



Courtesy Rutland Police Dept.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL TO BE HELD FOR FALLEN POLICEWOMAN

Wednesday at 6 p.m. community members are invited to join the city for a vigil honoring Officer Jessica Ebbighausen who was killed in a high-speed pursuit on Friday, July 7.

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THREE HONORED FOR VOLUNTEERISM IN KILLINGTON

The annual Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Jim Haff, Roger Rivera and Arra Derderian last week in Killington.

Page 5



CIRCUS COMES TO FAIRGROUNDS

Circus Smirkus will come to the Vermont State Fairgrounds in Rutland this weekend with two shows each day. Saturday catch performances at 1 and 6 p.m. and on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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VERMONT STRONG

Columnists weigh in on the recent flooding that decimated roads, houses and businesses across the region, bringing back the not-too-distant memories of Irene in 2011.

Page 25



Submitted

A man stands at the end of the last portion of pavement left on a section of East Mountain Road in Killington when flash floods ripped through Friday, July 7.



Submitted

A car is mostly submerged by water on Route 103 in Ludlow.



By Brenda Lee

A Stockbridge road is severely eroded.



By Sammy Blanchette

Okemo valley's info center can be seen across the mud.

'It's like a scene from Irene'

Area residents rally in face of storm: Friday's flash flood through Monday's state of emergency

By Katy Savage and Victoria Gaiher

It began with isolated flashfloods and a mudslide in Killington Friday, July 7, but rains continued — and worsened — Sunday and Monday escalating to become a State of Emergency. Estimates of 5-12 inches of rain were reported with some downpours dropping 2-plus inches an hour. The resulting floods destroyed business, displaced residents and washed out roads.

Ludlow, perhaps the worst hit town in the region, remained inaccessible on Tuesday, July 11. Widespread flooding caused devastation to just about every business and several homes.

Ground beneath the train tracks washed out, leaving portions of the tracks hanging above the streets of Ludlow as businesses and plazas on Main Street along Route 103 were under about 5

feet of water and mud. The plaza where Du Jour restaurant, Java Baba's, the post office, chamber of commerce info center and Tygart Mountain Sports are located and the plaza where Shaw's Supermarket is, were among the worst off.

Locals estimated at least 3 feet of mud remained on Main Street Tuesday morning as excavators attempted to clean the mess under clearing skies.

"It's apocalyptic," resident Sammy Blanchette said. "It's devastating. It's like a scene all over again from Irene. There's water everywhere."

Business partners Andrew Molen and Troy Caruso, who own Fox Run Golf Course in addition to five restaurants and two hotels in Ludlow, were on vacation in the Hamptons when they got frantic phone calls to return home on Monday.

Their restaurant, Sam's Steakhouse, on Route 103 had 7 feet of water flowing through it and was deemed "a complete loss."

"The ice machine was ripped out of the wall," Molen said.

They also lost half of Mr. Darcy's restaurant and spent Tuesday morning power washing it in an attempt to prevent mold.

"To see a community that I have grown part of and grown to love devastated has been painful," Molen said. "It's more of a survival mode of trying to get through it."

They were able to save Calcuttus's Restaurant at Fox Run Golf Course by using sandbags. About a foot of water at Off The Rails restaurant started

Flooding → 2



Crews work to repair Pond Street (Route 103) in Ludlow on Monday, July 10. The northwestern gateway has been cut off.



A torrent of water flooded Ludlow. An Okemo sign is an island.



Casella works carefully in an excavator on a mostly washout section of East Mountain Road in Killington.

Killington prepares for recovery

By Polly Mikula

Town officials held a special meeting Tuesday morning where they announced plans for recovery work after two weather events severely damaged town and state roads. The first event, Friday and into Saturday, saw flash floods and mudslides cut off East Mountain Road and Route 4, respectively. The second event, Sunday into Monday, saw more widespread flooding and erosion. The two events are being treated separately by the state and FEMA, Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth explained.

“We’re looking at trying to determine what additional damages there was since Sunday,” he said. “We are in the process of working with Nicole Kesselring [of Enman Kesselring Consulting Engineers] to prepare a damage assessment document,” Hagenbarth continued. “Right now, we are authorized by the FEMA rules to do any emergency repair. That would include getting things back stable and getting people access to their properties and the roads passable for emergency use and things of that nature. Then when we get to the point where we know what we have to do for permanent repairs, that becomes a separate process where anything over \$250,000 goes out to bid.”

As of Tuesday, the town has lost sections (and sometimes the complete road) on East Mountain Road, Trailside Drive, Trailview Drive, Roundabout, Ledge Road and Rim Road, Hagenbarth said.

Four local and regional contractors have, and will

“Our community is so resilient when we support each other as a community,” said Haff.

← Flooding: from page 1

receding on Tuesday. One hole at the golf course was damaged but was expected to be repaired by Friday.

“It’s been pretty brutal,” Caruso said. Caruso estimated the damage will cost about \$2 million.

“We’re in for a long week, maybe even a long few months,” he said. “It’s crazy. I just got done finishing all the properties — lawns mowed, planting, everything — it’s like we’re starting all over again from negative zero.”

They were also concerned about their 180-190 employees.

“It’s more trying to figure out how we preserve their wellbeing,” Molen said.

Molen and Caruso were using food from the freezers to serve the community. They made about 100 breakfast sandwiches for police officers and town officials on Tuesday. They also invited people who were displaced to stay at their Fox Run Motel and Ludlow Village Inn, which sit on higher ground. The clubhouse was open for people in need of a shower.

“We’re just trying to feed these guys because there’s nothing open,” Caruso said.

The damages came just as the state wrapped up its final project from Tropical Storm Irene’s damages 12 years ago. About 8-11 inches of rain fell during Irene in August 2011, causing widespread devastation.

Ludlow Town Manager Brendan McNamara estimated the damage from this storm was far worse locally than it was in Irene.

“We’re pretty much isolated,” McNamara said.

The problem escalated when water came down from Okemo Mountain and washed

away part of Route 103 around 4 a.m. Monday.

The owners of Benson’s Chevrolet on Route 103 in Ludlow moved about 100 vehicles to higher ground when water started rising to the car doors on Monday afternoon.

“We had a little bit of damage but were very fortunate,” Benson’s Chevrolet co-owner Kim Lampert said.

Glenn Heitsmith, the owner of the Timber Inn Motel on Route 103 in Ludlow, guessed there’s about half a million dollars in damages to his building and another \$250,000 in damages to his home.

“It’s such a bad time here,” he said.

Heitsmith said nine of his 18 hotel rooms were ruined, including the utility room, which houses the furnace and washer and dryer.

The water was about 6 feet deep inside the inn on Monday.

“It definitely exceeds Irene by half a foot,” he said.

Heitsmith, like many, has barely recovered from Irene, and is still suffering the trials and tribulations learned in that storm. This was Heitsmith second flood since the 2011 tropical storm. He said Irene cost \$640,000 in damages and his flood insurance policy only paid \$352,000. His building flooded again in 2019, costing \$180,000.

Heitsmith, who has owned his 1972 building since 1994, is an applicant for a federal buyout. He vented frustration, explaining it’s been three years since he applied, with no response from the federal government.

Gov. Phil Scott said Tuesday he received disaster declarations for all 14 Vermont counties.

The state was treating the storm as “an all

hands on deck response,” Scott said.

In addition to Ludlow, state officials said Londonderry and Weston were among those hardest hit.

A boil water notice was issued in Woodstock on Monday evening due to damage to an Aqueduct water line. Multiple businesses in Woodstock, including the Woodstock Inn, were closed. The Woodstock Farmers’ Market on the west side of town, which was hit hard by Irene, again appeared to be underwater.

Meanwhile, mudslides on Route 103 in Proctorsville and on Route 4 in Killington caused lasting road damage.

“We have not seen rainfall like this since Irene,” Scott said at a press conference on Monday. “In some places, it will surpass even that.”

As rain continued to pound down, Scott said he was more concerned about this storm than he was about Irene.

“This is a long-term event, not like Irene,” Scott said Monday. “This is going to be particularly difficult for us with the long rain event that we’re going to experience.”

Fourteen swift water rescue teams, some of which were from Michigan, North Carolina and Connecticut, responded throughout the state. They rescued 19 people as of Monday morning by boat and 25 by evacuation, including some pets.

Scott said he learned from Irene, “There’s never enough (responders).”

In Ludlow, Heitsmith said a man was stranded in a truck in front of the Timber Inn around 4 p.m. Monday calling out for help until the water got so high he stood on top

of a new hot tub that floated down the road from Knight Tubs and Spas.

“It was lodged in our juniper bushes,” Heitsmith said.

In Bridgewater, Annie Theis, whose apartment is by the Bridgewater Mill, woke up at 6:30 a.m. Monday to a pound on her door by the fire marshal telling everyone in the building to get out.

“We had enough time to get a bag packed and grab our animals and some supplies,” Theis said. “We secured our kayaks and tried to get to a friend’s house in Woodstock.”

An emergency shelter, which opened on Monday at the Grange Hall in Bridgewater, was evacuated to the Bridgewater Congregational Church on Monday evening as the Ottawaquechee rose.

More than a dozen roads and four bridges were impacted in Bridgewater, which could take months to repair.

Despite the hardships, Scott was optimistic about the community response. He said at the press conference that he was one of the first to arrive in Bridgewater when Irene hit in 2011. “I was so impressed with the local community,” Scott said. “It’s not just the state response, it’s the local response. They were shut off from the entire world but they were taking care of it themselves.”

Scott knew Vermonters would rise to the occasion.

“Whether during Irene, Covid or other hardships, Vermonters have proven time and time again we’re willing and able to step up and help our neighbors,” Scott said at another press conference, Tuesday.

Recovery → 10

Man pleads not guilty after killing Rutland police officer in car chase

By Katy Savage

The man charged with killing a Rutland City police officer and injuring two others in a two-mile high-speed pursuit to Woodstock Avenue on Friday, July 7 pleaded not guilty in Rutland Criminal Court on Monday, July 10.

Tate Rheame, 20, attended court virtually from his hospital bed at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington where he was being treated with broken ribs and spinal chord injuries. He's facing charges of grossly negligent operation of a motor vehicle with death resulting and attempting to elude with death resulting after he crashed his 2006 Dodge Ram into a police cruiser driven by Rutland City Police Officer Jessica Ebbighausen.

Ebbighausen, 19, was ejected from her vehicle and pronounced dead at the scene. She was just hired by the police department as a part-time officer in May and was driving the cruiser as part of a training program under supervision of Officer Richard Caravaggio, who was in the passenger seat. Caravaggio was treated at Rutland Regional Medical Center and released Saturday. A third officer, Kelsey Parker, who was driving a separate police cruiser, was also treated at the hospital and released on Friday.

Investigation by Vermont State Police found neither Ebbighausen nor Caravaggio were wearing seat belts.

Police death → 10



State police investigate police shooting in Rutland

The State Police investigation is continuing Wednesday, July 5, 2023, into this week's non-fatal shooting by a member of the Rutland City Police Department.

The men who were shot are identified as Randy A. Perez-Coiscou and Andy H. Perez-Coiscou. They are twin 21-year-old brothers from Springfield, Massachusetts. Both men remain hospitalized at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington for treatment of their injuries.

The Rutland officer who fired his service weapon was identified as Sgt. Andrew Plemmons.

The incident occurred when Plemmons and Officer James Rajda saw a suspicious vehicle parked near the Giorgetti Athletic Complex along Oak Street Extension shortly before 8:30 p.m. Monday, July 3, and initiated an investigation. The Perez-Coiscou brothers were the occupants of the car. During the interaction with police, the car began to move, and Sgt. Plemmons fired his handgun. The car eventually crashed at the end of Oak Street Extension. Rajda received a minor injury to one of his arms during the encounter. Police has not recovered any weapons connected to the suspects.

As a result of the investigation, Randy Perez-Coiscou was arrested on two charges of felony aggravated assault on a law-enforcement officer. He was turned over to the custody of the Dept. of Corrections while remaining hospitalized. He was arraigned by video July 5 in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court in Rutland, pleaded not guilty, and was ordered jailed for lack of \$10,000 bail.

Andy Perez-Coiscou received a citation on a charge of possession of fentanyl and is due in criminal court Aug. 14.

Plemmons, a patrol sergeant, has worked for the Rutland

Investigation → 5

KILLINGTON FOOD SHELF

We are stocked with nonperishable food, paper goods & cleaning supplies. Any person in need, please call to arrange a pickup. Donations accepted. Please call Nan Salamon, 422-9244 or Ron Willis, 422-3843.

Sherburne UCC "Little White Church," Killington, VT

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Judge orders Slate Ridge owner Daniel Banyai to be arrested

Banyai owes fines totaling \$100,600 plus \$200/day until property is compliant

By Emma Cotton/VTdigger

A Vermont judge has ordered the arrest of Daniel Banyai, the owner of the paramilitary training facility Slate Ridge in West Pawlet.

In a decision issued Thursday, July 6, Judge Thomas Durkin of the Environmental Division of the Vermont Superior Court found that Banyai is in contempt of a March 2021 court order that required him to remove unpermitted buildings on his property.

Slate Ridge, the controversial paramilitary training range that Banyai operated on his property and posted about publicly on social media for years, has captured local and national media attention. Banyai invited local militia groups to train at Slate Ridge and allegedly harassed and threatened neighbors and local government officials.

"By the authority of the state of Vermont, any sheriff or constable in this state is directed to arrest Daniel Banyai, and remit him to the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections, to be thereafter confined until he or the Town causes the subject property to be brought into compliance with the March 5, 2021" order, Durkin wrote.

Banyai must be served within 60 days of issuance, according to the decision.

He also owes fines totaling \$100,600, plus an additional \$200 per day starting from June 2, 2023, until he brings the property into compliance with court orders.

Thursday's court order appoints the town of Pawlet to "bring the Property into compliance with the Court's outstanding orders in this matter, with the Town entitled to reimbursement of its associated costs by Mr. Banyai."

Durkin stipulated that Banyai can still bring the prop-



By Glenn Russell/VTdigger

A judge has ordered the arrest of Daniel Banyai, the owner of the paramilitary training facility Slate Ridge in West Pawlet.

erty into compliance before his arrest, and that he will be released when the property is in compliance with outstanding court orders.

The warrant is now in the hands of the Rutland County Sheriff's Department, which can carry out the arrest. Rutland Sheriff David Fox was not immediately available to comment on the case on Thursday afternoon.

Slate Ridge → 10

MOUNTAIN TIMES

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

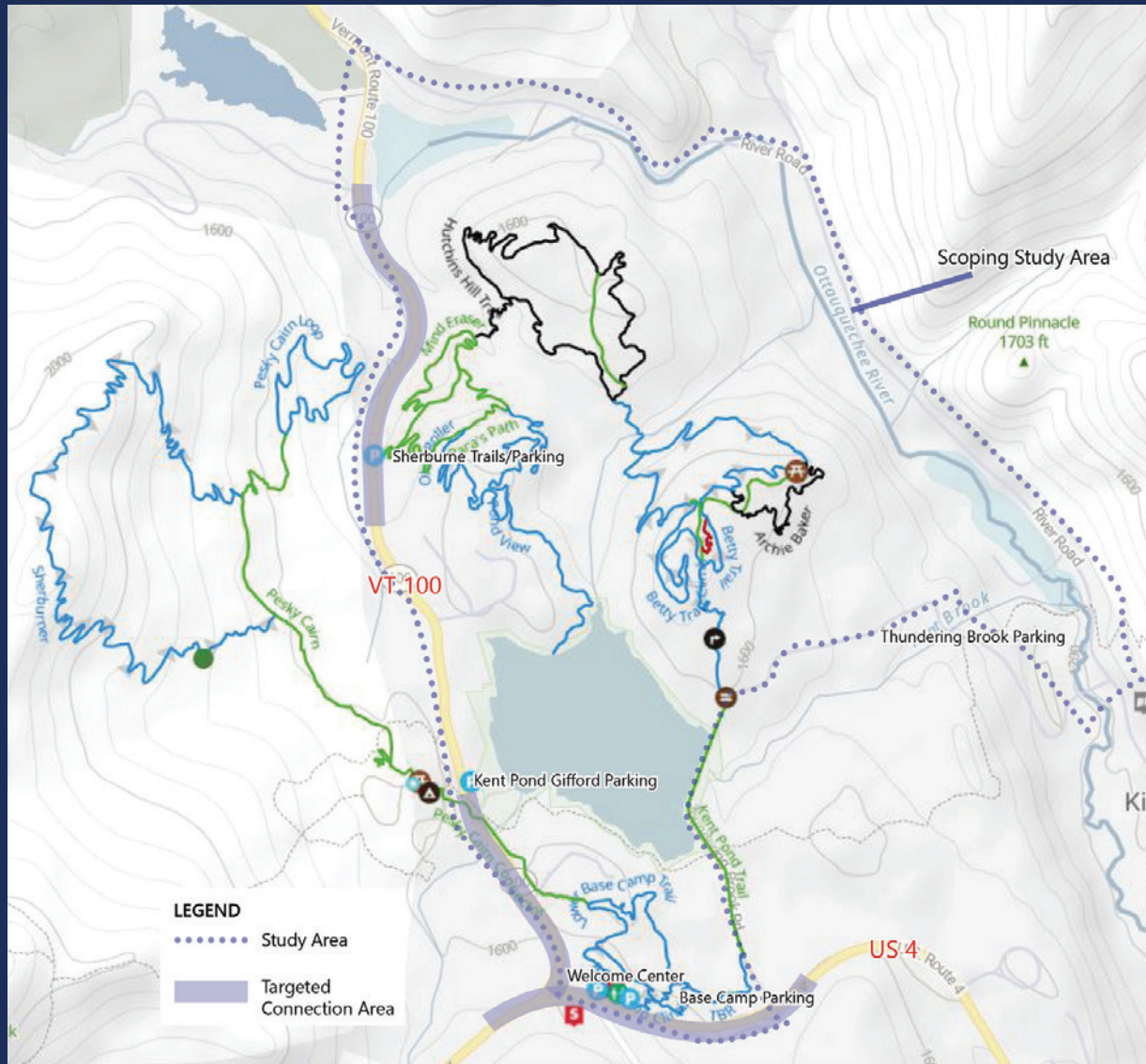
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KILLINGTON CONNECTING TRAILS SCOPING STUDY



MEETING DETAILS

DATE: July 13, 2023

TIME: 7:30 PM

IN-PERSON LOCATION:

Sherburne Memorial Library

2998 River Road,
Killington, VT 05751

VIRTUAL OPTION:

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 889 6464 4941

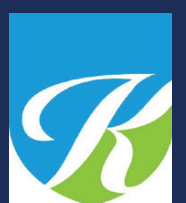
By Phone: +16468769923

By Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88964644941>

LOCAL CONCERNS MEETING

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

The Local Concerns Meeting is an opportunity to share your comments and concerns about trail connections along VT Route 4 and Route 100 in Killington to help define the issues and inform opportunities of the study.



Jim Haff, Roger Rivera and Arra Derderian receive Volunteer of the Year awards

By Polly Mikula

Three prominent volunteers in Killington were recognized last week for their service to the town.

“We didn’t get to recognize last year’s volunteers at the Fourth of July festivities so we recognized them all last week,” explained Stephen Nisimblat, co-chair of the Killington Recreation Commission, which presented the awards.



Fourth of July in Killington always draws hundreds of community members out to enjoy the parade, barbecue, pool party, lawn games and fireworks, making it a great event to honor community members who’ve contributed most.

The 2022 Volunteer of the Year awards went to Jim Haff and Roger Rivera for their efforts collecting bottles and cans at the town transfer station, bringing them to the redemption center and donating the money to the recreation department for camps, scholarships, and fireworks.

“Those funds allowed us to do more programming including camps and allowed us to hand out some scholarships to children that otherwise would not be able to be involved,” Nisimblat said. “It was all because of Jimmy and Roger. It was an unanimous choice by the board.”

“We recognized these folks for these specific things, but really they do so much more for the community,” said Nisimblat.

The 2023 Volunteer of the Year award went to Arra Derderian for his efforts to put together the hockey rink at the rec department this past winter. “He went out, fundraised for it, and then with help from

other volunteers put it all together. Really, he spearheaded the whole thing, he got hockey going for the kids... and he helped to maintain it all winter.”

After the winter season, in April, Derderian ended up joining the Killington Recreation Commission.

The recipients of the Volunteer of the Year awards are chosen by the commission, which included co-chairs Nisimblat and Amy Spear, Andrew McKenna and Evan Ehmann.

“We recognized these folks for these specific things, but really they do so much more for the community in so many areas and in so many ways. We are very grateful to have such dedicated volunteers in Killington,” Nisimblat concluded.

Investigation: from page 3

City Police Dept. since November 2014. Rajda is a patrol K9 officer and has worked for the department since September 2018. VSP’s investigation into the police shooting remains active and ongoing. Detectives have obtained video from body-worn and cruiser cameras, and will review any additional video available from surveillance cameras in the area. The Crime Scene Search Team processed the location of the shooting and the subsequent vehicle crash. Detectives have spoken to witnesses. The Rutland City Police Dept. is cooperating with the investigation.

Anyone with information that might assist in the investigation should call the state police barracks in Rutland at 802-773-9101 or leave an anonymous tip online at vermont.gov/tipssubmit.



TOWN OF
KILLINGTON
VERMONT

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PROPOSED READOPTION OF KILLINGTON TOWN PLAN

The Killington Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the readoption of the Killington Town Plan on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building, 800 Killington Road, Killington, Vermont, with attendance available in person or via Zoom

Invite Link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86571219532>.

This public notice is given pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 4444.

The existing Town Plan was last readopted on September 15, 2015. The current draft was updated by the Planning Commission over a nine-month period at public meetings. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on the draft plan. Oral comments can be made at the public hearing. Written comments can be submitted by email to: Lisa.Davis@Killingtontown.com, by regular mail addressed to Lisa Davis, Town Planner, Town of Killington or brought directly to Killington Town Hall.

Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of the plan is to provide a framework for Town actions aimed at maintaining the high quality of life for residents and tourists; ensuring the Town’s economic position in the region and providing a healthy environment for economic and job growth.

Geographic Area Affected:

The Town Plan covers the entire Town of Killington.

List of Section Headings:

- Land Use Plan
- Natural, Scenic, and Historic Features and Resources
- Transportation
- Public Utilities and Facilities
- Recreation and Cultural Resources
- Employment and Housing
- Economic Development
- Energy
- Flood Resilience
- The Plan

Copies of the draft plan are available for review at the Town Clerk’s office and on the Planning Commission page of the Town’s website at: <https://KillingtonTown.com>.

Dated at Killington, Vermont this 26th day of June 2023.

Jennifer Iannantuoni, Planning Commission Chair, Town of Killington, Vermont

Stafford Tech's Bill Lucci helps students believe: What you'll be, you'll see

The question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" has become one that requires

innovative solutions to address such issues as, the shortage of essential workers, the changing socioeconomic landscape, and the value of lifelong learning.

Over the past three years, for example, the challenge of finding a reputable electrician, plumber, or construction worker in the Killington-Rutland region has become more difficult. Add to that, the shortage of qualified health professionals, plus the challenge of recruiting and retaining skilled hospitality workers or booking a convenient manicure appointment.

For nearly five decades, the educators at Stafford Technical Center (STC, or Stafford, for short) on Route 4 in Rutland, have dedicated their talents to providing innovative programs to address such marketplace demands, training professionals to work in the trades and other hands-on professions.

As Stafford Technical Center's assistant director for Adult Continuing Technical Education, William (Bill) Lucci is one of the school's most enthusiastic ambassadors.

"I never dreamed I could make money doing something I love so much," Lucci said in a recent interview. "All of Stafford's teachers are practitioners in their trades, so our students

get a substantial grounding and hands-on experience in those trades," he added.

Lucci's career spans nearly four decades and includes stints as a professor at Green Mountain College, and as a professor and dean of students at College of St. Joseph. He has served in various roles at Stafford for over two decades.

Although Lucci is a candidate for a doctorate in educational administration, he shared with me several perspectives about the advantages of trade schools for those who don't want a traditional college education, and how Stafford's programs help boost Vermont's economy. He also revealed his own career aspirations if he ever retires from education.

Following is a summary of our discussion, edited for space and clarity.

Stafford Technical Center offers a variety of programs, facilities accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education, and financial aid options for students over the age

of 16 who qualify for help in paying for tuition, books, and other expenses.

"For many families, a four-year college degree requires loans that could take decades to pay off," Lucci said. "Our programs, on the other hand, typically take less time to complete, which means students can start earning a living sooner," he emphasized.

Stafford Tech programs that most benefit Vermonters include one that addresses a most pressing challenge — the need for qualified health professionals. Students in Stafford's health careers program learn about anatomy, physiology, and other healthcare-related topics, in preparation for jobs as medical assistants and other opportunities.

Regarding the need for more electricians and plumbers, Stafford's program teaches students how to install and maintain electrical and plumbing systems and obtain licensing. Other popular programs include training in automotive technology; culinary arts, where students learn how to manage a kitchen as well as how to become cooks, chefs, and bakers; digital arts, which prepares students for careers in graphic design, web develop-

"I never dreamed I could make money doing something I love so much," Lucci said.. "All of Stafford's teachers are practitioners in their trades, so our students get a substantial grounding and hands-on experience in those trades,"



Submitted

William (Bill) Lucci

ment, and other digital media fields; and CDL training, preparing students to become commercial vehicle drivers.

Stafford's small class sizes provide students with more opportunities to receive personalized attention. Plus, the school's state-of-the-art facilities provide students with the latest equipment and technology, enabling them to learn in a real-world environment. In Stafford's cosmetology program, for example, students learn how to cut, color, and style hair, as well as how to provide other beauty services such as makeup and nails.

To be sure, for some students, there are some advantages to choosing a college that offers a four-year academic degree. In the economic aftermath of the Covid pandemic, however, the notion that a four-year college education is the only advantageous path to a thriving career has all but been debunked.

As for Bill Lucci's path, he said he was inspired to pursue a career in higher ed during his undergraduate years. "I had a mentor I idolized," he explained, "an unassuming educator who was director of the campus center. When he suggested that I could get a master's degree for free if I did a graduate assistantship, I was blown away," Lucci added.

The workspace and bookcases in Lucci's comfortable office at Stafford are affixed along its perimeter, so he doesn't sit behind a desk, but in the middle of the room, closer to guests. Dressed in a colorful shirt and a wild-Vermont-standards tie, he is

nothing like a stodgy academic, such as those that pontificate while quoting from obscure tomes. Among his favorite books, he said, are such popular leadership guides as *Principles*, by Ray Dalio; *Start With Why*, by Simon Sinek; and *No Bullshit Leadership*, by Martin G. Moore.

The father of three children — two sons from his first marriage, and a daughter by his second wife, Kim, who also is an educator — Lucci, 65, has obvious empathy for what people of all ages think about relative to their careers, especially how to prepare for change.

To that point, I asked Lucci what he hopes to do if he retires from what has been his life's work to date.

"I'd start a food truck!" he declared. An avid cook, he said he already has a concept and brand name which, in the spirit of protecting his intellectual property, I won't reveal. But, as a lifelong marketer, I'll attest it's a very clever idea.

If it comes to fruition, Lucci's business would fulfill another of his life goals — to travel the country and continue as an advocate for lifelong learning. In so doing, perhaps he'll discover — and share — even more innovative responses to the eternal question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

For more information, visit: staffordonline.org.

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



Submitted

Students of Stafford Technical Center learn cosmetology program learn about hair and beauty techniques.

Denial of herbicide permit for Lake Bomoseen would end long controversy

By Emma Cotton/VTDigger

More than a year of public protest over a plan to use herbicides to control an invasive weed in Lake Bomoseen has come to an unexpected and, in some ways, anticlimactic end: The state is poised to deny the permit.

The application and full draft decision can be viewed at bit.ly/0317App.

The decision is still a draft, and is subject to a 30-day public comment period, which ends July 31.

In January 2022, the Lake Bomoseen Association applied for a permit to spray the herbicide ProcellaCOR to control Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive plant that is becoming increasingly common across the country and has spread to many areas of the 2,400-acre lake.

Since then, the debate has spurred division in the Rutland County towns that surround Lake Bomoseen, the largest lake within Vermont’s borders. Locals protested the use of herbicides with demonstrations, town hall meetings, signs in public areas around the lake, and through dialogue that permeated the walls of the Statehouse. Lawmakers responded, passing legislation that could change the state-wide permitting process for herbicides.

The debate appeared to come to an abrupt halt last week as officials with the state Department of Environmental Conservation issued a draft decision that the application did not meet three of the five criteria required for herbicide approval.

While the decision is still subject to public comment and could be appealed to the state Environmental Court, Liz Bird, president of the Lake Bomoseen Association, said the board is not immediately planning to challenge the decision.

When locals learned of the association’s plan, many were outraged and worried that potential impacts of the herbicide would be worse than the effects of the milfoil.

“We’re going to kind of regroup and mull it over and take a look at the whole process, and then we’ll come to some decision at some point,” she said.

Milfoil grows quickly and aggressively and can out-compete native plants. In the long term, it can diminish the health of the ecosystem and become a nuisance to recreators, according to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

But when locals learned of the association’s plan, many were outraged and worried that potential impacts of the herbicide would be worse than the effects of the milfoil.

Some residents expressed concern that ProcellaCOR could have unintended consequences for human and environmental health, and said herbicides and pesticides should be used only for dire situations as a last resort.

“You need only read the papers — your paper, practically daily, has some story on the use of chemicals in our society and what they’re doing to us,” said Bob Stannard, an angler who owns property on the lake. Stannard, a former state representative and lobbyist, has been organizing the movement against spraying herbicides.

Anglers in the area worried that the treatment’s success could drastically alter the lake’s existing ecology. Even though the weed is invasive, it’s existed for long enough that the fish have adapted to it, anglers argued.

Locals also expressed frustration about what they described as a lack of effort from the lake association to gauge public interest in herbicide treatment before it applied for the permit.

And some who opposed the herbicide pointed to the state permitting process, which they believed was predisposed to grant approval for chemical applications.

Herbicide → 28

The Killington World Cup Foundation awards over \$270,000 in grants to 31 nonprofits across 9 states

The Killington World Cup Foundation (KWCF) has awarded 31 grants totaling \$270,000 to Northeast area nonprofits in nine states for the upcoming ski season (23/24). Grant amounts ranged \$1,500-\$18,000, and all recipients are registered nonprofit organizations or have a fiscal sponsor.

The KWCF grants were created with the aim of promoting winter sports and enriching communities. In order to increase diversity and equity in sports, KWCF supports initiatives that focus on creating opportunities for underrepresented groups. This includes initiatives that help remove barriers to entry, such as providing equipment and training opportunities.

Additionally, KWCF aims to create new growth opportunities in winter sports by improving safety mechanisms and infrastructure, as well as funding events that promote the sport to a wider audience. By doing so, KWCF hopes to foster a love for winter sports in individu-

als of all ages and backgrounds, and to promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

For instance, Mt. Abram Ski Club (MASC) partnered with Mt. Abram Ski Resort to fund a Youth Community Pass Program (YCPP) available to public school students in Maine. The YCPP provides winter season passes to Mt. Abram for students aged 6-18. Although many children live near local ski areas, few have the opportunity to ski or ride without financial assistance.

MASC remarked, “The KWCF grant has provided us with the resources needed to provide access to skiing and snowboarding for the youth in western Maine. When children are engaged in outdoor activities they are healthier and happier and become more engaged within their community and their futures.”

Lebanon Outing Club also identified an opportunity to optimize its learning experience. They have a large number of beginner skiers and snowboarders (ages ranging from around 3 years

to adulthood) who are just beginning their learning process and have not yet gained the skills to safely and effectively use the surface lift and trails. To address this issue, the club sought to create a safe learning-only area that would be serviced by the installation of a “magic carpet” surface lift. They received a KWCF grant to expand and improve their magic carpet learning program at Storrs Hill Ski Area.

Hanover’s Oak Hill is a vital part of the cross-country skiing community in the Upper Valley (New Hampshire). The recent trials and tribulations of the global pandemic have only increased interest in promoting a healthy lifestyle through sport. To cater to this increased interest in cross-country skiing, trail lights were requested for the facility. These lights will improve access to the trails for more kids to use after school in an effort to combat the early sundowns typical of New England winters. Further, the elemen-

KWCF → 10

Rutland City adds new positions

By Katy Savage

The city of Rutland is gaining five new employees. The Board of Aldermen voted 7-3 on July 3 to allocate about half of an expected \$1.1 million surplus, which typically goes to taxpayer relief, to fund the new positions. City officials said the creation of the new positions is a proactive approach to the city’s growing needs.

“While caution is important with surplus funds, I feel that not dealing with the allocation of these funds to the creation of these positions would result in missed opportunities, unrealized efficiency gains and failure to improve the way we work to meet the needs of our residents,” Alderman John McCann said.

The board voted to allocate up to \$560,000 for the new positions, adding to the current 150 city employees. Mayor Mike Doenges said in a phone interview he plans to hire a new executive assistant to help with the day-to-day dealings of his office.

He plans to reinstate the city engineer position, which merged with the DPW commission, and create an apprentice position to take over for a long-serving engineering technician in the Department of Public Works, who is expected to retire. He will also hire a new grant-writer and a zoning technician to enable Zoning Administrator Andrew Strniste to focus on planning.

“Paying down the tax rate is great, but we’ve done that for many years,” Doenges said. “In order to act quickly, we need to fund these positions now. I’m making those choices for the long-term vision.”

Doenges said he wants to lower the tax rate over time by growing the city.

“This is investing in Rutland to relieve the burden on the taxpayer in the next few years,” he said.

City Treasurer Mary Markowski asked the board to wait to vote until the amount of surplus from the budget could be confirmed later this month. She also questioned the need for adding positions.

“I don’t hear a lot of taxpayers come into the treasurer’s City jobs → 27

Hartland town manager search begins

By Curt Peterson

Following a brief public interview and an executive session on July 5, the Hartland Selectboard voted unanimously to contract with Tom Yennerell of Municipal Management Services in Springfield to assist the board in its town manager search.

David Ormiston, the previous town manager for six years, was put on paid leave in April following a kerfuffle with residents, town employees and other town officials. Martin Dole, who continues as finance director, has acted as interim town manager since Ormiston’s resignation.

Two other consultants applied for the position, but Selectman Tom Kennedy told the Mountain Times he has known Yennerell “for years” and is impressed with his 20 years’ direct experience as a town manager and interim town manager for multiple Vermont towns.

“He has already worked with the players with whom a new town manager will interact,” Kennedy said. “This includes state and federal funding sources, contractors and state agencies.”

“The other contenders offered set packages of services,” Kennedy said, “and Tom was willing to conform his services to specifically what the Select Board wanted.”

“And, his fees were the most reasonable,” Kennedy added, “although that wasn’t the most important qualification.”

Yennerell will be paid \$65 per hour for defined services, with a maximum of \$4,000 for the term of the contract – six months with an option to extend upon review. The town will reimburse him for advertising and background check costs. He is also acting as an independent contractor, so the town isn’t responsible for payroll taxes or benefits.

The contract charges Yennerell with helping the Select Board develop a job description and a list of desirable candidate qualifications, according to both Kennedy and Select Board chair Phil Hobbie. He will also create ads, use his established network to recruit candidates, arrange background checks and schedule interviews. Yennerell will present one or more recommended candidates for their consideration, by the end of September 2023.

Hartland manager sought → 27

GUEST EDITORIAL

Why I'm suing Monsanto for our state and our schools

By Charity Clark, Vermont attorney general

Like many Vermonters, I have a deep connection to Vermont's forests, clean water and green landscape. I grew up hiking and skiing in our beautiful Green Mountains, swimming in our rivers and ponds, and watching sunsets over Lake Champlain.

I believe that when bad actors poison our natural resources, they are harming the soul of Vermont and they must be held accountable.

Monsanto manufactured, marketed, distributed and sold toxic and dangerous chemical compounds called polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, from 1929 to 1977. PCB products were sold — including in Vermont — for use in household and business products such as paints, caulks, inks, dyes, paper products, sealants, fireproofing and electrical equipment.

The result is that Vermont's surface waters and aquatic wildlife have been contaminated with PCBs.

Lake Champlain is severely contaminated with PCBs, and there are fish advisories for lake trout taken from Lake Champlain. Not only that, but our statewide PCB testing program has shown that many Vermont schools are also contaminated and will require remediation.

As Monsanto knew, PCBs inevitably volatilize and leach, leak and escape from their intended applications and products, contaminating runoff during storm and rain events, and PCBs persist in the natural environment rather than break down over time.

This is why I have sued Monsanto on behalf of Vermont's environment, schools, our children, and future generations. I am leveraging the full force of my office to hold Monsanto accountable for knowingly creating and distributing PCBs.

I'm proud that Vermont is the first state in the country to stand up a statewide school testing program. School testing will provide further insights into additional schools that will need to be remediated. As Vermont's school testing program continues, we expect the number of contaminated schools to grow.

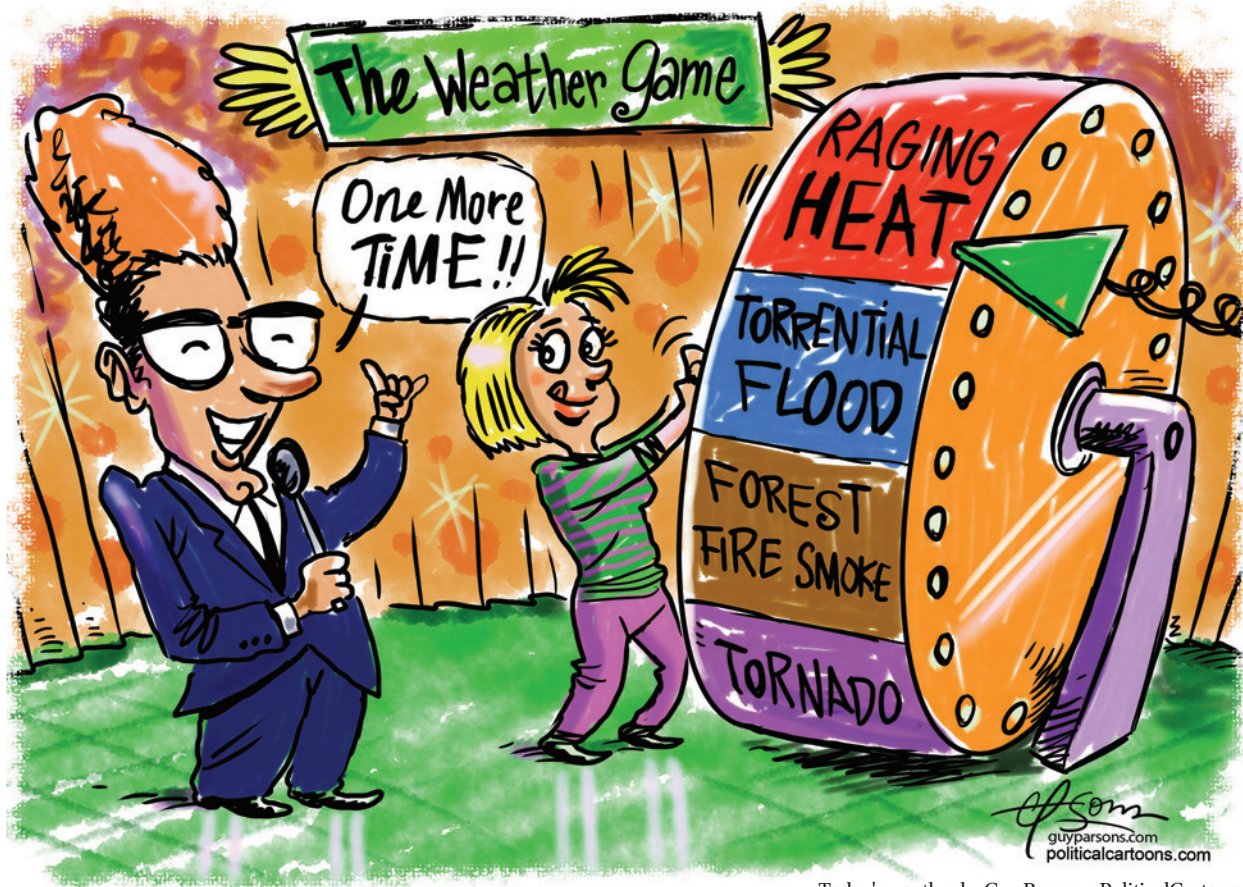
Vermonters should know that I intend to turn over every rock and search for every penny to get Vermont the most funding possible to help remediate. Vermont taxpayers should not have to bear the full cost of cleaning up someone else's mess.

Of course, there are no guarantees in litigation, and this could be a long fight, but, as your Attorney General, I am in this for the long haul. We know from past lawsuits against bad actors that the money we are able to recoup

may not be enough. But we must hold Monsanto accountable for the harm that it has caused to this state we all love.

As Attorney General, I take very seriously my role of protecting Vermont and Vermonters, and I will work as hard as I can to achieve the best result possible for our state. As a mother of a school-aged child, as a Vermonter, and especially as your attorney general, I will always fight to protect Vermont's environment.

When bad actors poison our natural resources, they are harming the soul of Vermont and they must be held accountable.



Today's weather by Guy Parsons, PoliticalCartoons

LETTERS

Equal protection under attack

Dear Editor,

In its recent decision under *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis*, which opens the door for U.S. businesses to refuse services to LGBTQ+ people, conservative activists on the U.S. Supreme Court added another notch in their belts by which recent rulings have further weakened the 14th Amendment's guarantee that no person shall be denied equal protection under the law. This amendment—the legal foundation of our country's commitment to allow individuals to live as they choose—also asserts that “no state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.”

In so doing, justices Gorsuch, Roberts, Thomas, Alito, Kavanaugh and Barrett moved the country one step closer to adopting a form of Apartheid based on gender identity and sexual orientation. Although, in their Senate confirmation hearings, many jurists who ruled in the majority in this case had vowed to uphold the legal principle of stare decisis and honor judicial precedents, they are now going back on that commitment and voting

as if their personal opinions are justified as the basis for all present and future judicial rulings.

Equality and justice for all are being eclipsed by the predilection of the court's majority toward narrow-mindedness and bigotry. Recent Supreme Court rulings are undermining numerous legal precedents, including those arising from cases such as *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015), which requires states to license or recognize same-sex marriages performed out-of-state; and *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia* (2020), which prohibits employers from discriminating against individuals who are gay or transgender (upholding protections under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

The only consistent trend behind recent Supreme Court rulings seems to be that the conservative majority is convinced that their own individual beliefs imbue them with a moral omnipotence that gives them the power, and the right, to assert their will over 332 million U.S. citizens and to disregard 235 years of legal precedence. It is as if the current majority has adapted a *de facto* 28th Amendment

Equal protection → 29

Questions remain for legislators

Dear Editor,

Prior to Gov. Phil Scott vetoing the bill concerning legislative salary increases and related matters (S.39: An act relating to compensation and benefits for members of the Vermont General Assembly); and, with the Legislature not having overridden the governor's veto, is a bill that is more than likely to be revisited, yet again, during the 2024 legislative session.

Certain questions arose within my mind about these and related matters, including about what the actual motivations as well as reasons could be behind why someone runs as a candidate in Vermont for either the House of Representatives or the Senate in the first place.

The underlying assumption behind this particular question is that it seems to be more than likely people do not necessarily put themselves forward as a candidate for the state Legislature because of the allure of the salary and, instead, probably do so for myriad other reasons.

These other reasons could include because they currently are or previously were highly passionate about public service and also about one or more matters (issues) important to them as well as

members of the community they have sought to represent and serve.

To my way of thinking as well as by way of observation, rather than the issue of sufficient enough legislative salary being an impediment from either continuing to run for reelection or otherwise seeking election, what might possibly be among the reasons for not running could be complete disillusionment with politics as well as the political process, including at the local and state level, not merely at the federal level.

It could be that, once in office or otherwise having come to the realization

Political sausage-making is still an ugly and somewhat nasty process

regarding how political sausage is actually produced and what goes into it prior to considering running as a candidate, the hopes, idealism as well as vision that initially led them to consider running in the first place ends up being dashed and deep dismay as well as utter frustration with the reality of politics within the state house and at the administrative level sets in, which

Politics → 10

CAPITAL QUOTES

A significant rain storm on July 10 on top of a wet summer left Vermont in recovery mode...

“Our top focus right now is our team, and we have been in contact with them to ensure they are safe and supported. Our thoughts are with the entire community of Ludlow at this time. We continue to assess and manage any impacts around the resort as conditions allow. Currently, The Adventure Zone at Jackson Gore, the Okemo Bike Park and scenic chair rides are expected to be closed through at least next Wednesday, July 19 at which time we will reassess conditions and whether it is safe to reopen,”

said Okemo Communications Manager **Courtney DiFore**.

“Make no mistake, the devastation and flooding we’re experiencing across Vermont is historic and catastrophic. Although the coming days, weeks and months will be incredibly difficult, we’ve faced challenges before, and Vermonters have risen to meet the moment. Whether during Irene, Covid or other hardships, Vermonters have proven time and time again we’re willing and able to step up and help our neighbors,”

said Gov. **Phil Scott** in a press release on Tuesday, July 11.

“Locals are already coming together to make things happen. I see people are making donations to support the town already,”

said Ludlow resident **Mary Faenza**.

“Our first responders are working hard on the ground to keep our communities safe in life-threatening conditions. The work they’re doing is essential, and my office and I will do everything we can to support their efforts,”

Sen. **Peter Welch** said in a statement.

OP-ED

The ‘Bypass Scott’ strategy in action

By John McClaughry

Editor’s note: John McClaughry is the vice president of the Ethan Allen Institute, a conservative-leaning think tank focused on free-market solutions.

The Legislature’s enactment of the Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act is another troubling example of how massive changes in Vermont are being engineered these days, whether the democratically elected governor likes it or not.

This particular measure (Act 59) establishes state goals of conserving 30% of the land of the state by 2030 and 50% by 2050. It requires the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to develop an inventory of the existing conserved lands in the State and a plan on how to reach the ambitious goals.

The new law defines “conserved” lands as enjoying permanent protection of intact and connected ecosystems — to put it crudely, “Humans! Out!” Gov. Scott vetoed the bill last year but this year, facing a veto

proof Democratic Legislature, he allowed the bill to become law without his signature.

Let’s look at some recent history.

When Gov. Scott took office in 2017 he pleased the climate change advocates by creating a Climate Action Commission. To the dismay of the advocates, his Commission stopped short of recommending their heart’s desire, a carbon tax. When it became apparent that Gov. Scott would be easily reelected (as he has been three times so far), the climate advocates conceived a new “Bypass Scott” strategy.

First was the Global Warming Solutions Act, which replaced a CO2 emissions reduction goal with an enforceable mandate. Scott vetoed it but the Legislature overrode his veto. This May the Legislature enacted the relabeled the “Affordable Heat Act,” over Scott’s veto. The act assigned its implementation not to the Scott

Bypass strategy → 31

← Recovery: from page 2

continue to, do the work for the town: Craig Mosher, Mark Fiore, Ray Harvey and Casella Construction.

On Tuesday morning the select board announced that the lead was given to Craig Mosher who will coordinate all work on East Mountain Road and its offshoots. Fiore, Harvey and Casella will all support that work.

“I want to thank all those who have put in so many hours over the past few days in service to the town and its residents,” Selectman Jim Haff said. “Specifically, the fire department has been out there helping residents with flooded basements, cleaning out culverts with the hoses and helping direct traffic around closures; we really appreciate all of you and all those residents out there helping each other out in all sorts of big and small ways. Our community is so resilient when we support each other as a community.”

President of Killington a Resort Mike Solimano also gave a brief update Tuesday, saying: “Skysheep is still underwater and Bear Mountain Base Lodge took on a lot of water, but compared to Irene when all our base lodges got flooded, we did a lot better. I appreciate the town, working with us on a bunch of different things you were able to... We’re planning to open the resort tomorrow and are kind of going through and reassessing everything now ... there’s some bike trail issues, there’s a lot of little issues, but from a big standpoint, it’s mostly Skye and Bear we’re watching.”

Killington Police Chief Whit Montgomery reported that his primary focus is now, “traffic control to assist the contractors out working.” Adding, “we’ve also been asked and I’ve volunteered and offered our services to the public to do property checks. Some people are nervous about their properties so we can do a quick drive by or walk out make sure there’s no major damage and look for signs of any force entry or flooding and stuff like that into the property,” he said.

Montgomery, who just last week was tasked with taking over Killington Search and Rescue (KSAR), activated the team Friday when he received a report of a senior citizen

living at Sunrise Condominiums on oxygen and without power.

“Sunrise was inaccessible due to Bear Mountain Road being washed out,” he said.

He activated KSAR with two members who took a tracked ATV to the scene. Robert Giolito was also notified and responded to the scene.

“I literally turned to my left, spoke to a KSAR team member, and the activation was underway,” Montgomery said.

The subject was located and his vitals checked. “He felt comfortable staying the night and a Killington Fire Department generator was left in case he needed oxygen throughout the evening,” Montgomery said.

Chief Montgomery stated this is what he envisioned with KSAR coming under the preview of the Police Department. “Although this was a wellness check, it could have very easily become a medical emergency. With calls like these, seconds are minutes, minutes are hours. It is important to get to a potential patient quickly, safely and evaluate the situation and take action,” he said, adding: “These calls are fluid in nature and having a direct line to KSAR members from the police is important to expedite the response and the changing information as it arrives.”

And conditions did change. By 2 p.m. Sunday, all residents in Sunrise, Top Ridge and those along the east side of East Mountain Road and Bear Mountain Road were evacuated as roads were expected to continue to erode with the forecasted rain through Monday.

On Tuesday, after the rains finally stopped, Montgomery made an official recommendation for Giolito to be appointed director of KSAR; the select board unanimously approved it.

Montgomery further reported to the select board that KSAR currently has 15 members on its roster; seven already trained and certified under Wilderness First Aid and the other nine capable of “ground and pound” rescue work and working toward certifications.

Editor’s note: Look for more information about the new KSAR team and its director in future stories in the Mountain Times.

← **KWCF:**
from page 7

tary and middle schools have direct trail access to the system without even setting foot on a sidewalk or a road. With the KWCF grant, organizers will be able to maximize productive ski hours for the next generation.

KWCF's contribution towards athletic excellence is also evident through the support of the New England Nordic Ski Association (NENSA). Currently, 2,642 youths are participating in NENSA's "NENSA Nordic Rocks introductory youth XC ski program" across 28 schools in the Northeast. The Nordic Rocks (NR) program was developed to introduce a new generation of children in grades K-6 to the joy of cross country skiing. NR provides elementary school students with an opportunity to experience cross country skiing during the school day with their teachers and classmates, usually during PE class, to learn about the health and lifestyle benefits associated with exercise and outdoor fun.

KWCF's grant supports the funding of NENSA's youth and introductory program director who organizes and implements the Nordic Rocks (NR) program for NENSA, and supports the Bill Koch Youth Ski League, which is the next-level-up program.

The Share Winter Foundation aimed to expand its program with the Association of Africans Living in Vermont (AALV) by increasing support to 90 youths by winter 2024. To support the existing and future programming, they planned to purchase hard and soft goods to alleviate capacity issues and facilitate higher rates of improvement.

Last year, AALV staff and youth were new to skiing and the winter sports industry; through the guidance of Share Winter, AALV is currently in year two of their learn to ski/snowboard program at Sugarbush, which has been wildly successful.

← **Police death:**
from page 3

Police said the pursuit started around 2:51 p.m. July 7 after Rheume had interactions with police officers in Rutland Town and Rutland City earlier that day.

Rheume's ex-girlfriend Jasmine Baker, 21, called police the afternoon of July 7 due to an altercation at her grandmother's house at Adams Street in Rutland Town. Baker told police they have two children together, almost 2 and 1, and had been in an on-again, off-again relationship since 2019. Baker said Rheume had been diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and had been off his medication, which causes him to become more obsessed with Baker.

Rheume began calling Baker around 10 a.m. July 7 by phone and repeatedly continued to contact her throughout the day. Rheume demanded to see the children and take them to lunch. Baker told police she was uncomfortable with him coming over to her residence at 76 East Washington Street in Rutland City due to his mental status. She told Rheume to go to her grandmother's residence on Adams Street in Rutland Town, where he could see the children under supervision.

Baker drove to her grandmother's residence on Adams Street in Rutland Town and Rheume came later. Baker said Rheume ran into her grandmother's house and demanded to see the children. Baker continued to refuse to let him take the children to lunch. The Rutland Town Police Dept. was then contacted to help and Rheume left the residence without incident.

Baker and her new boyfriend, Zachary Trombley, 32, traveled to the courthouse in Rutland City just before 3 p.m. to get a relief from abuse order against Rheume. While Baker and Davis were inside the courthouse, Trombley received an alert on his phone from newly installed surveillance cameras that showed Rheume was "breaking in," and standing in the living room at their residence at 76 East Washington St.

Officers Jarod Dumas of Rutland City Police and John Dickerson responded to East Washington Street and made contact with Rheume. As police attempted to press charges, Rheume fled the residence in his 2006 silver Dodge Ram. Three police cruisers, driven by Dumas, Ebbighausen and Parker, pursued him.

Onlookers said Rheume's truck was traveling 50-70 miles per hour and weaved in and out of traffic as cruisers followed him.

Rheume later told police he was under the influence of cannabis. He was driving his truck past Stewart's Shops parking lot when he saw Rutland City police chasing him. Rheume said that he didn't want to get pulled over because he wanted to get into the Marine Corps and believed that an arrest would hurt his ambitions. He said he wanted to get to his mother's house

← **Slate Ridge:**
from page 3

"The Vermont State Police is aware of the arrest warrant, and, as with all such matters, we stand ready to assist the Rutland County Sheriff's Department as needed," Adam Silverman, a spokesperson for the Vermont State Police, said in an email on Thursday.

In a public Facebook post on his personal profile, Banyai wrote about the decision, calling the situation a "911 Emergency."

"Because I didn't 'Demolish' the permitted building 'school' I am going to jail," he wrote. "Please stand with me. This needs to be protested civilly."

"Stand with me; our civil constitutional rights and freedoms," he continued. "I will go to jail for all the violations to our constitutional rights."

Asked in a voicemail whether Banyai would go willingly with authorities, Robert Kaplan, Banyai's attorney, responded by email. "We are reviewing the Court's decisions today and evaluating the appropriate next steps," he wrote.

Merrill Bent, an attorney for the town of Pawlet, declined to comment on the judge's order.

Months before Durkin ordered Banyai's arrest on Thursday, he warned Banyai that if he didn't come into compliance with the court order, he would face jail time.

Durkin ruled in February that Banyai had violated court orders from March 2021 that required him to deconstruct un-

permitted structures, some of which were part of the paramilitary facility.

In that decision, Durkin wrote that Banyai "has demonstrated a willfulness, perhaps even an enthusiasm, for disregarding the Town's Bylaws, this Court's Orders, and the authority of the Judiciary."

Durkin wrote that Banyai "has demonstrated a willfulness, perhaps even an enthusiasm, for disregarding the Town's Bylaws, this Court's Orders, and the authority of the Judiciary."

At the time, Durkin issued a compliance schedule for Banyai. It required him to complete different aspects of his court order — removing unpermitted buildings and destroying berms that made up gun ranges — by certain dates.

Banyai would accrue daily fines until the work was complete, the order stated, but if he had completed the work by the scheduled time, the fines would have been forgiven.

When town officials showed up to his property on June 1 for a court-ordered site visit to check if he had complied with the schedule, Banyai was not on the property. His gate was closed with a sign that read, "Warning no trespassing. Written permission needed to enter. Admission with state or federal ID only. Trespass here, die here, take the chance!"

That's when Bent, the attorney for the town, asked the court to order Banyai's arrest.

While Banyai's attorney opposed that motion, he "presented no evidence to support justifying or excusing his failure to permit the site inspection," Durkin wrote in his decision this past Thursday, July 6.

← **Politics:**
from page 8

eventually causes some to give up and bow out.

There are many, including state legislators as well as other political observers, who suggest that politics beneath the Golden Dome in Montpelier is not anything like it is in Washington, DC. However, while true, that is only by a matter of degree, as well as the level of gamesmanship and resulting nastiness at play.

Having witnessed the political process play out underneath the Golden Dome firsthand over the years, I can easily attest that, oftentimes, political-sausage making is still an ugly and somewhat nasty process at both the legislative and administrative level here in little old Vermont as well.

By the way, in terms of shortening the legislative session as some have proposed (versus raising legislative salaries), I have observed over the years about how the Legislature can get its work accomplished in rather quick order when it chooses to do so. Furthermore, and there can be no disputing the fact on this particular count, the recent veto session held this month (June 20), with its relatively heavy workload, is a prime example of that.

*Morgan W. Brown,
Montpelier*

A candlelight vigil for Ebbighausen is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, at the Rutland City Police Department.

where he could sleep.

Rheume said that he steered into the oncoming lane to go around a slower vehicle and didn't realize that there was a Rutland City police cruiser approaching in the oncoming lane. He said that he didn't see it until just before the collision and was unable to avoid it.

"Mr. Rheume said that he was thinking of everything and nothing all at once," Sergeant Jay Riggen said in his affidavit, adding, "Notably, his story regarding how this collision occurred changed several times during our conversation."

"I asked him to describe his subjective feeling of impairment while he was driving during this incident, rating his impairment on a scale of 0-10. Mr. Rheume told me that he felt that he was a seven or eight on that scale," Riggen said.

The cruiser driven by Ebbighausen rolled over and hit the other police cruiser driven by Parker before both vehicles came to rest. All three vehicles had substantial damage.

Nearly three dozen Vermont law-enforcement officers and first responders escorted Ebbighausen's body in a procession along Route 7 from the Vermont Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Burlington back to the city on July 7.

The Medical Examiner's Office completed the autopsy on Ebbighausen on Saturday, July 8 and determined the cause of death was blunt force trauma.

"We're hurting right now," Police Chief Brian Kilkullen said at a press conference. "I think it's more important now than ever to ask for the support from the community."

Ebbighausen, of Ira, wanted to be a police officer since she was 9 years old. She did an internship with the police department two years ago.

"We started recruiting her around that time," Kilkullen said.

Ebbighausen was hired May 23 and was a level II certified police officer, slated to begin her full-time Police Academy training in August.

"She always had a smile on her face," Kilkullen said. "She worked to get where she was today and we were looking forward to having her as part of our family."

The death of Ebbighausen has garnered national attention.

"Jessica exemplifies the very best of Vermonters, heroically responding without hesitation to help in a dangerous situation," Rep. Becca Balint said in a statement.

A candlelight vigil for Ebbighausen is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, at the Rutland City Police Department. Funeral arrangements are pending. The incident remains under investigation and police said additional charges are possible.

Rheume is currently being held on \$100,000 bail.

WORDPLAY

'On the Grill' word search. Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

SUDOKU

Solutions →21

R	V	N	D	Y	A	C	C	N	H	B	W	L	C	T	E	U	M	N	W
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- ASH
- BACKYARD
- BARBECUE
- CHAR
- CHARCOAL
- DELICIOUS
- ENTERTAIN
- EXTINGUISH
- FIRE
- FLAVOR
- FLIP
- GRATES
- GRILLING
- HARDWOOD
- MARINATE
- OUTDOORS
- PATIO
- ROTATE
- SEAR
- SMOKE
- SPIT
- TEMPERATURE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →21

CLUES ACROSS

1. Database management system

5. Medical procedures

11. ___ Clapton, musician

12. Defender

16. Exert oneself

17. Indicates position

18. Prevents river overflow

19. Atrocities

24. Mister

25. Ends

26. Slope or tilt

27. Taxi

28. The very ends

29. Actor Sean

30. Japanese persimmon

31. Sours

33. Beneficiary

34. Baseball official

38. Muddy, boggy ground

39. Not worldly

40. Actress Lathan

43. Soil

44. ___-Cola

45. Asleep

49. ___ Angeles

50. Give birth to a child

51. Beach shelter

53. Commercial

54. Taste property

56. Local jurisdictions

58. It cools your home

CLUES DOWN

1. Draw a scene

2. Its sultan is famous

3. Unlucky accident

4. A way to ski

5. Abba ___, Israeli politician

6. Saw

7. "Westworld" actor Harris

8. Belonging to me

9. Shoelace tube

10. Takes to court

13. Early multi-media

14. In a way, produces

15. Bowlers

20. Of I

21. Equally

22. Gets some sun

23. A place to stay

27. Town in Galilee

29. Aronofsky film

30. Klingon character, "Star Trek"

31. Equal to 100 square meters

32. Atomic #58

33. Arrived extinct

59. Dismounted from a horse

60. Charge with a crime

63. Close in

64. Spoke

65. Famed garden

34. Loosen grip

35. A distinctive odor that is unpleasant

36. Membranes

37. Some is poisonous

38. Partner to Pa

40. Small brown gray rail

41. A salt or ester of acetic acid

42. Sodium

44. Military official (abbr.)

45. Lighted

46. Took off

47. All

48. Ohio city

50. More abject

51. A radio band

52. Controversial tech product (abbr.)

54. Monetary unit

55. Passed with flying colors

57. A way to win a boxing match

61. The Golden State

62. Home of the Longhorns

How to Play

Each block is divided by its own matrix of nine cells. The rule for solving Sudoku puzzles are very simple. Each row, column and block, must contain one of the numbers from "1" to "9". No number may appear more than once in any row, column, or block. When you've filled the entire grid the puzzle is solved.

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am a comic actor born in Michigan on July 13, 1969. Before I went into performing, I attended Duke University with the intention of getting a medical degree, and succeeded. In addition to movies, I'm also a judge on a singing talent show.

Answer: Ken Jeong

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WEDNESDAY

7/12

Adult Pickleball

9-11 a.m. 47 Mechanic St., Castleton Village School gym. Free. Registration for this 6-week session is \$20. We have a 20-player limit. We ask that only adults attend this program, since we cannot offer child supervision at this time. Info@castletonvermont.org/recreation/events/44656.

Early Literacy Playgroup

10 a.m.-Noon. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. A fun playgroup for your 2-to-5-year-old. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

Vermont Farmers' Market

1-5 p.m. Depot Park, Evelyn Street, downtown Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, and the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. The market brings together as many as 60 vendors. Seasonal produce, local meats, dairy products, freshly baked breads, jellies and jams, maple products, honey, CBD products, hot snacks, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more. For more information, visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

Bike Bum Race Series

2-5 p.m. Middle-Lower Rabbit Hole, Killington Ski Resort. Entry fee is included in league and lift price. Sign up to ride solo or form a team of three to five people, any combination of age categories. All races will be held on beginner/intermediate trails. For more info visit killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar/kmbc-bike-bum-race2?season=summer.

Graphic Novel Book Club for Kids

3-4 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Come learn about new graphic novels, talk about your favorites, and maybe create your own. Grades 3 through 6. Children 10 and younger must be accompanied by a caregiver who is 14 or older. For more info visit: adrian@normanwilliams.org.

Good Citizen Club

4-5 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. We're participating in the Kids VT and Seven Days' Good Citizen Challenge! Join us as we do activities to explore history, government, community, and media with a chance to win prizes! Each session we will do one activity that you can check off on your Good Citizen Challenge sheet to help you get "BINGO" and earn prizes along with an invitation to a special ceremony at the Vermont State House in the fall. For more info, visit: rutlandfree.org.

Zentangle Workshops

4-5 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Gather monthly to bring your projects and learn new tangles from Jenny and each other. Zentangle is a method of drawing that is easy to learn and relaxing. Starter kits will be available for a suggested fee of \$5. Info: normanwilliams.org

Cavendish Summer Concert Series

6 p.m. Svec Park, Proctorsville Green, Cavendish. Free. Catch up with friends & neighbors, relax and listen to some wonderful live music. Takeout food offered by Murdock's on the Green Restaurant, Outer Limits Brewing, and Singleton's Market. Hosted by the Cavendish Community & Conservation Association and the Town of Cavendish. Info@cavendishconnects.com/calendar

Summer Concert Series: Beecharmer

6 p.m. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$10. Leave your pet at home but bring a chair and picnic supper and enjoy live music on the hillside. (Service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome.) Jes Raymond and Jakob Breitbach play banjo, virtuoso fiddle, upright bass with elements of bluegrass, old-time, jazz and pop. Info: artistreevt.org/artistree-events.

Music at the Riverbend Summer Concerts: Blues without Borders

6-8 p.m. Free. Relax with quality music, friends and neighbors on the pleasant grounds behind the Brandon Inn next to the Neshobe River. Free popcorn. Featuring an eclectic line up of bands throughout the summer. Info@brandon.org

'Seven to Sunset' Wednesday Night Concert

Series: Enerjazz Big Band

7 p.m. Main Street Park, Rutland. Free. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic dinner. Info: rutlandrec.com

A Summer of Sax' featuring Seth Carper

7 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultnery. Donation of \$10 is suggested. The "Summer of Sax" series will host guest jazz saxophone players that will be joining the New Kanon Jazz Trio this summer. This week, Dr. Seth Carper will perform. For more info, visit: stonevalleyarts.org.

THURSDAY

7/13

Storytime at Rutland Free Library

10 a.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Storytime promotes early literacy and socialization in a fun setting. Each session might offer stories, movement, and an activity. No registration required. Fox Room. Geared towards ages 2-5. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Toddler Storytime

10:30-11:30 a.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Join us to enjoy stories, socializing, and often a project tied into the theme of the week. For young children ages 20 months to 3½ years. Info: normanwilliams.org.

Ukelele Group

Noon-1 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Meet on Thursdays as musician Steven Wilson leads the group through specific sheet music. All levels welcome. This is not a class, but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together. Must pre-register: chaffeeartcenter.square.site or call 802-775-0356.

Killington Trail Bum

2:30-4:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Killington Boot Camp, 2363 US-4. Free. Join us for our free timed trail series. A friendly community competition on our trail network to get more people to enjoy these amazing trails. Compete against others or just work toward a personal best! Not a runner? No problem. You can hike/walk this beginner 5K trail. Dogs may accompany you (leashed please)! Sign up weekly on kbckbc.com/schedule. Info: kbckbc.com.

Summer Hockey League at Union Arena

Sessions starting at 3:20 p.m. Thursdays. See website for session schedule. Skaters have an opportunity to participate in drills, learning important skills and parts of the game from Steven Townley, local Woodstock alum and state champion, now playing D-1 collegiate hockey for Dartmouth's "Big Green" men's ice hockey team. Info: unionarena.org

Crafts for Kids

3:30-4:30 p.m. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Every Thursday, join us for crafts in the Juvenile Fiction Room! Bookmark and card making, collaging, creative writing, glitter, drawing, painting, and more. Info: hartlandlibraryvt.org.

Weekly Yoga with Kellie

4-5 p.m. Rutland Free Library, the Fox Room, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Info: rutlandfree.org

Kids' Painting Class

4-5:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center. \$25. Acrylic on canvas. Balloon dip Jelly fish with glow-in-the-dark paint details. Instructor: Dale Bills. Min 5 students. Must pre-register at https://chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library in the meeting room. Weights are provided. For additional information call the library at 802-422-9765.

Michelob Ultra

Golf League

5 p.m. Killington Golf Course, Killington Resort. League and membership cost. The format is a 9-hole scramble tournament on the front 9. Sign up as a team or as an individual. Handicaps will be considered and reviewed to ensure fair play. Info: killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar/kmb.

Celebrating Women Leaders in Rutland County

5:30 -7:30 p.m. The HUB, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland. Evolve Rutland, Social Tinkering and Euphoric Hair Experience is celebrating women leaders in Rutland County by inducting candidates for the Next Gen Leaders, Wall of Fame Leaders, and Madeleine Kunin Trailblazer Awards. Info: farvisionconsulting.com/evolve-rutland

Feast and Field Summer Concerts: Sabouyouma

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm Fermentory, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$25. Join us in the orchards of Fable Farm every Thursday night, all summer long, to enjoy music curated by BarnArts, and freshly prepared food that is grown, raised, and harvested on this same land. Info: feast-and-field.com.

The River Road Concert Series: Rhys Chalmers

6 p.m. Thursday evenings. Sherburne Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. There is a variety of musical talent and genres for this series. Free. Info: sherburnelibrary.org

Slate Valley Trails Analog x SVT gravel rides

6 p.m. Free. Analog Cycles, 188 Main St. #1, Poultnery. See membership inclusion for details. Join SVT for our weekly summer group MTB rides. Info: slatevalleytrails.org.

14th annual Lake Bomoseen Bridal Show

6:30-9 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom, 2551 Route 30 N, Bomoseen. \$10. The Lake Bomoseen Bridal Show welcomes engaged couples and anyone seeking inspiration for their special day. Promotional giveaways, including exclusive discounts and exciting wedding packages. To purchase tickets or for info visit: vtwed.com.

Chester Summer Music Series: Green Sisters

6:30 p.m. Chester Academy, 230 Main St., Chester. Free. Thursday evening concert series held on the Chester Academy lawn across from the town green. Bring your lawn chair. Sponsored by the Chester Rotary Club. (Rain venue: American Legion Post 67 on Route 103.) Info: yourplaceinvermont.com.

Music on the Green: Liz Reedy

6:30-7:30 p.m. Belmont Village Green, 7 Maple Hill Road, Belmont-Mount Holly. Free. Concerts on the Belmont Village Green happen Thursday evenings all summer. (In case of rain the concerts will be held in the Mount Holly Community Center). Info: mhcavt.org.

Fair Haven Concerts in the Park: Blue Jay Way

7 p.m. Fair Haven Park. Free. Bring your chairs any time after 5 p.m. on concert night. Hot dogs, chips, and soda plus a 50/50 drawing each night. Multiple handicapped-accessible spaces available. Info: poultneyareachamber.com/organizer/fair-haven-concerts-in-the-park.

Calendar → 13



SOLARFEST
JULY 15 & 16

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

FRIDAY
7/14

Audubon Bird Walk

7-10 a.m. Hollow Road, Brandon. Free. Meet at the Brandon post office parking lot. Carpooling encouraged. All are welcome! Info: birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

Brandon Farmers' Market

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Central Park, Brandon. Free. The Brandon Farmers' Market started over 40 years ago to serve Brandon and surrounding communities, providing locally made produce, goods, and crafts. Info: brandonfarmersmarketvt.com/about.

Adult Artery Workshop

10 a.m.- Noon. Every Friday. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Three cost options: Bring your own painting supplies, \$10; use of any one Chaffee supply \$5 additional; \$20 total if more supplies are used. Chaffee provides paint (watercolor, acrylic, oil), pastels, canvas, brushes, easel \$20. Please choose correct payment. Adult group for connection and inspiration. Painting in any medium, no instructor, participants will work on their individual artwork. Includes 30- minute technique focus with rotating artists when possible. Pre-register by Thursday at: <https://chaffeeartcenter.square.site>.

Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Thousands of gently used, shelved and categorized books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages plus a broad selection of rare and antique books. All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers. Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated projects. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Kinhaven Concerts: Student Concert

4 p.m. Kinhaven Music School concert hall, 354 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston. Free. Info: kinhaven.org/kinhaven-concerts.

Ludlow Farmers' Market

4-7 p.m. Okemo Mountain School Green, 53 Main St., Ludlow. Free. Over 14 local vendors offer everything from fresh vegetables to local maple syrup. Info: ludlowfarmersmarket.org

Shrewsbury Meeting House Concert Series

5 p.m. Shrewsbury Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road, Shrewsbury. Donations appreciated. The 4th annual Shrewsbury Meeting House Concert Series is held on Friday summer evenings, featuring exceptional music, food, and rhythmic camaraderie! Refreshments provided by area food truck vendors, some offering Smith Maple Crest Farm beef. (Rain dates are on Sunday except for the Sept. 1 concert). Info: yourplaceinvermont.com.

Micromosaics: Jewelry and Beyond

5-8 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln, Rutland. Create micromosaics from tiny fragments of glass, called tesserae, mosaic pieces made from an opaque vitreous glass or enamel in a multitude of colors called smalto. Appropriate for all levels of experience. Cost (includes materials): members, \$75; (not-yet) members, \$9. Instructor: Jennifer Judkins. Please be sure to bring any corrective eyewear you need. Info: rutlandmint.org.

The Jackson Gore Summer Music Series: Red River North

6 p.m. Jackson Gore, Okemo Ski Resort. Free. Family-friendly live music on the lawn at the Jackson Gore Courtyard on Friday nights all summer. Food and beverage will be offered at the venue. Info: okemo.com.

Music by the River Series: The Empty Pockets

6 p.m. East End Park, 217 Maxham Meadow Way (off Route 4), Woodstock. Free. This popular concert venue is an outdoor amphitheater overlooking the peaceful Ottauquechee River. The Empty Pockets is a Chicago-based band specializing in American rock-n-roll. Rain location: Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. Info: pentanglearts.org.

Front Porch Concert Series: Phil Henry and Jeff Kimball

6 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poulthney. Concert is slated to be an outdoor event but will move indoors in case of inclement weather or heat wave. Donations to support the event will be greatly appreciated. Info: stonevalleyarts.org.

Name that Fish Stew! Cooking Class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$95. Chef Ted teaches the skills to create a delicious New England seafood stew with shellfish and vegetables. Info: odysseyeventsvt.com.

Paramount Players Presents: 'The Wizard of Oz'

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Tickets \$20-\$35 + tax/fees. A community theatre production that includes an all-local cast and crew of more than 100 along with a full-sized orchestra. Info: paramount.org.

SATURDAY
7/15

Slate Valley Epic, Day 1

7:30 a.m. The third annual Slate Valley Epic mountain bike race on Saturday and our Sunday group ride along with a bike vendor expo! Expect some of the best singletrack riding with plenty of climbing and extraordinary views of southwestern Vermont and the Slate Valley. All racers will receive an event t-shirt and a great meal after the race with The Rolling Rooster. Primitive camping is available at the trailhead (fees apply). Info: VMBA.org.

Wallingford Day

All day festivities from yard sales to evening fireworks, silent auction at the library, local businesses, Hot Toddy's Food Truck & Catering and Sustainable Eats Food Truck, electric vehicle display, hotdogs and ice-cream at the Wallingford Memorial Rotary Club, kids' activities, bike decorating, and a cool bike parade at the rec park. Meet the Wallingford rescue team, take in the porch party at the Wallingford Block, contra dancing with Kathy Luzader and Sumio Seo, live music with The Plumb Bobs and DJ Brett Myhre and the Lawrence Kaminski Memorial Fireworks. Free. Info: [Facebook.com/hashtag/wallingfordday](https://facebook.com/hashtag/wallingfordday).

Fair Haven Free Library Story Walk Series: 'The Highway Rat'

All day. Free. Town green, Fair Haven. Each walk of the Story Walk series displays text of a full children's book on white picket signs spaced through the town green across the street from the fire station and town office building, beginning and ending at the north end of the park. For the Story Walk schedule, email: fairhavenfreelibrary@gmail.com.

Baby Goat Yoga

10-11:15 a.m. Wellwood Orchards, 529 Wellwood Orchards Road, Springfield. \$15-\$20, \$5 to borrow a mat. Practice yoga in the company of baby goats. Check in is 9:30-9:45 a.m. Contact by email: yogiaggie4u@gmail.com to sign up, for more information or to be added to the mailing list. Yogi Aggie will reply to your message or email in the evening. PLEASE do not call the orchard.

Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Thousands of gently used, shelved and categorized books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages plus a broad selection of rare and antique books. All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers. Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated projects. Info: rutlandfree.org.

SolarFest

10 a.m. Saturday-5 p.m. Sunday. 144 Steinberg Road, Brandon. \$40. 20 live performers on two solar-powered stages. A weekend of fun with live music, workshops, local food, and exhibits, featuring headline performances by Dar Williams and two-time Grammy nominee Etana & The Raw Soul Rebels on the main stage. Afro-Caribbean to classic folk, Celtic and Latin funk to saltwater country, including the Falcon Ridge "Most Wanted" preview and our Singer-Songwriter Showcase. Plus, dozens of exciting workshops on renewable energy, green buildings, sustainable, healthy living, art, activism, and a Giant Bedsheet Art Exhibition by Bread + Puppet founder Peter Schumann. Info: solarfest.org.

Vermont Farmers' Market

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Depot Park, Evelyn St., downtown Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, and the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. The market brings together as many as 60 vendors. Seasonal produce, local meats, dairy products, freshly baked breads, jellies and jams, maple products, honey, CBD products, hot snacks, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.



Rutland Railroad Museum & Model Club

11 a.m.-1 p.m. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. Free. Children of all ages will delight in the HO scale model railroad operating display (HO is a rail transport modeling scale using a 1:87 scale). The depot is now a museum that displays hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and diverse memorabilia saved from an earlier time, including the former Rutland Railroad caboose #45. Info: rutlandrailway.org.

The Soufflé Also Rises and Apple-Tart Cooking Class

Noon-3 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$80. Learn how to make our un-classic fallen soufflé using the classic combo of Vermont dairy and eggs. Then with apples from local orchards, you'll learn to make a light and delicious apple tart with Vermont maple cream. For more info, call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 or info@odysseyeventsvt.com.

Circus Smirkus: 2023 Big Top Tour

1 & 6 p.m. Rutland Fairgrounds. Adult (13 and over) \$35; child (2-12) \$20. Celebrating its 36th year, Circus Smirkus is the only traveling "tented" youth circus in the United States and among the favorite arts events of the New England summer. This year's tour continues the tradition of Smirkus' theme-based shows with "A Midsummer Night's Circus," featuring a vast array of circus arts, including aerials, acrobatics, juggling, clowning, a dazzling display of brilliant costumes, and many other surprises. Info: tour@smirkus.org.

Paramount Players Presents: 'The Wizard of Oz'

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Tickets \$20-\$35 + tax/fees. A community theatre production that includes an all-local cast and crew of more than 100 along with a full-sized orchestra. Info: paramount.org.

Cooler in the Mountains Concert Series: Chalk Dinosaur

3-5:30 p.m. Snowshed Lodge Base area, Killington Ski Resort. Free. Join us at the Snowshed Lodge base area for live music from Pittsburgh, PA. Info: killington.com.

Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$85. Learn how to make tortellini, fettuccini, and ravioli plus three different fillings and three accompanying sauces. Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 or info@odysseyeventsvt.com.



Calendar:

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Killington Music Festival's Music in the Mountains:

KMF's Deliciously Flavorful Melodies

7 p.m. Pico Base Lodge: 73 Alpine Drive, Mendon. Tickets are \$30 at the door on the night of the concert, CHECK OR CASH ONLY. Each summer professional musicians gather at Killington to play chamber music and to teach students. Performances by the faculty and invited guest artists have made the festival a mainstay of summer culture in the region. Info: killington.com.

Fred Marple: An Evening of Yankee Humor and Music

7 p.m. Black River Academy Museum, 14 High St., Ludlow. \$15. Assorted nonsense for the whole family! This is his classic "Welcome to Frost Heaves" show, in which he introduces the wacky characters of his home town. Purchase tickets at the door or at fredmarple.com.

Pond Hill Ranch Rodeo

7:30 p.m. Pond Hill Road, Castleton. Prices vary. Pond Hill Pro Rodeo Company events include bareback bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, girls' barrel racing, girls' breakaway roping, and bull riding. For more info visit pondhillranch.com.

Kinhaven Concerts: Faculty Concerts

7:30 p.m. Kinhaven Music School, 354 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston. Free. The Faculty Concert Series is held on Saturday evenings in the concert hall. Parents, alumni and friends are invited beforehand at 6:30 p.m. outside the concert hall for wine and cheese. Info: kinhaven.org/kinhaven-concerts.

The Soufflé Also Rises and Apple-Tart Cooking Class

12-3 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$80. Learn how to make our un-classic fallen soufflé using the classic combo of Vermont dairy and eggs. Then with apples from local orchards, you'll learn to make a light and delicious apple tart with Vermont maple cream. For more info, call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 or info@odysseysvt.com.

SUNDAY

7/16

Brewery Yoga at Long Trail Brewing Company

11 a.m.-Noon. Long Trail Brewing Company, 5520 U.S. 4, Bridgewater. Cost is \$30 which includes a 60-minute flow, a post-class pint, and a good time with fellow yogis. Led by Alex of Word Life Athletics and Beth of Killington Bootcamp Wellness Center. All levels. \$5 from each ticket purchase will be donated to support Vermont Adaptive! Info: kbckbc.com.

Circus Smirkus: 2023 Big Top Tour

1 & 6 p.m. Rutland Fairgrounds. Adult (13 and over) \$35; child (2-12) \$20. Celebrating its 36th year, Circus Smirkus is the only traveling "tent" youth circus in the United States and among the favorite arts events of the New England summer. This year's tour continues the tradition of Smirkus' theme-based shows with "A Midsummer Night's Circus," featuring a vast array of circus arts, including aerials, acrobatics, juggling, clowning, a dazzling display of brilliant costumes, and many other surprises. Info: tour@smirkus.org.

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Paramount Players Presents: 'The Wizard of Oz'

2 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Tickets \$20-\$35 + tax/fees. A community theatre production that includes an all-local cast and crew of more than 100 along with a full-sized orchestra. Info: paramount.org

Slate Valley Epic, Day 2

2 p.m. The second day of the Slate Valley Epic will feature family friendly group rides as the bike expo continues. In addition, there will be food and vendors available including The Rolling Rooster, Lawson's Finest Liquids, Kate's Real Food®, Slate Valley Trails and Evergreen Cycle Works. There will be raffles with chances to win two nights in a cabin in the woods, 1 full overhaul for your MTB by Evergreen Cycles. Info: VMBA.org.

Kinhaven Concerts: Student Concert

2:30 p.m. Kinhaven Music School concert hall, 354 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston. Free. Info: kinhaven.org/kinhaven-concerts.

Sunday Hockey Clinic with Jon Chamberlin

3:30-5 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Players will receive college and junior level coaching from an experienced staff. Each session will end with a full-ice game. For info on pricing visit unionarena.org/summer-camps.

That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$80. Award-winning Chef Ted will lead a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class at our mountain top retreat, using mostly organic and regional ingredients that hail mainly from nearby Vermont farms. Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513. Info: odysseysvt.com.

Sundays on the Hill Concert Series: Counterpoint Ensemble

4 p.m. Weston Community Church, 37 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston. \$5. Celebrating its 25th anniversary with Counterpoint's a cappella folksongs and the Great American Songbook, in the acoustically perfect Weston Community Church (Church on the Hill). Info: SundaysOnTheHill.org.

Poultney-Granville Band Concerts on the Green

6:30-8:30 p.m. East Poultney Green, 1500 East Main St., East Poultney. Talented musicians will play a wide range of music, from concert pieces to selections from musicals, and from stirring marches to service salutes. Fun for all ages. Refreshments available. Bring your own lawn chair or a blanket and enjoy a relaxing summer evening. Info: poultneyareachamber.com/events.

MONDAY

7/17

Mexican Cooking for Young People

9 a.m.-Noon, July 17 & 18. The Cluckin' Cafe & Culinary Institute, 2044 U.S. 7, Pittsford. \$140. Grades 7 to 12. Focus will be on cooking Mexican cuisine, with Nicole Bower. This 2-day camp takes place at the restaurant and bakery. Minimum enrollment: 6; maximum enrollment: 12. Chaffee Art Center members get a 10% discount. Preregistration is required at https://chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

Big Art Summer Camp

9 a.m.-Noon, July 17 through July 21. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$140. Have fun creating big art for a mural to be placed near the Chaffee. Dress for the outdoors and bring a snack/water bottle. Ages: 6-12. Instructor: Deb Dauphinais. Minimum enrollment: 5. Chaffee members get a 10% discount. Preregistration is required at https://chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

Summer Plein Air Painting with Katie Roberts

10 a.m. Various locations in Bridgewater. \$30-\$150. Student or experienced. Join me for four Monday sessions painting plein air (painting outdoors while rendering the landscape from direct observation) through the summer, in either acrylic or oils. Register to guarantee your spot in the summer session at katiejroberts.com or katiejrobertsstudio@gmail.com.

Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library in the meeting room. Free. Weights are provided. For additional information call the library at 802-422-9765.

Babies and Toddlers Rock

10-10:30 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. A music and pre-literacy program for children 0-24 months with Linda McFarlane. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Bingo

1:15 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Cost varies. This is a drop-in activity. Info: rutlandrec.com/godnick.

Chronicles of Yarnia

3 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Want to learn how to knit, crochet, or anything else with yarn? For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

Sewcial Studies

4-5 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Design a square inspired by the library or a book. We'll work together over the summer to put together a quilt for the library, just hang out, and learn to sew. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Slate Valley Trails Group Trail Runs

6-7:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Rd, Poultney. The route will vary weekly and may have two route options depending on the number of people. Expect at least a 5-mile run at a social pace with some elevation gain for a standard run. With two groups we will have options for up to 12 miles for one of the routes. For more info and membership details visit slatevalleytrails.org.

Music on Monday: The Morning Dudes

6 p.m. Pingree Park, 36 Pingree Park Lane, Londonderry. Free. Tunes from the repertoire of Jerry Garcia and The Grateful Dead. Bring a blanket or chair and a picnic and remember to pack-in-pack-out! No alcohol on town property, please. Sponsored by the Town of Londonderry. (Rain location is the Old Town Hall, 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry). For more info visit yourplaceinvermont.com/event/pingree-park-music-mondays.

TUESDAY

7/18

Stories on a String

10-10:30 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. A music and pre-literacy program for children 0-24 months. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Children's Indoor Storytime

10:30-11:30 a.m. Community Meeting Room, Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Storytime for children, infants to age 5, but everyone is welcome. Info: hartlandlibraryvt.org or contact Traci at kids@hartlandlibraryvt.org.

Chess Club

4 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Like chess? Come challenge an opponent to a friendly game and hone your skills. To register call 802-855-4533.

Yoga with Emma! (Kids)

4:30-5:15 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Kidding Around Yoga (KAY) is a style of yoga designed to motivate children to be active, build confidence, and manage the spectrum of emotions that they might experience in their day-to-day activities while encompassing the five branches of yoga in a clear and engaging method. Info: rutlandfree.org/calendar-events.

Slate Valley Trails Women's Mountain Bike Group

Rides

5:30-7:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Road, Poultney. See membership inclusion for details. Join us each Tuesday night this summer to ride with an amazing group of women on our beautiful SVT trail network. Info: slatevalleytrails.org.

Stuffed Animal Storytime

5:30-6:15 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Join us to make your very own elephant stuffie! We'll also read a story! Registration is required as materials are limited. Registration will open as of Tuesday, June 27. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Tuesday Concert Series: Gypsy Reel

6-8 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Free, live concert with Vermont's all-time favorite Celtic band. Enjoy this classic farm property, repurposed as a community resource, overlooking the Taconics skyline. Info: pittsfordvillagefarm.org.



BREWERY YOGA

JULY 16

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
7/12

BRANDON
6 p.m. Brandon Inn (Lawn) –
Concert with Blues W/O Borders

LUDLOW
6 p.m. The Killarney – Sammy B
7 p.m. Off the Rails – Liz Reedy

POULTNEY
7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Open
Mic hosted by Danny Lang

PROCTORSVILLE
6 p.m. Svec Memorial Green – Bill
Brink

QUECHEE
6 p.m. Public House Pub – Kim
Wilcox

RUTLAND
5 p.m. Roots Restaurant – Aaron
Audet

5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Ryan
Fuller

7 p.m. Main Street Park –
Enerjazz Big Band

SOUTH POMFRET
6 p.m. Artistree – Summer
Concert Series with Beecharmer

WOODSTOCK
3 p.m. Farmers Market – Music
by Indigenous Entertainment

THURS
7/13

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

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

BRIDGEWATER
6:30 p.m. Ramunto's Brick and
Brew Pizza of Bridgewater - Name
That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

BRIDGEWATER
CORNERS
5:30 p.m. Long Trail Brewery –
Nick B and Zach Y

FAIR HAVEN
7 p.m. Town Park – Blue Jay Way

KILLINGTON
4 p.m. Casey's Caboose - Psylas
6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic
hosted by Grateful Gary

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto
6 p.m. Sherburne Memorial
Library Lawn – River Road
Concert Series w/ Rhys Chalmers
6 p.m. The Foundry – Ryan Fuller

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

LUDLOW
6 p.m. Okemo's Coleman Brook
Tavern – Sammy B

7 p.m. Off the Rails – Live Music

POULTNEY
7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Vinyl
Night with Ken

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

RUTLAND
6 p.m. Strangefellows Pub –
Trivia Night

6:30 p.m. Angler Pub – Open Mic
hosted by John Lafave

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

SOUTH ROYALTON
5 p.m. 802 Pizza – Open Mic
hosted by George Nostrand

FRI
7/14

BOMOSEEN
6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and
Taproom – Psylas

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

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Rob
Pagnano

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – James Joel

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub –
Loose Monkeys

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Rick
Webb

LUDLOW
6 p.m. Calcuttas – Aaron Audet
Duo

6 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard
– Summer Music Series with Red
River North

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Chris
P Duo

PITTSFIELD
8 p.m. Clear River Tavern – 8th
Anniversary Karaoke Spectacular

POULTNEY
6 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Liz
Reedy

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub –
Sammy B

RANDOLPH
7:30 p.m. Underground Listening
Room - Tiger Strike & BOME

RUTLAND
7 p.m. Paramount Theatre
– Wizard of Oz by The
Paramount Players and Grace
Congregational Church

SHREWSBURY
5 p.m. Meeting House –
Luminous Crush

STOCKBRIDGE
7 p.m. Wild Fern - July Friday
Night Music Series with Marc
Delgado

WOODSTOCK
6 p.m. East End Park – Music by
the River with Empty Pockets

SAT
7/15

BRANDON
7 p.m. Town Hall – Silent Movie:
Buster Keaton "The General"

BRIDGEWATER
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club
– Comedy Night with Headliner
Bryan Muenzer

CHESTER
7 p.m. Country Girl Diner – AC/VT

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

3 p.m. Snowshed Lodge Base
Area – Cooler in the Mountains
Concert Series with Chalk
Dinosaur and Special Guest
Opener Kenny Mehler

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Rob
Pagnano

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Eric King

7 p.m. Pico Base Lodge –
Killington Music Festival: KMF's
Deliciously Flavorful Melodies

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub –
Loose Monkeys

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Live
Music

LAKE BOMOSEEN
1 p.m. North West Shore –
Wander to Wonder Brain Tumor
Fundraiser with music by Aaron
Audet

LUDLOW
6 p.m. Calcuttas – James Joel

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Tony Lee
Thomas Duo

POULTNEY
6 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Jesse
James & Matt Olsen

PROCTORSVILLE
4 p.m. Outer Limits Brewing –
Live Music

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub –
George Nostrand

RANDOLPH
9 a.m. Farmers Market –
Indigenous Entertainment

RUTLAND
1 p.m./6 p.m. Vermont State Fair
– Circus Smirkus: A Midsummer
Night's Circus

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre
– Wizard of Oz by The
Paramount Players and Grace
Congregational Church

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

SUN
7/16

BRIDGEWATER
CORNERS
4 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Ben
Kogan

BOMOSEEN
6 P.M. Bomoseen Lodge and
Taproom – Ryan Fuller

KILLINGTON
12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with
Rob Pagnano

2 p.m. The Umbrella Bar at
Snowshed – Sammy B

5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit
Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus
Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia Night

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – King
Arthur Junior

LUDLOW
6:30 p.m. Par Bar at Fox Run
Golf Course – Sammy B

7 p.m. Off the Rails – Nick
Bredice

RUTLAND
11 a.m./4 p.m. Vermont State Fair
– Circus Smirkus: A Midsummer
Night's Circus

2 p.m. Paramount Theatre
– Wizard of Oz by The
Paramount Players and Grace
Congregational Church

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

WOODSTOCK
12 p.m. Mon Vert Café – Jim
Yeager and Jeff Stedman

MON
7/17

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

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Rob
Pagnano

LUDLOW
7 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B

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

WOODSTOCK
5 p.m. The Village Inn – Jim
Yeager and Jeff Stedman

TUES
7/18

CASTLETON
7 p.m. Castleton Pavilion –
Summer Concert Series with
Jamie Lee Thurston

KILLINGTON
5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – Bow
Thayer, Krishna Guthrie & Guests

6 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Taco
Tuesday with Rick Webb

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

PITTSFIELD
6 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Duane
Carleton

7 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Music
Jam

PITTSFORD
6 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm
– Tuesdays Concert with the
Michele Fay Band

QUECHEE
5 p.m. The Public House – Jim
Yeager and Chris Campbell

RUTLAND
8:30 p.m. Center Street Alley –
Acoustic Open Mic w/ Josh LaFave



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kmfest.org

'Wizard of Oz' performed at the Paramount

By Jacob Knipes

Local theatergoers may soon follow the Yellow Brick Road to this year's Paramount Players summer musical. The company, partnering alongside Grace Congregational Church, will return for its third production with, "The Wizard of Oz," running from July 14-16 at the Paramount Theatre.

"We wanted a show that was something recognizable, that people would recognize as a show, because we are still trying to build the Paramount Players brand as a company," said director Jeffrey Hull, returning to the company following his direction of "Shrek the Musical" last summer. "We also wanted to do something that was very much family oriented, so lots of people could bring their kids and families and try to, you know, increase the awareness of live theater in Rutland."

The Paramount Players first made its debut in Rutland with their production of "Mamma Mia" in 2019. "Shrek the Musical" was originally slated to follow in the summer of 2020, but the Covid-19 pandemic had other plans for the company and "Shrek" was finally brought to the stage last year. One consistent part of each production has been show producer Diane Liccardi, who has helped oversee the development of the Paramount Players.

"Well, from my perspective, each show, they're all different, but each one gets easier and the Paramount Players banner gets

more recognition," Liccardi said. "Now the more we do it, the more people look forward to asking, not just me but around, 'so what's the summer show?'... And that happens every year. I think it's going to grow that way."

"The Wizard of Oz" follows the classic tale of Dorothy, a young Kansas girl who finds herself swept away to a strange new land by a tornado. Along her journey back home, she meets a strange cast of oddly familiar characters, and learns a thing or two about herself as well.

While the classic moments from the original film are retained in the stage version, Hull also stressed the differences that make the musical stand out.

"But at the same time, allowing for there to be new things happening that maybe the audience doesn't expect to happen," Hull said. "Allowing the characters to develop their own kind of version of those iconic characters, but still have a semblance of the movie version that people recognize while making it unique and different. So it's not just watching the movie on stage, but it's watching something that's a little bit different and more exciting than that."

The show will be performed at 7 p.m. on July 14, while matinees will be held at 2 p.m. on July 15 and 16.

More information can be found and tickets can be purchased on paramountvt.org.



Submitted

Performers rehearse for the upcoming presentation of "The Wizard of Oz" to be at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland.

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SolarFest announces it's new permanent home in Brandon

July 15-16—BRANDON—SolarFest aims to create a platform for like-minded individuals to connect, learn new skills, and enjoy music in a beautiful setting. The festival will take place on July 15 and 16 at 144 Steinberg Road just north of Brandon village. It is a unique opportunity to experience the power of community and learn about sustainable living solutions. Weekend tickets are available for \$40, with camping options for \$20. Children under 12 can attend for free. SolarFest's new permanent home in Brandon offers

a perfect location to bring people together. The festival encourages attendees to sign up for their mailing list to stay informed about the latest news and opportunities to get involved and support the mission of creating a sustainable future.

The festival features a diverse musical lineup, including Afro-Caribbean, Americana roots rock, jazz folk, and grammy-nominated reggae. Attendees can also participate in workshops and practical, hands-on demonstrations on renewable energy, green buildings, sustainable

living, art, activism, and climate policy. The event provides an opportunity to learn about sustainable living solutions, such as DIY biogas, home composting & recycling, and weed walk.

SolarFest, the annual festival that aims to connect people, the arts, ideas, and technology, has announced its new permanent home in Brandon. Since 1995, the festival has been working towards creating a vibrant present and a sustainable future by fostering partnerships and activism.



Submitted

Activist and author Bill McKibben speaks to an attentive audience.



By Justin Miel

Acrobats and performers age 10-18 from across North America will perform in Rutland this weekend as part of the 2023 tour.

The circus comes to town

Circus Smirkus brings a vibrant show to the Vermont State Fairgrounds

By Sarah Calvin

July 15-16—RUTLAND— On Saturday and Sunday, Circus Smirkus will come to the Vermont State Fairgrounds in Rutland with two shows each day, on Saturday at 1 and 6 p.m. and on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets can be found online at smirkus.org.

The Circus Smirkus Big Top Tour is the only tented traveling youth circus in the U.S. Performing under traditional European-style circus tents, the award-winning circus company consists of some 80 people including teen performers (age 10-18), professional circus coaches, tent and technical crew and a live circus band performing an original score each year. The tour caravan performs in nearly 20 New England towns each summer, performing to approximately 42,000 patrons each year.

Circus Smirkus was founded in 1987 by accomplished circus performer Rob Mermin. A Connecticut native, he ran off to Europe to join the circus, eventually studying mime under the renowned Marcel Marceau. After over a decade performing, Mermin decided to come home to share his craft and create his own circus. The location he chose? A sprawling farm in rural Vermont.

Deep in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom lies a little town called Greensboro. Follow Highway 1 out of town, make a left onto Circus Road, and you'll come upon an old farmhouse and the iconic red Circus Barn where 30 teenage performers join the company of Circus Smirkus each summer.

"The wisdom for making a circus would've been to do it in Boston or New York, but it was very specifically done in rural northern Vermont," said Smirkus artistic director Joshua Shack. "The character of Circus Smirkus is greatly informed by Vermont. It brings a certain charm, it brings a certain sensibility. We're very proud and happy to be [an] export of Vermont."

Every summer, the company of Circus Smirkus spends three weeks creating a show, then the following six weeks touring New England. Each new show has a story, and this year the troupe will be putting a circus twist on William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer's Night's Dream." The story follows a pair of lovers, Hermia and Lysander, who run away into the forest to be together. They're followed into the forest by Demetrius, who is in love with Hermia, and Helena, who is in love with Demetrius. The trickster fairy

Puck, witnessing the situation, pours a magic juice onto the eyes of the men that causes them to both fall in love with Helena. Chaos ensues, but everything is reconciled in the end. The story also includes a play, a fairy king and queen, a duke, and the queen of the Amazons.

"There is a little bit of Shakespearean text in [the circus performance], but most of it is acted out non-verbally," said Shack. "If you're familiar with the story, you'll recognize it; if you're not familiar with the story, you can follow along with the characters. There's circus acts in between [the story]. Those who are fans of Shakespeare or familiar with the play can get a little bit of extra icing on the cake."

For the troupers, being part of Circus Smirkus is about more than just putting on a good show. They consider the company to be a family, and many come back year after year. During any given season, about two-thirds of the troupe are returning members. The troupe consists of youth artists from across the U.S. and Canada.

Each fall, Smirkus hopefuls and returning troupers submit video auditions, and a panel of judges selects 40 performers to attend a live audition from which the big top troupe is cast. Third year troupier Solvin Arnold first auditioned in 2021, and was not expecting to be selected.

"I auditioned with very little circus experience," said Arnold. "I had been longing for something new and challenging and a little bit scary, and my juggling coach, a former Smirko, encouraged me to go for it. I was really drawn to Smirkus because it felt outside of my comfort zone and was brimming with people who cared as much about circus as I did. I've done the hardest things in my life here, and had the most magical moments under these tents. I've constantly proven my 13-year-old self wrong doing things I thought I would never be able to do, and I've grown as a person because of that."

Arnold and founder Rob Mermin share a philosophy: perfection is boring, and creative fun happens when you allow yourself to not be too serious.

Circus Smirkus is an embodiment of this philosophy. Its talented performers and magical stories leave the audience inspired, evoke a sense of wonder and joy, and send a reminder that life will get dull unless we let ourselves have fun.

For more information, visit smirkus.org.

Arnold and founder Rob Mermin share a philosophy: perfection is boring, and creative fun happens when you allow yourself to not be too serious.

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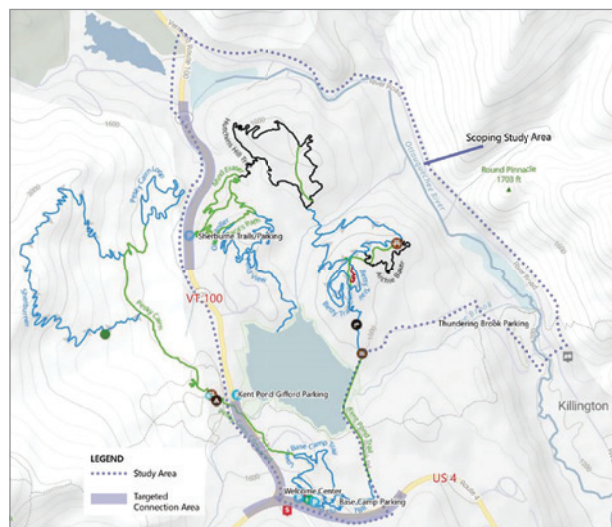
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Courtesy VHB

The project area is bordered by US. Route 4, VT Route 100 and River Road with a focus on connections across US Route 4 between the post office and Base Camp, and Route 100 from Route 4 to Kent Pond and again near the Sherburne Trails.

Killington hosts public meeting to discuss options for connecting trails

Thursday, July 13 at 7:30 p.m.—KILLINGTON—The town of Killington is holding a local concerns meeting on the Killington connecting trails scoping study on Thursday, July 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sherburne Memorial Library or remotely via Zoom (us06web.zoom.us/j/88964644941).

The purpose of the scoping study is to identify opportunities to improve connections to and between recreational resources and other destinations along US Route 4 and VT Route 100.

Specifically, the town is working with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) to develop improvements to bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and safety in the area around several new multi-use, off-road trail networks: Gifford Woods trails, Sherburne trails, and trails around Kent Pond.

The local concerns meeting is an opportunity for members of the community to provide input on the study. All are encouraged to attend. For more information visit: KillingtonTown.com/calendar.

Q&A with Morgan Easton

Braintree, Ridgeline Outdoor Collective board president shares insight, tips and tricks to enjoying the Rochester Trails full potential

What makes the trails in Rochester unique to the area?

The Rochester Trails offer a broad range of trail types from mellow double track, to rugged downhill, old school singletrack to machine built flow trail. There really is something for every kind of rider. We have also been very fortunate to be at the early beginnings of the Vermont Trail Project. Our executive director, Angus McCusker, has been at the helm of the Velomont Project and we are slated to see all of our zones (Brandon, Pittsfield, Rochester, Randolph, and Braintree) connected via Vermont Trail in the next year or two, all going according to plan.

What do you wish the first time riders knew about these trails before they arrived?

You'll find a trail for everyone! Hikers and bikers alike, with plenty of options for viewpoints, river stops, and more. Another thing to know is many of these trails are two way trails! The policy to follow in this case is "Yield the trail!" This means communicate with others on the trail respectively. This may be another rider, hiker, and in some case a Landowner partner!

What's your favorite trail and why?

My favorite trail is Rube's Run. This is a double black diamond super fun downhill thrill. Built by L&D Trailworks in 2022, this trail is a fun variety of Tom Lapesqueur of L&D's building styles and makes for a really run option down after climbing for views at the top of Cassidy's Chase.

Which is best for a beginner? Which would you recommend for an advanced rider who wants a challenge?

Creamery Run is a good option for a beginner, and a great way to get from



town to the Ranger Station and other trails like Tunnel Ridge.

For an advanced rider, again Rube's Run, or making a day of it and riding multiple trails with car drops or shuttles. Just make sure you know where you should and shouldn't be leaving your vehicle! Otherwise you can tie together lots of options to easily surpass a 20 mile or more kind of day. Starting your day at Green Mountain Bikes downtown will be a sure way to get pointed in a good direction, whatever kind of day you're in the mood for on trails, the folks at GMB have the local know-how for your ride plan.

Easton → 31



Submitted

Above: Morgan Easton smiles after a ride; the mud on her face means it was fun! Below: Morgan Easton (center) smiles with two friends while heading out for a ride.

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Hammond steals Firecracker 50 at Devil's Bowl Speedway

Eighth different winner in eight races

Walter J. Hammond was on his game for one of the year's biggest events at Devil's Bowl Speedway, stealing the victory in the Firecracker 50 on Saturday, July 1, before a packed Independence Day grandstand.

Hammond led the charge on a busy holiday night that saw eight different drivers visit victory lane.

"Little Walt" became the eighth different winner in as many races to open the 2023 season at the Vermont track, taking the checkered flag in the headline Sportsman Modified division. The Canaan, New Hampshire, native is a third-generation driver who races weekly against his father, Walt Hammond Jr., and uncle, Allan Hammond, in the competitive lead class.

Hammond drew the sixth starting position on the 28-car field, but like everyone, he trailed pole sitter Brent Warren for the first 23 laps. Warren held the lead and was looking for an upset win, but former champion Tim LaDuc took over after the race's second restart. LaDuc was up front for five more restarts after grabbing the lead, but the final one with just three laps left proved to be his undoing.

Hammond started next to LaDuc on the front row for the restart, and he was able to run away with the lead and hold on

Hammond ... was able to run away with the lead and hold on for the final circuits.

Hammond's win was his first of the year and the third of his career at Devil's Bowl.

for the final circuits. Hammond's win was his first of the year and the third of his career at Devil's Bowl. LaDuc settled for the runner-up finish — his fourth of the year — and took over the championship point lead from Justin Comes. Kevin Chaffee came from the 16th starting position to complete the podium.

Four-time Devil's Bowl champion Todd Stone made his first start of the season a good one, driving from 19th to finish fourth and earn the \$100 "Hard Charger" bonus. Comes finished fifth, ahead of Vince Quenneville, Marty Kelly III, Troy Audet, Billy Lussier, and David Boisclair. Qualifying heat wins went to Michael Wagner-Fitzgerald, Audet, and LaDuc.

While Hammond extended the new winners' streak in the Sportsman Modifieds, Orwell, Randy Ryan was doing his best to keep all the accolades to himself in the Limited Sportsman division. Ryan posted his second-straight victory and third of the season in a competitive race that was extended one lap by a green-white-checked finish to 26 laps.

Ryan started sixth in the race but was a factor early on. John Gosselin led the first two laps before Jason Quenneville took over, and his battle with Ryan was on almost immediately. During a long green flag run, Ryan took the lead at lap 12, only for Quenneville to wrestle it back three circuits later. Ryan was able to get back on top at lap 17, though, and then outlasted Quenneville on three quick restarts at the end of the race for the win.

Quenneville took the runner-up spot ahead of Hunter Nutter, Anthony Ryan, and Steve Miller. Gosselin slipped back to finish sixth, followed by Bob Kilburn, Scott Towslee, Alex Layn, and Freddie Little. Heats were won by Gary English, William Duprey, and Miller.

Another Randy from Orwell — this time Randy Edson — became the eighth different winner in eight races for the Novice



Submitted

Walter J. Hammond poses after a victory at Devil's Bowl.

Sportsman class, taking a 20-lap feature. As first-year dirt driver and former motorcycle racer Eric Shaw led from the pole position, Edson was in a mess in traffic in the early laps. After a rough start to the race, Edson made his way toward the front and took the lead from Shaw after a restart on lap 11.

Edson, the 1994 champion of the former Late Model division, held on for two more restarts to get the victory, with Shaw posting his best finish in second. Adam LaFountain stayed on a hot streak by driving from 11th to finish third, while Ed Bell and Boomer Patterson also came from deep in

Devil's Bowl → 31

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Springfield Humane Society joins in "Empty the Shelter" event

July 6-31—SPRINGFIELD—Springfield Humane Society is one of 335 shelters in 44 states participating in a national event to empty animal shelters. Adoption fees at participating organizations will be just \$50 or less per cat or dog. As the nation's largest funded adoption event, "Empty the Shelters" has helped nearly 158,000 pets find loving homes with an average of 1,200 pets adopted per day during quarterly national events.

Bissell Pet Foundation has teamed up with MetLife Pet Insurance to bring its summer national "Empty the Shelters" adoption event July 6-31 to Vermont. Springfield is the only shelter in Vermont participating.

"We are excited to team up with MetLife Pet Insurance to offer 30 days of pet insurance at no cost to the adopter, as well as the opportunity to purchase an annual pet insurance policy, which could make a difference in helping adopters deal with their pet's unexpected illness or injury," said Cathy Bissell, founder of Bissell Pet Foundation. "Vet-

erinary costs add up quickly, and too often, pet owners forgo care or surrender their beloved pets when they can't afford treatment. This collaboration could help to enable more pets in more communities to be adopted through

"Empty the Shelters" and can help facilitate adopters seeking treatment to keep their pets healthy and in their new homes."

"An essential part of MetLife Pet Insurance's mission is helping pets find and stay in a home that is right for them, and we are dedicated to giving pet parents the confidence they need to help their pet live a happy and healthy life," said Brian Jorgensen, head of MetLife Pet Insurance. "We are excited to work with the Bissell Pet Foundation on their Empty the Shelters event and support their efforts to give every pet their best life by providing guidance to navigate lifelong pet health and wellness."

For more info, visit: bissellpetfoundation.org.



Wet weather brings out neon slime mold

By Ann Hazelrigg

With all the recent wet weather, conspicuous neon yellow masses have appeared on bark mulches and lawns. These brightly colored blobs, called plasmodia, are unique organisms called slime molds.

The harmless, yellow, foamy slime molds (*Fuligo septica*), often called the dog vomit slime mold, were originally classified as fungi. They are now in the Kingdom Protista since they more

Slime molds are beneficial since they contribute to the decomposition of dead vegetation.

closely resemble amoeba. The size of slime molds can vary from a few inches to several feet in diameter. They are not pathogenic to plants although some can grow over plants and briefly decrease their access to sunlight. The plasmodium is the feeding stage of the organism, engulfing bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms as it grows. The plasmodial stage can appear to “creep” and can move several feet in a day, alarming homeowners and gardeners. However, slime molds are beneficial since they contribute to the decomposition of dead vegetation.

As the bright yellow slime molds age, they fade from

bright yellow to a crusty dull tan and release spores that can stay dormant until the next round of rainy weather. No control is necessary for slime molds.

They will disappear as soon as the weather dries. You can also break apart the blob with a rake.

For more info, visit: go.uvm.edu/slime-mold.



By Joelle Kraf
After a stretch of wet weather, bright yellow, foamy masses of “dog vomit” slime mold may appear on mulches and lawns.

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SUDOKU

PUZZLES—from page 11

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

Rutland County Humane Society



EMMETT

Emmett is a handsome 13-year-old kitty looking for a loving home. This sweet boy loves to eat, talk and hang out with people! He does not do well with other cats, but is great with dogs. Emmett is playful, but also enjoys a long nap. He would do well in just about any home. If this sensational senior is the guy for you, call 802-885-3997 for more information or fill out an application online, spfldhumane.org. We have a cat only spay and neuter clinic on Aug. 22. Call 802-885-3997 for more information.

This pet is available for adoption at

Springfield Humane Society

401 Skitchewaung Trail, Springfield, VT • (802) 885-3997

***Open by appointment only.** spfldhumane.org



GUS & KELLEY

"Hi! We're Kelly and Gus (that's me in the back!), and we're a precious pair of bonded cocker spaniels! I'm 10 and Kelley is 11. We just love each other so much, and simply can't wait to meet our forever family so we can love them just as much, too! We'd like to live in a home that doesn't have children, cats or other dogs. We value our own space, see, but with that also comes your undivided affection! (Which we know we'll value so much, too!) I mean, seriously, have you ever seen anyone quite as cute as us? How could we not be the center of your world? So, if you'd love to have a gorgeous pair of bonded cocker spaniels in your life, then look no further than yours truly and come pop by the shelter to pay us a visit and learn more!

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Lizzy—5-Year-Old. Spayed female. Domestic short hair. Lizzy is a sweet cat coming out of her shell as she settles in here at RCHS.



Mylo—2-Year-Old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Don't let Mylo's big size fool you as he thinks that he is a big lap dog!



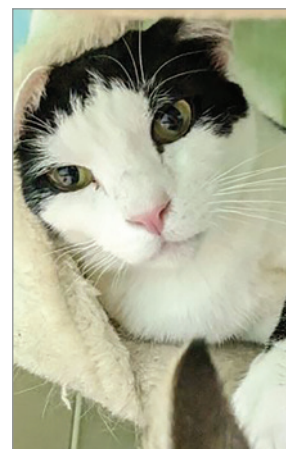
March—2-Year-Old. Neutered male. Domestic Short hair. He may not be the most photogenic, but he makes up for it with his sweet personality.



Luis—2-Year-Old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Luis has a well-rounded and sweet personality. He is pretty enthusiastic about his play!



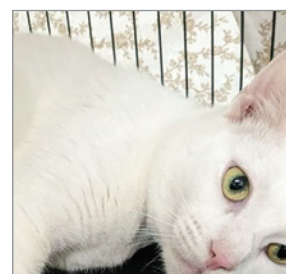
Sox—5-Year-Old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Sox is an exuberant pup who is ready for his next adventure. He loves people!



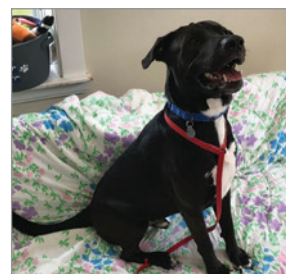
Moe—2-Year-Old. Neutered Male. Domestic short hair. Moe is a shy guy who would do best in a quiet home.



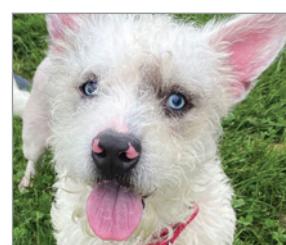
Mowgli—2-Year-Old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. This silly pup is looking for his next adventure! He has a bubbly personality!



Ghost—1-Year-Old. Neutered male. Domestic short hair. You can't help but fall in love with Ghost. He is charming and sweet.



Crinkle—1-Year-Old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. After he goes for a fun walk, he will happily snuggle on the couch with you.



Ropo—8-Month-Old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Ropo and Patch have a very special bond, and they need to go home together.



Patch—8-Month-Old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Patch is deaf so he needs his friend Ropo with him.



BO

Bo—2-Year-Old. Neutered Male. Terrier Mix. Bo would make a great partner for an active family who can take him along on their outings.

All of these pets are available for adoption at

Rutland County Humane Society

765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT • (802) 483-6700

Tues. - Sat. 11-5 p.m. for adoptions

***(By appointment only at this time.)**

Closed Sun. & Mon. • www.rchsvt.org

Rutland County Humane Society works with VT-CAN

Vermont Companion Animal Neutering (VT-CAN), a low cost spay/neuter clinic located in Middlesex is a long drive from Rutland County. To help out, RCHS and VT-CAN are working together to make it easier for cat owners. By dropping your cat at the RCHS shelter at 6 a.m. volunteers will transport your cat to VT-CAN where he or she will be spayed or neutered and given vaccines, and returned to RCHS for pick up between approximately 4:30-5 p.m.

On July 26, cats 6 months old or older can be spayed or neutered at a discounted rate. First option is surgery, rabies, distemper, and a dose of Revolution for fleas and ear mites applied at the clinic for \$75. Another option is surgery, rabies, distemper, three doses of pyrantel dewormer sent home and a dose of Revolution for fleas and ear mites applied at the clinic for \$85. If you would like your cat to be microchipped that is an additional \$25.

Prior registration is required. To schedule an appointment, please email VT-CAN at vtcaninfo@gmail.com. For more information visit vt-can.org.

Cosmic Catalogue

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Aries

March 21 - April 20

If you haven't tidied up certain loose ends in your life, then the next six weeks provide a window to do just that. The pace will be punishing as Mars settles into your busy 6th house. You can achieve a lot, but it may come at a cost. So as you move into this frantic space, be sure to get yourself organized, which will also include not neglecting your health and wellbeing either.



Leo

July 21 - August 20

Mercury moving into your sign will likely be a good thing for you. For a while now, you've been wondering about things, feeling things, but not being able to put your finger on things. That will change this week and you should be able to put your finger on it. When you can put words to your feelings and thoughts and communicate them, you'll feel so much better. How can others know what you need if you've not told them?



Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

The time has arrived for you to put your best foot forward professionally. With Mars in your career zone, the next several weeks may be about striking out in a new direction or taking the appropriate action to make your domestic dreams come to fruition. You may experience a push / pull energy across these areas, but it won't last forever. Do what needs to be done to secure your future and those you love.



Taurus

April 21 - May 20

It's likely that you're beginning to feel a little agitated or uncertain regarding an issue at home. You're welcome to dig your heels in and demand that you're right. What you're probably better off doing though is discussing the situation. Be clear and kind and keep emotion out of the picture as much as possible. You'll be surprised by the support you'll receive when others know what's going on for you.



Virgo

August 21 - September 20

If you've needed some action and Mojo into your life, then this week is your week! It's only once every two years that Mars arrives. Under his fiery and action-orientated energy, you'll get a lot of things done. You'll be able to develop better habits, prioritize with greater ease and if improving your health and fitness has been a goal, then now is the time to take action!



Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

Life can take on a whole new perspective when you look toward what's possible rather than what's probable. As Mars arrives into Virgo, the red planet lights up everything to do with discovery, travel and adventure. Which horizons do you want to expand, either literally or metaphorically over the next several weeks? Develop a strategy or some kind of action plan to make it happen. Life takes on meaning when you take action.



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

You're ready for some kind of significant tidying up at home. Maybe you're just getting the feeling that you need to undergo some sort of overhaul. As Mars pushes through your home zone, getting organized, clean and clear will be important. You've been under pressure professionally and the next little while you'll have much to do. Getting organized will help you get things done, rather than overwhelmed and falling behind. Attend to money issues this week too.



Libra

September 21 - October 20

Life may take on a different flavor this week as Mars changes signs. Any disagreements or agitation you'd been experiencing among friends, colleagues or associates should now subside. Instead, what you can now expect is more communication and connection as well as support. Deals, agreements and negotiations are likely to go a whole lot smoother, at least for this week. Ideal stars for networking or expanding your social influence too.



Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

Now matter what the recent past has brought up for you, there is always the chance to talk it over. In fact, this is exactly what this week's skies have to offer. This isn't to say that solutions will instantly be reached and everything will be dandy. You will have a starting point though and something to think about. With more information, you'll get to figure out how you feel about something or someone.



Cancer

June 21 - July 20

Recently, I was asked a question about what it means to be happy from an astrological perspective. Where in the chart do you find happiness? It's a loaded question, although I have my ideas. I want you to think about the little things in life that while seemingly non-eventful, actually make a difference to how you feel joy. Do more of whatever that thing is. Dedicate yourself to making it some kind of habit out of it and watch your life improve.



Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

It's always worth your while to take notice when your guiding star, Mars, changes signs. This week, Mars arrives in your Friends, Networks and Groups Zone. This is your time to invest your energy and effort into your friends and socializing in personal and professional settings. If you've been developing a creative outlet, it may be time to reveal it to those who'll either offer you moral support or those who may become your audience.



Pisces

February 21 - March 20

Relationships are likely to become a point of focus for you over the upcoming weeks. For some Fishes, this will be passionate and exciting. For others, this period will bring tests and challenges. In either scenario, other people are going to push your buttons to test how far you're willing to go. You don't have to compromise on your boundaries, especially if you don't want to. Set your limits and stick to them.

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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.

Taking action

The big news this week is that two planets change signs. Firstly, Mars moves from Leo into Virgo and secondly, Mercury moves from Cancer to Leo. When planets change signs, it offers a change in tone and in this case, it's the tone of action and communication that shifts. Until Aug. 28, Mars in Virgo delivers precise and strategic action. If you've been mending a little bit or loosening the boundaries, Mars in Virgo will help you run a tighter ship and get things done. This might mean cutting back or cutting away the non-essential or the frivolous. Mars may inspire you to develop a plan of action

and get to work on a plan or project. He may spur you into a two-year action plan.



Cosmic
Catalogue
By Cassandra
Tyndall

Mercury in Leo can help you communicate with courage. To speak up and out for what is true and right. As Venus slows down in preparation for her upcoming retrograde, Mercury can guide you through the confusing territory especially if you're having a change of heart about something. If you need to have an important conversation about what you need, want and deserve, this week may help you organize your thoughts and feelings and begin taking the appropriate action towards the longer term.

You are stronger than a mudslide

Mudslides are frightening,
They cause lots of damage and are dangerous to you.
Bits of roads gone,
Trees and rocks washed away, too.
Don't let the wind blow you away,
Stay rooted to the ground,
You know that all are there to help you,
Make sure to help them, too.
Give kindness to them and they will help you through.
Kindness is a gift,
A gift to be given more than once,
Give it to everyone and they will give it to you.
Kindness is a gift that clears up cloudy days,
So remember to give kindness every day,
And love will follow through.



Poetry Is Power
By Bree Sarandrea



What we do for love

I don't think there is a female among us who hasn't done something out of her comfort zone simply because she is dating someone who interests her. I definitely plead "guilty" to doing that almost 50 years ago!

In fact, I did multiple things that were way out of my comfort zone. Perhaps my memories will trigger some of your own as I take a look back.

My future husband, Peter, asked me to play tennis on our first date. I had played tennis before but my skill in that sport was sorely lacking. I quickly found out how bad I was as many of the balls I hit went into the court next to us. I apologized more times than I could count on my 10 fingers.

I am surprised that I was asked out on a second date after the way the first one went but I was. However, our next date was dinner in a restaurant. Now that I could handle like a pro!

My next adventure into uncharted territory was when Peter asked if I would like to go fishing. I had never been in a boat much less fishing but I have always liked to be around water so why not be "on top of it" in a boat? The boat that Peter owned was

an aluminum one that he carried on top of his car. In fact I noticed that it never left that spot. I asked "Why?" and was told that it was easier to just leave it there than to take it on and off. I immediately came to the conclusion that he did a lot of fishing! He gave another reason for keeping the boat on his car, "It gives me shade in the front end of the car." I didn't ask any more questions.

On a beautiful sunny day in 1974 we headed to Chittenden Reservoir for my "maiden voyage." I had obtained the required fishing license and Peter provided a life jacket, pole and worms for me to use. I told him there was no way I would put the worm on the hook so he took care of that task. I was instructed on how to let the line out and reel it back in. If I felt a tug I was told to lift up the line and keep it in the air as I reeled in the fish. Within 5 minutes I felt a tug and I had my first fish – a rainbow trout. Peter put the net under it as it got closer to the boat. That experience went a whole lot better than our tennis match! As you might guess, I did not clean the fish. Peter had the honor of doing that, too.

Before long winter was upon us and the fisherman I was dating turned into a

Looking Back → 31



Looking
Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw

The Northern Mockingbird: Master of Mimicry

When I worked on a college campus, a northern mockingbird often accompanied me on the walk between my car and my office. This slender gray bird darted from the hedges, flashing white wing patches and outer tail feathers before landing on a crabapple branch, where it poured forth a string of trills and phrases, sounding like several different birds singing and calling one after another. A noted mimic, the northern mockingbird is in the same family as the brown thrasher and the catbird.

Mimus polyglottos (Latin for many-tongued mimic) is North America's only native mockingbird. A few decades ago, this species was relatively rare in northern New England, but its range has expanded northward as far as southern Canada. It is found mainly at lower elevations, in human-created landscapes. It does well in suburban areas, often staying through the winter and surviving on berries and fruits including sumac and holly. Mockingbirds also eat the fruit of multiflora rose, an aggressive invasive shrub that has populated old fields, pastures, and roadsides — and may be one reason for the mockingbird's expansion.

This robin-sized bird has several interesting behaviors, including aggressively defending its nest from predators. "They'll fly at you and actually hit you on the top of your head if you get too close," said Rebecca Suomala of New Hampshire Audubon. The birds also have a feeding behavior known as "flush pursuit." Foraging on open ground, a mockingbird runs several steps, stops, and flashes its wings, startling insects, spiders, and other prey out of hiding.

But the northern mockingbird's reputation rests on its impressive mimicry, which ranges from other birdsong to insects, frogs, and human-made sounds such as car horns, sirens, rusty hinges, and musical instruments. Unmated males even sing at night, especially during the full moon or near streetlights. Avian experts often field calls from disturbed sleepers. "They ask if there's anything they can do," said Suomala. "I suggest that they go scare the mockingbird away every time, and maybe they'll get out of the habit of singing in that spot."

While young songbirds typically learn songs from adults of their species, most species do not continue adding to their repertoire after a year or so. But male mockingbirds — and other mimics — add phrases every year, and mockingbirds may learn more than 200 songs. Although catbirds and brown thrashers tend to have a greater number of songs,

the mockingbird's playlist includes more songs that are distinctly imitative.

Donald Kroodsma, author of "The Singing Life of Birds" and "Birdsong for the Curious Naturalist," is one of the world's leading experts on the topic. "I think of the mockingbird with about 100 songs, the catbird with 200 to 400, thrasher with 1,000 to 2,000," he said. "All three mimic, but the mockingbird mimics far more than the other species. The catbirds and thrashers have far larger repertoires because they improvise their songs, making them up."

Another difference between these avian mimics is the number of times their songs are repeated. Brown thrashers sing phrases twice before moving on, while mockingbirds usually sing a phrase three to seven times. Catbirds do not typically repeat phrases back-to-back, but produce an irregular succession of notes and phrases.

In "The Singing Life of Birds," Kroodsma describes an unmated male mockingbird singing 465 songs in 26 minutes. This performance included songs of seven species, repeated two to eight times apiece, separated by pauses of about a second and a half. He estimated that with a reach of at least a quarter of a mile, the bird's recital reached dozens of mockingbird territories.

The male mockingbird's mimicry advertises his breeding territory to other males, warns competitors away from the food supply, and attracts females. Biologists believe that the quality and quantity of the repertoire are factors in mate selection. The older the bird, the more songs he's picked up, and females may find mature males to be the most alluring. Mockingbirds

sing almost constantly during mating season, slowing down once they have secured a female partner. Singing picks up again after the eggs hatch, just before a potential second nesting cycle.

With all that is known about mockingbirds, I am still curious about what makes them able to imitate so many sounds. Is it something about this bird's brain or the anatomy of its syrinx? And why do they imitate other species — or a chainsaw or a washing machine? Kroodsma says he doesn't know. "I don't think that anyone has an answer to that," he said. As any scientist knows, there is always more to learn.

Laurie D. Morrissey is a writer who lives in Hopkinton, New Hampshire. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. *The Outside Story* is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



The Outside
Story
By Laurie D. Morrissey



Too close to call

I've had a couple close calls in my life.

One summer during my mid-teens, I was at a lake with friends when we decided to hike up a trail that promised a grand view of the region. When we got to the top, we sat on a rock outcropping to enjoy the vistas. Being that I was a bit of a thrill-seeker, I inched myself as close as possible to the edge.

I was marveling at the views both straight down and abroad when I felt a sudden thud and then intense pain on the back of my head. A moment later, I awoke to my friends hovering over me with concern in their eyes.

Apparently, one of my friends decided to throw a rock off the cliff and when he released his toss, he made direct contact with my head. I lurched forward and then keeled over, at which point one of my other friends grabbed me, ultimately saving me from tumbling over the edge (I can still feel the scar tissue from the stitches whenever I comb my hair).

On another occasion, my wife and I decided to go skydiving, an item featured on both of our bucket lists. We took the class, got into the gear, and then made our way into the sky.

I jumped out first, firmly attached to my instructor in the standard tandem formation. A third of the way into our descent, my instructor pulled the ripcord to release our parachute. Moments later, I got an uneasy feeling when I felt him struggling behind me.

Before I knew what was happening, the instructor told me to prepare for further descent and then immediately jettisoned our first chute. Once it cleared, he released the reserve shoot.

As we glided toward the earth, the instructor explained what had happened: the first chute was improperly packed and got tangled, which is why he opted to release it and rely on the secondary chute – something you never want to happen.

My wife was oblivious to entire event, so when she landed, she insisted that we do it again. I told her my skydiving days were over.

I suppose I've had couple other minor brushes with death, but nothing I experienced (or what most people have experienced) compares to what Franjo Selak lived through.

Selak is a remarkable individual whose life story reads like a thrilling adventure novel. Born on June 14, 1929, in Croatia, Selak gained international attention for his astonishing brushes with death and

enduring resilience. He is often referred to as the "world's luckiest" or "luckiest unlucky" man.

Selak's tale of incredible survival began in 1962 when he found himself aboard a train that derailed and plunged into an icy river. Miraculously, Selak managed to escape with only minor injuries. A few years later, a plane he was in suddenly malfunctioned and crashed. Although the plane disintegrated upon impact, Selak survived by being blown out of the wreckage and landing in a haystack.

In the years that followed, Selak's incredible luck continued. On several occasions, he narrowly escaped car accidents, including one incident where a bus he was riding in skidded off a cliff and into a river. Remarkably, he swam to safety with no major injuries.

In 1970, a faulty fuel pump in his car caused a fire that engulfed the vehicle. He suffered significant burns and survived, but the incident sadly claimed the life of his passenger.

Franjo Selak's life is a testament to the indomitable nature of the human spirit and the power of perseverance. Selak's extraordinary experiences have made him a living legend, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those who hear his incredible story.

This week's feature, "Knock at the Cabin," also speaks to the resilience of the human spirit, but in this case,

the subject matter is wildly darker.

Set in the mountains of Pennsylvania, "Knock at the Cabin," features a married couple and their daughter vacationing in the woods. Everything is fine until some unexpected guests arrive and present the family with an unfathomable decision – a decision that may have shocking repercussions for the rest of humanity.

This is the most recent selection from writer and director M. Night Shyamalan, a man known to produce bizarre and thought-provoking films. I'm a big fan of Shyamalan's work mostly because his stories tap into psychologically twisted scenarios that are full of the unexpected.

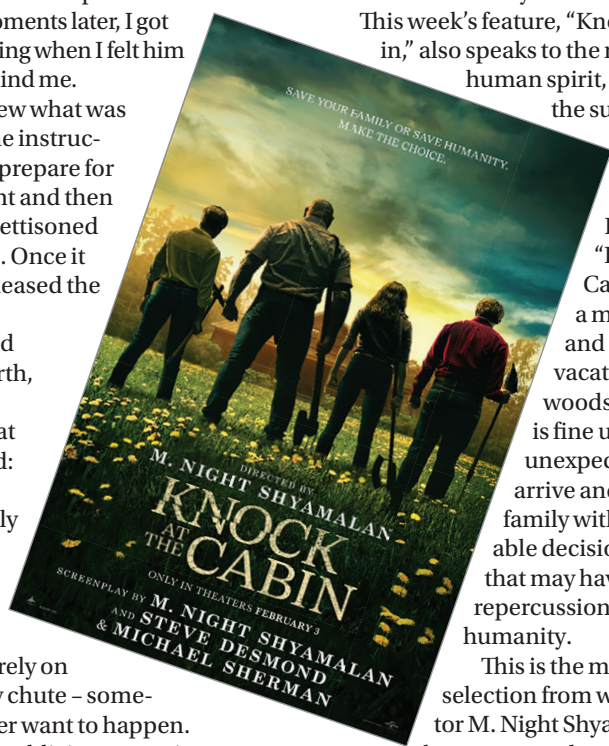
Check this one out if you're in the mood for something truly unsettling, but minus the gore that usually accompanies such storylines.

An edgy "B" for "Knock at the Cabin," now available to rent or buy through Amazon Prime Video.

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



The Movie
Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Vermont strong together

I might have missed the Flood of 1927, but I was here in 2011 and heard the boulders screaming as they scratched against each other as they flew down the mountain. I heard the Roaring Brook roar with all its might as it catapulted itself down the mountain. I saw the water turn backward under Ravine Road only



Livin' the Dream
By Merisa
Sherman

In times of trouble,
there is nowhere that
I would rather be
than surrounded by
Vermonters.

to have the culvert collapse 20 minutes later. I scrolled, for hours, desperately striving to make connections with family and friends throughout the region I watched, through photos, as friends were rescued from their homes before they floated away. And I sat through the night, filled with fear, as we waited for more damage to come.

I saw a base lodge collapse upon itself. I saw where roads ended and only the guard rails remained, hanging in the air. I saw roads vanish into thin air, large chunks of pavement being pushed downstream as

the roads themselves buckled and collapsed. And not just some roads, almost all of them, to the point where Killington and Pittsfield and so many others became an island unto themselves.

But I also saw greatness.

Vermonters came out of everywhere to begin the healing, even before the damage had stopped. Excavators and dump trucks seemed to emerge out of nowhere, lifting the mud from the roads and attempting to rebuild that which Irene had destroyed. An elderly man with his little Kubota was quietly and diligently putting his dirt road back together without complaint, only asking for more gasoline and some Dr. Pepper.

The emergency shelter was filled with so many people offering their assistance, that it seemed as if we had more helpers than those needing help.

Pittsfield had a daycare on their village green so the grownups could go work while the hunters emptied their rapidly defrosting coolers for a community barbecue. In the face of horror, we saw the true heart of Vermonters coming together.

There are barely 650,000 of us living in Vermont, which makes us more like one large city. On the scale of things, we are a wee bit smaller than Boston and a bit larger than Nashville. That means we often operate as one large community rather than the 256 municipalities that make up our great state. And on Monday, as we watched our world being destroyed by water, it felt that way.

I shared a photo of flooding in Ludlow, only to have a friend of mine tell me that was Vermont strong → 27

Mountain Meditation: Flood reminds us to act to protect fragile ecosystem

By Marguerite Jill Dye

I am grateful to be in Vermont! It gives me a sense of joy and freedom. I feel relieved, surrounded by trees and nestled among Vermont's Green Mountains.

We spotted a black long tailed weasel—our very first ever as it crossed Route 4. We discovered the groundhog in our back yard is called a "whistling pig." He feeds about three most afternoons, but on rainy days he chatters in the woods.

There's much to look forward to this summer—hiking Bear Mountain, Killington trails and our beloved Kent Pond where we check on loons and Canada geese. A few mallards rest in hidden lagoons, away from the eagles' sharp eye sight.

Throughout the day hummingbirds flock to our glass feeders filled with sugar water. Sometimes they come and go peacefully, but often I'm startled by their aggression. A bold male with a ruby red throat dive bombs invaders so his mate can feed.

We had a mix of sun and rain recently that helped wash the smoke away. The sun popped out through a thick grey haze as fires burn in our neighbor to the north.

But now downpours have taken over, reminiscent of Tropical Storm Irene. Due to rain in the last few weeks, the ground is saturated and ripe for flooding. Trees fall over

and hillsides erode as rivers and streams overtake roadways.

Fortunately much work's been done since the devastation of Irene, but bridges and roads that are still too low will show weak links in the current storm.

What we're seeing in extreme weather events is a glimpse of the future on uncared for Planet Earth. Irresponsible people have allowed this to happen through greedy behavior, poor decision making, and by lifting protective restrictions. To not anticipate Earth's future trajectory is criminal behavior that affects all beings.

The people need to rise up to challenge the status quo and demand action NOW! It's almost too late to reverse the destruction of Earth's CO2, water, and land. Call out leaders who do not make change. Point out state discrepancies (like Vermont and Florida—the former is stricter while the latter is lax).

When Canada is suffering to such an extent as wild fire smoke invades the U.S., minds are awakened to this imminent threat. We can't let this moment be forgotten and pass.

Stand up! Speak out! Have courage and faith that the people united have infinite power but must act immediately to save our Earth.



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Living the Dream: from page 25

his daughter's house. I saw a photo of the Woodstock Farmer's Market, where I worked for several years, under water again. I saw another friend posting photos from her, thankfully, upper level apartment in Montpelier. Another friend shared her images from Richmond and I'm still anxious for one of my besties that lives in Plymouth.

My heart is breaking for my fellow Vermonters all around the state, especially the ones that are waiting anxious to learn if the Wrightsville Dam will protect them ... or not. And we wait as a state, our hearts in our throats with bated breath, it hopes that our friends and neighbors around the state will stay safe as our anxiety climbs through the roof.

I could barely function on Monday, waiting to see if our new culverts would hold. Waiting to see if my mom would be okay in her home and if we would be okay in ours. Yes, there are

times when I love the sound of rain hitting my standing seam roof, lulling me to a peaceful sleep. But not this week. Not since Friday, when East Mountain Road suffered the same exact damage as it had during Irene and over 15 feet deep of mud slid onto Route 4.

I haven't been able to sleep, the sound of the water coming off the mountain behind my house overriding any thoughts I had. I feel like my heart is pounding out of my chest constant-

ly, the Irene PTSD hitting a lot harder than I could ever have imagined. My phone hasn't left my hand, as I am constantly in contact with friends for fear they would get swept away in the water, each of talking the other through our fears and anxiety.

Our home was miraculously unscathed and I cannot understand why. As the sky turns blue overhead on this morning after, there is a feeling of survivor's guilt and a feeling that I should be out there doing more to help others. A feeling that I could do more, that I should do more.

And that, I think, is what best describes Vermonters: It's how much we care for each other, not just the friends we know, but the neighbors that we don't. We don't wait until we're asked, we just get out there and help. We rebuild and we do what needs to be done. Our governor walked the VAST trails through the woods to find an open road so he could

get to the emergency response center.

That's who we are. We are Vermont Strong, and nothing, not even this damn water is going to stop us from loving and caring for each other. In times of trouble, there is nowhere that I would rather be than surrounded by Vermonters.

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, bartender, real estate agent and KMS coach. She can be reached at femaleskibum@gmail.com.

That, I think, is what best describes Vermonters: It's how much we care for each other, not just the friends we know, but the neighbors that we don't.

Hartland manager sought: from page 7

A big challenge will be the housing situation in Hartland and surrounding towns. The cost of renting or purchasing real estate is high, and there are few properties or apartments. This will affect the search both geographically and financially — compensation will be influenced by cost-of-living.

The total cost of negotiating Ormiston's resignation and now paying a search firm to help replace him, is \$57,012 including benefits and taxes through September 2023, and legal fees of \$755, according to Martin Dole. This expense will come out of the fiscal year 2024 budget for the town manager.

Yennerell's fees will be spent under "advertising," Dole said.

Some residents felt disappointed by Yennerell's performance during the Select Board give-and-take - the consultant seemed taken off guard and gave vague answers to Select Board questions.

Kennedy explained that Yennerell came to the meeting thinking he had approval as search consultant, and came expecting to make a presentation regarding the first steps of his contract — putting together a job description and list of qualifications.

"He had no idea it was an interview," Kennedy said. "That's why he may have seemed nonplussed." Asked about his own expectations, Kennedy said, "We will just have to wait and see."

City jobs: from page 7

office complaining there aren't enough city employees," Markowski said at the meeting. "They are complaining about the tax rate."

Markowski said last year's surplus saved taxpayers about \$200 on a \$150,000 house.

"The impact is significant," she said.

A motion to table the discussion until the next meeting was turned down by a voice vote.

Aldermen members Sharon Davis, Larry Cupoli and William Gillam vote no on the measure.

"I do think taxpayers have an expectation of unspent funds," Davis said.



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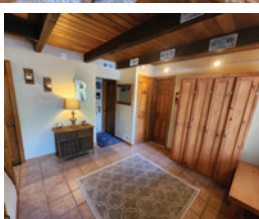
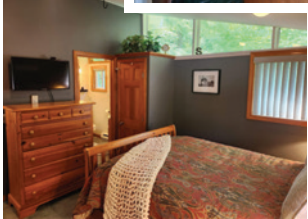
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Herbicide: from page 7

Stannard and others took the debate to the State House. In its first form, the resulting bill would have enacted a temporary moratorium on “the use or application of pesticides, chemicals other than pesticides, or biological controls.” By the time Gov. Phil Scott signed the bill into law in June, it only created a study committee to examine the existing law that governs pesticide permitting, and did not include the moratorium.

“I think we’d all agree that the starting point for any discussion about chemicals in water should be ‘no,’” Rep. Seth Bongartz, D-Manchester, who introduced the bill, told members of the House Committee on Environment and Energy at the time. “Then, you move on to a discussion about whether there are circumstances under which it might be justified, and then what they might be.”

The existing statute “gets very quickly to ‘yes,’” he said.

State officials’ pending decision to deny the permit seems to indicate otherwise.

“My first response when I heard this the other day was one of, really, complete surprise,” Stannard said. “I had not anticipated this outcome.”

But Stannard was more inclined to credit local advocacy rather than the permitting process itself. He gestured to the 3,500 signatures on a petition opposing the application.

“My understanding was Governor Scott got hundreds of phone calls on this — probably more than any other issue — and that was because I was working to get phone calls in. That’s how you do it, you just apply pressure and hope it works,” he said. “In this case, it did.”

He characterized the language that describes the five criteria an applicant must meet to obtain a permit as “sloppy” and “just shy of arbitrary.” State officials have been making do with the unclear language, he said, but the statute that guides the process still needs to be revised.

Oliver Pierson, head of the state’s lakes and ponds program, disagrees. State officials weighed public input in their decision, he said, but it “wasn’t determinative.”

“We had multiple factors that led us to deny this application as it was submitted. And public opposition to the permit was something that we incorporated into only one of the three findings we made that prevented us from issuing this permit,” he said.

Pierson said the state denied the permit in part because the project “presented an unacceptable risk to the non-target environment.”

While the state has never approved an herbicide application area of more than 30 or 40 acres, Pierson said, the association sought to apply ProcellaCOR on roughly 200 acres of the lake per year for three years.

The area “included some parts of the

lake with rare, threatened or endangered species, and some parts of the lake that were important for flora and fauna regeneration,” he said.

In addition, the application did not prove that the association had a plan for reducing the use of pesticides over time. Applications are required to show that “a long-range management plan has been developed which incorporates a schedule of pesticide minimization.”

The third criteria that the Lake Bomoseen Association was unable to show requires “a public benefit to be achieved from the application of a pesticide.”

That’s where the public opposition factored in, Pierson said.

With a total of 600 acres to be treated over three years, “We really needed to be sure that there was a commensurately large public benefit to the proposed treatment,” he said.

“We didn’t find that to be the case. We

“The herbicide application was somewhat divisive, locally, as people were either for it or against it. I would like to think that a process to focus on improving water quality in the lake ... might be a more unifying, or less controversial, effort,” said Pierson.

found that the proposed treatment might improve some of the public good uses,” he said, “but not in the manner that outweighed the potential adverse impact.”

While Pierson said he’s prepared to work with the study committee to examine the statute and the state’s process, the existing process “is an extremely comprehensive, data-driven and objective review process,” he said. “We don’t go into it in any predetermined position, yes or no.”

With regard to the spread of milfoil, and the general health of the lake, Pierson said the Lake Bomoseen Association recently received funding from the state to develop a watershed action plan, which identifies stressors to the lake and charts out paths to reduce them.

“That could be a process to, I think, bring people together,” he said. “The herbicide application was somewhat divisive, locally, as people were either for it or against it. I would like to think that a process to focus on improving water quality in the lake ... might be a more unifying, or less controversial, effort.”

Bird, head of the Lake Bomoseen Association, said she’s ready for more unity, too.

While she expressed disappointment that the permit application is facing a denial, she said the association is made up of people who have strong connections to the lake, and who want the same outcome as those who opposed the permit.

“We would never want to do anything that we didn’t think was safe,” she said. “We can disagree on the methods, but agree that we all, really, are looking for the same goal of long-term lake health.”

Equal protection: from page 8

to the Constitution, based on the guiding principle of “my way or the highway.” The result is a decision-making body that, at

which precedent-busting cases the court majority’s right-wing comrades at large will feed them through the judicial

of Independence’s tenets that all people are created equal, “that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, including life, liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” And we must uphold the 14th Amendment’s guarantees that all people must be treated equally, regardless of race, religious beliefs, gender or sexual orientation.

The powers wielded by the three branches of the government of the United States, including the judiciary, derive from The People. It is time to rise up and use every legal and ethical means available to reassert our country’s founding principles of inalienable rights and legal guarantees of equal protection under the law.

Michael J. Caduto, Reading

Those who value the principles of equality and justice need to rally support for those whose rights are being abrogated.

times, appears less like a court, and more like an inquisition.

The essential question we all need to ask ourselves is this: Which of our established rights is the current majority of the Supreme Court going to come after next? Reproductive rights and contraception? Literary freedom of expression (book-banning)? The Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts? It all depends on

pipeline of prejudice that is turning the wheels of injustice and grinding away at the foundational principles upon which the United States of America was founded.

Those who value the principles of equality and justice need to rally support for those whose rights are being abrogated. We need to vote for those seeking public office who will appoint justices that truly believe in the Declaration

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DaMore Law teams up with attorney Ewald

DaMore Law is forming a new division, Green Mountain Lawyers. Attorney Daniel Ewald and his staff are joining forces with Attorney Peter DaMore and his firm, DaMore Law. With the support of DaMore Law, Green Mountain Lawyers will be part of a team with 18 paralegals, law clerks, legal assistants and support staff along with six attorneys that practice in various states within northern New England.

Ewald started his own law practice in Killington in 1981. He attended the University of Vermont and then studied at Vermont Law School. Ewald is a staple in the Vermont

real estate law community, well known and highly skilled in all aspects of real estate conveyancing, land use, and comprehensive title abstracting. Over the past 42 years, Ewald has built a reputation as a trusted advisor and advocate for his clients.

DaMore has been practicing for over 23 years and is the founder of DaMore Law since its inception in 1999. He has extensive experience in all aspects of real estate law as well as business law, estate planning, general practice and business management.

DaMore is a licensed attorney in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont.

Since 1999, he and his firm have closed over 20,000 real estate transactions and DaMore has personally reviewed and advised clients on thousands of purchase and sale agreements for both buyers and sellers. His experience in real estate law includes complex residential and commercial transactions, title resolution, condominium law and conversion, and all aspects of law related to the purchase and sale of real estate. DaMore is a licensed Massachusetts Real Estate Instructor and regularly provides continuing education classes to real estate

agents and also frequently lectures buyers, sellers and real estate professionals on many real estate related topics.

Outside of his business, DaMore is a former freestyle coach for Killington Mountain Mogul/Killington Ski Club. His children Tyler and Trae both attended KMS and are competitive freestyle skiers. DaMore also enjoys biking and golf.

DaMore is a former freestyle coach for Killington Mountain Mogul/Killington Ski Club. His children Tyler and Trae both attended KMS and are competitive freestyle skiers.

DaMore Law provides legal services to clients in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts. With offices in Killington, Alton Bay, New Hampshire, Burlington, Massachusetts, Billerica, Massachusetts, and

Stoneham, Massachusetts, DaMore Law is able to offer a variety of legal services to its clients in Northern New England.

DaMore Law specializes in several other practice areas as well, including: estate planning, probate matters, family law and business law.

DaMore Law is deeply committed to serving and engaging within the communities it services. The firm recognizes that a strong community is built through collaboration, support and active participation. Their mission is to continue supporting the community and those in need. The philosophy of giving back is deeply ingrained in the core values of DaMore Law. Recognizing the significant role they play in society, DaMore Law always strives to go above and beyond to contribute to the betterment of the community. DaMore Law believes that success should not be measured solely on our professional achievements, but also by the positive changes they bring about in the lives of others.

Green Mountain Lawyers is located at 1995 US Route 4 in Killington.

For more information visit: greenmountainlawyers.com.



Above: Green Mountain Lawyers opened a new division in Killington. Pictured in the front row (l-r): Peter DaMore, Esq. & Dan Ewald, Esq. Pictured in back (l-r): Dale Duguay, paralegal; Pauline Drayton, paralegal/marketing & community relations manager; Alex Morabito, paralegal and Linda Fox; paralegal/office manager.



Submitted

Below: The new offices of Green Mountain Lawyers is located at 1995 U.S. Route 4 in Killington (roughly across from the Post Office).

Submitted

Looking Back:

from page 24

downhill skier — He wasn't just a recreational skier; he taught skiing! Of course, he asked me to join him on the slopes. I skied a little better than I played tennis but not a lot. I had all the equipment and clothing needed for the sport so off to Pico we went one Sunday morning. I told him that I had a reputation for knocking my T-bar partner off the lift but he was confident that wouldn't happen with him. It didn't.

The trip down the trail was different for both of us. Peter went down in a nice straight vertical "schuss." I went from one side of the trail to the other. I was given some helpful advice but he definitely had a challenge when it came to teaching me.

Fear of heights and fear of speed kept me on the lower trails. But eventually we ventured onto the chairlift. The ride up was fine. Getting off...not so fine! I sort of jumped instead of letting the chair gently push me off. No damage done...but it wasn't pretty!

At the end of the day we went into the Pico Ski Club building as Peter was a member. I was introduced to so many people that my head was spinning. But they were welcoming and by the end of the winter it was a more comfortable environment.

We were married in 1975 and fishing, skiing and camping were part of our lives for many years. But there were "improvements" in the way each one of those was done. Peter's pop-up camper was replaced by a camper/trailer with a double bed, shower and toilet. The aluminum boat was traded for a larger boat that required a trailer to pull it. It had a canopy which was great on a hot day or in a light rain. I learned that fish love a light rain and I liked to stay dry. Problem solved!

Downhill skiing was intermingled with cross country skiing and snowshoeing as the years went by. Peter learned to love both of those and I was happy because my feet stayed on the ground and it was slower paced.

Of course, Peter also did things that were out of his comfort zone back in our dating days. But that is a topic for a future column.

If your dating days involved activities that were done out of love I hope you can look back like we can, almost 50 years later, and realize that the compromises you made back then were the beginning of a wonderful life together. After all, marriage, like life, is all about "give and take." It works!

Easton:

from page 19

When did you first get really into mountain biking? How did your passion begin?

I started biking in college in 2014. While attending Vermont Tech in Randolph Center, one of my good friends convinced me to get a bike and try it out. I always loved riding bikes, and this was another level of a wheelie fun time. At the same time I got involved with Ridgeline Outdoor Collective, then known as RASTA in the earlier days of the latest trail developments locally and around Vermont. and it's incredible to be on board as the trail networks and mountain bike communities have continued to grow around the state since then.

Who or what inspires you when you ride?

I work a lot with the youth programs and Thursday Night Women's Ride. Remembering we're all always learning and growing as people and riding keeps me on my toes and focusing on something different every time

I ride to focusing on improving. Anything from picking new line choices on trails I know well, to better control with my pedals and braking, and everything in between.

Do you have a favorite local spot you'd recommend for folks after their ride?

Sandy's Books and Bakery, Maple Soul, Rochester Cafe, or a spot by the riverside are all great options!

Is there anything else local riders or visitors should know?

Don't be shy! Say hi to those you meet on the trails, stop into the bike shop for some ride suggestions, and you may just get some extra intel from the locals for something I may have not mentioned here! And don't forget to renew your VMBA Membership as a Ridgeline chapter member to support the work we do on and off the trail, and get great local perks in return to use around the state as you explore new trails!

Devil's Bowl:

from page 20

the field to round out the top five. Mike Clark was sixth ahead of Nick Austin-Neil, Robert Gauthier, Tyler Travis, and Jeff Haskins. Austin-Neil and Matt Wade won the heat races.

The 500cc Mini Sprint division ran a pair of 15-lap features and saw two drivers earn their first wins of the year. The opening race was a makeup for the event rained out one week earlier, and Poultney's John Smith scored the victory. Kevin Smith, Ray Hanson, John Carleton, and Raelin Dunham completed the top five finishers.

In the second race, it was Carleton — a 67-year-old rookie from Chittenden — who earned the first win of his career. Chayton Young was the runner-up ahead of Roger LaDuc, Hanson, and Logan Denis.

The Mini Stock division had an overflowing 35 entries, so the field was split into two A-Main feature races. Former champion Craig Kirby made his long haul from St. Albans, pay off with his first win of the year in the first 15-lap race after starting 12th on the grid. Jakobee Alger finished second, followed by Jake Barrows, Brian Blake, and T.J. Knight.

Whitehall, New York's Adam Mahoney posted his second win of the year in the nightcap, driving from seventh starting position to beat Jake Mallory, Mark Mahoney, Clemmy Bell, and Cody Dion in a caution-free race.

The Enduro Series ran its 50-lap race green-to-checker without a single red flag. Whiting's Eric Leno outlasted the field for his second win of the year. Eric Messier was the runner-up ahead of Zach Wood, Sportsman Modified driver Tim LaDuc, and Anthony Johnson.

For more information, visit: DevilsBowlSpeedwayVT.com or call (802) 265-3112.

Bypass strategy:

from page 9

administration, but to the Public Utility Commission, chaired by a climate change alarmist who has put decarbonization ahead of the commission's historic job of protecting gas and electricity ratepayers. The \$2+ billion CHS program was thus located largely beyond the governor's reach.

The principal CHS "default delivery agent" for "clean heat credits" will be Efficiency Vermont, controlled by the nonprofit Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. The chair of the VEIC is Richard Cowart, creator of the CHS plan and a legislatively-appointed member of the VCC.

The Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act of 2023 will lay the groundwork for the coming comprehensive state land use control system. Its aim is to "conserve" 50% (4,800 square miles) of Vermont from humans meddling with ecosystems. That will

diminish if not confiscate the rights of thousands of private property owners. It will be designed and possibly implemented by the government-funded Housing and Conservation Board. Four of its 11 members were appointed

The underlying question is: what accountability do these organizations have to the elected governor?

by the governor, and none of them is directly accountable to the people of the state.

Let's concede that the PUC and the H&C Board do some useful things. The underlying question is: what accountability do these organizations have to the elected governor? For comparison, if the Agency of Transportation (VTrans) messes up plowing the state highways, that will blow back onto the governor.

But the powerful, well-funded environmental

organizations, employing (at recent count) 42 lobbyists in Montpelier, have persuaded the Democratic Legislature to implement far reaching state policies — on the climate crisis, land use, ecosystem protection, and the rest of their list

of fashionable progressive causes. This is where the "Bypass Scott" strategy has taken us. The governor still has resources to slow down or thwart the climateers. But at least

in this important sector of state policy making, he is no longer the policy leader who wins elections by delivering on proposals attractive to a majority of voters.

What the people want, how much they are willing to pay for it in tax dollars, how many rights are they willing to see abridged, and who will be held democratically accountable when the show slides off the rails, is of concern to a governor facing reelection. For the Bypass Scott crowd, not so much.

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