hope that it certainly has the best facilities and provides the best skiing in New England or in the whole country. I also hope that it provides an opportunity for upward mobility for the employee base that runs this mountain. As the mountain gets bigger and the revenues grow, there are more opportunities for the people who work hard in this business. I hope they also participate in that future," he said.

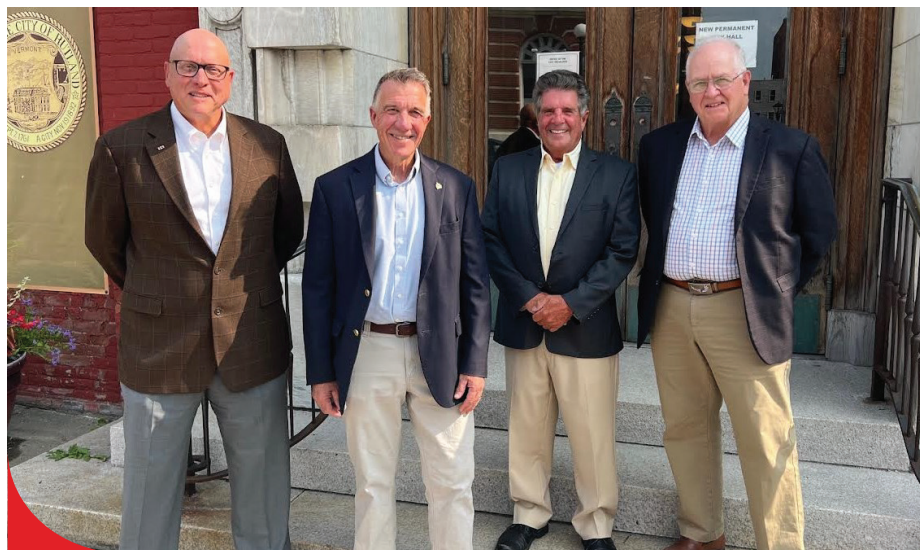
"It's gonna have the best village in the East as well," Gross added. "I mean, there's no downside to what we're going to put together... What the Killington team wants to do, that's where we're going — that's our North Star for where we're going to be in 10 years."

"I look 10 years out, and I think the infrastructure is going to be amazing," said Solimano. "I look forward to asking, 'Hey, what can we do to improve this place?' And nobody even being able to think of anything!... So I'm waiting for that, but I know you always have a lot of great feedback, and that's the culture! We're always trying to improve the place."



By Jerry LeBlond

The panel answers questions at K-1 last Wednesday, Oct. 9. Pictured (l-r): Lead investor Phill Gross, Resort President Mike Solimano, lead investor Michael Ferri and panel moderator Dave Beckwith, snowsports director at Killington Resort.



LEFT TO RIGHT: SENATOR WEEKS, GOVERNOR SCOTT, SENATOR COLLAMORE, AND SENATOR WILLIAMS.

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## A Vermont lawsuit aims to hold TikTok accountable for targeting kids

By James Kent

In a lawsuit filed Oct. 8 by Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark against TikTok, Inc., Vermont hopes to hold the popular social media platform accountable for what it deems addictive & exploitative features, such as its TikTokLIVE feature, which Vermont believes allows the company to profit from the

“I condemn TikTok for exploiting Vermont’s children. I will never stop fighting for our kids.”

In the complaint details, examples of the harms attributed to these social media platforms on Vermont youth included a 2021 survey conducted by the Vermont Department of Health show-

average school day, 73% of Vermont’s high school students spend three or more hours in front of screens, including smartphones and social media platforms, according to the survey. Thirty percent of all high school students are spending nearly the equivalent of an entire school day (five or more hours) in front of screens on apps like TikTok.

### Three main pillars of the lawsuit

Attorney General Clark’s lawsuit lays out three core accusations against TikTok for engaging in deceptive and unfair business practices in violation of Vermont’s consumer protection laws, including:

1. Lying about the safety of its platform, downplaying the risks posed to young users
2. Deploying a highly addictive algorithm

“TikTok profits from addicting kids and teens to their platform, and that is by design,” said Clark.

financial and exploitation of children. This multi-state lawsuit, coordinated with 14 other attorneys general, also alleges that TikTok’s built-in platform features mimic slot machines to trap young users into a pattern of excessive use.

“The time has come to end this harmful practice and restore young people’s mental and physical health,” said Attorney General Clark.

ing nearly half (49%) of the state’s high school girls and over a third (35%) of Vermont high school students overall reported poor mental health, including persistent feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression as a result of screen usage. The complaint alleges that these health issues result from the excessive time kids spend on social media platforms like TikTok. On the

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# Vermont Dept. of Health confirms first Eastern equine encephalitis death

Towns just north of Rutland County are on watch list, health officials urge continued caution until the first hard frost

On Oct. 11, the Department of Health announced the first confirmed death this year caused by infection with Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus. The Chittenden County resident, a male in his 70s, was hospitalized in late August and died due to his illness in September. This death is the first in Vermont since 2012. Test results were confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week. While the risk is much lower now than it was in August, residents of communities at high risk should continue to take precautions, particularly after dark.

"I extend my condolences to the family and all impacted by this sad event," said Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD. "This is a heartbreaking reminder that while infection with the virus that causes EEE remains rare, this disease can have serious consequences."

The announcement brings Vermont's total count of confirmed EEE cases in humans up to two this year. The first person, whose infection was confirmed in early August, later recovered. The two EEE infections are the first detected in the state since 2012. Similar cases have been documented throughout New England over the course of the season.

Most people infected with EEE virus do not develop symptoms, but those who do may experience a flu-like illness with fever, chills, body aches, and joint pain. About 5% of people who are infected develop severe

EEE disease with encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain.

There is no human vaccine or treatment for EEE. Anyone with symptoms should reach out to their healthcare provider.

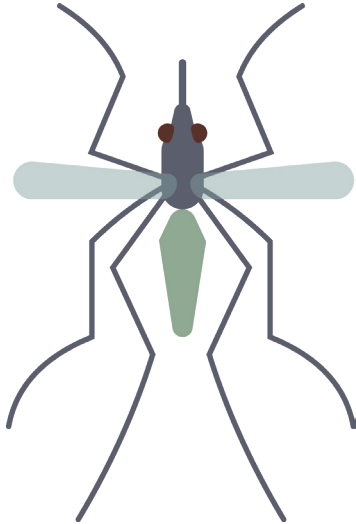
Mosquitoes are less active in cooler weather, but people are still at risk of contracting mosquito-borne illnesses until hard frosts eliminate mosquito activity for the season. The towns identified as high risk for EEE infection are Alburgh, Burlington, Colchester, Salisbury, Sudbury, Swanton, and Whiting. Residents in high-risk communities are strongly advised to limit outdoor activity between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. until the

first local hard frost.

Everyone in Vermont should take steps to prevent mosquito bites and protect themselves from mosquito-borne illness:

- Limit the amount of time you spend outdoors at dawn and dusk.
- Use EPA-registered insect repellent labeled as effective against mosquitoes. Apply repellent when you are going to be outdoors, especially at dawn or dusk.
- Wear loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- Fix any holes in your screens and remove standing water around your home.

For more information, visit [HealthVermont.gov/mosquito](http://HealthVermont.gov/mosquito).



Courtesy of the National 4-H Dairy Conference

Seven Vermont 4-H'ers and their chaperones recently participated in the 2024 National 4-H Dairy Conference, held from Sept. 29 to Oct. 2 in Madison, Wisconsin. They were: Front row (left to right): Hailee Allen, New Haven; Torrey Hanna, Addison; Jackie Chase (chaperone) and Hailey Chase, both from Bristol; and Cindy Kayhart, New Haven (chaperone). Back row: Brian Kayhart, New Haven (chaperone); Amy Vaughan, South Ryegate; Ruby Hubbell, Shoreham; Mackenzie Chase, Bristol; and Elizabeth Waterman, Thetford Center.

## 4-H'ers return home from a national 4-H dairy event

By Wendy Sorrell, UVM Extension 4-H livestock educator

For the seven 4-H teens selected to attend the 2024 National 4-H Dairy Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, four days of dairy-focused activities and opportunities to connect with like-minded peers from 20 states and three Canadian provinces were a whirlwind.

The Vermont delegates who took part in the Sept. 29 to Oct. 2 event were Hailee Allen, New Haven; Hailey and Mackenzie Chase, Bristol; Torrey Hanna, Addison; Ruby Hubbell, Shoreham; Amy Vaughan, South Ryegate; and Elizabeth Waterman, Thetford Center. They were accompanied by adult volunteers Cindy and Brian Kayhart, New Haven, and Jackie Chase, Bristol.

The conference was held in conjunction with the World Dairy Exposition and gave participants, ages 15 to 18, an opportunity to learn about the dairy industry and explore career pathways through tours of agricultural businesses and dairy operations, motivational speakers, a career fair, and interactive seminars taught by dairy specialists, biotechnology leaders, and professors. Conference delegates also spent time at the dairy expo watching the dairy show competitions and visiting the trade show.

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## ← Student censorship:

from page 4

referring to the student newspaper.

At a meeting of the faculty senate that same day, Gaines, the provost, told faculty members that the lack of training “resulted in some issues of concern raised about how we prepare students, our student journalists, for the responsibilities that they’ve taken on.”

Gaines also cited an unspecified personnel matter that she said she could not discuss.

### ‘A personnel issue’

The Guidon, which is pronounced “guide-on” and named after a military flag or flagbearer, had never been suspended before in its roughly century-long history, according to Graber, the faculty advisor. In the spring, The Guidon was all-digital and had no print edition.

But this year, Graber said, administrators had grown dissatisfied with his work with The Guidon — and concerned about some of its coverage.

The hard news pieces published in the past year or so were a departure from the newspaper’s generally softer coverage in the past, according to Graber and other faculty members.

Some of The Guidon’s articles, and the actions of its reporters, had drawn “concerns” from students, faculty, staff and administrators, according to a June letter sent to Graber from Ted Kohn, the dean of Norwich’s College of Arts and Sciences.

On Tuesday, Graber wrote a letter to the university’s Department of Global Humanities and to the faculty senate, saying that he had been asked to submit documents — “a newsroom handbook, code of ethics, student advisory board bylaws, and training materials” — to the department for approval in order for The Guidon to continue publishing. Adminis-

“My concern, and (the) student government concern, is more of that gap of information, where students have not been able to know what’s going on at school,” said Montañez Lugo, a senior.

“And the longer this process takes, the more damage we do.”

trators had linked his job performance at Norwich to those prerequisites, he wrote.

People in uniform attire sit around a long conference table in a meeting room with portraits on the walls and flags in the corner.

In the past year or so, Graber and The Guidon’s reporters had been summoned for multiple meetings with administrators about the newspaper’s coverage, which had a “chilling effect” on its reporting, he wrote in the Oct. 8 letter.

The university was particularly concerned about the newspaper’s coverage of sexual assault on campus, Graber said in an interview.

“The point is, if they had a problem with my mentorship — I’m not conceding that at all — but if they did, then that’s a personnel issue,” Graber said. “You don’t



Submitted

Students and some professors worry about effect of censorship of their student newspaper. The future is uncertain for the Norwich press.

to a level of oversight that other student papers in Vermont do not face.

VTDigger inquired about student news outlets at four other Vermont institutions of higher learning: the University of Vermont, Middlebury College, Vermont State University and Bennington College. All of those publications have no formal requirements or prerequisites for student reporters, and are published independently of their administrations, representatives for the papers or schools said.

The suspension of the publication, and the requirement that the Department of Global Humanities sign off on editorial materials, appear to subject The Guidon

to a level of oversight that other student papers in Vermont do not face.

VTDigger inquired about student news outlets at four other Vermont institutions of higher learning: the University of Vermont, Middlebury College, Vermont State University and Bennington College. All of those publications have no formal requirements or prerequisites for student reporters, and are published independently of their administrations, representatives for the papers or schools said.

“Freedom of the press is important, so the administration provides no oversight role,” Ashley Jowett, a spokesperson for Bennington College, said in an email replying to questions about the school’s student newspaper, The Bennington Lens. “The faculty sponsor serves to guide students when they have questions.”

### ‘This ought to be covered’

Over the past two weeks, The Guidon’s suspension has raised concerns among students and faculty at Norwich.

Rowly Brucken, a professor of history and the director of Norwich University’s history program, sent administrators an email Thursday urging them to lift the suspension on the newspaper “immediately.”

Brucken is a former specialist for Amnesty International USA and an advocate for press freedom in Zimbabwe. That experience has “given me a real hands-on appreciation for the power and sanctity of the free press,” Brucken said in an interview Thursday.

“I know people who have suffered for being reporters, and whose newspapers have been raided, newsrooms destroyed, newsrooms burned through arson, reporters arrested,” he said. “I mean, this is not abstract to me.”

Javier Montañez Lugo, Norwich’s student body president, said in an interview that he hoped the process of resuming publication of The Guidon could be faster and involve student input.

“My concern, and (the) student government concern, is more of that gap of information, where students have not been able to know what’s going on at school,” said Montañez Lugo, a senior. “And the longer this process takes, the more damage we do.”

Without the newspaper, Norwich

University was being deprived of critical information such as that provided by The Guidon’s reporting on topics like sexual assault and litigation this spring, said Carl Martin, a Norwich professor of English and the chair of the faculty senate.

“All of this is the real news of Norwich,” he said. “This ought to be covered. So I stand fully behind the students who’ve done this work.”

In the faculty senate hearing earlier this month, Martin questioned Gaines, the provost, over the newspaper’s suspension, saying that instituting administrative requirements for The Guidon’s editorial staff could subject it to inappropriate influence.

“We wouldn’t want to be in a position

“All of this is the real news of Norwich,” Professor Martin said.

“This ought to be covered.”

of inviting the concerns that we’re censoring the content of a student newspaper,” he said.

Gaines replied that the administration was not engaged in censorship. Instead, she said, the university was assessing concerns over the newspaper’s work and trying to chart a path forward.

The university was considering, “What is student journalism? What is a free press?” she said. “What are the guardrails that we want our students to learn?”

## Treasurer announces \$1.7 million to support Vermonters seeking higher education degrees

On Oct. 2, Treasurer Mike Pieciak announced his office will distribute \$1.7 million to the University of Vermont (UVM), the Vermont State Colleges (VSC), and the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) to support Vermonters seeking a higher education degree. The funds come from investment earnings on the state's Higher Education Trust Fund, which is managed by the Treasurer's Office and provides grants for Vermonters pursuing a degree from local colleges and universities.

"The best thing we can do to grow our economy and move our state forward is invest in Vermonters. Far too many Vermonters can't afford to pursue higher education, while many are burdened by student debt, holding back our workforce and economy," said Treasurer Pieciak. "The Higher Education Trust Fund helps make higher education more affordable for Vermonters, serving as a long-term investment in our state's future. This year's strong returns have allowed our office to make one of the largest distributions in its history."

Established by the Vermont Legislature in 1999, the Fund's yearly distribution

depends on its investment performance, which the Treasurer's Office reports annually to the legislature by September 30. The distribution is evenly split between UVM, VSC, and other Vermont post-secondary institutions through VSAC.

In fiscal year 2024, the Fund posted a 10.2% gain, allowing a total distribution of \$1,702,704. Accordingly, UVM, VSC, and VSAC will each receive \$567,568 this year for non-loan tuition assistance to Vermont students.

Since its establishment, the Higher Education Trust Fund has earned over \$30 million—all of which has been reinvested or distributed to support Vermonters obtaining a higher education degree. The Fund's balance currently stands at \$35,054,943.

"The Higher Education Trust Fund is government working at its best, demonstrating how effective investment of taxpayer dollars can create long-term benefits. I want to thank the legislature for their great foresight in establishing the Fund, which puts tax dollars to work to help Vermonters reach their full potential."

## Pilot phase of Vermont Saves is launched

On Oct. 10, Treasurer Mike Pieciak announced the successful launch of the Vermont Saves program's pilot phase. Vermont Saves was unanimously approved by the Vermont Legislature and signed into law by Governor Scott in 2023.

The program establishes a workplace retirement plan for Vermonters who are not offered a plan through their employer. Seven businesses are participating in the pilot before the program opens to all eligible employers in December 2024.

"Vermont Saves will help tens of thousands of Vermont workers achieve economic security and retire with dignity," said Treasurer Pieciak. "Individuals with access to a retirement plan through their employer are 15 times more likely to save for retirement. Vermont Saves will address this gap, establishing a retirement plan for workers who have historically been left out. Our office is working hard to launch the program ahead of schedule, so Vermonters can start saving as soon as possible."

"For the past year, we've been working to implement the Vermont Saves program, and the launch of the pilot is a significant milestone in this process," said Becky Wasserman, the Office's Director of Economic Empowerment. "Pilot participants will have the opportunity to provide us with feedback, ensuring the program is working smoothly before opening for enrollment in December. Vermont Saves is providing a real opportunity to address Vermont's retirement gap, and we are now one step closer to making that a reality."

Vermont Saves is designed to make saving for retirement easy and automatic. Vermont employers with five or more employees who do not currently offer a workplace retirement plan will be required to sign up for the program. Their employees will then be enrolled in a Roth IRA.

Employees can set their contribution rate or use the program default (5%). Employees can also opt out of the program if they choose. Each employee can choose from a menu of investment options or default enrollment in a target-date fund based on their age.

Similar programs are already operational in several states, with over \$1.6 billion in assets and participants averaging about \$2,000 per year in savings. Earlier this year, Treasurer Pieciak announced a partnership with the Colorado SecureSavings Program to join the Partnership for a Dignified Retirement, an interstate consortium including Delaware and Maine. With other states' experience to rely on and more assets and accounts under management, the consortium will reduce costs and enable Vermont Saves to launch ahead of schedule.

"At no cost to employers, Vermont Saves will make a big impact at a minimal price tag, improving Vermonters' lives and taking pressure off our state budget over time. I encourage all eligible Vermonters to participate when the program takes effect in December 2024," said Treasurer Pieciak.

For more information, visit [vtsaves.vermont.gov](https://vtsaves.vermont.gov).

## Vermont Secretary of State reminds voters of options for casting ballots in the November general election

As General Election ballots begin arriving in Vermont mailboxes, Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas urged voters to make a voting plan. The General Election, scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, will determine officeholders for the U.S. president, vice president, U.S. senator, U.S. representative, and several state offices, including governor, lieutenant governor, and state legislators.

Under Vermont's Act 60, all active registered voters will automatically receive a ballot by mail. Ballots should arrive by mid-October, allowing plenty of time for voters to choose how they wish to cast their vote. Copeland Hanzas emphasized the importance of reviewing the options carefully and voting promptly.

"There's no need to request an absentee ballot this time. Just check your mailbox, and start thinking about how you'll cast your vote," Copeland Hanzas said.

Voters have four main options for submitting their ballots:

1. Mail the completed ballot to your town clerk's office.
2. Drop the ballot off in person at your town clerk's office during open hours.
3. Place the ballot in an official drop box in your town before Election Day.
4. Vote in person on Nov. 5. Bring the mailed ballot with you to avoid delays. If you don't have it, you'll need to sign an affidavit affirming that you haven't already voted.

Voters can track their ballot's status, check their registration, and confirm receipt of their vote through the My Voter Page at [mvp.vermont.gov](https://mvp.vermont.gov). Starting in early October, voters will also have access to the Online Vermont Voter Guide, which will provide comprehensive information on the candidates and issues on the ballot.

Voters are encouraged to return their ballots as soon as possible, either by mail or at one of the many convenient ballot drop boxes across the state. "Voting early ensures your voice is heard and helps avoid potential delays," Copeland Hanzas said.

If voters registered after Sept. 9, ballots will still be mailed, and those who haven't received their ballot by mid-October should contact their town clerk. Town clerks are also available to answer questions and provide additional assistance to voters.

For more information, voters can visit the My Voter Page at [mvp.vermont.gov](https://mvp.vermont.gov) or reach out to their local town clerk.

## State officials warn voters about AI deepfakes, election scams

In collaboration with Attorney General Charity Clark, Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas shared a new webpage and two PSA videos on Oct. 9 to warn voters about disinformation and scams they may encounter this election season.

"Election season is when we come together to engage with our communities and advocate for the visions and values we want to see from the federal to the local level," said Secretary Copeland Hanzas.

"Unfortunately, we also see malicious efforts during this time to take advantage of voters, either with misleading and fake information or with direct scams."

Copeland Hanzas and Clark's webpage addresses the rising influence of "deepfakes" — images, videos, or audio generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) that seem realistic but are fake.

"Deepfakes make it difficult to distinguish between what is true and what isn't, which can spread doubt and confusion. This is, of course, a threat to our democratic process, and it's why I'm working with the AG's Office to share helpful tips about how to spot and avoid these efforts," said Secretary Copeland Hanzas.

The webpage, a collaboration of both offices, also describes three kinds of election-season scams, with tips for how to stay away from them. The page describes voter

"Deepfakes make it difficult to distinguish between what is true and what isn't, which can spread doubt and confusion. This is, of course, a threat to our democratic process," said Secretary Copeland Hanzas.

registration scams, political donation scams, and fake surveys/petitions/polls, with best practices for protecting one's information and links to helpful official resources.

"Scammers prey on our emotions and election season is no different. Beware of scammers trying to get your money or your personal information by telling you there is an urgent problem with your voter registration, or convincing you to click on an unfamiliar, unsolicited link," said Attorney General Clark. "If you or someone you love have encountered any of these scams, contact my office's Consumer Assistance Program at 800-649-2424 or [AGO.CAP@vermont.gov](mailto:AGO.CAP@vermont.gov). We are here to help."

For more info, visit: [sos.vermont.gov/elections](https://sos.vermont.gov/elections).

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## Nationwide multi-state settlement with Marriott amounts to \$52 million

Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark announced on Oct. 9 that a coalition of 50 attorneys general has reached a settlement with Marriott International, Inc. after an investigation into a large multi-year data breach of one of Marriott's Starwood guest reservation databases. Under the settlement, Marriott has agreed to strengthen its data security practices using a dynamic risk-based approach, pay \$52 million to states, and provide additional consumer protections. Vermont will receive \$590,292.25 from the settlement.

The Federal Trade Commission, which has been coordinating closely with the states throughout their investigation, has reached a parallel settlement with Marriott.

"This case is a \$52 million reminder that good data hygiene, such as data minimization, can protect not only consumers but also businesses that suffer a data breach," said Clark.

Marriott acquired Starwood in 2016 and took control of the Starwood computer network in 2016. From July 2014 until September 2018, intruders into this computer network went undetected. This failure led to the breach of 131.5 million guest records pertaining to customers in the U.S. The impacted records included contact information, gender, dates of birth, legacy Starwood Preferred Guest information, reservation information, hotel stay preferences, and a limited number of unencrypted passport numbers and unexpired payment card information.

Shortly after the breach of the Starwood database was announced, a coalition of 50 attorneys general launched a multi-state investigation into the breach. The Oct. 9 settlement resolves allegations by Attorney General Clark that Marriott violated Vermont's Consumer Protection Act and Security Breach Notification Act by failing to implement reasonable data security and remediate data security deficiencies, particularly when attempting to use and integrate Starwood into its systems.

Under the terms of the settlement, Marriott has agreed to strengthen and continually improve its cybersecurity practices. As part of the settlement, Marriott will give consumers specific protections, including a data deletion option, even if consumers do not currently have that right under state law.

Marriott must offer multi-factor authentication to consumers for their loyalty rewards accounts — such as Marriott Bonvoy — as well as reviews of those accounts if there is any suspicious activity.

### ← TikTok lawsuit: from page 8

and predatory design features in order to leech time, attention, data, and money from young users without accurately informing them or their parents of the known dangers of their products

3. Operating an illegal money transmitter system through TikTok LIVE that allowed the company to profit from the financial and sexual exploitation of children.

Through this lawsuit, Vermont seeks to hold TikTok

liable for its illegal business practices and to protect those children who use the platform. The complaint requests injunctive relief requiring substantive changes in how the company operates, as well as penalties and other monetary relief to address the harm that these practices have caused.

Will Vermont be successful in its efforts?

The Telecommunications Act of 1996, an amendment of the Communications Act of 1934, shelters online service providers from liability for user-generated content through Section 230. This provision

continues to provide social media platforms with a wide range of protections, making it difficult to hold them accountable in a court of law. Can TikTok be legally held responsible for user-provided content on its platform? Vermont's approach that TikTok violates the State's consumer protection laws could serve to challenge Section 230. The result of this lawsuit may transform the way social media platforms operate in the future. It's a case that those concerned about social media business practices harming children will be watching with open eyes.

### ← 4-H: from page 9

Fun activities included team challenges, a dairy skill-a-thon and a farm tour, tailgate party and evening barn dance at Crave Brothers Farm and Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese in Waterloo, Wisconsin. Field trips to other southern Wisconsin locations included stops at ABS Global, ST Genetics, and Jones Dairy, a centuries-old producer of sausages and other breakfast meats. In Fort Atkinson, they toured the National Dairy Shrine Museum and Hoard's Dairyman Magazine and its registered Guernsey farm.

Selection for this national opportunity was based on several criteria, including overall 4-H achievements, 4-H dairy project record books, and participation in county and state dairy shows, judging contests, quiz bowls, and other 4-H dairy events. Applicants also had to meet the age requirement and be enrolled in the 4-H dairy project for three or more years.

The State 4-H Foundation; Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement; the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets; county 4-H foundations; and several Vermont businesses and individual donors funded the trip.

# At their first debate, Vermont gubernatorial candidates point to state's woes but disagree about who's responsible

By Shaun Robinson/VTDigger

Vermont's leading candidates for governor agreed at a VTDigger debate Thursday evening that Vermont is worse off today than it has been in the recent past. But they disagreed, in many ways, on who exactly was to blame.

For incumbent Republican Gov. Phil Scott, who is seeking his fifth term in the state's highest office, the answer was a familiar one: the Legislature's Democratic supermajority, with whom his relationship has become especially fractious in recent years.

"The Legislature has passed a record number of bad bills over the last six, seven years," Scott said, at one point referring to legislative leaders as "insatiable." He added, "They have no interest in working together. They just want to score political points."

Meanwhile, Scott's Democratic/Progressive challenger, former Middlebury Select Board member Esther Charlestin, argued that the buck, in fact, stopped with him as governor.

"I struggle with our head of state blaming part-time (legislators)," Charlestin said. "Blaming them for where we are, when

"I struggle with our head of state blaming part-time (legislators)," Charlestin said. "Blaming them for where we are, when you've been in office for eight years — I struggle with that."

you've been in office for eight years — I struggle with that."

Thursday's virtual debate was the first between Scott and Charlestin, the two leading gubernatorial candidates, of the 2024 election cycle. In fact, both candidates said it was the first time they had ever met each other face-to-face, albeit over Zoom.

At some points, it was a terse introduction for the pair, who come to the race with vastly different levels of experience in government and a substantial imbalance, in Scott's favor, in campaign fundraising with just weeks to go before Election Day on Nov. 5.

One sharp exchange came when the debate's moderators pressed Scott on his highly controversial move in April to appoint the state's current education secretary, Zoie Saunders, in an interim capacity despite the Senate's refusal just moments earlier to confirm Saunders' appointment.

Asked to explain his decision, Scott instead took quick issue with the Senate's vote. "I thought it was a political hit job, myself. The fix was in," he said, arguing



Courtesy of VTDigger

Incumbent Republican Gov. Phil Scott faced off against Democratic/Progressive challenger Esther Charlestin at a virtual forum hosted by VTDigger on Thursday evening, Oct. 10.

that many senators did not give Saunders' qualifications a fair shake.

The governor declined to say whether he would renominate Saunders to the post when her term expires in February 2025, adding "I don't even know" if Saunders herself would want to go through the process again.

When Charlestin was asked what she made of the governor's appointment — which two state senators recently challenged in court, so far unsuccessfully — Charlestin said she did not agree with it. Those senators, she said, "did the right thing" by suing the administration.

Charlestin was adamant, too, that "as an educator myself," she would not renominate Saunders.

The governor then quickly piped up: "Have you ever met her, Esther?"

"No," Charlestin responded. "I haven't had the pleasure."

Both Scott and the debate moderators zeroed in on Charlestin's lack of electoral experience beyond a selectboard seat, noting that most governors had previously served at the highest levels of state government. Charlestin currently co-chairs the Vermont Commission on Women and runs an educational consulting firm.

"How can you assure Vermonters that you have the experience to run an \$8.6 billion enterprise with more than 8,000 employees?" VTDigger Statehouse bureau chief Sarah Mearhoff asked.

Though she conceded her experience "doesn't seem like a lot," Charlestin emphasized that she would surround herself with the right people. "I am an expert at finding those experts. The good news is, the governor has a cabinet, right?"

"Just wondering — how many em-

ployees do you have, Esther?" Scott asked during an earlier exchange as he prodded her to explain her management experience.

"Well, it depends," Charlestin replied. "Right now, I am a consultant all by myself. And, I also run another company with four employees."

In the same vein, moderators pressed Scott on why he thought he should run for governor a fifth time. Only former Democratic Gov. Howard Dean, the state's longest-serving chief executive, won as many elections.

In response, Scott echoed an earlier comment he made that Vermont was not on the right track — particularly, he said, over the past two years. He pointed to a new law that increased fees for services provided by the state Department of Motor Vehicles by 20% and, without specifying, to "regressive taxes that hurt low-income Vermonters and middle-income Vermonters."

"I just feel as though somebody had to step up, and I didn't have a lot of faith in who was going to run next at this point in time," he said.

Scott also did not rule out running for a potential sixth term when asked by the moderators. In another answer, he said that, despite having vetoed more bills than any other governor in state history during his four terms, "there probably should have been more vetoed than that."

Both candidates also gave differing answers when posed a question from VTDigger reader Chris Leslie about what they would do to address the rising cost of education and its impact on property taxes.

Scott called for "more structural reform" to how education is funded in the state and said that legislators had rejected "dozens of proposals" his administration put forward

since he was first elected to office. Part of the answer, he said, is consolidating schools and school districts, as well as using "natural attrition" to reduce school staff costs.

Charlestin, meanwhile, said the state should raise more money to support education by increasing taxes on the state's wealthiest residents, arguing "that is an avenue that we haven't explored to the fullest."

Moderators asked both candidates how they would go about building the at least 24,000 housing units the state is projected to need over the next five years. Charlestin had earlier on identified housing, per a moderator's question, as one policy goal she thought Scott's administration had not done enough to address during his tenure.

"There's regulatory barriers there that won't allow new folks to come in and really build new construction," Charlestin said.

"The Legislature has passed a record number of bad bills over the last six, seven years," Scott said.

"And so my administration would focus on that, not only in the urban areas, but also in rural areas as well."

Scott said he agreed with the need for more regulatory reform and noted his opposition to a law passed over his veto this year that revised Vermont's signature land use law, Act 250. The legislation relaxes Act 250's reach in existing development centers — meant to encourage compact housing development — while also laying the groundwork for extending Act 250's protections in areas deemed ecologically sensitive.

But Scott reiterated his past criticism that the legislation was a pro-housing bill only in name — calling it instead "a conservation bill."

## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Calling out empty promises in state campaigns

By Angelo Lynn

*Editor's note: Angelo Lynn is the editor and publisher of the Addison Independent in Middlebury, a sister paper to the Mountain Times.*

Vermont Republicans running for election to the House or Senate have two ready-made campaign issues — inflation and high property taxes — and many are using it to their full advantage.

Flyers have appeared in mailboxes with suggestive headlines such as: "What did you think of your property tax increase this year? I was shocked, weren't you?"

Then the mailings go on to suggest housing costs are higher, food is higher, heating bills are higher. Everything is higher, higher, higher. Vote for me, the postcards suggest, and they'll fight to lower those costs.

Sounds good, right? Everyone agrees it's better to have lower prices.

But let's think it through for a moment.

First, take inflation. In an average year, inflation on many items goes up 3%-4%, even as the federal bank strives to keep national inflation close to 2%. So, just for starters, inflationary costs rise about 12%-15% every four years. And that's not a bad thing. Wages go up as well (the minimum wage in Vermont is now \$13.67, having gone up 49 cents from the previous year.) That's just how the economy percolates, or crumbles, whatever your perspective might be.

The pandemic, of course, has been the main cause of the high inflation of the past four years. The sudden closing of many businesses at the height of the pandemic that first year, sent the economy into sudden withdrawal, which necessitated high government spending. That funding, from both Trump and later Biden, prevented an almost certain recession, but predictably spurred inflation. The pandemic was the worst the world has seen in a long time, which necessitated longer than usual economic stimulus.

This happened throughout the country and the world. Vermont state representatives or senators, be they Democrats or Republicans, had no say in the matter.

So area candidates blaming any other candidate, or their parties, for high prices on food and most other consumables is casting blame needlessly — and should be called to task.

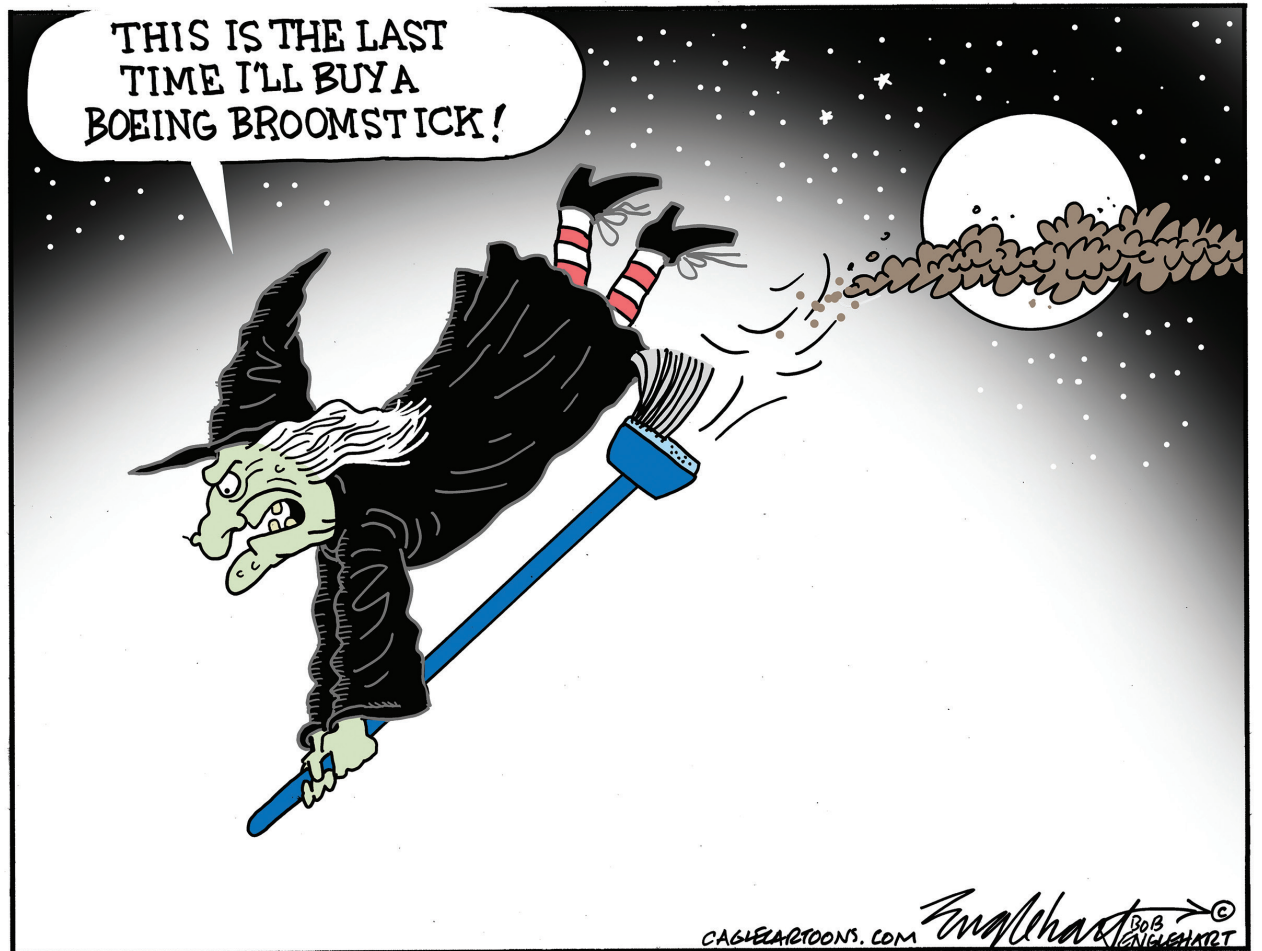
High property taxes are another matter.

In Vermont, high property taxes are directly related to education expenses, which have soared in Vermont for several reasons: declining students in most schools, high health care costs, high labor costs because of a shortage of teachers and school staff, a higher incidence of mental health issues in school (blame the pandemic, smart-phones, fentanyl, Facebook, Instagram and Tik-Tok).

Also, voters should remember the Legislature's role is to provide the money needed to pay for budgets local voters approve. So, if voters want to reduce school spending, they should start with their own school budgets — then again, most voters want their schools to provide the education

When candidates say they'll reduce spending, voters should ask them to be specific in terms of what they'll cut and how.

Empty promises → 36



Witch Has A Boeing Broomstick by Bob Englehart, PoliticalCartoons

## LETTERS

### Vote Schoville for U.S. Senate

Dear Editor,

My name is Justin Schoville, and I am running for U.S. Senate in the Green Mountain Peace and Justice Party (labelled "Peace and Justice" on your ballots). Peace and Justice candidates are running for most of the statewide offices this year. We believe in providing basic necessities for everyone free of charge — education, housing, health care, childcare, elder care. We believe all Vermonters deserve a living wage. We support a universal basic income. We believe in democracy in the workplace, as well as our political process. We believe workers should own the means of production.

In a word, we support socialism.

I am running against Bernie Sanders, a political giant. I agree with many of the policies he advocates for. However, his political vision is blind to the realities of Washington. He supports the Democratic Party, a

U.S. Senate → 16

### Support the Democratic ticket for Windsor County

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of the Democratic ticket for the Windsor County Senate district: Sen. Alison Clarkson, Sen. Becca White, and Joe Major. Clarkson and White are seeking re-election, while Major hopes to bring his extensive town governance, housing, and racial justice experience to Montpelier as a new senator for our district.

Over the summer on the campaign trail working for Lt. Governor David Zuckerman, I have gotten to know these three individuals, and am proud to call them my friends and allies. I have seen that Clarkson, White, and Major share records of dedicated leadership, with Clarkson guiding Democratic priorities through the Legislature as the Senate Majority Leader, White serving as co-chair of both the climate solutions caucus and future's caucus, and

Dem ticket → 16

### Solving Vermont's homeless problem with trailers

Dear Editor,

Governor Phil Scott can solve the homeless crisis with two phone calls. Search "Unrestricted land sales" in Vermont. There is 150 acres for sale for \$875,000 [in Alburgh] of which most of this land is fields and can accommodate 10 trailer campers per acre, for 1,500 homes for Vermont homeless adults and children.

Search lowest price trailer campers and see many at \$13,999 (rv.campingworld.com). Pick up the phone and offer to buy 1,500 at \$13,000; delivered for \$19.5 million. Problem solved for \$20,375,000, which is less than the budget the Legislature was considering [and much quicker, too!]

**Cris Ericson, Chester**  
*Editor's note: Ericson has unsuccessfully run for governor of Vermont nine times and for a seat in the U.S. Congress eight times.*

### Unchecked trapping: The unseen threat to Vermont's fisher

Dear Editor,

Unchecked trapping poses a serious and largely unnoticed threat to Vermont's imperiled fisher population. It shouldn't have to come to this. Why does it take Protect Our Wildlife (POW), an all-volunteer Vermont non-profit, to petition Vermont Fish & Wildlife to get them to protect Vermont's imperiled wildlife? Fish & Wildlife is well aware that the fisher population is in danger due to rodenticide poisoning and other threats. However, they still allow a recreational trapping season with no limit on the number of animals that may be killed. According to their own data, the population is trending downward.

The Fish & Wildlife furbearer biologist Brehan Furfey testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee in Feb. 2024 concerning rodenticide, stating that

POW → 16

## CAPITOL QUOTES



On Monday, Oct. 14, depending on the state, you may have celebrated Indigenous People's Day, Columbus Day, or perhaps both. Vermont celebrates Indigenous People's Day, while neighboring New Hampshire is considering a law making the switchover, and other states mull a change. This past spring, New Hampshire mandated that any towns celebrating Indigenous People's Day use Columbus Day in all official communications.

**“This isn't going to stop us. We're going to continue our movement. We've changed over 30 cities and towns in our state, and we're not going to stop. This is a bump in the road, and the truth will come out,”**

said Indigenous activist **Denise Pouliot**, regarding the current New Hampshire Legislature's stance on continuing with the recognition of Columbus Day.

**“If the Legislature wants to recognize the contributions of Indigenous people, we can have a separate day to do that, and I would sign that as governor,”**

said Republican New Hampshire Gov. nominee **Kelly Ayotte** regarding her thoughts on the current law, and whether Columbus Day should switch to Indigenous People's Day.

**“Today and every day, we must recognize that our debt to Indigenous communities across the country goes beyond what we can ever repay. The U.S. and other governments have a responsibility to improve our work to defend the rights, respect the cultures and traditions, and address the needs of Indigenous people,”**

said Vermont U.S. Senator **Peter Welch** in a statement on Indigenous People's Day.

**“Christopher Columbus did not discover the Americas. That myth — steeped in racism and violence — has allowed generations to credit a European man with discovering a land already teeming with societies,”**

said Massachusetts State Senator **Jo Comerford** in a statement calling for an official change to Indigenous Peoples Day in Massachusetts.

## COMMENTARY

### Gov. Scott: Where are the children in your school budget schemes?

By Don Tinney

*Editor's note: Don Tinney, an English teacher who lives in South Hero, is the elected president of Vermont-NEA, the state's largest union. He has also served as chair of the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators.*

Recently, I came across an extraordinary video produced by Gov. Phil Scott's Agency of Education. It was a beautiful, well-produced exploration of what makes the tiny Cabot School — the type of school the governor and his adherents would shutter if they had their austerity way — the bedrock of this small and vital Vermont community.

The video features faculty, parents, and, most importantly, the community's children. Teachers talk about connections made between abstract ideas and fundamental skills. Parents talk about how the school is important to Cabot's sense of community. And students talk about being challenged and encouraged by their teachers to direct their own learning.

One of those educators puts it exactly right: “It's a job, but for people who are here it's more than a job. It just is. You're committed emotionally to it, so we do a lot with very little, more than people realize.”

I've been an educator in Vermont since 1986 and agree that it is much more than a job; it demands an emotional commitment and requires constant investment of energy and creativity. And it's all worth it. For me, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing former students as successful and happy adults creating their own families and communities, living lives that bring them contentment and joy.

What does not bring me — or my fellow 13,000 members — contentment and joy is the governor's tired, broken-record of bashing our state's public schools. He memorably voted against his town's school budget this year and led the charge to try and convince other Vermonters to do as he did and turn their backs on students and their communities.

In an unprecedented move this fall, the governor decided to become the backseat

The governor could — and should — join us in calling for an overhaul of how we raise money for public schools.

driver in every local school board budget discussion, sending the message that school boards and administrators spend too much money on too many schools.

He waxes austere, singing the same old song he has been singing for eight years: cut budgets, close schools, and get rid of educators. What he does not do is celebrate or even contemplate what his own education agency extolled in the Cabot School video I watched.

Missing in the governor's screeds is any mention of what public-school educators do every single day: put Vermont's children first.

I readily admit that this year's school budget season was challenging. More than a third of voters initially rejected their local school budgets on Town Meeting Day. We cannot fault Vermonters facing double-digit increases in their property tax bills for asking tough questions. Such an increase is unfair

Students first → 16

## An Indigenous Day message

By Chief Don Stevens, Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation

As the holiday season approaches, it gives us time to reflect on how we celebrate the Holidays. Whether you celebrate Columbus or Indigenous Peoples Day is a personal choice. Some gather together to celebrate the original inhabitants of this land, Columbus, or simply take the day off to rest.

As traditional people, our tribe focuses on being in positive relationship with community and everything within our stewardship.

We must all take the time to honor our ancestors but also remind people of the dangers that we face as a people. We have seen the breakdown of civility and respect in our society. When social and personal opinions become fact and people are allowed to spread hate freely instead of unity and respect; we all suffer as a nation and society. We have seen human needs outweigh

the land and animals needs, upsetting the balance in the great mystery of life.

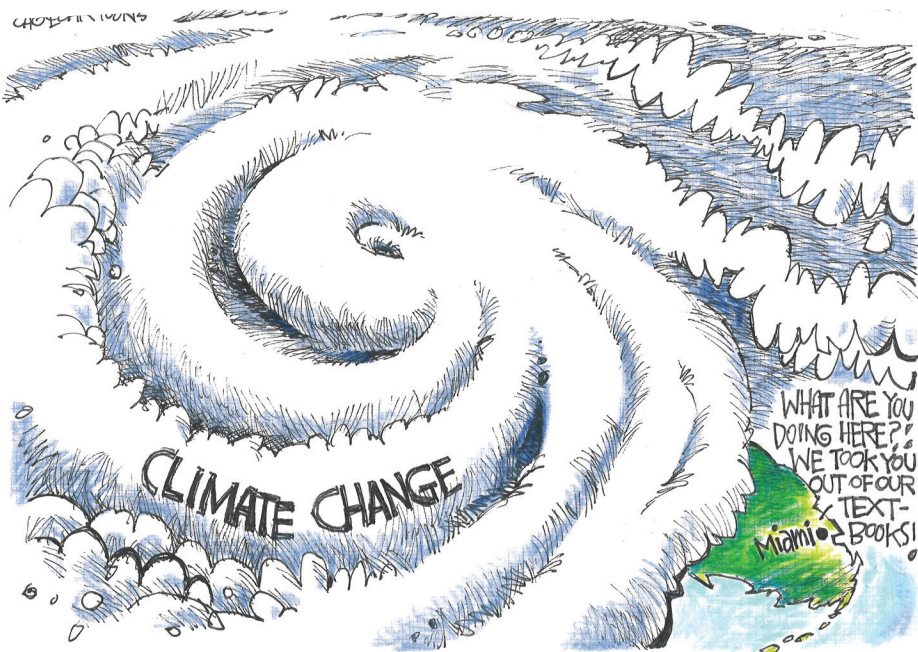
Mother Earth is adjusting for the bad

If you truly want to find a way to celebrate this holiday season, reflect on the personal path you are on. Decide if the path is uplitiing those around you or contributing to the social unrest.

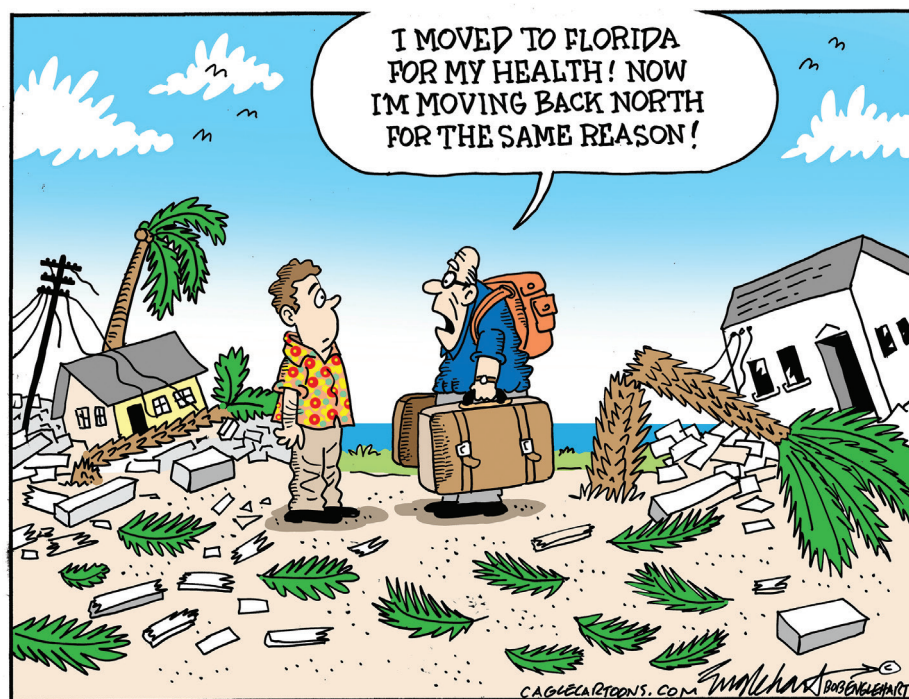
deeds of human actions. The stewardship of our planet and the fabric of our nation is being tested. Hurricanes, floods, tornados and other catastrophic events are becoming more frequent. We need to take heed in our mother's warnings, we cannot ignore the message and continue the same path — expecting different results.

We are all Alnobak (human beings) and citizens of the United States. As a society, Indigenous Day message → 46

**CARTOONS**



Climate Change by John Darkow, Columbia Missourian



Hurricanes Hitting Florida by Bob Englehart, PoliticalCartoons

**Empty promises:**  
from page 14

their children and grandchildren deserve. Damn. That complicates things, doesn't it? The problem with being against high spending is figuring out what to cut. To that end, when candidates say they'll reduce spending, voters should ask them to be specific in terms of what they'll cut and how. Can they affect the high price of food, or gasoline, or building materials? No. Can they demand lower housing costs? No. The Legislature can reduce regulatory measures that add to building costs, as can town government, and that's being done (or attempted), but it's also stymied by others who don't want what they might consider over-building in their backyard (nimby's.) And housing is created by private firms, most of whom in Vermont are beyond busy doing as many projects as they have workers to complete. Democrats in the Legislature did recently tackle the high cost of childcare, passing a small payroll tax to help resolve a chronic shortage of childcare providers, and that's

shown immediate success and could, over time, reduce costs as more childcare providers equalize demand. More could be done to relax industry regulations, even if it might reduce the quality of care, and those are reasonable tradeoffs to debate. One issue area Republicans are pushing is that home heating oil might skyrocket if legislation seeking to transition Vermont homeowners off fossil fuels fulfills their worst-case scenarios. They often fail to mention the legislation calls for adjustments to any anticipated increase if the downsides outweigh the benefits. The first step, the legislation mandates, is to study how the proposed solution might work, then move forward if warranted. Such explanations, of course, are not nearly as exciting as simply calling — in a postcard mailed to voters — for lower prices and, in so many words, more money in voters' pockets. It's part of the game for candidates on both sides to suggest they can do better. It's up to voters to demand specifics and call-out empty promises.

**Students first:**  
from page 15

and unsustainable in a rural state struggling to meet the needs of all its residents. But instead of bashing a system that is still regarded as one of the best in the nation, the governor could — and should — join us in calling for an overhaul of how we raise money for public schools. For more than five years, our union has called for the elimination of the residential education property tax. Taxing working Vermonters on the value of their homes is regressive and leaves millions of dollars in the pockets of the wealthiest Vermonters. Using an income tax to support our schools would raise more money from Vermont's wealthiest residents, who now pay a smaller part of their incomes than middle- and working-class folks do. He could also join us in putting our state's kids first. Schools, educators, and students are not entries on a spreadsheet. They are foundational parts of our state and are woven tightly into the fabric of communities. As a Cabot student says in the conclusion of the video, "Having that sense of community is really important. I think that's the foundation for all the bigger things we do here." Building strong public schools and communities is the foundation for all the bigger things Vermonters will do. Governor Scott, you'd learn a lot by watching that video produced by your very own Agency of Education. Maybe, just maybe, you'll share our commitment to the mission of putting students first.

**Dem ticket:**  
from page 14

Major overseeing impactful policy changes within tight budgets as the Hartford town treasurer. The three candidates share a deep understanding of what Vermont needs currently. Our state Legislature will face numerous challenges in the next legislative cycle, from stabilizing our education funding system to ensuring that Vermont remains a viable place for young people

to live and start families, and as a 17-year-old high school senior, I know that Clarkson, White, and Major will fight for my future and for all Vermonters. I am happy to endorse them to represent my home state senate district in Windsor County and I hope you consider voting for Clarkson, White, and Major on, or before, Nov. 5. **Hudson Ranney, Windsor, Senior at Windsor High**

**Fishers:**  
from page 14

all fisher samples tested positive for rodenticide poisoning. Despite this, in addition to the recreational trapping season, Fish & Wildlife allows year-round killing of fisher and other animals labeled as "furbearer" species under the dangerously permissive "wild animals causing damage" statute, title 10 V.S.A. §4828. Unchecked trapping only compounds the existing threats to this species. A POW Board member, who also has a Masters in Conservation Biology, spent the last few months analyzing data and took a deep dive into the issue. She shared her findings in a report she submitted to the Fish & Wildlife Dept. and Board (shared on Fish & Wildlife's website). There is

no green-washing the issue: 100% of fisher recently sampled tested positive for rodenticide poisoning. The fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) is a carnivorous forest-dwelling mammal native to North America. It is a member of the Mustelid (weasel) family and is closely related to the American marten, an endangered species in Vermont. Traps set for fisher also place protected marten in direct danger, which is another reason to stop the unchecked trapping of fisher. A trap set for fisher cannot differentiate between the intended target and a look-alike species, the marten. Fisher are a vital predator species who perform

**U.S. Senate:**  
from page 14

party dominated by millionaire and billionaire money. It is as money-drenched as the Republican Party. As long as big money dominates the two main parties, the interests of the poor and working class will never be represented. This is why we exist. Our party refuses to take money from corporate interests. We only take money from our members. We will not be bought. Our only interest group is the poor and working class, the backbone of this state. I am running to give people a choice this election cycle, but I am also running to tell you our party exists. And we need you. Your state and your co-workers need you. We need you to join us, to guide our political party, to run for office, and to represent the poor and workers in your community. Join us at [greenmountain-peaceandjusticeparty.org](http://greenmountain-peaceandjusticeparty.org). Vote for workers! Vote Peace and Justice! Join our movement! **Justin Schoville, Killington** *Editor's note: Justin Schoville is a founder and member-owner of Mountain View Law in Killington.*

an outsized role of keeping small mammal and rodent populations in check. They are an essential contributor to healthy ecosystems. There is no biological imperative to kill them. There is, however, empirical evidence to protect them. The petition hearing is on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 5 p.m. Will Fish & Wildlife seek to downplay the threats and obfuscate an apparent decline in population, or will they take this opportunity to reach across the aisle and do what is right? *For more info, visit: [ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org](http://ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org). Brenna Galdenzi, Stowe* *Editor's note: Galdenzi is the president of Protect Our Wildlife, a Vermont-based advocacy group.*



**WORDPLAY**

HALLOWEENWORDSEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back

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

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|---------|-----------|----------|---------|
| BONE    | GOBLIN    | NIGHT    | SPIDER  |
| BOO     | GRAVE     | OCTOBER  | SPOOKY  |
| CANDY   | HALLOWEEN | PUMPKINS | TREAT   |
| CAT     | HAUNTED   | SCARE    | TRICK   |
| COSTUME | MONSTER   | SCREAM   | VAMPIRE |
| DRACULA | MOON      | SKELETON | WITCH   |

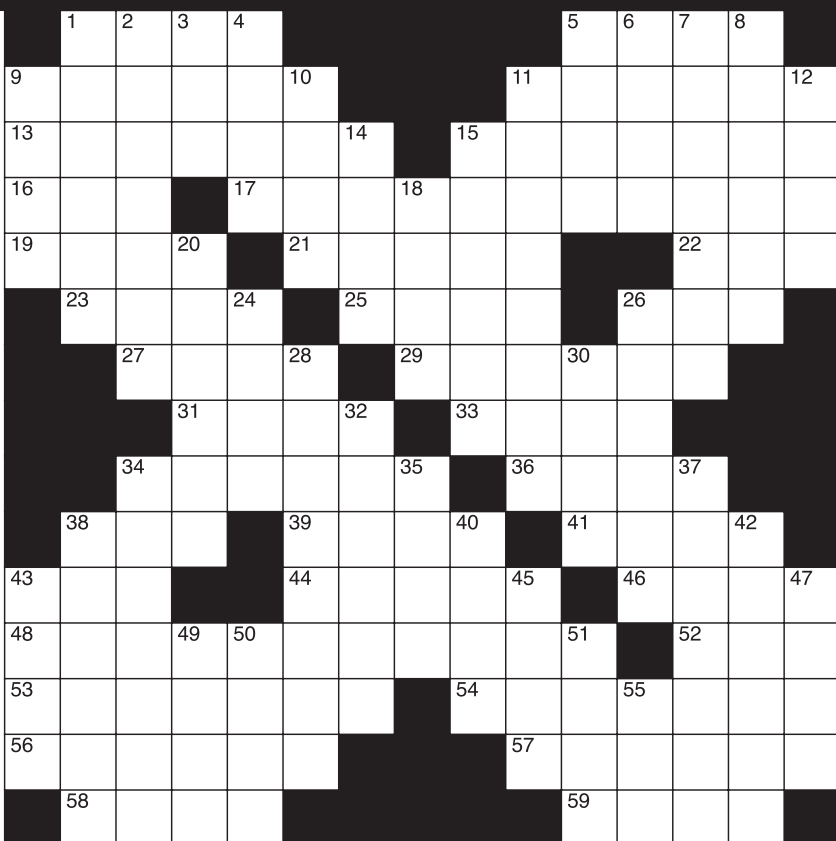
**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Solutions →36

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Tall, upright post on a boat
- 5. Basics
- 9. Used to refer to cited works
- 11. Folds
- 13. Former UK PM May
- 15. Cold region of Russia
- 16. Standard operating procedure
- 17. Separating
- 19. Particles
- 21. A way to map out
- 22. Referee declares
- 23. Beginner
- 25. Water (Spanish)
- 26. Gov't lawyers
- 27. Non-reproductive parts of an organism
- 29. Spanish friends
- 31. A type of tree
- 33. Walk heavily
- 34. About a wood
- 36. Free-swimming marine invertebrate
- 38. Political action committee
- 39. SB19 hit song
- 41. Scorch the surface of

- 43. Moved quickly on foot
  - 44. Sacred state for a Muslim
  - 46. Growl
  - 48. Pearl Jam frontman
  - 52. Irritating person
  - 53. Something requiring a solution
  - 54. Firing
  - 56. Hazards
  - 57. Taiwan capital
  - 58. Impudence
  - 59. Rock frontman Durst
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. One who rides an elephant
  - 2. Absence of bacteria
  - 3. Soviet Socialist Republic
  - 4. Men's fashion accessories
  - 5. "Honey" actress Jessica
  - 6. Round red root vegetable
  - 7. Latin term for "charity"
  - 8. Doesn't smell good
  - 9. Mental health issue
  - 10. Millisecond
  - 11. Hairstyle
  - 12. Edible starch
  - 14. Middle Eastern military title
  - 15. Protein-rich liquids
  - 18. Indian musical pattern
  - 20. Cancer and Capricorn
  - 24. Country along the Arabian peninsula
  - 26. A bend
  - 28. Fishes of the her-ring family
  - 30. Antelopes
  - 32. Chaos
  - 34. Popular music app
  - 35. Cooking material
  - 37. Musical instrument
  - 38. San Diego ballplayers
  - 40. Small amounts
  - 42. Poured
  - 43. Fabric
  - 45. Food option
  - 47. Finger millet
  - 49. The U. of Miami mascot is one
  - 50. Alberta, Canada river
  - 51. Canadian flyers
  - 55. Dry white wine drink



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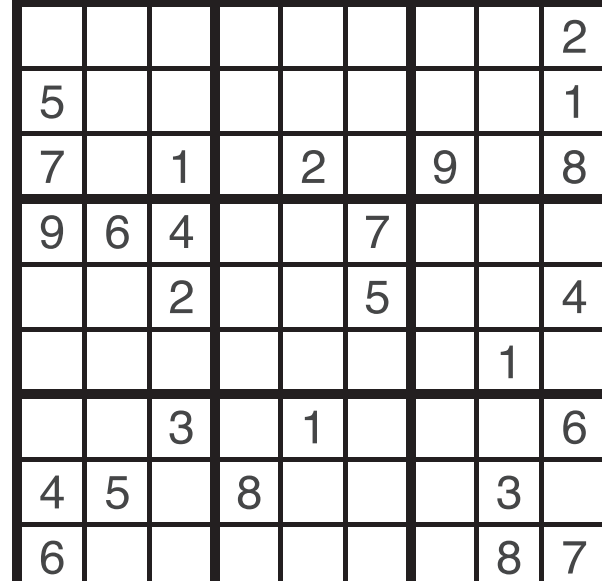
**GUESS WHO?**

I am an actor born in California on October 18, 1987. My father worked as an engineer and my mother as an admin. I was a class clown in school, but rose to fame playing a popular athlete in a musical about high school. I've starred in other movie musicals as well.

Answer: Zac Efron

**SUDOKU**

Solutions →36



Level: Intermediate



## Troy Ramey Live at Town Hall Theater

**FRIDAY AT 7:30 PM**

### VT Digger Community Event

5-7 p.m. The Hub CoWorks, 67 Merchants Row #STE 201, Rutland. Free. Join VT Digger to discuss the importance of nonpartisan local news, hear from reporters and leadership, and share your feedback. Light refreshments provided, cash bar available. Space is limited. [vtdigger.org](http://vtdigger.org)

### UVAC Health Fair

5-7 p.m. Upper Valley Aquatic Center, 100 Arboretum Ln., White River Junction. Explore a variety of health and wellness resources at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center Health Fair. Featured exhibitors include experts on injury prevention, nutrition, fitness, and mental health. Open to the public with opportunities to learn about local health services and wellness strategies. [uvacswim.org](http://uvacswim.org).

### Runnin' Wild Jazz Band at Stone

**Valley Arts**  
7-9 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. Enjoy an evening of jazz from the Roaring 20's and traditional New Orleans-style jazz performed by the Runnin' Wild Jazz Band led by Gene Childers. BYOB, with light snacks provided. [stonevalleyarts.org](http://stonevalleyarts.org)

### Killington Pico Area Association Annual Meeting

5-8 p.m. K-T Base Lodge, 4763 Killington Rd., Killington. Free admission. Join the annual meeting featuring updates from Killington Resort & Pico Mountain President Mike Solimano and Great Gulf's Michael Sneddy. A Q&A session with Killington Independence Group of Investors follows, with a reception afterward. RSVP required. [killington.com](http://killington.com)

### Astrology Presentation

6-7 p.m. Sherburne Library, 2998 River Rd., Killington. Free. Join Alex Lemesciuc for a discussion on Vedic Astrology, an ancient practice that examines how light influences daily life. This event goes beyond the typical horoscope, offering a deeper look into astrology's thousands-of-years-old roots. [sherburnelibrary.org](http://sherburnelibrary.org)

### Vermont Legislative Leaders Discuss Education Financing

6-7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Peter Conlon, Chair of the Vermont House Education Committee, and Emilie Kornheiser, Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, lead a discussion on education financing in Vermont. The event includes presentations followed by a moderated Q&A session. Open to the public. [northchapelvt.org](http://northchapelvt.org)

### Mediated Lives: A Conversation About Teens' Online Challenges

6:30-8 p.m. JAM, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. Free. Parents and educators are invited to join social sexuality educator Cindy Pierce for a discussion on supporting teens navigating social media, porn, and hookup culture. Pierce will share insights from her research and interviews to guide these important conversations. [jamvermont.org](http://jamvermont.org)

### Open Mic Night

7-9 p.m. Artistree, 2095 Pomfret Rd., South Pomfret. All levels and abilities are welcome to participate in music open mic nights. Alternating Thurs. through Dec. 19. [artistreevt.org](http://artistreevt.org)

### Movie - "Batman" (PG-13)

7:30-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Tim Burton's 1989 "Batman" with Michael Keaton as Batman and Jack Nicholson as the Joker. [pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets](http://pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets)

## WEDNESDAY

10/16

### S.E.A.T. Exercises

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

### Weatherization Training

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Hartford Town Hall, Room 312, 171 Bridge St. White River Junction. Free. A two-week weatherization training program from Vermont Adult Learning. Gain hands-on skills, earn industry-recognized credentials, and receive one-on-one support with transportation, childcare, and job readiness. Financial stipends are available upon completion. Contact Jeff Nerney at [jnerney@vtadultlearning.org](mailto:jnerney@vtadultlearning.org) to check eligibility. [energyworks.vtadultlearning.org](http://energyworks.vtadultlearning.org)

### 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

### Diabetes Support Group

1-2 p.m. (Second Wednesday of every month) RRM Diabetes & Endocrinology Center, 160 Allen St., Rutland. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Hosted by Community Health and Rutland Regional Medical Center's Diabetes & Endocrinology Center. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. [chcrr.org/diabetes-support-group](http://chcrr.org/diabetes-support-group)

### 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](http://vtfarmersmarket.org)

### Market on the Green

3-6 p.m. (Wednesdays) The Green, Woodstock. Produce, crafts, live music, and more. [woodstockvt.com](http://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](http://chaffeeartcenter.org)

### Cribbage for Adults

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

### Diabetes Support Group

5-6 p.m. (Second Wednesday of every month) Community Health Castleton, 261 Route 30, Castleton. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. [chcrr.org/diabetes-support-group](http://chcrr.org/diabetes-support-group)

## THURSDAY

10/17

### 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](http://stonevalleyarts.org)

### Intermediate Line Dance

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

### Senior Bone Builders

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

### Survivors Support Group

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

### Artery

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](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site)

### Ukelele Group

Noon-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](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site)

### Play Bridge!

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

### Thursday Farmers' Market (Fair Haven)

3-6 p.m. (Thursdays) Village Green, Fair Haven. [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org)

### Haunted House

5-8 p.m. Killington Welcome Center, 2319 U.S. 4, Killington. \$10 adults, \$5 under 18. Join the Killington/Pico Area Association at their annual Haunted House. Thursday evening is Elementary School Kid Night with a light scare for younger children. First hour "lights on" for younger children. [killington.com](http://killington.com)

### Women's Circle: Gender Inclusive Social Meetup

5:30-7 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. Monthly Women's Circle, open to women and gender expansive individuals 18 and up. Build a social and learning space to build friendships, network, and explore the power of connection. Snacks and beverages provided. Co-hosted by Bee Well Coaching. [socialtinkering.org](http://socialtinkering.org)

## FRIDAY

10/18

### Library Book Sale

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Donations accepted. Browse thousands of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages, including rare and antique selections. Limit of two grocery bags per family per sale. No book dealers. Proceeds support library programs and projects. [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org)

### Rutland Creek Path Ribbon Cutting Celebration

11 a.m. Meadow St. Park, Meadow St., Rutland. Gather at the Giorgetti with your bike at 10:30 a.m. and ride together to the celebration of Rutland Creek Path Segment 3. [rutlandcity.org](http://rutlandcity.org)

### 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](http://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](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site)

### Osher Lecture: "Swinging In The Rain"

1:30-2:30 p.m. The Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$8. John Lugar, MD and filmmaker, presents an exploration of "Singing In The Rain," highlighting what makes the film swing through selected sequences. Register at [learn.uvm.edu/olli/rutland](http://learn.uvm.edu/olli/rutland)

### Hartland Farmers Market

4-6:30 p.m. (Fridays) Hartland Public Library Fields, 153 US Route 5, Hartland. Free. The Hartland Farmers Market offers a variety of local produce and goods. Contact Market Manager Trisha Wass at [hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com) or 1-360-223-0438 for more information.

### Vermont Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

5-8 p.m. K-1 Lodge, Killington Ski Resort, Killington. \$50. Join the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum as they honor athletes, pioneers, and special contributors to the sports of skiing and snowboarding. The event includes the Induction Ceremony and permanent exhibit documentation. [vermontskiride.org](http://vermontskiride.org)

### First Friday for Families

5-7 p.m. Rochester Public Library, 22 S. Main St., Rochester. Free. Join in for Halloween fun, including making monsters from old dolls, crafting your own mask, reading, games, and more. Suitable for all ages. [rochestertvpubliclibrary.com](http://rochestertvpubliclibrary.com)

← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 18

# Chili Cook-off

## SATURDAY AT 11 AM



**22nd Annual Horace Greeley Writers' Symposium**  
10 a.m.-3 p.m. East Poultney Baptist Church, 1500 East Main St., Poultney. \$65. Join the Horace Greeley Foundation for a celebration of Horace Greeley's life and the art of writing, featuring keynote speaker Melanie Finn, author of "The Gloaming" and "The Hare," along with historian Dr. Bruce M. Venter and local author Tom Sykes. Payments can be made via Venmo @ horacegreeleyfoundation or by check. facebook.com/HoraceGreeleyFoundation

**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. See 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

**Chili Cook-off**  
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Pittsford Recreation Center, 223 Recreation Area Rd., Pittsford. \$10 to enter, \$5 to taste. Cornhole tournament & beer garden, sponsored by Liambro Ale Co. Proceeds go to Sara's Stories. sarasstoriesvt@gmail.com

**Art at the Chaffee: Drop N' Paint**  
Noon-2 p.m. (Saturdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25 per person, instructor help optional with a fee. All ages. Supplies and images to paint are provided. Must pre register by Friday noon at: chaffeeartcenter.org. (wasn't last week due to art in the park)

**Haunted Hillside Relay Race**  
Noon-5 p.m. Killington Base Camp, 2363 U.S. 4, Killington. \$90 per team. Join the Killington Mountain Bike Club for a spooky relay race filled with bikes, brews, and BOOs. Teams of three will compete in a relay from TBR to Upper Base Camp loop, with prizes for the fastest team and best costumes. Proceeds support trail building and maintenance. killingtonmountainbikeclub.org

**Ethan Tapper – Book Discussion**  
2-3:30 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join forester Ethan Tapper for a discussion on his book How to Love a Forest, exploring the complex relationship between humans and forests in a changing world. Books available for purchase and signing. normanwilliams.org

**'Front' Performed by YOH Theatre Players**  
2 p.m. Woodstock Union High School, Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$5-\$10. Set in England during the Blitz, Robert Caisley's "Front" explores the impact of war on individuals and families. The play contains mature themes of sexuality, suicide, and death. yohtheatre.com

**Killington 1970s Ski Reunion Social Event**  
2-5 p.m. Charity's 1887 Saloon, 2194 Killington Rd., Killington. Free. Join fellow 1970s skiers for an informal reunion at Charity's 1887 Saloon. Share stories, photos, and reconnect with old friends. Open to all.

**Hartland UU Church Famous Turkey Suppers**  
4:30-6 p.m. Hartland UU Church, 8 Brownsville Rd., Hartland Four Corners, Hartland. \$16. Enjoy a homemade turkey supper including roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, and more. Take-out only. Pre-order required with cash or check payment at pick-up. No credit cards accepted. Note: last week's dinners sold out early. hartlanduu.org

**Reed Foehl and Friends at Billings Farm & Museum**  
6 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd., Woodstock. \$30. Join Grammy-nominated songwriter Reed Foehl for an evening of Americana-folk music, with special guests Val McCallum, Jeff Berlin, and Putnam Murdock. Doors open at 5 p.m. Tickets available at bit.ly/3zR4zYn.

**Haunted House**  
6-9 p.m. 426 Plains Rd., Pittsford. \$15 adults, \$5 children ages 6-12. Not recommended for children under 6. Join the spookiest event of the year at the Pittsford Haunted House, celebrating its 41st year. Tickets sold on-site at the gate.

**Haunted House**  
6-10 p.m. Killington Welcome Center, 2319 U.S. 4, Killington. \$10 adults and \$5 for children under 18. Join the Killington/Pico Area Association for spooky fun at their annual Haunted House. killington.com

**Lisa Piccirillo Album Release Event**  
7 p.m. Briggs Opera House, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. \$25 advance, \$30 day of show. Celebrate the release of Lisa Piccirillo's new album "RADIATE" with a unique concert experience featuring The Radiate String Quartet and more. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a pre-show maker market with local vendors. Tickets at eventbrite.com/e/995404731347.

**Seed, Cloud, Hyacinth, Bird: A Live Art Media Dance Performance**  
7 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall, 35 Marble St., West Rutland. \$15. Directed by Erika Schmidt, this live performance by the Vital Spark Performance Group integrates dance, theater, audio/visual design, and live music to explore human behavior and collective experience. www.stonevalleyarts.org

**Spooktacular Punktacular**  
7 p.m. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. \$10 OBO. All Ages punk show featuring Rat Milk, McAsh, Leaking Head, and bellwire. mainstreetmuseum.org

**Movie - "The Wild Robot" (PG)**  
7:30-9:15 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10 pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

# SUNDAY

## 10/20

**Visions of Fall: Yoga + Creativity Workshop**  
8-11 a.m. Kedron Valley Inn, 4778 S. Rd., South Woodstock. \$40. Join this rejuvenating workshop featuring yoga, breath work, journaling, and creating vision boards to manifest your goals and dreams. Reserve your spot at KelleyBoymmer.as.me.

**Ludlow Farmers' Market**  
9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Sundays through 10/13) So. Depot St., Ludlow. Find a variety of local produce, fresh baked goods, handmade crafts, cold beverages, live music and more. Join us for fresh food, community, and fun. ludlowmarket.org

**Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Southern Vermont**  
12:30 p.m. Vermont State University Castleton Campus, Pavilion, 360 South St., Castleton. Join the nation's largest movement to end breast cancer at this community event. Enjoy a scenic walk, live music, face painting, raffles, and giveaways while supporting breast cancer survivors and thrivers. Registration begins at 11 a.m. Proceeds benefit research and patient programs. makingstrideswalk.org/southernvt

# KPAA Haunted House

FRI & SAT AT 6 PM



# SATURDAY

## 10/19

**Mt. Tom Farmers' Market**  
10 a.m.-1 p.m. (Saturdays through 10/16) Saskadena Six parking lot, 247 Stage Road, South Pomfret. Free. Local produce, goods, fresh vegetables, fruits, homemade items, and more.

**Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info  
from page 19

## Spooktacular Punktacular

**SATURDAY AT 7 PM**



### 2nd Annual Truck or Treat Event

1-4 p.m. Merchants Row & Center St., Downtown Rutland. Free. Join the Wonderfeet Kids' Museum for an afternoon of Trick-or-Treating and vehicle exploration. This family-friendly event combines a "touch a truck" experience with safe and supervised Trick-or-Treating. Explore interesting vehicles, gather treats, and enjoy a festive community event that supports Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org.

### Woodstock UU Chamber Music Concert: Balourdet String Quartet

2-3:30 p.m. North Chapel, 7 Church St., Woodstock. Free. The Balourdet String Quartet will perform Haydn's "Lark" Quartet and Smetana's "From My Life" Quartet. Donations are appreciated. northchapelvt.org/music

### David Rogers: Solo Guitarist & Composer

3-4:30 p.m. Artistree, 2095 Pomfret Rd., South Pomfret. \$20. Renowned guitarist David Rogers performs Spanish music, up-tempo Latin, The Beatles, pop arrangements, Bach, and original compositions. artistreevt.org

### Movie - "The Wild Robot" (PG)

3-4:45 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10 pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

### Big Woods Voices Performance

4 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 320 Route 5 South, Norwich. \$25. Enjoy an a cappella performance by Big Woods Voices, blending southern Vermont folk and original harmonies rooted in American roots genres and world folk styles. sevendaytickets.com/events/big-woods-voices-10-20-2024

**MONDAY**  
10/21

### Weatherization Training

9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Hartford Town Hall, Room 312, 171 Bridge St. White River Junction. Free. A two-week weatherization training program from Vermont Adult Learning. Gain hands-on skills, earn industry-recognized credentials, and receive one-on-one support with transportation, childcare, and job readiness. Financial stipends are available upon completion. Contact Jeff Nerney at jnerney@vtadullearning.org to check eligibility. energyworks.vtadullearning.org

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Killington Grand Resort Hotel, Killington. Free. Donate blood in memory of longtime Killington employee Barb Wood and enter to win a set of Nokian Tyres. Register at redcrossblood.org with code KILLINGTON or call 1-800-RED CROSS. redcrossblood.org

### Community Lunch

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

### Free Yoga on Mondays

5:30-6:30 p.m. Billings Farm Visitor Center, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free. Join Farm & Forest Yoga Flow, hosted by Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Bring a mat and arrive by 5:25 p.m. tinyurl.com/FarmForestFlowYoga

### Movie - "The Wild Robot" (PG)

7:30-9:15 p.m.. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10 pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

**TUESDAY**  
10/22

### Weatherization Training

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Hartford Town Hall, Room 312, 171 Bridge St. White River Junction. Free. A two-week weatherization training program from Vermont Adult Learning. Gain hands-on skills, earn industry-recognized credentials, and receive one-on-one support with transportation, childcare, and job readiness. Financial stipends are available upon completion. Contact Jeff Nerney at jnerney@vtadullearning.org to check eligibility. energyworks.vtadullearning.org

### Handcraft Gathering

2-4 p.m. (Every 3rd Tuesday) Abbott Memorial Library, So. Pomfret. Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or mending projects. abottmemoriallibrary.org

### Alzheimer's Support Group

4-5 p.m., (Every 2nd Tuesday) Community Health, 71 Allen St., Suite 403, Rutland. Free. A monthly meeting for Alzheimer's caregivers and family members to share experiences and support one another. The group is run by participants with hands-on experience in caregiving. chcr.org

### Gather Together: October Halloween-Themed

#### Social Meetup

5-7 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. A family-friendly, multigenerational social meetup. All ages are welcome. Wear a costume for Halloween fun, enjoy games, puzzles, and light snacks. Bring your knitting, guitar, or favorite game, and connect with others in a relaxed, supportive environment. socialtinkering.org

### Rutland Area Toastmasters

6-7:30 p.m. (First and Third Tuesdays) Courcelle Bldg, 16 N. St. Ext., Rutland. Develop public speaking, listening and leadership skills. Guests welcome. 802-775-6929. toastmasters.org

### Creative Writing Class

6-8 p.m. (Tuesdays, Oct 22 - Nov 12). Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd., Pomfret. \$30 non-refundable registration fee, full tuition refund available if canceled 14 days before class start. Pre-registration required at redballooncreativecontent.com.

**ONGOING**

### Colorful Barn Quilts Created by

#### Math Students

Through Dec. 1. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. Woodstock. Exhibition of Barn Quilts from the 6th and 7th grade students of Piermont Village School. billingsfarm.org

### Reimagined ... The Art of

#### Recycling

Through Oct. 26. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. The exhibit will be both inside the mansion and outside with sculptures on our historic property. Artists of all mediums whose work includes recycled materials will be part of this Exhibit. chaffeeartcenter.org

### The Woman in Black

Through Oct. 20. Weston Theater Company, 703 Main St. Weston. \$25-\$79. Adaptation of Susan Hill's ghost story. westontheater.org

### Sisters

Through Oct. 20. Northern Stage, Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates Street, White River Junction. \$27-\$77. "Sisters", a 2022 award-winning play by Matthew Libby, traces the lives of two sisters, Matilda and Greta, over 90 years. northernstage.org

### The Great Pumpkin Costume Contest: Foam

#### Pumpkins Available

Through Oct. 26. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Pick up a foam pumpkin and decorate it to look like a book character. Return your pumpkin by Oct. 26 to enter the contest. Voting runs from Oct. 28-Nov. 2, with winners announced on Nov. 4. rutlandfree.org

### Local Color Exhibit Reception

Through Nov. 2. Artistree Gallery, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. 2-D and 3-D works by over 60 local artists, celebrating the colors of Autumn. artistreevt.org/local-color-2024

### IBC Stick Figure Installation in Fair Haven Park

Through Nov. 2. Fair Haven Park, 47 So. Main St., Fair Haven. Free. The 5th annual stick figure installation, a popular fall event for the whole community, with Halloween characters featured in the 'Danger Zone.'



## 2nd Annual Truck or Treat Event

**SUNDAY AT 1 PM**



# [MUSIC Scene]

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

## WED

10/16

### LUDLOW

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

### POULTNEY

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

### QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Kim Wilcox

### RUTLAND

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

### SOUTH POMFRET

6:30 p.m. Artistree – Acoustic Jam Session with host Kerry Rosenthal

## THURS

10/17

### BRANDON

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

### BRIDGEWATER

### CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

### CHESTER

6 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Nate “Outer Limits” Martel

### KILLINGTON

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

### LONDONDERRY

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

### LUDLOW

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

### POULTNEY

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

### QUECHEE

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

### RUTLAND

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

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

### SOUTH ROYALTON

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm Fermentory – Rumney Sessions with music by Hot Pickin’ Party

## FRI

10/18

### BOMOSEEN

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

### CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Paul Brochman

### KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed – Liz Reedy

6 p.m. The Foundry – Scott Forrest

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Ray Boston

7:30 p.m. McGrath’s Irish Pub – Faolean

8 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Nick Bredice

### PAWLET

5 p.m. Public Library – On Tone Music

### POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – George Nostrand

### QUECHEE

4 p.m. Vermont Spirits – Jenna Rice

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

### RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Kevin O’Shaughnessy with Shiny New Toyz

### RUTLAND

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

### WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottaquechee Yacht Club-Rivalry

7 p.m. Town Hall Theatre – Troy Ramey

## SAT

10/19

### BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Headliner Matt Vita, Featured Act Dave Sheehan and Nikki MacCallum

### KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed – Scott Forrest

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Sammy B

6 p.m. The Foundry – George Nostrand and Nancy Johnson

7:30 p.m. McGrath’s Irish Pub – Faolean

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Nick Bredice

### STOCKBRIDGE

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

### WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottaquechee Yacht Club – Ali T

## SUN

10/20

### BOMOSEEN

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

### BRANDON

7:30 p.m. Town Hall – Dissipated Eight

### KILLINGTON

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Sammy B

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

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

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

### LONDONDERRY

6 p.m. New American Grill – Nick Bredice

### SOUTH POMFRET

3 p.m. Artistree – David Rogers: Solo Guitarist & Composer

### STOCKBRIDGE

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

## MON

10/21

### LUDLOW

5 p.m. Little Mexico – Sammy B

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

### WOODSTOCK

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

## TUES

10/22

### KILLINGTON

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

### LONDONDERRY

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

### LUDLOW

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

### POULTNEY

7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

### QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

### RUTLAND

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

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## Haunted Hillside Relay Race returns for its 4th year in Killington

Saturday, Oct. 19, from noon to 5 p.m.—KILLINGTON—Prepare for a spooky, adrenaline-pumping afternoon as the Killington Mountain Bike Club (KMBC) hosts its annual Haunted Hillside Relay Race on Saturday afternoon at Killington Base Camp. This event promises a fun-filled day of bikes, brews, and BOOs as riders compete in teams of three in a relay-style race.

The race course will take riders from the TBR trail to the Upper Base Camp loop, testing their speed and endurance. But it's not just about who can cross the finish line fastest; creativity counts, too. Awarded prizes include the fastest team, best team costume, and best individual costume, so participants are encouraged to show off their biking skills and Halloween spirit.

Following the race, a base camp after-party offers racers and spectators a chance to relax and celebrate. Registration for the event is \$90 per team, and each team registration includes entry to both the race and the after-party.

All proceeds from the event will go towards the KMBC network, helping to build and maintain the trails that have become a favorite for mountain bikers in the region. Whether you're a seasoned rider or love the festive spirit of Halloween, this event is a great way to support a local cause while having a blast.

For more information and to sign up, visit [killingtonmountainbikeclub.org](http://killingtonmountainbikeclub.org)



Submitted

Three skeleton bikers tear through the graveyard, setting the stage for Killington's Haunted Hillside Relay Race.

## Killington Pico Area Association debuts new Halloween signature event

Haunted house benefited from \$10,000 worth of donated decorations

Thursday, Oct. 17, 5-8 p.m., and Friday-Saturday, Oct. 18-19, 6-10 p.m.—KILLINGTON—The Killington/Pico Area Association (KPAA) is back with its annual Haunted House event, taking place over three nights at the Killington Welcome Center. This year's haunted house promises chills and thrills for all ages.

### A night for the little ones

The festivities kick off on Thursday, from 5-8 p.m., with a special night for elementary school-aged children. This kid night will feature a "lights on" family-friendly experience perfect for younger participants looking to enjoy Halloween excitement without too many scares.

### A full haunted experience for the brave

On Friday and Saturday, from 6-10 p.m., the haunted house takes a darker turn with scarier thrills for those brave enough to handle it. These nights promise a more intense adventure filled with eerie encounters and terrifying moments.

Whether you're bringing young children for a fun,

light-hearted evening or gathering your friends for a night of haunted thrills, the KPAA Haunted House is sure to deliver an unforgettable experience. \$10 admission for adults and \$5 for children under 18. All admissions benefit the KPAA and Killington Elementary School.

For more details, visit [killington.com](http://killington.com).



# Halloween

## Saturday, October 26

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# Truck or Treat returns to downtown Rutland, Sunday

Oct. 20, 1-4 p.m.—RUTLAND—Wonderfeet Kids' Museum hosts its much-anticipated 2nd annual Truck or Treat event from 1 to 4 p.m. This event promises an exciting combination of a "touch a truck" experience and a safe, supervised trick-or-treat for local children and families.

The Truck or Treat event offers kids a chance to explore a variety of interesting vehicles parked along Merchants Row and Center Street in downtown Rutland while gathering candy and goodies from festive trunks decked out in Halloween spirit.

### Last year's success sets the stage for an even bigger event

In 2023, this event drew an impressive 3,000 participants, and organizers expect an even larger turnout this year. Vehicles of all shapes and sizes will be on display, and local organizations are encouraged to participate by decorating their trucks and providing treats for as many as 1,500 children.

"Truck or Treat was such a huge hit with the community last year," said organizers. "We actually ran out of room for all the vehicles that wanted to participate! It's amazing to see so many families come together for this fun, safe event."

Participants can expect to see all sorts of vehicles on display—fire trucks, util-

ity vehicles, and other unique modes of transportation—offering a hands-on experience that kids love. In addition to trick-or-treating, there will be plenty of Halloween-themed giveaways and activities, making this event a highlight of the fall season.

### Supporting Wonderfeet Kids' Museum

Beyond the fun, Truck or Treat is more than just a family event—it's also a vital fundraiser for the Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Last year, the event was the museum's largest fundraiser, with proceeds helping to ensure that Wonderfeet continues to be an affordable, enriching resource for the entire community.

"We're so grateful for the support we've received from the community," the organizers noted. "The funds raised from this event go directly to keeping our museum accessible and affordable for local families, so everyone can continue to enjoy our educational programs and exhibits."

Whether you come to explore the vehicles, trick-or-treat, or enjoy the festive atmosphere, this event promises a little something for everyone.

Get ready for a safe, fun-filled afternoon in the heart of Rutland on Oct. 20.

For more information, visit [wonderfeet-kidsmuseum.org](http://wonderfeet-kidsmuseum.org).



Courtesy of Wonderfeet Kids' Museum



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# Renowned guitarist David Rogers to perform in South Pomfret

Sunday, Oct. 20 at 3 p.m.—SOUTH POMFRET—David Rogers, a prominent guitarist and composer, will perform at Artistree this weekend. The event offers an afternoon of diverse musical selections, including Spanish music, up-tempo Latin, The Beatles, pop song arrangements, music by J.S. Bach, and original compositions. Admission is \$20.

Rogers, described by The New York Times as a “prominent guitarist” and praised by The Washington Post for his “astonishingly florid” improvisations, is known for his eclectic performances. In addition to playing classical and modern pieces, Rogers is an engaging storyteller, often sharing anecdotes and jokes related to the music he performs.

Rogers has received international recognition for his musical contributions. Significant guitar publications, such as *Fingerstyle Guitar* in the United States and *Akustik Gitarre* in Germany, have featured his work. National Public Radio (NPR) in the United States and Bayrische Rundfunk in Germany have broadcast his performances.

Rogers has studied with several respected musicians and educators, including Hopkinson Smith and Eugen Dombois at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Switzerland and Thomas Binkley at Indiana University. He was also a musician with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for 18 years and taught at Southern Oregon University for 13 years.

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



By Christopher Briscoe

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## Reed Foehl and friends to perform at Billings Farm & Museum with special guest Val McCallum

Saturday, Oct. 19 at 6 p.m.—WOODSTOCK—Grammy-nominated songwriter Reed Foehl brings his soulful Americana-folk music to Billings Farm & Museum for a fall barn show on Oct. 19. Foehl, who has made Vermont his home, will be joined by an impressive lineup of musicians, including guitarist Val McCallum, drummer Jeff Berlin, and fellow singer-songwriter Putnam Murdock. Tickets are available for \$30.

Foehl, raised in New England, has a deep connection to music that spans back to his upbringing in a musical family. His voice, known for its emotional depth and storytelling ability, blends tradition with modern folk influences. His latest album, "Wild Wild Love," released in 2022, continues his collaboration with Austin-based The Band of Heathens, who both produced and performed on the record. Foehl's ability to capture the heart of Americana has earned him high praise, with fellow artist Gregory Alan Isakov stating, "Reed has the ability to transport the soul, a true master. One of the great songwriters of our time."

Val McCallum, a renowned guitarist and singer-songwriter, will join Foehl on stage. McCallum's resume includes touring with Jackson Browne and working with big names like Sheryl Crow, Bonnie Raitt, and Lucinda Williams. He also brings his solo work, including his debut album "At the End of the Day," and his role in the comic-country band Jackshit, to the performance.

*Doors open at 5 p.m., with tickets available online at [bit.ly/3zR4zYn](http://bit.ly/3zR4zYn).*



Courtesy Reed Foehl



Courtesy YOH Theatre Players

## YOH Theatre Players present Robert Caisley's 'Front'

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 18-19—WOODSTOCK—The YOH Theatre Players will perform Robert Caisley's "Front" at Woodstock Union High School on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. The play, set in England during the Blitz, dives into the struggles of individuals and families as they navigate the horrors of war. Tickets on sale for \$5-\$10.

"Front" is a powerful drama that confronts tragedy head-on without the usual reflective solemnity. Caisley's work is known for its raw, honest approach, and

this production follows that tradition. The play features moments of heartbreak and fast-paced action, along with its unique entrances into death and the afterlife.

The production presents an emotionally charged narrative containing mature content related to sexuality, suicide, and death and includes strong language. It explores the deep emotional scars of war, particularly how ordinary individuals grapple with the trauma and loss it brings.

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

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# There's no place like the stage: twists, turns, and punchlines from Vermont to Hollywood and back again – Nick Wevursky explains

Staff report

Nick Wevursky, a standup comic in Rutland County, has always had a talent for finding humor in everyday life. Growing up across small towns in the Green Mountain state, he balanced activities like tending horse farms and snowboarding at Stratton, where his sister was a pro. Even as a kid, he loved making people laugh, whether by joking into a wooden spoon or charming snowboard pros.

His passion led him to Los Angeles, where he embraced open mics, TV production, and film projects. Now back in Vermont, Wevursky continues to bring his unique humor to the stage, navigating what it means to be funny in an ever-changing world.

## Q&A with Nick Wevursky

**Can you start by telling us a bit about who you are and what you do? What are you currently involved in professionally?**

Well, I'm a standup comic here in Rutland County, Vermont, who was born in Springfield, grew up mostly in South Londonderry (Weston, Cavendish, Ludlow, as well). I spent most of being a kid doing a weird mix of stuff, like most Vermonters. One day I'd be taking care of a few local horse farms, next day I'd be reading, and hopping around the rivers out back, or falling up down the local ski hills. One of my sisters was a professional snowboard racer, so I mostly grew up chasing her, and the other pros around Stratton trying to get them to teach me stuff. I was always the little punk in the background tryin' to be funny so I could garner enough good will to learn a McTwist from the rad ones like Ron Chiodi (thanks Ron). I'm just a standup comic mostly, but that led me into other work too. I worked for a few years in TV production, helped while making stuff like "Lip Sync Battle" learned how real sets work. I helped a buddy of mine shoot a movie back in L.A. called "Alta California" that's working its way through the festival circuit, and I'm really proud of helping make that movie. Andrés Taboada is the hilarious writer/director, and a guy I met doing open mics out and about on the WestSide of Los Angeles when I was starting out. Seeing friends like him make amazing art really motivates me, and keeps me out telling jokes night after night. Comedy is a world of creative, sensitive people all trying to Rumpelstiltskin their pain and life experiences into feel-good gold, so the more you become involved the more you want to stay.

**How did you get started in comedy? Can you share some details about your early experiences and what inspired you to pursue this path?**

Almost as soon as we were married, my extraordinary wife Kara and I moved out to Los Angeles. We were both bartenders by trade, and so while looking for a job I interviewed to be a doorguy at the Comedy and Magic Club in Hermosa Beach. I was already crazy in love with standup since I was a kid, so to get paid to watch it by the beach was a fantastic way to land on the West Coast. Somewhere, there is a videotape of me walking up and down my Aunt Joyce and Uncle Don's kitchen counter, telling jokes into a wooden spoon. I think I was 3? So I think I've always wanted to be a comic. It wasn't till years later, in L.A. watching comics like George Wallace, or Gary Shandling at the CMC try, and retry jokes until they worked that I really fell in love with day-to-day craft of something I had up until then always seen as these crazy out-of-reach, polished gems. To me standup "Specials" were something people in this world just had in them, and it wasn't until I realized how hard everyone works that a life in standup might be something accessible to me as well.

My entire family is funny and we all loved watching anything that made us laugh. As a kid I was always drawn to the "funny" version of everything (movies, books, comic books—"The Tick," "Deadpool," famous people like Shaq, etc.) and I eventually realized I just wanted to make it a lifestyle rather than a workplace interruption. The first day I got paid \$5 for only telling dick jokes instead of being yelled out by some dink manager, I was bonded to comedy for life. Back when I was on the track and field team, I was getting my first bachelors at UVM and I was on the team with comic Carmen Lagala who was an incredible athlete. One day Kara and I went to an open mic at the Half Lounge in Burlington and Carmen was the host. To see someone I had only known as a focused athlete be hilarious throughout the course of the mic was a real glass-ceiling breaker for me. I didn't know I was allowed to do comedy. Then watching the rest of the open mic, I saw some people who had no idea what they were doing and it made

me slap my hand onto the cocktail table and say "Well, I can do *that!*" And being the incredibly courageous man I am, I waited several years until I moved 3,000+ miles away from anyone I had ever met, went underground, under a bridge to a place called Echoes Under Sunset, and performed my first set to a crowd of high, drunk and mostly disinterested fellow comics (after signing up and immediately getting in my car to leave a couple of times). Only 10 sets later Maria Bamford was the comic on stage after me and I realized I was in *way* over my head.

**What were some of the biggest challenges you faced when you were starting out in comedy, and how did you overcome them?**

Besides stuff like stage fright, not having any jokes, the seemingly impossible mission to listen or watch myself after recording \*SHUDDER?\* Or the L.A. open-mic comedy being a mostly a nightmarish gaggle of gentrified high-school cliques who focus on almost anything other than being funny? I guess my biggest challenge was the skateboarding. I got hit by 4+ cars on my electric Boosted Board in LA just getting to mics. I still have a little bit of asphalt in my elbow, so I carry around those days with me in more than just my heart. Getting over stage fright is the

one people always ask me about the most, and once I don't have it I'd be happy to share pointers. Some of the best advice I heard on the topic is that I guess there is no real physiological difference in the body between fear and excitement. So you just need to keep lying to yourself that it's "exciting" to fail in front of strangers, not "fear-inducing" or "terrifying." Honestly writing about it gives me anxiety, so it's not like it doesn't exist in my brain, I just try and reframe the fear and just get out there and enjoy the fail. Finding good clubs and places to perform is a huge part of that, too. When we first moved back to Vermont from L.A. in 2020, I was going to the Vermont Comedy Club in Burlington a lot

for their open mic because it's such a welcoming place to fool around on stage. I'm naturally an introvert which I understand to mean I gain energy by being around only a few people and tend to expend it out with a lot of people. I love performing but it also takes a lot out of my social abilities, and finding places that recharge you is huge. I grew up playing a lot of sports and really approached a lot of my problems in standup like an athlete. Trying to just be funny on stage is so scary when you start. So I would break it into achievable goals, which helped. Nothing helped like meeting other comics. Once I started to meet people I could just share stage anxieties with it became easier mic by mic. The first compliment I got on a joke kept me chugging for years (thanks Nick Taravella). There are so many people out there who just said a nice word to me, or shared a trick-of-the-trade, drove me to/from a mic, and that stuff really helps a comic who is new and sucked. Art Hernandez gave me my first \$5 for filling in as a host at the Cinema Bar, and I'll never be anything but thankful to that dude. A lot of standup fills me with terror, but pretty much all of it gets immediately squashed by just getting on stage, and making myself just do it. Everyone finds their own tricks, and goals to set to keep themselves on course and I think finding those things yourself is very important.

**Can you describe a pivotal moment or turning point in your career that significantly impacted your journey as a comedian?**

After trying off and on for years, the first time I ever got to go up at the Comedy Store in L.A., I got picked to go up first, on April Fool's Day 2018. The idea of walking on any stage at the store felt like I was about to pitch at opening day at Fenway. As soon as I saw my name on the list my stomach sank because I knew there was nowhere to run, and nobody else thought it was cute to sign up in purple ink, that was all my dumb-idea. April 1st was also the first of the days they were filming for Showtime's "The Comedy Store," so there were several cameras on tripods, & cameramen with steady-cams walking around. Adam Eget (the booker at the time) was there notebook in hand ready to suss-out new talent, so it was way more pomp and circumstance than any usual night. I got on stage in front of the cameras, Adam and six people in the audience and proceeded to bomb horrifically while the other comics crossed their arms, pissed not to be picked. My nerves definitely let me know I wasn't ready at the time, but I finally could say I had gotten up at the Original room. Going up at the Store was kind of a "happy nightmare," but it wasn't the only turning point I had. Right before I left L.A., I had the best set of my open mic career at Labwork at the Improv on Melrose. I was doing jokes about a recently deceased basketball player that went great, I was improving new lines, and I was killing

Wevurski → 26



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## ← Wevurski: from page 24

among other comics, which felt surreal. While I was on stage I had this weird out of body experience where I could see the entire crowd at the same time—while I was still talking—I had a quick conversation with myself saying “Holy crap, you’re doing it, this is what comedy is, you’re finally killing on stage at the Improv” and as quickly as that gushing feeling of self-fulfillment came, it was washed out by the thought “Hey bud, you’re still on stage and talkin,” which immediately shot me back into the moment and I finished out my set. A short while later the world shut down globally and everyone was told not to congregate for 16 months, which seemed like divine intervention for my self-esteem reaching too high a level at the Improv.

### **How has your comedy evolved over the years? Have there been any key influences or changes in your style and approach?**

When I started out I was trying to physically write out every word and my jokes came across much more stilted and theatrical. Watching guys like Ian Bagg at the CMC really helped me stay true to the more improvisational, free-flowing bartender I grew up being. Ian always kills, and does it without pacing the halls like some of the other comics at the club. Legendary comics like Gary Shandling were brilliant, but for me watching them from a distance in the sound booth or in the halls, some of the comics seemed almost tortured by the exactitude of their writing. Everyone has their own style and should find it, but seeing Ian Bagg just casually stroll on stage and trust that he’s funny was something I found very motivating and comedically pure. After years of trying I’m starting to become more comfortable myself with not having a set I have to stick to, knowing I have jokes in my head to pull from, and that the most important thing is to try to stay in the moment with the audience, often the plan is no-good.

### **What does a typical day or week look like for you now? How do you balance performing, writing, and other aspects of your career?**

I write everyday, which some days means pages, and most days means a scribble. A big part of writing for me is getting into a fun playful space mentally, so often I’ll go to the mountains and play. I snowboard during the winter and skateboard to stay in shape during the off season, fishing, hiking and being in the mountains really helps me reset and allow my thoughts to coalesce. Performing is definitely tougher in Vermont than in California so I try to really make the most of when I do perform. Thanks to tons of amazing local show producers like Collen Doyle & Matt Vita at the Woolen Mill Comedy Club, I’m able to work out material when I host or feature. As time goes by though I find the need to produce my own shows becoming a necessity in order to get the longer form stage time it takes in front of varied audiences in order to build a show worth touring or someday presenting to the (mostly likely unwitting) comedy special gods.

### **Can you discuss your creative process? How do you come up with new material, and what does your writing process entail?**

I work on standup everyday, but it’s taken me years to sharpen and then dull my process. After graduating from college and going through so much schooling in “proper” (sorry to the editor for all the grammatical mistakes, who knows I went to school?) writing, I find a lot of my jokes need to be mulled or meditated upon while doing other stuff to get my real thoughts, and not ‘hack-Nick’s’ thoughts. I’ve written so many jokes which don’t even make me laugh, so I try to focus and write down whatever makes me ACTUALLY laugh, or a turn of phrase my brain glues on to, or things that make me feel sudden changes in my emotions. Pretty much all of it is a crazy man’s notes until I try it on stage and try to be startled into being funny. Over the years I’ve tried tons of different ways to capture my thoughts, writing long form, quick notes, having prompts etc. it all works, but nothing works as well as just writing down what makes me laugh. So a lot of “writing” is really just figuring out how to quickly portray an image I have in my head quickly enough for everyone to get at the same time. Trying to explain exactly how I do that would be impossible, because a lot of the time I get it wrong, just ask someone who’s seen me on stage.

### **How do you handle performing in different venues and for various audiences? What strategies do you use to connect with diverse crowds?**

I’ve always considered comedy to be akin to a Rubik’s-cube where each side is a different major element of a good show; the crowd, the jokes, the performance, the mood etc. The best part of comedy is that it’s always shifting, - even on a good night I think I’ve only ever gotten two ‘faces’ of the cube aligned at the same time before the cube self-altered. I try to perform like one of my friends is in the back of the room and I’m telling them the jokes then I pivot when the audience hates it. I pivot a lot. Different venues are generally tougher than



Courtesy Nick Wevurski

Nick Wevurski high atop the peak of Killington Resort.

different audiences, because of all the weird variables like room noise/lighting/attention-grabbers. Generally people are just people and if you’re being funny they’ll respond. Unless they’re other comics. There’s a fine line between worrying too much about the differences in audiences, and becoming blind to their needs so I’m always trying to realign. The best part about standup is how quickly you get a response to an idea, so it’s not like I always have to go home before I can correct a joke, I can often notice what I missed in the moment and then change the joke so everyone there is on the same page.

### **What has been the most rewarding experience in your comedy career so far? Are there any specific moments or achievements that stand out to you?**

Being told my jokes matter to someone who’s done a lot more for the world than I ever could is easily the most rewarding thing I’ve ever done in comedy. I was able to meet an amazing man named who along with a few other amazing regulars (thanks table 1) are at the Woolen Mill Comedy Club in Bridgewater comedy almost EVERY Saturday night. One of those regulars, V.L. Coffin, served multiple decades in the military and told me and a few other comics that it was our comedy that helped him get over fears of being in public after his years overseas. Now he’s running for state rep. and getting out into the public at honey festivals and stuff to shake hands, which would terrify me to get out and do. The idea that even one of my jokes helped V.L., well, I can’t even think of a second moment, because helping a man I look up to is not-at-all why I got into this bartending without the side work (comedy), but it sure as shit does stand out to me and probably always will. There are some days when I’m not really in the mood to perform, but seeing in the audience people like V.L. always kicks my ass

into gear, because it reminds me other people need me to be funny too.

### **What advice would you give to aspiring comedians who are just starting out? Are there any common pitfalls they should avoid?**

This sounds antithetical to what you want to hear when staring out but, don’t take too much advice. Relax; and know the audience almost always WANTS you to be funny, so be funny. Everyone bombs, it hurts so fucking much but keep going. Just keep going, and pay attention. You’ll find it. Or you’ll start an improv troupe.

### **How do you stay motivated and continue to develop your craft? Are there any particular habits or practices that contribute to your success?**

Motivation is easy, believing is hard. I love comedy and the only way to stay in a game is to keep playing. But bombing on stage always hurts so I’d do stuff to keep going in spite of the bomb. When I was just starting out, I had to make a little excel sheet to record my sets, with all sorts of stuff like length of set (almost always 3-5 minutes), where it was, the host’s name, all sorts of unimportant data. I just had to do SOMETHING that wasn’t performing or writing, that was still “doing comedy” to help me feel like I was keeping momentum. Now that I’ve been practicing for almost a decade, I give myself tasks within my sets that make me focus on particulars. If I’m feeling scared of delivering a bit, I’ll make myself do it in the eyes of a guy I think will hate it, so at least I can find out which one of us is right. The only consistent habit I have that helps is getting on stage, at any one point in time I may have a few habits to help me continue to work on a part of the craft, but they do change as my goals shift on stage. Recording and watching my sets has always helped considerably but it’s always a struggle to watch openly, and not just throw tomatoes while cursing at the screen.

### **What future projects or goals do you have in the works? Is there anything specific you’re excited about or looking forward to in your career?**

I really love restaurants and bars, and I recently put on a show at Brix Bistro in Rutland, which was an amazingly fun time thanks to the other comics Liz Glazer, and Eric Drieblatt. The chef made an amazing three-course meal, and I think a lot more local shows of that caliber will be on both and hopefully Southern Vermont’s horizon. I try to put everything coming up on my website [www.WEVURSKI.com](http://www.WEVURSKI.com) so people who are interested can stay informed about upcoming shows. I like the idea of showcasing together the talents of both local restaurant workers with comics in order to allow a time and space for people to go out having fun together. While I imagine real success isn’t exactly around the corner, I’ve been trying to just enjoy every time I step on stage. As much as I love creating comedy, the idea of just putting out material to garner views/followers or just attention seems horrific. To that end, most of my focus is just on writing stronger and becoming a better comic. The ability to travel and see the world while making people laugh is really the goal, so as long as I keep reminding myself that wherever I am is good for now. I’m starting work on compiling and writing an hour so I can start working as a headliner more. One of my bigger goals in the future is to get over to Edinburgh to do the Fringe festival, if we’re not embroiled in WWII by that time.

# Killington 1970s skiers reunite at Charity's 1887 Saloon to celebrate lifelong memories, adventures, and cherished friendships at Charity's 1887 Saloon

By Victoria Gaither



By Victoria Gaither

Saturday, Oct. 19, at 2 p.m.— KILLINGTON— Charity's 1887 Saloon will be the scene for the Killington 1970s Reunion social event. The event came about after organizer Jack Oliver attended his 50th high school reunion.

Oliver explained, "I had never attended one before and was always reluctant to do so but enjoyed it." After that, he got the idea to have a '70s Killington ski reunion, "I thought, why not do the same for the people I knew at Killington."

Oliver lives in Noblesville, Indiana. He initially reached out to a few people and thought it would just be him and a few guys, but as it turns out, when word got out on social media, it picked up speed, and interest started to pour in with excitement.

Fellow '70s skier Carol Moriarty saw the talk on Facebook and decided to help Oliver. For Moriarty, it's a chance to see her old friends and brings back memories of learning and living.

She explains, "The most mem-

orable part of living at Killington in the Seventies was that it was a little extension of the 60s in that we were all educated and wanted to continue our goals and the communal concept in a broader sense. We all loved skiing, and that's what united us."

In a phone interview, local Judy Storch, who is helping organize the event, shares laughs and stories about living in ski houses and how they had the good times.

"We had the best times, and I can't wait to see everyone at Charity's."

Nancy Finn, who has been skiing Killington for years and was involved in teaching the British students to ski, was appreciative that Christopher Karr, who owns Charity's, was happy to let them have the reunion at his saloon. The event is free and open to anyone; Oliver says it's informal. They hope to show pictures, toast good memories, and create new memories at Killington. Charity's 1887 Saloon 2194 Killington Road, 2-5 p.m.

## Experience an immersive art and dance performance from the Vital Spark Performance Group

Friday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.—POULTNEY— A live art media dance performance, Seed, Cloud, Hyacinth, Bird, will occur at Stone Valley Arts in Poultney. Directed by Erika Schmidt, the event combines dance, theater, audio/visual design, and live music in an innovative exploration of human behavior and collective experience.

The Vital Spark Performance Group ensemble, featuring Melisa Clark, Lina Clouffe-Hanson, Val Geisey, and others, offers a performance that questions the effects of the technosphere on human connections and the natural world.

On Saturday, Oct. 19, the performance continues at 7 p.m. at West Rutland

Town Hall. Attendees can expect a thought-provoking experience through video, soundscape, and movement designed to heighten awareness and challenge perceptions. Admission is \$15 at the door for either night, with tickets available for reservation online.

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



Submitted

## Fall into winter

Last Thursday, snow dusted the peaks of Killington Resort, with the gondola gliding below and a playful snowman spotted riding a chairlift, adding a whimsical touch to the early winter scene.

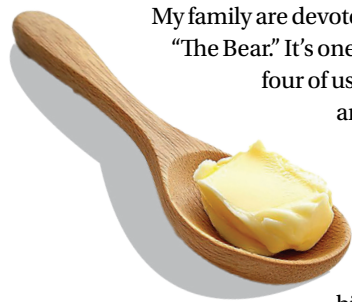


By Brennan Krauss

Even the snowman, seen hitching a ride on a snow-covered chairlift, is eager for first tracks!

# The quest to taste the finest butter in America

By James Kent



My family are devoted fans of FX/Hulu's "The Bear." It's one of the few shows the four of us watch together. My 16 and 12-year-old don't share much in common, but they love "The Bear." So, as you might imagine, we were all ready to binge season 3 when it premiered this summer at the end of June.

In this season's third episode, something happens that forever changed my meaning of the word quest. On the show, Carmy, played by Jeremy Allen White, is a Chicago chef who's just opened his new restaurant, The Bear, in honor of his late brother. Carmy is a perfectionist with an unhealthy obsession with that term, and he isn't shooting for any old restaurant; he's looking for a star—a MICHELIN star. Carmy's "Uncle Jimmy" is bankrolling the endeavor and is none too happy about the skyrocketing costs. In a now-famous scene, Uncle Jimmy decries the outrageous \$11,000 bill for the restaurant's butter. Carmy tries to explain to Uncle Jimmy that it isn't any ordinary butter; it's Orwellian butter, which Uncle Jimmy misinterprets as some bizarre dystopian butter. "No," Carmy explains, "It's from Orwell, Vermont."

After the episode, my wife looked at me, and I looked at her, and we knew some research was in order. A reference to butter in Orwell couldn't be a coincidence. This informational nugget had to have a deeper connection to the real world of cuisine. The two of us broke out our iPhones in a race to see who could conjure up the truth behind this "Orwellian" butter the quickest.

It did not take long for either of us to discover the truth about "The Bear's" fictional account of rare-element butter making in Vermont. The true story is that such a place in Orwell supplied a couple of fine dining establishments in America. A restaurant in Sonoma, California, called The French Laundry, appears in the fictional world of "The Bear," and receives this culinary mystery from Orwell. The Animal Farm Creamery in Orwell, Vermont, sold its business in 2022 to new owners from nearby Shoreham. However, its cultured butter from a small herd of 12 Jersey

cows still exists and supplies chef Tomas Keller's The French Laundry and New York City's Per Se.

Okay. So, now that my wife and I know this butter exists, and exists in Vermont, we were determined to try it at all costs. But wait a second. If Carmy's butter bill was over \$11,000, how much does this stuff cost anyway? The answer: a lot. I'll get to that.

It was the first week of July, and my wife had time off from work. Going on a tip (I have yet to learn where she got this tip from), she thought the Middlebury Food Co-op might carry the butter. Aside from the co-op, the only place to get their hands on some of this butter is through a cheesemonger in New York City. That was an intriguing piece of information, but we decided to try our luck with the co-op. No dice. The co-op was a false lead.

With available time to kill, my wife and I decided to take an excursion to Shoreham. Indeed, if we just showed up at the Animal Farm Creamery in Shoreham, they'd have to sell us some butter, right? Wrong. There was a farm, but nowhere could we find a farm stand attached to the farm where balls of magical butter awaited us. Strike two!

Undeterred by our failures, I would get my hands on some of this butter, no matter the cost.

At this point in the story, you may wonder if my wife thought I was crazy. She supported my quest, perhaps fueling and encouraging it beyond a point of reason, so no. She was as unhinged about this butter as I was—our next stop: Saxelby Cheese. I suppose cheese and butter are cousins, so it shouldn't surprise that this retailer would be the lone distributor of Animal Farm Creamery butter outside the high-end restaurants I mentioned. They were it. Every two weeks, on a Friday at approximately 3 p.m. ET, any regular person without chef credentials can place an online order for precisely one pound of Animal Farm Creamery butter for the retail-low price of \$60 a pound. That is not a typo. It's \$60 a pound, and they don't even give you a free t-shirt to go with it. The \$60 does not include overnight shipping, which, for our location, costs an additional \$30.

I know. It's ridiculous. I live in Rutland, and I literally can drive to the farm, and the only way I can get my hands on

this butter is to place an online order to a cheese distributor in NYC and then have them ship the butter that comes from Vermont to my home—in Vermont. And that's if I could even get an order through, which turns out to be more challenging than I ever imagined.

Saxelby takes online orders through one tiny window of opportunity, and if you aren't there at 3 p.m., you are out of luck. The first couple of times I tried, I forgot to log in at 3 p.m. And trust me, 15 minutes late is too late. Five minutes is too late. One minute is too late. Even logging in at 3 p.m. turns out to be too late.

I don't know how much butter Saxelby's has for sale every two weeks, but it sure isn't much, and many people out there are as crazy to try this butter as I am. All summer long, I tried, and all summer long, I struck out. Too many strikes for me. I had to hang up my butter-ordering apron and hand the reins over to my wife. Perhaps she'd have better luck.

Her first attempt went a lot better than mine. She created an account and hit the refresh button on the site for several minutes leading up to 3 p.m. She got in. She was ordering the butter. All the toll gates lifted. Dreams of Orwellian butter danced in our dystopian culinary minds. Then, boom.

The dream collapsed. Some strange quirk in the Saxelby ordering system didn't like the way my wife imported her phone number. It rejected her. By the time she'd corrected her mistake, a message indicated it was too late. Try again in two weeks.

You'd imagine, by this point, it was time to give up. Why would a site grant you the ability to purchase \$60 a pound

butter, plus another \$30 shipping, and then take it all away due to its desire to have you put parenthesis around an area code? How dare you, Saxelby Cheese, how dare you!

But did you think we were going to stop at this point? Oh no. This situation quickly became a Clarke Griswold Wally World quest for fun. No one was going to stop us from getting our butter. Two weeks later, my wife tried again. She was successful. One week later, we had a box filled with ice and four balls of Vermont's finest and most expensive butter.

That evening, I was in Pawlet and stopped by Mach's

Butter → 34

So, now that my wife and I know this butter exists and exists in Vermont, we were determined to try it at all costs.

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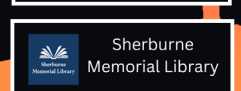
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Entries are open for the 2025 Vermont Writers' Prize, awarded each year in two categories: prose and poetry. This year marks the 35th year of the prize, celebrating all things Vermont. The prize is open to Vermont residents, and your poem, short story, essay, or play should explore Vermont – its people, places, values, or history.

"Vermont is always changing, and it is so inspiring to read the entries and see how writers express the Vermont experience," said Kristin Carlson, a GMP vice president who serves as a judge for the prize. "Vermont means so many things to different people – and we invite everyone to share their story or poem."

You can learn more details and submit your entry for the 2025 Vermont Writers' Prize at [vermontwritersprize.submittable.com/](http://vermontwritersprize.submittable.com/). The deadline to enter is Jan. 1, 2025.




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**Butter:**  
from page 28

Market to pick up some dinner and a fresh-baked baguette. Have you ever been to Mach's Market? Let me say this about Mach's Market: if you can get to Pawlet, you must go here because the food is sensational. I swear this isn't an ad; it's a genuine endorsement—I'm a fan.

Now, the moment of truth. After months of trial and mostly error, it was time to discover why Carmy insisted on nothing besides Orwellian butter from Vermont. The four balls of butter are different from the usual store-bought variety. They come bearing an intense yellow color and a velvety texture that glistens in the light. Next is the smell. Does butter have a scent? It does if it's \$60 a pound butter. Plus shipping! Don't forget the shipping. The aroma of this Animal Farm Creamery butter is the scent of significance. You wouldn't spread this on any regular slice of Wonder Bread. We heated up our Mach's Market baguette, spread some butter along its warm, crusty nooks, and bit into our bread.

Is the caviar of butter like sampling some rare, expensive vintage of wine? Was my palate refined enough to differentiate this from my everyday cooking butter, or would my brain accommodate for all the suffering and cost that went into its procurement and create an experience worthy of its uniqueness? Would my mind lie and tell me this was the most incredible tasting butter I've ever had, just so I wouldn't be let down? I can say this for sure—it was damn fine butter, and the whole family agreed. Over the course

of a weekend, we sampled the butter several times, going through two of these precious balls of four by the time Monday morning rolled around.

For fun, I cooked an omelet with it in the style of one made in "The Bear's" second season. It was in the taste of that omelet where the true potential of this butter shined the most. I could make the greatest chocolate chip cookie known to man if I could afford several more pounds of this churned elixir.

The four balls of butter are different from the usual store-bought variety. They come bearing an intense yellow color and a velvety texture that glistens in the light.

On Monday morning, I brought a ball of butter to the Mountain Times. Sharing is caring, after all. I wanted everyone to experience a taste of this butter, which became my ultimate quest. I procured another baguette, this time from our next-door neighbors, the Dream Maker Bakers in Killington. (You know, the folks who made the world's largest whoopie pie?) I'll also tell you they make a pretty darn tasty baguette. And that's not an ad, that's an endorsement — and a fact.

The butter was a hit around the Mountain Times office. Again, whether or not people thought it was the best butter they'd ever tasted, they all appreciated getting the opportunity to sample the most prized butter in all of America.

I'm down to one ball left. We're supposed to be saving it so my sister can sample it when she visits from Massachusetts in a few weeks to see the Rutland Halloween parade. I hope it's still there when she comes, but it's going to be hard not to resist the lure of Carmy's butter.



Courtesy James Kent

The author embarked on a quest to find the finest butter in America, which led him to the renowned Animal Farm Creamery in Orwell, Vermont, famous for supplying elite restaurants. After several attempts, he finally secured the coveted \$60-per-pound butter, and its rich, velvety flavor became the highlight of many memorable meals shared with his family.



Presents



# 2024 THE VERMONT SKI & SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME

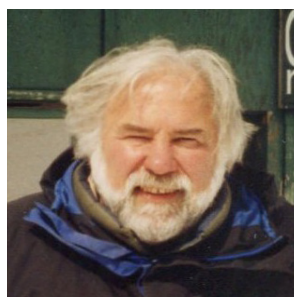
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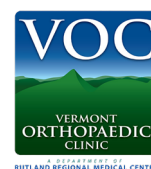
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**Killington**

**MOUNTAIN TIMES**



# Crossword

Solutions from page 17

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

# Sudoku

Solutions from page 17

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

# Rutland County Humane Society



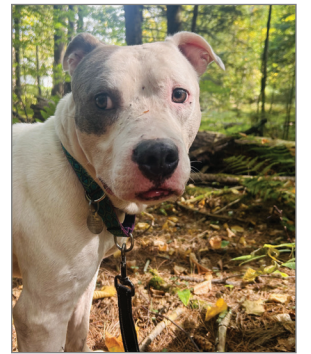
Clutch—6-month-old. Neutered male. Brown tabby.



Cane—1-year-old. Neutered male. Husky mix.



Milk Bone—1-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Aries—3-year-old. Neutered male. American Staffordshire terrier.



Junior—7-year-old. Neutered male. Black Labrador retriever mix.



**ORLA**

Orla—7-month-old. Spayed female. Labrador retriever mix.



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

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**EMELINE**

# Cosmic Catalogue



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

Why are you trying so hard to be accommodating? Why are you contemplating choices you said weren't an option for you? Why are you going against your own desires? While it's understandable that you're thinking anything has got to be better than this – is it though? You may be lured by exotic locations and new realities, but if you're feeling you need terra firma and familiar territory, that's that's probably what you should to trust in now.

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

You've been exploring new possibilities for some time. However, the chance to explore these aren't going to last forever. Life, right now, does have a now or never feel to it. You could grapple with the pros and cons ... whys ... why nots. You could wait for the perfect moment, for when it feels right. Maybe that feeling will never arrive. Sometimes life is about making a choice and not waiting for a feeling.

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

Life looks set to really get taken up a notch when it comes to relationships of all kinds. It matters not what your current status is in the love department, because it looks set to improve. While things may not change overnight, your attitude will be the secret ingredient that will make everything better. Change your perspective on things and you can really change your life right now. You deserve the best. Expect no less.

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

Everyone has their own version of the white elephant in their life. This week, you need to address yours. Is it your fears, phobias or negative self talk? Maybe it's the financial situation you're in that you're burying your head in the sand about. Whatever it is, you do need to do what you have to do get inspired. Staying put, stuck or stagnant isn't going to get the results you want. Dare to change your mind.

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

A little tweak here and there can be all it takes to make a difference. However, you may need to ask yourself have you been doing too much tweaking already? Sometimes you really do just need to give in and decide. It may be a choice about your living situation or your finances. Regardless, there is no time like the present to go for what you know already, deep down, you have to do.

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

Putting your relationship and family first may be the most important thing now. If you're single and fancy free in that department, then consider what you may need to prioritize to change that. If you're wondering what the point is in working the way you do, it may be high time you shift the reason why you actually are. If your job could replace you next week, are you more invested in than you need to be?

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

Luck be a lady," as the song goes. This week, you may discover your luck changes through the company you keep. It may be a relationship, a friend, a colleague or even your online followers. Somehow, some way, you really can look forward to things shifting direction. Someone has wisdom they want to impart to you. Do take on board their sage advice. Good things can happen if you choose to allow it.

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

You could be presented a chance this week to do what you promised yourself you wouldn't do. The question is, are you breaking a promise or have you decided that an opportunity is worth making an exception for? You see, it really is all about the point of view you tackle the issue from. Consider things from the big picture, don't sweat the details on this. The risk may be well worth the reward – in more ways than one.

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

One way or another, you're going to learn to change your mind. That's not me saying that, it's just the message from the stars. So, if you can begin to practice, at the minimum, adjusting your points of view, asking questions and exploring alternative perspectives, you'll be better off. Also, you're going to learn that it's better to bend than it is to break. Better off to learn to do so sooner rather than later.

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

You've been tasked with having to make some major choices in life right now. What you once wanted may no longer excite you. It's OK to change your mind, in fact, it's generally recommended. What you need to understand now that the Universe is going to show you new opportunities you couldn't have even conceived. If you've been pushing for something new, different and exciting, now is the time to embrace it.

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

Sometimes you just have to dig deep and give it all you have. Usually, this happens at times when you least want to as well. You may become privy that your finances do need improving right now. That said, it won't take much, just a little bit of extra work here and there will yield results. Just get out of your own head about any self limiting ideas you may be harboring.

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

Brace yourself for a shift in your fortune. The toil, the work and all the effort are paying off. As it does, you may also need to shift your perspective. The pressure you're under won't last forever, but it will last a while. That said, every now and then, the Cosmos does remind you that your family and domestic life are also important. It's probably the reason you've taken on so much of an extra load in recent times.

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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.

## Real eyes, realize real lies: Are you ready for truth

If the truth was presented to you right before your eyes, would you believe it? If that truth contradicted your beliefs or what you know to be true, would you accept it?

In this day and age, that is actually a harder question than any of us would like to admit – but admit it we must. For if we don't, in a world where you expect lies to become the status quo is a world none of us would thrive in.

Lies beget lies and before you know it, you're questioning what is even true anymore. This is the precipice on which we stand right now.



**Cosmic Catalogue**  
By Cassandra Tyndall

Honesty and integrity are virtues that while currently unfashionable, never go out of style.

Fortunately, this week's skies provide the right conditions to separate oneself from fiction and fact. More often than not, it's the hard thing that is the right thing. The longest hours are the ones you sit through to know if you're right. If you're dissatisfied with the current thing, then keep your eyes on the distant horizon. Go in the direction of truth, beauty and justice and leave behind what

you must.  
Real eyes. Realize. Real lies.

## Vince Vaughn provides a good time in 'Bad Monkey'

Fans of Vince Vaughn who've been waiting to see him flex his rapid-fire comedic muscles in a worthwhile venture can rejoice. The Vaughn we've longed to see, from his breakout role in "Swingers" to his scene-stealing role in "Wedding Crashers," is on full display in Apple + 's new series, "Bad Monkey." In this hopefully not "limited series" from developer/producer Bill Lawrence, author Carl Hiaasen's 2013 book of the same name serves as the basis for ten episodes that provide pure entertainment from the get-go.

Those familiar with Hiaasen's work know his stories come steeped in South Florida culture, and its cavalcade of characters is a mixture of hilarious off-beat heroes, villains, cheats,

scoundrels, opportunists, tough cookies, and society sun-baked dropouts. I'm leaving out at least 20 more varieties. "Bad Monkey" has got them all, and with its 10-episode arch, no stone or character is left unturned. Hiaasen's plot doesn't need to get truncated to fit a two-hour film run time, which may be why only one of his stories made it to the big screen, the 1996 misfire, "Striptease."

Vaughn, who plays the lead character, fallen-from-grace former Miami detective Andrew Yancy, must have seen the golden opportunity Hiaasen's "Bad Monkey" presented—the chance to joke and riff his way

through a series of episodes so ideally suited to his comedic sensibilities that one could  
Screens and Streams → 47



**Screens and Streams**  
By James Kent

## Picture window

As we move into the ski season change is abundant  
The quiet roads are starting to become more animated. Soon they will be bursting at the seams with life again

The slow simmer that builds into a wonderful celebration of snow

A morning commute filed with so many electric colors  
With a rich palette of leaves lining the streets and canvassing the mountain landscape

It feels like a joy ride during vacation

The bikers exploring the town slowly shifts to vehicles buzzing by  
As the temperatures fall and the breeze begins to bite, there is a subtle switch from flannel to layers

The shorter days giving way to rosy cheeked adventures



**Dream in Color**  
By Will O'Donnell

Dream in Color → 47

## Hophornbeam: A Tough Little Tree

Wandering through the woods this time of year, occasionally I've come across a small deciduous tree laden with cone-like structures that resemble the hops used to brew beer. This is the American – or Eastern – hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*). A member of the birch family, hophornbeam grows in the understory in a variety of northeastern hardwood forest types. It is also known as ironwood (as are other tree species with exceptionally hard wood) and leverwood, as it was once used to construct levers.

The understory, where hophornbeam grows, is the layer of vegetation beneath the forest canopy (overstory) and is composed of shrubs, saplings, and small trees that grow in the humid, dappled shade. Although some consider hophornbeam a "weed tree," the species plays a valuable ecological role. Understory plants, including hophornbeam, create vertical diversity in a forest. Multiple layers of vegetation provide a greater variety of food and microhabitats for insects and other animals, enhancing overall biodiversity. Vegetation layers are especially important for birds, as different species prefer to forage and nest at different heights. The black-throated blue warbler, for instance, often nests in understory shrubs or small trees such as hophornbeam.

Hophornbeam grows as high as 20 to 35 feet, with a diameter of 6 to 15 inches. Its ovate, pointed leaves are sharply-toothed, with soft hairs beneath, and alternate on the tree's slender branches. The bark is gray-brown and sheds off in scaly vertical strips.

This species is widely distributed, ranging from Nova Scotia to Manitoba, south to eastern Texas, and northern Florida, encompassing most of the eastern United States. It also grows in the mountains of Mexico and Central America. In our region, hophornbeam typically grows in mature hardwood forests, as it does well in dense shade. It prefers rich soils but can tolerate a variety of soil types. Hophornbeam is a minor component of most woodlands, but in a few locations, such as the dry oak-shagbark hickory-hophornbeam forests of the

Champlain and Connecticut River valleys, it is one of the dominant species. It also makes an attractive landscape tree and does well in shaded yards.

In spring, the hophornbeam tree flowers at the same time as its leaves emerge. Male and female flowers are borne separately on the same tree. The reddish-brown male flowers are arranged in long, hanging catkins in groups of three. The green female flower catkins are considerably shorter – just over ¼-inch long, compared

to ¾-inch to 1 ½-inches long for the males. Pollen is disseminated by the wind. Over the course of the summer, fertilized female flowers develop into fruits containing small nuts. The nutlets are enclosed in inflated sacs clustered in conelike structures, called strobiles, that are reminiscent of hops.

In fall, hophornbeam leaves turn yellow, and the strobiles begin to break up. The buoyant sacs surrounding the nutlets aid in dispersal by the wind. Birds feeding on the nuts also spread the seeds. Dry, brownish-yellow leaves may persist on the tree into winter.

Hophornbeam wood is difficult to work because of its hardness. However, this toughness has made it useful for bows, handles, wedges, mallets, and sled runners. People have used hophornbeam bark and its inner wood to treat toothaches, sore muscles, coughs, and other ailments.

Hophornbeam trees also provide food for wildlife. The pre-formed buds and catkins are important winter foods for ruffed grouse. Wild turkey, ruffed grouse, red and gray squirrels, and some songbirds feed on the nuts. Deer and rabbits browse the twigs and foliage. The bark is a preferred food of beavers.

Watch for this interesting little tree on walks in the woods.

*Susan Shea is a naturalist, writer, and conservationist based in Vermont. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.*



**The Outside Story**  
By Susan Shea



## A night to remember

A little over 25 years ago, my brother-in-law called to ask if I was interested in meeting him in New York to catch a live airing of “SNL” at the Rockefeller Center.

I’ve ticked off several items on my bucket list over the years, but seeing “Saturday Night Live” from the studio audience was one that I always thought would slip by. My brother-in-law knew this and was generous enough to make it happen via his connections with NBC.

The date was December 5, 1998, and the holiday charm was in full swing throughout midtown Manhattan. I remember it being snowy and cold as we made our way through the crowded streets when my wife and I first arrived in the Big Apple. My brother-in-law asked us to show up early for a special surprise, so after a nice dinner with cocktails, we headed over to 30 Rockefeller Center.

Once we got through security, my brother-in-law revealed that he had coordinated a tour of the studios. Moments later, a young intern arrived and ushered us in. I was beside myself thinking that, not only was I seeing “SNL” live, but I was also being granted access to a behind-the-scenes look at the hallowed ground of countless classic television shows.

At one point, we were brought into the empty studio where “Late Night with David Letterman” was filmed (another show that I watched religiously). I sheepishly asked if I could sit at the maestro’s desk and was met with zero resistance, so I walked up and excitedly sat in Dave’s chair.

In today’s world, a photo of that moment would have been on social media within seconds, but in 1998, that wasn’t the case. We had to live events in the moment back then (which is why I probably remember it so vividly).

The next memorable moment happened while we were waiting for the elevator. Our tour guide was discussing a historical fact about the building when the doors opened and a young man walked out. He greeted us with a jovial “Hello” and passed by. When we got into the elevator, our guide said, “That’s a new cast member named Jimmy Fallon. Keep an eye on him. He’s going to be big.”

After the tour was over, we gathered with the other guests and made our way into Studio 8H. We had great seats in the upper level just off from the center. To say that the environment was intimate would be an understatement. Every seat felt close, making the experience that much more

intoxicating.

The host that night was Vince Vaughn, whose career was just taking off after a memorable appearance in the indie film, “Swingers,” and his first major starring role as Norman Bates in the remake of “Psycho.” But as much as I was excited to see Vaughn,

I was wholly disappointed with Lauryn Hill as the musical guest. “SNL” is known for breaking in new artists and reigning in classic acts, so Hill, personally, was a let-down for me.

One other memory I carried away from that evening happened just before the show started. While we were settling into our seats, I started scanning the audience out of curiosity. My eyes roamed about but quickly became fixated on a young woman sitting in the same row as us about seven or eight people

to the right. I spotted her not because of her beauty, but because she was wearing a purple replica “Cat in the Hat” top hat. I remember staring at her and thinking how angry I would be if I was sitting behind her.

After pointing it out to my brother-in-law, he quickly enlightened me to the fact that it was the supermodel Kate Moss, and sitting right next to her was her date, Johnny Depp. After a secondary stare, I confirmed that it was definitely them.

That was a memorable night for me and one I will never forget. Apparently, the very first episode of “Saturday Night Live,” which aired on October 11, 1975, was also a memorable night, so much so that they decided to make a movie about it.

“Saturday Night” is a reimagining of the 90 minutes leading up to the launch of the very first episode of “SNL.” And while many of the events portrayed in this film are historically accurate, just as many liberties were taken to make the occasion seem that much more iconic.

This film ran at a frantic pace, which made watching it a bit difficult. It also plays to the viewer who has an immense knowledge of “SNL” lore. Without this knowledge, most viewers will feel left out of the joke.

Check this one out if you love the show or if you’re curious how fragile “SNL” was at the beginning.

A laughable “C+” for “Saturday Night,” now playing in theaters everywhere.

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



**The Movie Diary**  
By Dom Cioffi



## Local musician Jenny Porter on the Sunset Ridge of Mount Mansfield

Waking up this morning, I wasn’t sure if we had lost power or not. The house was cold, almost frightfully so. There was no noise coming from our hot water heater, and I couldn’t hear the water rushing through the pipes. As I stepped onto the oak floor, my feet were still ice cold—the radiant pipes were filled with cold water and there was nothing but darkness. I was worried for just a moment and then remembered—we are officially playing the heat game at my house.

I love this game. In order to avoid turning on the heat and starting to pay that wintertime heating bill, many Vermonters refuse to turn on their heat until absolutely necessary. We will use every tactic available to us to avoid touching that thermostat, but the most important key to this is the wood stove (whether heated by wood or propane). Many of us have one in the main room or a wood fired one in the basement that can heat the whole house in an emergency.

It also requires in-depth knowledge of how your house works and the location of your water pipes. For example, if your home was built poorly with pipes on an exterior wall, this is not a game that you should be playing. Pipes that close to the outdoors are extremely susceptible to freezing and you cannot be caught with your heat off. In fact, if you have pipes in an exterior wall, I recommend contacting your plumber and scheduling them to relocate. You are playing with fire. Or ice, as may be the case here.

Is your basement deep enough into the

ground? One of the many reasons I purchased my home is that the basement was dug well below the frost line. This way, the warmth of the earth keeps my concrete basement from freezing or cracking. Literally. A few winters ago, we lost power for a few days and the basement never got below 47 degrees. It was

awesome. Many states have building codes requiring this, but Vermont is not as strict. It’s your home, you bought it, you live with it. This is why it is very important to perform your due diligence and have a building inspection when purchasing your home—you need to know if the basement depth and pipe locations will cause you any problems further down the road.

It’s important to realize that this game should only be played by those of us who are actually in residence at the time of the cold weather. If you are not here all the time, remember to set your heat on at least 50 to 55 degrees to prevent your pipes from freezing. The cost of losing this game can be extremely expensive as water expands when it freezes, causing pipes to swell, crack, or burst. Then, when the water warms back up, it leaks out and damages everything in its path, and if you aren’t up for a few days (or weeks, since ski season really hasn’t kicked off yet), you could have a massive amount of water damage. Sheetrock will moisten and rot, and the evil monster of mold will rear its evil head.

But a game isn’t fun if it isn’t the least bit dangerous, right? That being said, I am grateful for having to type this column this

Living the Dream → 43



**Living the Dream**  
By Merisa Sherman

## College life in the ‘60s

In my last column I mentioned that I would be taking a look back at my college days in the ‘60s. Join me as I revisit those days.

I spent four years at Trinity College in Burlington. It was an all girls’ school staffed by the Sisters of Mercy. Unfortunately, it is no longer in operation. However, it is now part of the University of Vermont and is called the Trinity Campus.

Early in the summer before our freshman year began each of us got a letter telling us who our roommate would be along with her mailing address. This allowed us to write to one another and get acquainted before meeting in person. Emails and texts didn’t exist back then so we used paper and pen to write, put a stamp on the envelope and into the mailbox it went.

We waited to get a reply and after a couple of months of “back and forth” letters we had a pretty good idea what our roommate

would be like.

I have to say that my roommate and I were nothing alike! She had just won a beauty contest and a trip to Bermuda. A “trip” for me was a car ride to Burlington or Glens Falls!

Roommates could not be changed during our freshman year as the nuns felt that it “built character” to adjust to one another. We survived just fine but chose someone else to live with for our sophomore year.

Trinity had an administration building with classrooms and a library. Just a few feet from it was “The Villa.” It was a large

house that served as a residence for the nuns and also was an infirmary for students. After going down a rather steep hill from “The Villa” you came to two dormitories, both with three floors. McAuley Hall housed the underclassmen and also had a chapel and dining hall. Mercy Hall housed the up-

Looking Back → 45



**Looking Back**  
By Mary Ellen Shaw

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Submitted

On October 11, the Killington-Pico Rotary Club presented dictionaries to the third grade students at Killington Elementary School. This is part of Rotary's world wide literacy program. The dictionaries are hard bound Scholastic Children's Dictionaries and include numerous illustrations, world maps, world flags and U.S. Presidents. Pictured with the third grade class are Rotary Club members Maureen Cook, Club President Janina Curtis, Dale Pfeifenberger, and Johnathan Tuttle.

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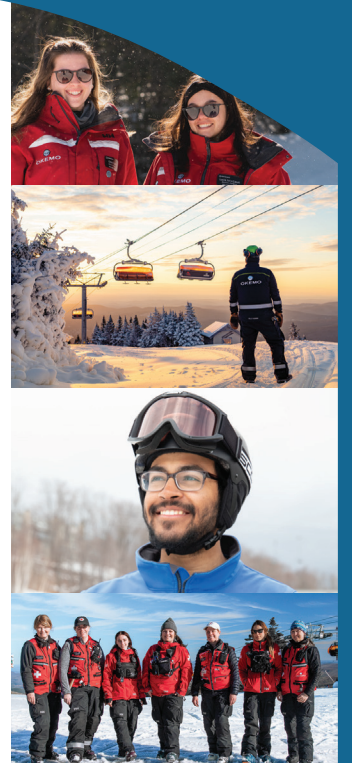
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## Highway Maintenance Crew Member

The Town of Killington Public Works Department is looking for a Full-Time Highway Maintenance Crew Member. Maintenance workers are responsible for routine maintenance and repair work of Town highways. Duties typically require the use of a variety of tools and vehicles. Overtime work is required, particularly during the winter months, and is considered a condition of employment. A newly hired employee must complete all training and safety requirements and demonstrate knowledge and skills in the areas of maintenance and/or construction activities. Work is performed under the supervision of the Highway Foreman.

Minimum qualifications include having a high school diploma (or equivalent); a Class B Commercial Driver's License (or obtain within 6 months at town expense); knowledge of the methods, materials, tools and equipment used in the maintenance, repair and maintenance of highways, bridges and other related highway and facilities operations including safety precautions.

Starting pay is between \$21 and \$25/hour depending on experience and qualifications. The Town of Killington offers a robust benefits package including paid time off; medical, dental, vision, and life insurance; retirement benefits through the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System; uniforms; golf privileges at the Green Mountain National Golf Course; and membership with the Killington Pico Area Association.

For a full job description, please visit [www.killingtontown.com/jobs](http://www.killingtontown.com/jobs) or request it by calling 802- 422-3241 ext. 7. To apply, please send a resume to Kevin Hewitt, Highway Foreman, [kevinh@killingtontown.com](mailto:kevinh@killingtontown.com), or PO Box 429, 2706 River Road, Killington, VT 05751. The position will remain open until filled.

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# Cheating the season: tips for extending your garden past the first frost

By Deborah J. Benoit, Extension Master Gardener, University of Vermont

We've probably all run out to the garden on a fall evening as the temperature drops and a frost warning is issued. We throw a sheet over our fruit-covered tomato plants to eke just a little more growing time from the rapidly evaporating season. Ghostly visions of sheet-covered tomato plants aside, there are other ways to prolong the harvest.

Knowing the average first frost date in fall for your location can help you decide when to put your garden to bed or make preparations to extend the growing season. You can find the average first frost date for your location at [garden.org/apps/frost-dates](https://www.garden.org/apps/frost-dates).

Look around your garden once you've determined your average first frost date. What plants are still productive? Those growing in pots can be moved inside a greenhouse or into an enclosed porch for protection from the cold.

For in-ground plants, there are several alternatives to extend the growing season. There is, of course, the tried-and-true covering of plants like tomatoes with old sheets or blankets when frost is forecast. Be sure to cover completely to prevent damage to foliage and fruit. Remove the covering in the morning to allow access to the sun's warmth and light.

If you have one handy, a convenient alternative is to invert a cardboard box over smaller plants, completely covering them, with the open end of the box resting on the ground. This process creates an easily removable protective structure around the plant in the morning.

Encircle tomato cages with clear plastic. Drive stakes into the ground just outside the plants perimeter and wrap plastic around the stakes and over the top, enclosing the plant without touching the foliage. Allow for an openable

place during the day to vent excess heat.

If you'd rather not build a tomato cover, there are pop-up plastic plant covers available for purchase online or at garden supply stores.

To protect multiple low-growing plants, try floating row covers. Place a length of garden fabric over plants to protect against the cold. Hold edges in place with garden staples or weights. Remove the cover during warm days.

Garden fabric is made of spun-bonded polyester. It allows light and water to penetrate and comes in various weights. Choose a heavier weight to insulate against the cold. As temperatures drop further, plastic sheeting can be added on top of the garden fabric, adding additional insulation.

For taller plants, consider using low tunnels. They function like floating row covers but with a series of inverted U-shaped supports raising the fabric above the plants. At the end of the row, the fabric drapes to the ground, closing the tunnel. The ends can be opened and then closed again as the temperature drops to prevent overheating on warm days.

If you're growing cold-hardy varieties of salad greens (kale, Swiss chard, spinach) or root crops (carrots, beets) in a raised bed, you can add a cold frame to extend the harvest season further into the fall.

A cold frame is a box with a transparent cover, hinged so that it can be opened as needed to vent excess heat. At night, the closed cover protects plants. For best results, it should be in a south-facing location in direct sunlight.

Even cold-hardy varieties won't continue to grow once temperatures drop. They'll eventually go dormant, but you can still harvest leaves and roots for a time.

These techniques can be used again in the spring to jump-start your gardening year.

*Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Massachusetts, part of the Bennington County Chapter.*

*For further information on extending the growing season, visit: [go.uvm.edu/season](https://go.uvm.edu/season).*



Courtesy of the UVM Extension Community Horticulture program  
*When cold temperatures and frost are in the forecast, low tunnels are one option for gardeners to consider for protecting plants and extending the growing season.*

## ← Living the Dream: from page 39

morning, as the constant movement of my fingers is keeping them from stiffening up. It's 55.9 degrees in my house, I am wearing a heavy sweater, have a blanket wrapped around my legs and am looking forward to going into the office so that I can warm up. But it's also helping my body transition into winter—I have this weird belief that this is helping my hands and feet adjust to winter so that they won't be so cold while out skiing and skinning. The thickening of my blood is just as important as dry-land training.

This is also the time to get your home prepped for winter—which goes beyond making sure that your pipes are insulated. You should be cleaning out any radiators so that when you do turn the heat on, it doesn't start a fire. If you haven't already, have someone come in and check your furnace to have it cleaned and make sure that it will last the winter. Check to make sure any and all tree branches won't come flying off to skewer your roof. Reverse your ceiling fans to push the hot air back down into the house. Fill in any cracks where you can feel a breeze - that will be cold air coming in and warm air leaving!

Finally (and really the most important thing), make sure all your gear is ready for ski & snow-board season! And don't forget to sign your season pass waiver!! We try not to turn the heat on until Killington opens—let's see how long we make it!

*Merisa is a long-time Killington resident, town lister, and member of the development review board. She is a global real estate advisor & Coach PomPom. Reach out to her at [Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com](mailto:Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com)*



*Local musician Jenny Porter stands on the Sunset Ridge of Mount Mansfield and watches the sun, low on the horizon.*

By Merisa Sherman



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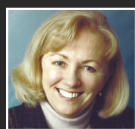


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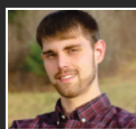
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# Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports seeks winter volunteer-instructors

Instructor training begins in November for skiing, snowboarding and winter sports

KILLINGTON — Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports, the largest year-round disabled sports nonprofit organization in Vermont to offer daily, year-round sports and recreation for people with disabilities, is looking for energetic winter volunteer-instructors who have a dedicated passion for sports and who want to share that passion with others.

Winter volunteers will be trained with Vermont Adaptive trainers to help teach and lead the organization's popular winter programs that "enable people with disabilities to get outside and enjoy all that Vermont has to offer," said Felicia Fowler, program director for the organization. Winter activities include Alpine and Nordic skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, indoor rock climbing, veteran retreats, well-

ness programs, and more.

Volunteers complete online training modules in November and then two days of on-snow training in December. Volunteers learn about different types of disabilities and how to adapt equipment and teaching techniques within winter sports to each individual person. Once volunteers attend training, they can help at any Vermont Adaptive location throughout the state during the winter. Winter programs are offered at Pico Mountain/Killington Resort, Sugarbush Resort, Bolton Valley, and Saskaena Six.

Winter volunteers should be advanced intermediate-level skiers or snowboarders and at least 16 years

old. Volunteer benefits include free skiing and riding, discounts and pro deals, professional development, and academic and community service credit.

"Volunteering is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community by helping individuals with disabilities rediscover their abilities and passion for sports," said Fowler. "We couldn't do what we do without the help from our dedicated volunteers—so come join the team, and be ready to have some fun with some awesome people!"

All new and returning volunteers must fill out an annual application form online to get started. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, complete the application at [Instructors → 47](#)

## ← Looking Back:.....

from page 39

perclassmen who had to walk over to McAuley Hall for meals and Mass. Both dorms had a "smoker" which was the only room where students could have a cigarette. It was also the room for nightly games of bridge.

Only seniors could have a car on campus so the local bus took us wherever we needed to go. When we had an afternoon free of classes going downtown to shop was a popular way to spend our free time. When I hear about people not feeling safe these days on Church Street I am reminded how that was not the case back in the '60s. Problems with drugs and shootings were not plaguing downtown Burlington back in the day.

Even at night there were no worries when students went to a movie or had dinner at a downtown restaurant. We needed a change from "dorm food" once in awhile.

One of my friends had a car on campus our senior year. It was a small VW that held four of us as we made trips to The Lure which was a fast food restaurant that offered take-out. We would bring our burgers, fries and milk shake back to the dorm about once a week.

With 50 students per floor and only one TV in the lounge and one phone to be shared by all of us it was a challenge! A ringing phone was answered by whoever was walking by and the girl then shouted down the hallway the name of the person who was wanted.

There was daily Mass in the chapel and we were required to wear a cap and gown to Mass. Even underclassmen had a cap and

gown. That worked to our advantage as we often rolled up our PJs under the gown to attend Mass. It was hard to get up and dressed at 7 a.m.

I was probably the only student who was in bed by 9:30 p.m. Somehow I managed to block out all the dorm noise. I wish I could fall asleep that easily these days!

There was a sign-out book at the front desk of both dorms. You needed advance permission to stay out two nights per week until 10 p.m. Otherwise you had to be in your room at 7:30 p.m. Apparently we adjusted to that strict way of life as I don't remember anyone complaining. We knew the rules when we chose to go there and our home life back then was probably just about as strict.

There was a pay phone in McAuley Hall and when students went home for the weekend they often called their parents on Sunday night to let them know that they got back OK. In order not to pay for the call, it was placed "collect" and when the parents were asked if they would accept a collect call from their daughter, they refused. It was just a "code" to let them know they had arrived safely. Some difference from the cell phones of today!

Education at Trinity was "top notch." Classes were small and the faculty was well versed in their field.

Lifelong friends were made at Trinity and we have fond memories of our time there.



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← **Indigenous Day message:**.....  
 from page 15

even when we differ in opinions, we must stop the degradation of different races or social classes of people. Instead of allowing negative messaging like immigrants are all "terrorists and rapists," VT Abenaki are "fake," or Haitians are "eating your pets," we need to respect and celebrate our different lived experiences. We need to preserve the principles that our veterans continue to serve, fight for, and even have died to protect.

environment by reconnecting to the land and water that sustains our lives. Honor the animals by making sure that their needs are considered in everything we do. Honor each other and those around you by uplitiing one another. Honor your culture no matter what it is, don't let others define you, celebrate your lived experiences, honor your ancestors, and love your children. They are the future of our family and the next generation of stewards for our environment.

Honor each other and those around you by uplitiing one another.

If you truly want to find a way to celebrate this holiday season, reflect on the personal path you are on. Decide if the path is uplitiing those around you or contributing to the social unrest.

I hope you have time to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage that our Mother has provided for us. I hope you enjoy your family and friends this holiday season. I wish health and well-being in your journeys. May you celebrate all the blessings in your life and those to come.

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# Gardening for body and soul

By Nadie VanZandt, Extension Master Gardener, University of Vermont

Research shows that spending time in nature enhances our physical and mental well-being, so it's no surprise that gardening offers similar benefits, including reducing stress, anxiety and negative thoughts. Gardening is an all-around wonderful activity for the body and soul.

Gardening offers access to sunlight, nature, physical activity and social interaction—each a key contributor to a healthy lifestyle.

Sunlight activates the formation of vitamin D, a vitamin essential for bone health and support of your immune system. At the same time, digging, raking, lifting and walking improve your physical strength and aerobic fitness. In addition, the fresh homegrown fruits and vegetables you harvest offer nutritious, clean food that further supports your overall health.

Gardening is a natural icebreaker, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds and walks of life. By sharing your garden's bounty, whether flowers or vegetables, you connect with others. This act of generosity promotes a sense of purpose and can lift your spirits.

Gardening teaches many life lessons in humility, patience, hard work, appreciation of nature and its life cycle and much more. British horticulturist Gertrude Jekyll said it best, noting that "A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."

When taking a stroll around your neighborhood, do you stop to admire a well-tended front yard? Can you feel yourself relax? To garden is to make the world more beautiful, and beauty can be a powerful remedy against anger and stress.

For many years, therapeutic gardens have been incorporated in hospitals, to enhance the environment for patients, visitors and staff. Interestingly, Dr. Benjamin Rush, a physician known as the "Father of American Psychiatry" and a signer of the Declaration of Independence,

was the first to record the positive effect of gardening on patients suffering from mental illness.

Since then, many studies have supported the beneficial role of gardening on well-being and general health. A recent Japanese study concluded that "viewing plants altered EEG recordings and reduced stress, fear, anger and sadness, as well as reducing blood pressure, pulse rate and muscle tension." In addition, an Australian study remarked that gardening was more effective than walking in reducing the risk of dementia, mental health problems, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some cancers.

Not everyone has access to a plot of land, especially those living in apartment buildings or those confined in their homes. However, you are not limited to growing plants outdoors. Indoor gardening and growing plants in containers offer similar benefits. If you've ever grown an amaryllis for the holidays, you experienced the same exhilaration as watching a plant grow outside.

Fall is a great season to explore the health benefits of gardening. There is still time to plant bulbs, decorate your home with gourds and pumpkins, and plant shrubs, trees and perennials.

If you live alone, consider joining a garden club or community garden to make new friends. In Vermont, you can also visit the Vermont Garden Network at <https://vtgardens.org/> where maps will help you locate a community garden near you.

As another option, think about volunteering to help the home-bound who cannot tend to their garden. You will both share a common interest and form a new relationship. The University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener program provides training on gardening for those interested in volunteering in their communities. Learn more at <http://go.uvm.edu/mastergardener>.

Gardening is a peaceful, meditative escape that nurtures mind and body while deepening your connection with nature. Why not give it a try?

*Nadie VanZandt is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from Pantton.*

## Instructors:

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[vermontadaptive.org/volunteers](http://vermontadaptive.org/volunteers).

*About Vermont Adaptive*

*Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports is a nationally recognized organization that empowers people of all abilities through inclusive sports and recreational programming regardless of ability to pay. In addition to sports, year-round programming options integrate environmental, holistic wellness, and competitive training philosophies for people of all ages with cognitive, developmental, physical, and emotional/behavioral disabilities. Sports and recreational opportunities include alpine skiing, snowboarding, and other winter sports; kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, cycling, mountain biking, sailing, rock climbing, horseback riding; Veterans programs and retreats; and more. More than 400 volunteers serve athletes from all over the world at three winter locations in Vermont – Pico Mountain at Killington, Sugarbush Resort in Warren, and Bolton Valley Resort in Bolton, as well as statewide in a variety of locations, including the Burlington waterfront during the summer and warmer months.*

*For more information, visit [www.vermontadaptive.org](http://www.vermontadaptive.org).*

## Screens and Streams:

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say, this is the role Vaughn was born to play.

The plot of "Bad Monkey" is a juicy one. Once a local Key West fishing expedition reels in a severed arm, it isn't long before a mystery deepens, and bodies start popping up. Along the way, Vaughn's Yancy gets involved, and he's a guy who likes to put his nose into where it doesn't belong. Although disgraced and demoted to restaurant inspector, Yancy can't put his detective instincts away, and when he enlists the help of a bored forensic scientist, Dr. Rosa Campesino, sparks ignite, and a humorous detective story moves into high gear.

Along the way, we meet a pair of real-estate scamsters, the Striplings, who will go to insane lengths to realize their vision of resort paradise. Thrown into the mix are a displaced fisherman, his pet monkey (who isn't bad at all), a dragon lady, an island enforcer, good cops, bad cops, a chatty drug-running pilot, an over-zealous weather person, a cantankerous boat captain/show narrator who turns every episode recap into a hilarious event, turtles, deer, and an ex-girlfriend with a good heart, but an appetite for doing the

wrong things.

The story, which is more of a shaggy-dog tale than it is a serious "who done it," serves as a way to showcase a talented and funny cast, anchored by one of my favorite comedic performances of the year. Hands down, this is the best Vince Vaughn's been in years, and he seems to be having a blast in every scene.

When it was over, I was relieved that Hiaasen wrote a second Andrew Yancy story, "Razor Girl," and by all accounts, it appears as if Bill Lawrence wants a second season. I do, too. So, hurry up, Apple+, and renew this show. And good news for all those who don't have Apple+. Word is, they've made a deal with Amazon Prime, and shortly, shows like "Ted Lasso" and "Bad Monkey" could be coming to that streaming service. If you want something fun to watch, take a chance on "Bad Monkey." I think you'll have a pretty good time.

*James Kent is the publisher's assistant at the Mountain Times and the co-host of the "Stuff We've Seen" podcast at [stuffweveeseen.com](http://stuffweveeseen.com). Got a film or show that you'd like James to review? Write to him at [editor@mountain-times.info](mailto:editor@mountain-times.info).*

## Dream in Color:

from page 38

With the world going by my spacious front window  
I move with intention to take my time and embrace the change unfolding before me  
As people seem to rush around filling the parking lots, I find a way to slow down

The excitement of the fall season, preparing us for this winter  
When we will host visitors from across the world, coming to see the mountain sights  
The ever changing colors transitioning into a blanket of pillowy whites

Businesses making last minute preparations  
Getting ready for the family and friends who share part of their year with us here  
Easing into the longer and later nights and a seven day schedule

The spooky pumpkins and ciders appearing  
Filling the local surrounding shops' air with cinnamon, nutmeg and spices that warm our chilled souls  
Spirits are raising as we become more comfortable with the cold

As these changes unfold it is important to take a moment for gratitude  
Accepting the current moment and recognizing the choice to embrace future changes  
Allowing the current moment to be enough as it is, but making room for the new

Being mindful what change we will bring is essential to our success  
Change is never easy, that is why we hear of growing pains, like cutting a tooth  
It is important to consider how we are contributing to this ever evolving scene

We have the choice to decide what we are going to do next  
Whether we live locally or are just here for a visit, change is abound  
We have the option of how we face it, how we embrace it and what we add to it

If we are doing something good, how can we continue it?  
If we are encountering something negative, how do we not make it worse?  
If we are making something worse, how can we find the clarity to stop?  
If we are not making it worse, how can we protect ourselves from making it worse in the future?  
If we are not making something better, how can we start?  
If we are making something better, how can we stay close to that feeling? How can we make it abundant?

This fall season shows us how change can bring about beauty and calm  
How the whirlwind of natural revision brings an evolution into a pulsating winter wonderland  
How will we choose to weather this metamorphosis?  
Can we try and make it better? And if we can't, can we remember to not to make it worse?

*Killington*



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