



BRANDON HOSTS TOWNWIDE YARD SALE

Brandon's annual yard sale will be held Saturday, Aug. 5 at 9 a.m., rain or shine. Treasures await!

Page 16

GARDEN TOUR SATURDAY

Take a self-guided tour of diverse high-altitude gardens display creative landscaping ideas in Mount Holly, Saturday, Aug. 5, at 9:30 a.m.

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RAIL REPAIRS NEAR COMPLETION AFTER HISTORIC FLOODING

Vermont rail lines — particularly between Rutland and Ludlow — were severely damaged by flooding, but expect to reopen this week.

Page 3



ORGANIC FARMERS ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS

\$6.9 million is available for eligible dairy farmers, who may receive a single payment of \$5 per hundredweight of organic milk from 2022.

Page 10



By Merisa Sherman

The Killington Paddle Ladies group grew Monday night — to 62 boats strong, plus supporters on land — when they held a sunset paddle to honor Barb Wood.

Paddlers gathered on Kent Pond to honor the life of Barb Wood

Staff report

On Monday, July 31, nearly 100 friends, family and supporters joined “The Killington Paddle Ladies,” who hosted a sunset paddle on Kent Pond to celebrate the life of Barb Wood.

Wood, a long time resident of Pittsfield, well-known photographer and former employee of Killington Resort, passed away last Tuesday, July 25, surrounded by her loving family.

She was diagnosed with stage 4 glioblastoma (brain cancer) on Christmas Day — just six months ago. After unsuccessful treatment, she was moved to hospice a few weeks ago.

“The outpouring of love, prayers, calls, cards, emails, visits and texts is overwhelmingly appreciated,” wrote Michelle Murphy, a life-long friend of Wood → 2

Killington town seeks stable transition for new chief, those who spoke out aren't welcome back

By Katy Savage

The Killington Select Board is barring volunteers who quit or spoke negatively about the town from rejoining the fire department under the newly-hired fire chief.

“Anyone who signed the letter (published in the Mountain Times, Rutland Herald and social media) or bad-mouthed the fire department through social media is not currently allowed to be accepted as volunteers,” Select Board member Jim Haff said at a meeting Monday, July 24.

The tension between the fire department and Select Board started when about half of the 40-person volunteer firefighters and Killington Search and Rescue volunteers quit or were fired under former Fire Chief Chris LaHart, who resigned in June after about five months on the job.

Seventeen volunteers, most of whom served on the search and rescue but some also volunteered with fire and EMS, signed a letter and sent it to Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth on March 12, asking town officials to step in. The letter was published in the Mountain Times on March 13.

Those volunteers said they had no confidence in the chief and claimed LaHart “reprimanded, bullied, and dismissed team members.”

They asked for a discussion with Killington town officials to “determine a practical solution to separate from Chief LaHart’s adversarial and toxic environment.”

“We want to be mindful of the rebuild,” said Hagenbarth.

Rebuild → 2

Missing hiker found dead by KSAR

Flooding was likely the culprit that led to fatality

Staff report

The Vermont State Police (VSP) located the body of a man believed to be missing Appalachian Trail hiker Robert Kerker, 67, of Rhinebeck, New York on Friday, July 28.

Police said search crews located Kerker’s body along Stony Brook in Stockbridge about 1.5 miles downstream from where the trail crossed the brook around 2:30 p.m.

Crews had focused efforts Friday on the brook after a witness reported seeing Kerker at the Stony Brook Shelter on the Appalachian Trail the night of July 9.

He was known to have been at the Inn at Long Trail in Killington prior, police said.

The witness said severe rain and flooding that struck Vermont starting July 10 had elevated water levels on the Stony Brook and made the trail’s crossing of the stream dangerous. Kerker is not known to have been seen again following that encounter.

The VSP Search and Res-

cue Team, Killington Search and Rescue, the Killington Police Department, the Department of Motor Vehicles and New England K9 Search and Rescue participated in the effort Friday afternoon to recover Kerker’s remains.

Five members of the Killington Search and Rescue team responded and one

member found Kerker on ATV after a 3-hour search.

“It was an unfortunate outcome,” Killington Police Chief Whit Montgomery said. “A number of us were able to get him out on a liter.”

Montgomery said floodwaters had receded.

“If we had gone in earlier

Hiker → 2



Courtesy VSP

Robert Kerker, 67, was last seen July 9. He was found July 28.

OBITUARY

Obit Marianne L. Adkins, 76,

Marianne L. Adkins, 76, of Wilder, died peacefully on Friday, July 28, 2023, surrounded by her beloved children, sister and close friend, Beth Ann Awezec, in Killington after a long battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

She is survived by her three children, Heidi Soos, Amy Soos, Ryan Soos(Brittany), her two adored grandchildren, Connor and Henry, all four of her siblings, Diane Hibbert, Susan Stunk(Chris), Jimmy Adkins(-Sue) and Barbara Foley(Jim) and all of her cherished nieces, nephews and granddogs. She was predeceased by both of her parents, James Adkins and Marion Adkins (Woodward), her brother in law, John Hibbert and her best friend, Clary Jonker.



Marianne Adkins

Marianne Adkins was a devoted nurse at Dartmouth Hitchcock for many years. Before her nursing career, she spent many years working for the Killington Resort. She loved to travel and was always up for an adventure skiing or hiking. Adkins was a huge dog lover and spent much of her time dotting on all her many dogs over the years. She was an incredibly loyal friend and you could find her laughing and loving all of her treasured friendships, with people near and far.

She leaves behind cherished memories that will be held close to the hearts of her children, grandchildren, siblings, friends and all that knew her. May her soul rest in peace, knowing that her love and kindness continue to live on in the hearts of those she touched.

The family would like to thank everyone who took part in caretaking at Crescent Manor Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Bennington. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. In the meantime, memorial gifts can be made to the Alzheimer’s Association: alz.org. Please sign the online guestbook at cabotfh.com.

Hiker: from page 1

he may not have been found or it could have impacted (the search),” Montgomery said. “The water had receded enough to not make it difficult.”

An autopsy conducted by the Chief Medical Examiner’s Office officially determined Aug. 1 that Kerker’s cause of death “was a probable drowning, and the manner of death an accident that occurred when Kerker was caught in the current of a brook” while hiking the trail in the storms.

Kerker was an experienced hiker who began his trek on the Appalachian Trail on June 1 in Bear Mountain, New York.

State officials confirmed, Tuesday, Aug. 1 that Kerker’s was the second death related to July’s catastrophic flooding.

The first flood victim was Stephen Davoll, 63, who died July 12, when he drowned in his flood-ed basement in Barre, officials said.

“A number of us were able to get him out on a litter,” Montgomery said.

In response to a question at Tuesday’s press conference, Public Safety Commissioner Jennifer Morrison said a “preliminary assessment” found that the death of 25-year-old Katie Hartnett, of Burlington, was not caused by flooding as had been previously suspected. Vermont State Police reported last month that Hartnett died after slipping and falling into the Huntington River in Richmond on July 14. Her body was recovered from the river the next day.

Morrison said she was not sure whether the final investigation into Hartnett’s death was complete.

Emergency officials have said that the determinations of whether deaths are formally linked to flooding are based on a number of factors, including autopsy results and federal determinations of the disaster’s “incident period.” Families of flood victims in counties covered by the federal disaster declaration may be eligible for grants for funeral expenses.

Maggie Cassidy and Lola Duffort/VTDigger contributed to this reporting.

Rebuild: from page 1

Despite their concerns, the Select Board and town manager repeatedly defended the chief up until his resignation.

The board and department are attempting to move on under new Fire Chief Paul Ginther, who took over July 10.

Select Board members said they gave Ginther a list of names of people who spoke or wrote negatively about the department. The barring pertains to “Anyone who said something against the fire department — letters to the editor, social media, etc.” Haff said at the meeting.

“The folks that wrote the letter and put it in the paper right away without giving (the town) a chance, we’re not accepting them back at this time,” Haff said.

Haff said the board’s intent is to “keep things calm” going forward. “It’s calmed down,” Haff said. “Let’s give this chief a chance and work through what he has, to understand what he has.”

Board members said there were concerns that if those volunteer firefighters were allowed to rejoin the department, it could cause other volunteers to quit.

“Morale is a huge piece of what we do,” Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth said. “The chief made the statement perfectly — the wounds are too fresh. It only takes one person who has an ax to grind to mess the whole thing up. We want to be mindful of the rebuild.”

Steve Finer, one of the volunteers who signed the letter and

“Right now we have a calm situation, we have a full volunteer board. We’re going to walk before we run,” said Karr. “I like the direction we’re going right now...”

since retired, said at the meeting the volunteers have moved on from the previous turmoil.

“I would disagree,” Select Board member Chris Karr said. “The past is still lingering. What we don’t want to do is head down the past. Right now we have a calm situation, we have a full volunteer board... We’re going to walk before we run.

“I like the direction we’re going right now and I don’t want any more letters to the editors. I don’t want to read about us in the paper anymore,” Karr said.

Finer and board members said multiple people who quit have spoken to the chief about rejoining the department.

“If they want to come back they should be able to,” Finer said. “I want to make sure his hands are not tied.”

Haff clarified the town didn’t direct the chief to not have conversations with the people who quit.

“We never said anyone can’t reach out and talk to him,” Haff said. “What we did say is we’re trying to calm it down. Let’s give this a break.”

The dispute in March came at a time the fire department transitioned from an all volunteer fire department to a partly paid department — a request of the firefighters to entice more people to respond to calls.

There were 23 people on the fire department roster as of Aug. 1. There are currently 17 on search and rescue, which is now under the police department.

Ginther said in a phone call after the meeting that many previous firefighters have reached out to him.

“I’m trying to get the word out to those people when they come to me, for the time being they are not going to be allowed back,” he said.

Ginther said town officials “made it very clear” the people who quit can’t return.

He wasn’t sure if volunteers could return in the future. “It depends if the town management wants to reverse direction on that and take things on a case by case basis,” he said. “I’ll certainly entertain it.”



By Max Elles

Wood: from page 1

Barb Wood and her family on the GoFundMe support page for Wood, which she started Feb. 24, 2023. “With no surprise, an organically grown support group formed instantaneously, and Barb’s village showed up! Friends and neighbors have volunteered their time to cook meals, drive Barb to doctor and treatment appointments, help with the house and so much more that is unanticipated and will eventually reach beyond volunteers,” she wrote.

Wood was primarily being cared for by her adult children Kali and Spencer as well as her sister Lauren, in addition to many friends in Pittsfield/Killington and beyond.



Barb Wood

The GoFundMe page has raised \$35,167 from 245 donors. Each “contribution is what keeps Barb smiling everyday, and she is overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and care you have shown her,” Murphy wrote to supporters. “I had the honor of reading each donation and personal message to her. She smiled and told me stories about every one of you. I feel like I know you all, but that was the way Barb was.”

Celebration of Life for Barb Wood will be held Sunday, Aug. 13, from 1-4 p.m. at Killington’s K-1 Lodge.

Editor’s note: See related column by Merisa Sherman, page 25.

Railroad repairs near completion on Vermont's flood-damaged networks

By Shaun Robinson/VTDigger

Vermont's freight railroads took a beating in July's floods. But rail officials say repairs are happening quickly, and the lines that are still damaged should be back on track soon.

"Our entire system was affected," said Selden Houghton, president of Vermont Rail System. "Hopefully, by next week, we'll be 100% put back together."

Houghton spoke to a reporter by phone from Rutland, where he and other company leaders have been staying in hotels for the past two weeks, effectively setting up a base of operations for Vermont Rail System's repair efforts in southern Vermont.

Likely the worst damage to the company's network — one of the largest in the state — was to its Green Mountain Railroad, which carries several freight trains per week on an east-west route between Bellows Falls



Damage was extensive to the Green Mountain Railroad in East Wallingford after flooding. Courtesy of Selden Houghton

and Rutland.

As of Tuesday, July 25, 27 state-owned miles of that line, between Rutland and Ludlow, were still closed due to flood damage, according to Joe Flynn, secretary of the state Agency of Transportation.

A large washout during the

storm along the Green Mountain Railroad, near Okemo Mountain Resort in Ludlow, left tracks suspended roughly 50 feet in the air (images of which were published in the Mountain Times).

Meanwhile, another portion of the Green Mountain line, in East Wallingford,

collapsed after a "big slope failure," Houghton said, leaving tracks dangling over a cliff edge.

Flynn said Tuesday that he and other state officials continued to monitor the landscape around the Green Mountain line after

Railroad → 10

Rutland County leaders of the Vt Declaration of Inclusion initiative honored with Community Leadership Award

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) announced the recipients of the Vermont Community Leadership Award last Wednesday, July 26. The awards will be presented at VCRD's 2023 Vermont Community Leadership Summit on Aug. 15 at the Vermont State University Randolph Campus.

The Vermont Community Leadership Award is presented each year to celebrate Vermonters who exemplify "dedication, integrity and honorable service to community and to rural Vermont," and who have had a "transformational" effect on their communities. The award highlights the work of community heroes who epitomize the best spirit of local community service, who volunteer their time, and who have made their community better.

This year, the four members of the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion initiative have been selected to receive the Vermont Community Leadership Award.

The members — and "driving force" — behind the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion include Norm

Cohen, Bob Harnish, Barbara Noyes Pulling, and Al Wakefield — all community members and residents of Rutland County. All have deep roots around the state and bring humor, dedication, purpose, and integrity to those they interact with.

In 2020, Harnish and Wakefield decided to start asking every town in Vermont to adopt and implement a "Declaration of Inclusion." The Declaration raises awareness about systemic racism, the importance of diversity in contributing to the state's economy, and the need to be proactive in signaling that Vermont is a welcoming place. As of July 25, 116 towns across the state have adopted the Declaration. Over 70% of Vermont residents live in those towns.

"It is an honor to recognize this tremendous group of community leaders who are using their skill and talent to build a stronger future for all of us here in Vermont," said Brian Lowe, executive director at VCRD. "This is a group of people working selflessly and with great humor in communities across our state."

Approximately 500 attendees are set to gather for the 2023 Vermont Community Leadership Summit on Tuesday, Aug. 15 at Vermont State University Randolph Campus. The award presentations will be presented in the morning between 9-9:35 a.m. followed by breakout sessions for summit participants to connect with fellow community builders from across Vermont to build leadership skills, seek resources to help advance projects, and to think together on significant issues looking toward the future.

Registration is \$50 per person, with options available for partial or no payment to register, if needed, by using promo code "PARTIAL" (for \$25) or "FRIEND" (for no cost) at checkout. The event is meant to be accessible to all without financial barriers. The day includes lunch and a Ben & Jerry's ice cream party to close.

Online registration will be open until midnight on Aug. 6. Anyone interested in registering after can do so on-site the morning of the event.

For more information visit: vtrural.org/summit.

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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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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TOWN OF
KILLINGTON
VERMONT

SELECTBOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PROPOSED READOPTED OF KILLINGTON TOWN PLAN

The Killington Selectboard will hold a public hearing on the Readoption of the Killington Town Plan on **Monday, August 21, 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: KillingtonTown.com.

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Dated at Killington, Vermont this 21st day of July, 2023.
Chet Hagenbarth, Town Manager, Town of Killington, Vermont

East Mountain Road still inaccessible after flood

By Curt Peterson

Anyone wanting to travel East Mountain Road between Bear Mountain Road and Route 4 (where it connects just east of the Skyeship gondola) in Killington should change plans, Killington town officials said at a recent meeting. That portion of road is still inaccessible.

East Mountain Road is accessible now from the top of Killington Road to Bear Mountain Road, but access is being limited.

"The road is open for access by local traffic only," Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth said. "The only [other] exception is for contractors who are doing flood repair work."

The Select Board held a public flood repair status update on Friday, July 28, to announce progress as well as updates on those areas that remain a 'work in progress.'

Currently, town repairs are still on an "emergency basis," according to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations.

FEMA inspectors are surveying the damage to infrastructure, and will determine when "permanent" reconstruction can begin.

Permanent repair projects estimated to cost under \$250,000 will require a bidding process — those costing more than \$250,000 will need to be bid through a state program that includes a list of approved contractors.

Right now, the road repair goal is to make it wide enough for two emergency vehicles to pass each other.

Materials costs are going to be immense, Hagenbarth said. "As of tonight, we have spent over \$300,000 for aggregate fill," he said. "There's been a steady parade of trucks bringing in material."

Select Board member Jim Haff said the town has purchased six "No Shoulders Ahead" signs for warning drivers about road conditions. "Some roads are passable, but not totally safe," Haff said. "People definitely shouldn't drive the affected roads at night."

Haff hopes people heed the town's warning about safety. He said short-term rental agents and owners should be warning tenants they may not be able to reach their units. Travel in the East Mountain Road area is for necessity only, he said, telling the Mountain Times he had received calls from companies that wanted to "fill hot tubs for their customers."

The town has told them 'no.' "This is serious," Haff said. "The town has been working hard to open it enough for people to get to their properties, that's the best we can do. Any non-essential traffic on those roads need to wait."

The road repair goal is to make it wide enough for two emergency vehicles to pass each other.

Hartland announces FY24 tax rates

By Curt Peterson

Hartland tax rate is up 8% and the education rate is up 6% from last year.

The municipal home-stead rate for FY24 is \$.6507, and the education rate is \$1.8202, for a total home-stead rate of \$2.4709 per \$100 of assessed property value.

Interim Town Manager Martin Dole translated the

tax rates' effect on a Hartland home assessed for \$300,000. The municipal tax would be \$1,952.40, and the education tax would be \$5,460.60, for a grand total tax of \$7,413.00.

"That's an increase of \$455.40 for that \$300,000 property," Dole said.

The first installment will be due Sept. 8 and the second due on Feb. 9.

FEMA, SBA crews canvass Vermont communities

Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) teams from FEMA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) are going door-to-door in Vermont communities, canvassing neighborhoods and helping flood-impacted residents register for disaster assistance.

DSA crew members are visiting homes, schools, nonprofits and communities with limited access. They are also meeting with local officials and community leaders to identify disaster-related issues and unmet needs.

DSA teams can help survivors register for assistance, update their information and assist with referrals to voluntary agency partners. They may give residents the opportunity to use a tablet to register or offer to enter information on their behalf.

Teams from the SBA Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience are going door-to-door to contact survivors of the severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides, too. They are notifying Vermont businesses damaged by the storms that they are eligible to apply for SBA low-interest disaster loans.

DSA crews will never ask for or accept money. DSA staff wear a FEMA identi-

cation badge with a photograph – a FEMA shirt, vest or jacket is not proof of identity.

SBA team members will be wearing SBA Disaster Assistance shirts or jackets, have Federal ID cards with their name, photo, and SBA logo on them, and will not hesitate to produce their IDs if requested.

While helping someone register, team members may ask for personal information, including social security number, annual income and bank information. Residents are encouraged to ask for identification before providing any personal information.

People affected by the floods in Caledonia, Chittenden, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham and Windsor counties don't have to wait for a DSA or SBA to register for assistance. To register, download the FEMA Mobile App, visit DisasterAssistance.gov or call 1-800-621-3362. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service when you apply.

For more information visit: vermont.gov/flood.

Governor: \$20M available for flooded businesses

Applications to open Aug. 3

The Department of Economic Development has created the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program (BEGAP), a \$20 million grant program for businesses and nonprofits that suffered physical damages from flooding dating back to July 7.

"My team and I are committed to doing whatever we can to support businesses who were impacted by historic flooding," said Gov. Phil Scott. "We know this \$20 million won't be enough, but I believe the State has a responsibility to step up and do what it can while we work to secure additional support for the small businesses that fuel our economy and make our communities strong."

Applicants must intend on restoring, reopening, and bringing their employees back to work as soon as possible and will utilize these grant funds for that purpose.

Applications will be approved on a rolling basis until all funds are expended. The application portal is expected to open on Thursday, Aug. 3.

An informational webinar will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 2 at 10 a.m.

BEGAP will help applicants recoup a portion of their total net uncovered damages. This is the damage amount remaining after subtracting any insurance proceeds (estimated or received) and other grants or donations to be used to defray the costs of repairing or replacing those damaged assets.

For applicants who have less than \$1 million in net uncovered damages, grants will be allocated for the lesser of 20% of net uncovered damage or \$20,000.

For properties that sustained more than a million dollars of damage, grant amounts may exceed the \$20,000 cap. Those grants will be 20% of net documented uncovered physical damage up to \$500,000 based on the number of employees and total damage they sustained. Of the \$20 million, \$1 million will be administered by the Agency of Agriculture, Business grants → 10

GetInternet.gov

The ACP is connecting households with savings on internet service.

With the government's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) millions of households are already saving \$30 a month on internet service. To find out if you're eligible, visit GetInternet.gov/Connect. If you're approved, a participating provider can help you connect and the savings will be applied directly to your monthly bill.

Sign up, connect and save at GetInternet.gov/Connect.

To request a printed application, call the ACP Support Center at (877) 384-2575.





TOWN OF
KILLINGTON
VERMONT



United States Department of Agriculture

Public Notice

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Town of Killington Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Vermont Rural Development, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Vermont Rural Development, USDA office as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by the Town of Killington, Vermont. The area of Killington will be impacted by the proposed project and the Town of Killington has submitted an application to VT Rural Development, USDA for funding of this project.

The EA contains information on the purpose and need for the Project; the range of alternatives considered; and an evaluation of the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action, including cumulative impacts.

An electronic version of the Environmental Assessment is available for review on the Killington Forward Initiative Page of the Town of Killington website at: KillingtonTown.com

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Project is to reconstruct portions of Killington Road to address numerous safety concerns and to accommodate multiple modes of transportation and additional capacity. The Project will balance the needs of the various user groups including motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists by improving road intersections and by the creation of a multi-use path to enhance general safety and operations for all modes of transportation.

The Project proposes the reconstruction of Killington Road from Anthony Way south to East Mountain Road to improve the road profile, cross-slope, surface conditions and to address spot drainage issues. Other improvements include an 8-foot paved multi-use path over the entire Project alignment, a 6-foot sidewalk on the opposite side of the road in select locations, pedestrian crossings, bulb-outs, additional bus stops, and landscaping. Roadway improvements are proposed to be constructed in four phases over an approximate six-year time frame. The project is expected to impact approximately 8,246 square feet of wetlands area.

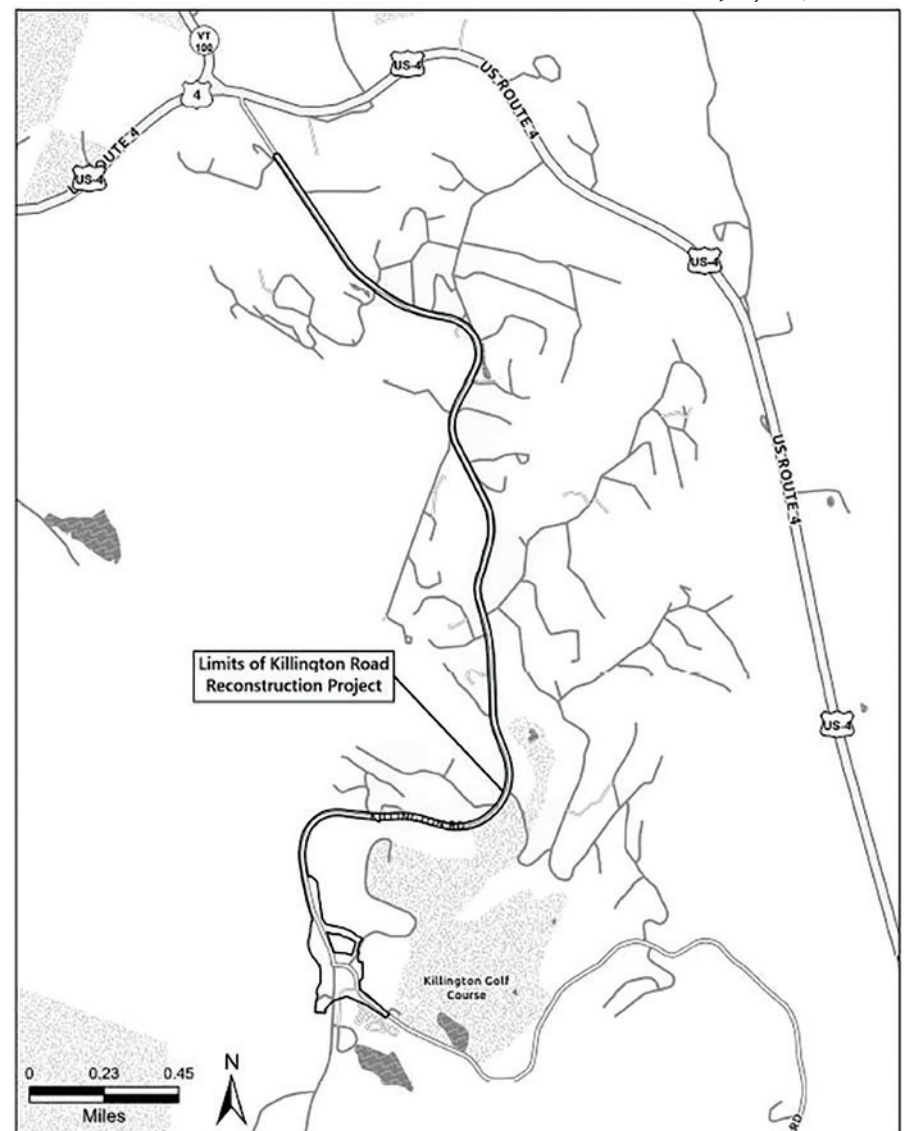
The proposed Project will utilize the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement Among the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Programs, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and The Advisory Council on historic Preservation for Sequencing Section 106 (NPA) to achieve conditional compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act for the purposes of obligating financial assistance only, and during the completion of Section 106 the agency will formally determine effects on historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Vermont Rural Development has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project.

No significant impacts are expected as a result of the proposed project. Questions and or comments on the environmental assessment should be directed to: Shaun Fielder, Community Program Specialist, NH/VT Rural Development, 87 State Street – Suite 324, P.O. Box 249, Montpelier, VT 05601, phone: 802-828-6034, email: shaun.fielder@usda.gov

Vermont Rural Development will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14-days from the date of publication of this notice. Any final action by Vermont Rural Development USDA (Rural Utility Services) as related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures. A general location map of the proposed project area is shown below.

Dated: July 28, 2023



Leave boulders and logs in rivers to increase flood resilience and help fish

After the recent July floods, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VTF&W) is asking recovery efforts to prioritize river resilience and help impacted fish populations when possible.

“The first priority in flood recovery is human safety,” said Aquatic Habitat Biologist Will Eldridge, Friday, July 28. “During Tropical Storm Irene, we learned that retaining and recovering river habitat that buffers against future floods and helps impacted fish populations rebound lines up with that human safety priority.”

Rivers with features like fallen trees, large boulders, and winding channels provide better fish habitat and are more resilient to floods. These features reduce flood impacts for landowners and downstream communities by slowing flood waters. They also provide fish with shelter and places to forage that can be the difference between successful recovery and lasting impacts for fish populations.

“After Irene some recovery efforts removed trees and boulders from rivers and ended up making rivers more vulnerable to floods and slowing fish population recovery,” said Eldridge. “We are asking Vermonters to leave downed trees and boulders in rivers and streams whenever doing so does not create a risk for people, roads, or infra-



Courtesy VTF&W

Trout populations can drop significantly in extreme floods like the one Vermont weathered in July. A wild brook trout sampled from a Vermont stream following the July 2023 flood is pictured above.

structure. These features will help fish populations recover and help our rivers weather future floods.”

Impacts to Vermont’s fish populations and river habitats from the July flood will take time to assess. But based on data from Tropical Storm Irene, the department says that trout

Fish recovery → 10

Bookstores help bookstores after flood

Vermont members of the New England Independent Bookstore Association (NEIBA) are supporting each other after flooding. “Bookstores Helping Bookstores,” a fundraising effort to help Bear Pond Books of Montpelier and Next Chapter Bookstore of Barre, both member bookstores that were devastated in the recent FEMA declared disaster flood in central Vermont.

On Saturday, July 29, 17 businesses pledged to donate proceeds of their sales to help Bear Pond and Next Chapter rebuild. Local shops include: The Book Nook, Ludlow; The Bookstore, Brandon; Phoenix Books, Rutland; Yankee Bookshop, Woodstock.

As a small publisher, Rootstock Publishing is also donating sales from books purchased on their website (rootstockpublishing.com) through Aug. 18.

“When the flood hit, we knew we had to do something to help our neighboring bookstores,” said Becky Dayton, of Middlebury’s The Vermont Book Shop. “NEIBA is a wonderful organization that fosters a vital and supportive bookselling community, and members truly value the importance of keeping our local stores alive. This shared value and our special Vermont Bookstore unity is why we’re holding this fundraiser for Bear Pond Books and Next Chapter Bookstore,” she said.

For more information visit: newenglandbooks.org.



Courtesy Proctor Skate Rink, FB

The Proctor Skate Rink opened a new playground at the beginning of the summer.

Proctor rink has new playground

Staff report

The Proctor Skate Rink opened a new playground this summer, thanks to a \$50,000 town grant.

Megan Cannucci and her husband, who started running the rink about six years ago, wanted to bring

another summer activity to the park, in addition to roller skating.

Playgrounds in the area are located at schools and are closed to the public during school hours.

“This can be used any-

time,” Cannucci said. “It’s used all the time.”

The playground is made by the same company as Killington Elementary: BCI Burke Company.

The playground was built in a day.

Vermont Farmers Food Center adds four new board members

At its annual meeting on July 19, the Vermont Farmers Food Center’s (VFFC) Board of Directors voted in four new board members and thanked two outgoing board members for their dedicated service to the organization.

“VFFC would not be where it is today without its many talented and dedicated volunteer board members. We are grateful to have had Chris Keyser and Mary Ashcroft with us to advance our work on the board,” stated Greg Cox, VFFC board president. “As treasurer, Chris was instrumental in setting up our financial systems. And Mary guided us in strengthening our nonprofit governance. Our new board members will build on the foundation both Chris and Mary helped establish.”

Joining VFFC’s board are: DeMetris Reed, Jr., Meadow Squier, Raymond A. DiPrinzio, and Scott Garren.

“Our new board members bring a breadth of expertise and energy that will be valuable as Farmers Hall reopens this fall and as we begin planning the renovation of the rest of our buildings,” Cox said.

The four new board members have experience in farming, meat processing, food business, food safety training, non-profit governance, infrastructure banking and finance, and information technology.

DeMetris Reed, Jr. recently moved with his family to Vermont from Texas. He is a Vermont Farmers Market vendor and owns Making the CuTX, a specialty barbecue product business. He is also an assistant professor of animal science at Sul Ross State University. Reed

previously served on VFFC’s meat processing advisory committee.

Meadow Squier is a farmer in Rutland County who operates the 300-acre Squier Family Farm with her husband and brother. She and her family have been part of VFFC since its founding in 2012. Squier also served on VFFC’s meat processing advisory committee and VFFC’s Online Market and Wholesale Food programs advisory committee.

Ray DiPrinzio and his late wife, Lisa Garson, have lived in Shrewsbury for the past 30 years. Originally from New York City, DiPrinzio has extensive experience serving on the boards of nonprofit and community organizations. His professional expertise as an infrastructure banker includes negotiating construction and development agreements and permitting for a wide range of public-use infrastructure projects.

Scott Garren lives in Shrewsbury and, for over 30 years, has been developing information technology solutions for clients. He served as a project manager and director of marketing for many IT companies and assisted Fortune 100 companies in developing worldwide voice and data networks. He has worked with libraries, schools, districts, and state Departments of Education to plan, design, and implement effective computer and network systems.

Cox added, “We are thrilled to add these four experienced community members to the board of directors. We look forward to great things to come at VFFC.”

GUEST EDITORIAL

The bloated Pentagon budget passed again

By U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders

Editor's note: On Wednesday, July 26, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders delivered remarks on the floor of the Senate explaining why he was voting 'no' on the \$886 billion defense budget. The Senate voted 86-11 in support of the bill the next day. Sanders' remarks, exactly as prepared for delivery, are below.

M. President, the Senate is now debating an \$886 billion defense authorization bill. Unless there are major changes to this bill, I intend to vote against it. Let me explain why. As everyone knows, our country faces enormous crises.

As a result of climate change our planet is experiencing unprecedented and rising temperatures. Along with the rest of the world, we need to make major investments to transform our energy system away from fossil fuels and into more efficient and sustainable energy sources, or the life we leave our kids and future generations will become increasingly unhealthy and precarious.

Our healthcare system is broken. While the insurance companies and the pharmaceutical industry make hundreds of billions in profit, 85 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured, our life expectancy is declining, and we have a massive shortage of doctors, nurses, mental health practitioners and dentists.

Our educational system is teetering. While we have one of the highest rates of childhood poverty of almost any major country, millions of parents cannot find affordable and quality childcare. The number of our young people who graduate from college is falling behind many other countries and 45 million Americans are struggling under the weight of student debt.

Our housing stock is totally inadequate. While gentrification is causing rents to soar in many parts of our country some 600,000 Americans are homeless, and 18 million are spending more than half of their limited incomes on housing.

These are just some of the crises our country faces. And

Department was unable to account for over half of its assets, which are in excess of \$3.1 trillion, or roughly 78% of what the entire federal government owns.

what is very clear is that we are not dealing with them. In other words, we continue to ignore issues that impact tens of millions of Americans.

That is one reality. But then there is another reality, and that is the issue of the Pentagon and defense spending. Well, that's a whole other story.

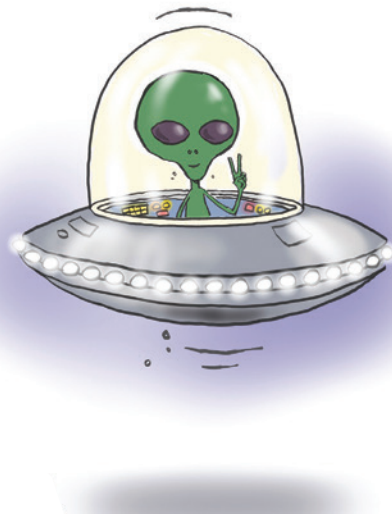
Every year, with seemingly little regard for the strategic picture facing the country, this body votes to increase the military budget.

Bloated → 30

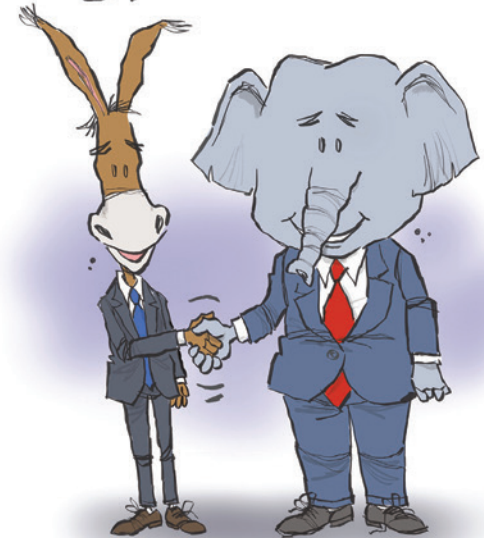
United States spends more on the military than the next 10 countries combined, most of whom are allies.

Q. DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS WANT THE TRUTH ABOUT UFOs... WHICH ONE IS EASIER TO BELIEVE IN?

A. ALIENS



B. BIPARTISANSHIP



Bipartisanship and UFOs by Jeff Koterba, patreon.com

LETTERS

Vermont students speak against Florida education

Dear Editor,

Another Florida headline passed by the screens of millions last week, making waves with captions like "a big step backwards" and "new teaching standards say that African Americans benefited from slavery." These standards have changed the narrative of slavery into an incorrect message that undermines the brutality of the time. They not only contend that enslaved people gained skills, but even go as far as teaching that acts of violence such as the Race Riots in Atlanta and D.C. as well as the massacres in Tulsa and Rosewood were perpetrated by African Americans, according to NBC news.

The far reaching splash of these education standards is felt by many, including the students at VSARN. Although the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network is geographically distanced from the sunshine state, nevertheless, we are all united as Americans; we stand with all the teachers, activists, organizations, and Floridian students currently battling with these extreme conditions.

At VSARN, our goal is to put students in charge

of their social education, and make it so that they can see themselves in the real world. Between the outlawing of teaching current events, to now the glorification of slavery as an economic endeavor for the better of all society, we are deeply saddened. The reason these vast legislative efforts are employed is not for the benefit of the students, in fact it is at their expense. Instead, it is the easy way out. It is easier to simplify history than to teach the complexities of its lasting effects. These new education standards simplify history to make it fit into a cookie cutter mold with linear correlations such as equating indentured servitude to slavery — when one was a choice and the other was a brutal force.

We must not underestimate the youth. If we can handle the pressure of college applications, the weight of family struggles, and the interconnectedness of social media, we are more than capable of learning that Thomas Jefferson was a hypocrite.

Keep up the good fight.
**Hudson Ranney and
Lydia Beaulieu, Vt Student
Anti Racism Network**

We're swimming in money, but could we drown?

Dear Editor,

The pandemic stimulus provided by the federal government and The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have injected close to \$6.7 trillion into the U.S. economy over a three-year period. This is on top of the annual budget spending by the federal government. Wow! Adjusting for inflation, this exceeds what this country spent in World War II by \$2.7 trillion. What are the consequences of the government's largesse.

Some of the positive things that came out of these cash injections from the federal government are: we avoided the severe economic recession that easily could have developed during the peak of the covid pandemic, the pandemic stimulus money also

fed many kids, kept mortgages afloat, preserved many peoples decent credit ratings, accelerated the delivery of vaccines, and saved thousands of small businesses. States used dollars for projects like water conservation, prison infrastructure, expand broad band internet services, and to rescue beleaguered health care providers. Much of the IRA money will go towards green energy subsidies and many infrastructure projects around the U.S.

The size and broad scope of the pandemic funding also opens it up to fraud and questionable allocations.

For example, with a population of about 42,000 people the city of Burlington received

Too much → 20

WRITE TO US:

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CAPITAL QUOTES

David Grusch, a former U.S. intelligence official, testified before the House Oversight Subcommittee Wednesday, July 26, telling the panel that the federal government is in possession of UAPS and crashed extraterrestrial vehicles.

“These are retrieving non-human origin technical vehicles, call it spacecraft if you will, non-human exotic origin vehicles that have either landed or crashed,”

Said **David Grusch**, former U.S. intelligence official.

“The technology that we faced is far superior to anything that we had... And there’s nothing we can do about it, nothing,”

said **David Fravor**, a former Navy commander, explaining he and fellow military pilots saw a white Tic-Tac-shaped object in 2004, hovering below their jets and just above the Pacific Ocean.

“The sheer number of reports, whistleblowers and stories of unidentified anomalous phenomena should raise real questions and warrant investigation and oversight. And that’s why we are here today. UAPs, whatever they may be, may pose a serious threat to our military or civilian aircraft. And that must be understood,”

Rep. **Robert Garcia**, the top Democrat on the subcommittee, said in his opening statement.

“I cannot let yesterday’s hearing pass without sharing how insulting it was to the officers of the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community who chose to join AARO All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, many with not unreasonable anxieties about the career risks this would entail,”

Sean Kirkpatrick, the leader of the AARO, wrote in a letter.

Businesses need more from you, governor

By Thomas Greene

Editor’s note: This commentary is by Thomas Christopher Greene, a novelist, founder of Vermont College of Fine Arts, and currently the owner of Hugo’s Bar and Grill in Montpelier.

Governor Scott: I write this as a fan of yours. I’m a progressive Democrat, yet I have voted for you. I admired your leadership of our state through Covid. Having had the opportunity to sit down with you multiple times in small groups and alone, I always found you thoughtful and the rare politician who seemed to be actually listening, rather than wondering what they may say next.

It is in that spirit that I tell you that I am disappointed in the response of your administration to the floods that ravaged our downtowns a few short weeks ago.

In Montpelier, where I have lived for 30 years, we have a downtown that should be the envy of every small city in America. It’s vibrant, full of a diverse range of shops and restaurants, almost exclusively owned by local people.

Each one of these businesses is its own ecosystem: employing local people, buying local products to be sold, and supporting local farms. In the best of times, each one of these small businesses is one minor calamity away from not surviving. These are all small-margin businesses, and they exist, frankly, in most cases, more as a public trust than real profit centers.

On July 10, I watched the river behind my restaurant’s inexorable rise, and I knew we were going to be in trouble. By 1 p.m., we had made the decision to close for the night to keep our people safe. By 6 p.m., prime dinner hours, people were texting me photos of the street in front of the restaurant underwater. From the front porch of my house a few miles away, I watched the rain fall in endless sheets.

We heard the warnings; we stayed glued to the news. And still, two days

later, when I was the first person to walk into my restaurant, wearing waders, I was entirely unprepared for the devastation.

Natural disasters, like losing a loved one, have their own arc of grief. Initially, the adrenaline is so high there is almost a feeling of catharsis: We got this. Employees show up unaware of whether or not they are getting paid and get to work. Volunteers arrive and say hand me a shovel. With the ethos of pushing a car out of mud, Vermonters know how to work.

But then reality starts to set in. You see how long the road is in front of you. The work is greater than you imagined. You pay your employees when you have no revenue until you can’t. And then they are gone.

You begin to hear estimates of time, whispered among business owners, around when one might be able to open. Six months. Nine months. A year, if ever. Lifetimes in businesses that rely on daily cash to keep going.

Collectively, we turn our lonely eyes to

A max of 20K with more strings attached than a harp?....That’s like attacking a house on fire with a single fire extinguisher: You’re probably still going to lose the house.

government. And the irony is, government bears a lot of responsibility here. We’re in a climate crisis caused by government inaction. Rivers used to flood because of ice jams in the spring. Now they flood because of rainstorms in summer.

And what does the federal government do? They offer us, essentially, mortgages: 30-year loans with 4% interest. Last thing small businesses need is more debt. And in the words of one federal official: “This loan will survive your business, a bankruptcy, and even your own death. Your children will be responsible for paying for it. And that’s if you get approved after a lengthy process.”

What he didn’t say was that the federal government makes money off it. Gross.

At least, Governor, based on your announcement this week, Vermont is offering grants. But they are not enough. Businesses need working capital and now. Without a ton of process. A max of 20K with more strings attached than a harp? When most businesses have sustained losses in the

hundreds of thousands, if not millions? That’s like attacking a house on fire with a single fire extinguisher: You’re probably still going to lose the house.

Walking through downtown Montpelier yesterday afternoon, I was struck by the silence. Almost nothing is open. Most of the volunteers are gone. Wind blew river dust in swirls across the empty streets. Here and there, a few business owners and contractors were still pulling out walls and floors and piling them on the streets.

There’s a sense of foreboding, like it could be this way a very long time. But it doesn’t have to be.

Do more, Governor. We need you.

You pay your employees when you have no revenue until you can’t. And then they are gone.

CLiF brings stories, books to Maclure Library through summer readers grant

Once again this summer, on Thursday, July 27, Maclure Library was able to host a book giveaway thanks to a grant from the Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF). The event was attended by 62 children and their families gathering at the Lothrop School gym to watch Vermont author Marv Klassen-Landis’ engaging storytelling, and each child was able to walk away with two free books of their choice from a wide variety of options.

CLiF awards Summer Readers grants to organizations serving kids at high risk of experiencing a “summer slide” in literacy skills. The partnership between Maclure Library and CLiF reached Pittsford’s young readers who are at greatest risk. Research shows that children who don’t read over summer vacation tend to lose literacy skills while children who do read improve their reading abilities. Low-income children and youth often experience greater summer learning losses than their higher-income peers.

“The book giveaway is a real treat to host,” said Sophie Marks, Maclure Youth Librarian. “The kids are so eager to search for the perfect book to take home, and it’s a pleasure to see them find it.”

CLiF is a non-profit organization whose mission is to nurture a love of reading and writing among children up to age 12 at higher risk of growing up with low literacy skills throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. For more information, visit clifonline.org.



Submitted
Students in Pittsford gather around to listen to a story book.



Submitted

\$6.9 million is available for Vt organic dairy farmers

Vermont organic dairy farmers are encouraged to apply for relief funding. A grant funding designed to mitigate the extreme market challenges in 2022, including high feed and input costs was made available in the state budget which began on July 1, for \$6.9 million.

Eligible dairy farmers who apply will receive a single payment of \$5 per hundredweight of organic milk produced in 2022. The Vermont

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) is responsible for the application process and distribution of funds. The application is now available online.

All qualifying applications will be processed in the order they are received. Agency staff will be verifying information submitted for this program with established records. All documents must be correct and com-

plete before payment can be issued. This includes receipt of your 2022 production information, a W-9, and a submitted application.

The application period for this relief program closes Friday, Oct. 20, 2023. Any unallocated funds will be diverted to other programs on Dec. 31.

For more information, visit: agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vermont-organic-dairy-relief-program.

Fish recovery: from page 7

populations in some rivers may be significantly reduced by this year’s flood.

“Trout populations can drop by around 50% after extreme events like we saw this month, and can take two or three years to recover,” said Eldridge. “How badly trout in a given river are impacted and how well they recover has a lot to do with habitat.”

Landowners, businesses, and towns planning recovery work in rivers and streams are required to follow protocols from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. For more info on flood recovery resources, visit: ANR.Vermont.gov/Flood.

“Trout populations can drop by around 50% after extreme events like we saw this month, and can take two or three years to recover,” said Eldridge.

Grants: from page 5

Food and Markets and dedicated specifically to agricultural businesses.

“The need is great in our business community and though gaps will remain even after these grants are disbursed. This program is a start of the recovery process,” said DED Commissioner Joan Goldstein. “This is the first of many steps we will need to take to try to bridge gaps during this on-going recovery. We are trying to cast a wide net and get as many businesses as we can some form of gap funding.”

Applicant can only

submit one application per damaged property with a three-property maximum.

Physical losses and damage can include physical space and/or replacements of inventory, machinery, equipment, and supplies. Business should collect photographs, insurance adjuster damage assessments, estimates for repairs to physical structures, tax returns, equipment, inventory, or supply purchases, actual paid expenses and other documents as requested.

For more information visit: vermont.gov/flood.

Railroad: from page 3

two more landslides fell close to the tracks.

But by early last week, workers had filled in almost all of the washed-out land underneath the Green Mountain line in Ludlow and planned to start laying tracks back down by the end of the week, according to Houghton. In East Wallingford, meanwhile, crews were working to shore up the hillside, and track replacement was set to be completed this week, he said.

Houghton said he expected that the Green Mountain Railroad would be fully up and running at some point this week, noting work had already been completed through the east side of Ludlow, where the line serves a large talc mine.

Vermont Rail System also had “really significant” damage to its Washington County

Railroad line, Houghton said, which carries at least one freight train a day and transports stone from quarries in the Barre area to an interchange in Montpelier.

Two locomotives and 11 freight cars were stranded in Barre during the flooding, and all will need to be repaired before they can be used again. Houghton said he expected that the entire Washington County line could be fully repaired by the end of next week.

Houghton estimated at least 25 businesses that the rail system’s freight lines serve were impacted, in some way, by the railroad damage, most often in the form of delays as trains had to be rerouted on other companies’ lines that were not damaged. Only two customers were completely shut

off in the flooding, he said.

Vermont Rail System operates the tracks that one of the state’s major passenger rail routes — the Amtrak Ethan Allen Express — takes between Rutland and Burlington.

Houghton said that portion of track, known as the Vermont Railway, had washouts and damage around the Otter Creek basin in Rutland County. Crews got the tracks fixed by the Friday after the storm, he said, but had to do additional work the following week after more rain fell and damaged tracks south of Middlebury.

Both the Ethan Allen Express and the Vermonter — the state’s other Amtrak route, which runs on tracks owned by the New England Central Railroad — have

resumed service after being suspended at the outset of the storm.

“It was a monumental effort by many to restore service in one week’s time,” Charles Hunter, a lobbyist for New England Central Railroad, said in a statement.

Houghton said the damage was comparable, in some areas, to what he witnessed after Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. But Irene — a geographically larger storm — also affected more railroad companies throughout New England, he said, which left his company more cut off and with fewer options to detour trains.

In the July storms, “Vermont wasn’t completely severed from the national rail network, like it pretty much was during Irene,” Houghton said.

WORDPLAY

DOG DAYS 'word search. Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

SUDOKU

Solutions →21

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

- AIR CONDITIONER
AUGUST
BASEBALL
BEACH
- BOATING
CAMP
CANOE
CLOUDS
- DIVING
FANS
GARDENING
HEAT
- HOT
HUMID
ICE CREAM
INDOORS
- MUGGY
OCEAN
POPSICLE
SHADE
- SUMMER
TEMPERATURE
THUNDERSTORM
VACATION

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →21

CLUES ACROSS

1. Indicates tire pressure
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator
11. Adult male
12. Scandinavian god of battle
13. Cloths spread on a coffin
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. It's good to take them
21. Noble-governed territory
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Card game resembling rummy
25. Affected by injury
26. Member of a Semitic people
27. Left
30. Woman's cloak
34. S. American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Offense
41. Dish soap brand
45. Ottoman military commanders
46. Ancient Greek City
47. Makes unhappy
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instru-

ment
55. Promote
56. A beloved carb
57. Tag the base runner to get him out
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Vehicle
62. Georgia rockers
63. Scientific instrument (abbr.)
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Plant of the nettle family
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Patella
7. Ageless
8. Lists of course requirements
9. Pokes at
13. TV network
14. They ____
17. Cooking hardware
18. U.S. Army title
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
(alt. spelling)
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Woeful
33. Midway between north-east and east
37. Glowing

38. Tasks which should be done
39. An informal body of friends
40. Intrinsic nature
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. Where ships unload cargo

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Malaysia on August 6, 1962. I was a beauty pageant winner prior to becoming an actress. I've been in a James Bond movie and recently won a Best Actress Oscar for a role in a 2022 film.


Answer: Michelle Yeoh

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WEDNESDAY

8/2

Hemp Fiber for Green Design

9 a.m.-Noon. Vermont Marble Museum 52 Main St., Proctor. Free. A tour of Zion Growers followed by hands-on a session focused on the opportunities to design green products with Vermont hemp fibers. Info: vtgreenbuildingnetwork.org/events.

Coolidge's Oath of Office Centennial Anniversary Celebration

10 a.m.-5 p.m. 4 days, Aug. 2-5. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Route 100A, Plymouth Notch. \$35-\$75. Witness a reenactment of the 100th anniversary of Calvin Coolidge's 2:47 a.m. emergency swearing in as president. Celebrate the centennial with the reenactment, tours, galas, presentations and more. Info: coolidgefoundation.org.

Vermont Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-2 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 info 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. 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. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Are You Ready for Some Kickball?

5-8 p.m. Sherburne Library Field, River Road, Killington. \$200 per team. Suggested spectator donations \$20. All ages. 9 players per team. Complimentary, burgers, dogs and water. Picnics welcome. Play tournament style kickball—single or double elimination. 3-inning games. 100% of proceeds go to the Vermont Farm Fund. For more info, email: erica@therivershed.com.

Cavendish Summer Concert Series: Sammy Blanchette

6 p.m. Svec Memorial Park, Proctorsville Green, Cavendish. Free. Enjoy the music of Sammy Blanchette, solo blues, jam, jazz, reggae, and rock artist from Ludlow. 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: Nat Williams & Emily Musty

6 p.m. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$10. Enjoy the music of this acoustic singer-songwriter cover duo on the lawn, but please leave your pet at home. (Service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome.) Info: artistreevt.org/artistree-events.

Music at the Riverbend Summer Concerts: Jenni Johnson

6-8 p.m. Free. Groove to the rhythms of jazz, swing and funk on the pleasant grounds behind the Brandon Inn next to the pretty Neshobe River. Free popcorn. Info: brandon.org.

'Seven to Sunset' Wednesday Night Concert**Series: George's Back Pocket**

7 p.m. Main Street Park, Rutland. Free. Local talent George Nostrand brings a mix of genres and generations along with his own musical creations. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic supper. Info: rutlandrec.com.

THURSDAY

8/3

Coolidge's Oath of Office Centennial Anniversary

10 a.m.-5 p.m. 4 days, Aug. 2-5. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Route 100A, Plymouth Notch. \$35-\$75. Witness a reenactment of the 100th anniversary of Calvin Coolidge's 2:47 a.m. emergency swearing in as president. Celebrate the centennial with the reenactment, tours, galas, presentations and more. Info: coolidgefoundation.org.

Storytime at Rutland Free Library

10-11 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Storytime promotes early literacy and socialization skills in a fun setting. Each session might offer stories, movement, and an activity. Geared towards ages 2-5. June-September, find us on the lawn by the Grace Church parking lot, while the weather is nice. Info: rutlandfree.org.

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.

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: https://chaffeeartcenter.square.site or call 802-775-0356.

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.

Stories in the Treetops with Mindful Monkey

5:30-6:15 p.m. Mindful Monkey, 72 Merchants Row, Rutland. Embrace your inner monkey and join us in the treetops at Mindful Monkey for an evening storytime! We'll read some stories before getting to do a craft and try out some yoga moves in the hammocks! Geared for ages 5 and up. Registration is required as space is limited. For info and registration visit: rutlandfree.org.

Feast & Field Summer Concerts: Bandits on the Run

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm Fermentory, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$25. Join us in the orchards of Fable Farm to hear this out-of-the-box band out of Brooklyn, performing indie-folk-pop-american with a guitar, a cello, a suitcase drum, an accordion, and various toy instruments. Info: feast-and-field.com.

The River Road Concert Series:**Moose Crossing**

6 p.m. Thursday evenings. Free. Jazz fused with funk, rock and pop. Sherburne Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. 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.

Chester Summer Music Series

6:30 p.m. Chester Academy lawn, 230 Main St., Chester. Free. (Rain venue: American Legion Post 67 on Route 103.) Info: yourplaceinvermont.com.

Fair Haven Concerts in the Park

7-9 p.m. Thursdays. Fair Haven Park. Free. Bring your chairs by any time after 5 p.m. on concert night. Picnic tables in the park for your family to enjoy supper before the concert. Hot dogs, chips, and soda each night, plus a 50/50 drawing each night. Multiple handicap spaces available. Info: poultneryeachamber.com.

FRIDAY

8/4

Brandon Farmers' Market

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Central Park, Brandon. Free. Locally made produce, goods, and crafts. Info: brandonfarmersmarketvt.com/about.

Coolidge's Oath of Office Centennial Anniversary Celebration

10 a.m.-5 p.m. 4 days, Aug. 2-5. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Route 100A, Plymouth Notch. \$35-\$75. Witness a reenactment of the 100th anniversary of Calvin Coolidge's 2:47 a.m. emergency swearing in as president. Celebrate the centennial with the reenactment, tours, galas, presentations and more. Info: coolidgefoundation.org.

Antique Tractor Day

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$10-\$17. A tractor parade, slow race, wagon rides, crafts, and more. A fun day for the whole family. Info: billingsfarm.org.

Story Time at the Library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Sherburne Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Info: sherburnelibrary.org.

Music by the River Series: Wesli

6 p.m. East End Park, 217 Maxham Meadow Way (off Route 4), Woodstock. Free. Wesli is the stage name of Wesley Louissaint, a Haitian-Canadian musician. In 2019, Wesli received the Canadian Juno Award for World Music Album of the Year. Rain location: Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. Info: pentanglearts.org.

The Jackson Gore Summer Music Series: The Joey Leone Band

6 p.m. Jackson Gore, Okemo Ski Resort. Free. Classic rock, soul, and country vibe on the lawn at the Jackson Gore Courtyard. Food and beverage will be offered at the venue. Info: okemo.com.

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: odyseyeventsvt.com.

Calendar → 13


**BRANDON ANNUAL
YARD SALE DAY**
SATURDAY @ 9A.M.

← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 12

SATURDAY 8/5

Brandon's Annual Yard Sale Day

9 a.m.-4 p.m. All over town. With dozens of yard sales registered on the official listing and scores more set up around town, Brandon will be a busy place. The official regular and enhanced listings will be available starting at 7 a.m. online at brandon.org, or pick up a listing sheet at the Brandon Museum & Visitor Center. Sales will be held rain or shine. There will be a map of Brandon to help out, but plan on using your GPS and smart phones to input the complete addresses provided on the listings sheet! Info: brandon.org.

Mount Holly Garden Tour

9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill Road, Mount Holly. \$15. This is a self-guided tour of diverse high-altitude gardens that display truly creative landscaping ideas. For more info contact: leahknoll@yahoo.com.

Coolidge's Oath of Office Centennial Anniversary

10 a.m.-5 p.m. 4 days, Aug. 2-5. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Route 100A, Plymouth Notch. \$35-\$75. Witness a reenactment of the 100th anniversary of Calvin Coolidge's 2:47 a.m. emergency swearing in as president. Celebrate the centennial with the reenactment, tours, galas, presentations and more. Info: coolidgefoundation.org.

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.

Magnificent Mammals Day

10 a.m.-5 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. Included with general admission. Join us for a day exploring the amazing lives of mammals. Discover the specialties of our furred cousins and find out how important they are to our ecosystems. There will be live mammals, pelts and skulls, and hands-on activities and crafts. Info: vinsweb.org

Vermont Farmers' Market

10 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 & 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.

Cooler in the Mountains Concert Series: Dizgo

3-5:30 p.m. Snowshed Lodge Base area, Killington Ski Resort. Free. Join us at the Snowshed Lodge base area for eclectic rock in every genre. Info: killington.com.

Dog Daze Dinner and Street Dance

5:30 p.m. Shrewsbury Meeting House, 88 Lottery Rd, Shrewsbury. \$5-\$10. Hot dogs, dancing and live music. Bring dancing shoes and a lawn chair for the event. Info: shrewsburylibrary.org.

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.

Tinseltown Gala

6-9 p.m. Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston. \$250. An evening of sparkling society and fabulous entertainment in celebration and support of Weston Theater Company. Cocktails, oyster bar, and tantalizing supper. This fundraiser will include a live auction featuring luxury items, a silent auction showcasing other wonderful items for bidding, and an opportunity to support the Young Professional program. Green Mountain glamour attire.

Pond Hill Ranch Rodeo

7:30 p.m. Pond Hill Road, Castleton. Prices vary. Pond Hill Pro Rodeo 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.

SUNDAY 8/6

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 visit odysseyeventsvt.com.

2nd Annual Great North

American Maple Pie Contest

2 p.m. Baird Farm, 65 West Road, North Chittenden. Pie contest with local celebrity judges, pie throwing, and eating pie and ice cream! The winner of the pie contest will receive a year's supply of maple syrup and other pie themed prizes! Lawn games, pie themed music, and fun for the whole family. A portion of proceeds will go towards the Vermont Farmer's Food Center. Participants need to register only if they are submitting a pie to be judged. Info and registration: bairdfarm.com/pages/events.

Gymanfa Ganu & Te Bach

3-6 p.m. First Baptist Church, 6 South Park Place, Fair Haven. Free will offering to benefit the church's building restoration fund. A Welsh heritage traditional hymn sing and tea social in historic First Baptist Church. All who love to sing are welcome to attend. For more info contact: pasds1988@gmail.com.

Sunday Night Bandstand Concert: Rutland City Band

7 p.m. Main Street Park, Rutland. Free. The Rutland City Band continues the Sunday evening tradition in the gazebo throughout the summer at Main Street Park. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic supper. Info: rutlandrec.com.

Sundays on the Hill Concert Series: Pipe Dreams Flute Quartet

4-5 p.m. Weston Community Church, 37 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston. \$5 for adults, no charge for children under 12. Musical talent in Weston in the acoustically perfect Weston Community Church. Pipe Dreams Flute Quartet is Vermont's premier flute quartet. Info: yourplaceinvermont.com.

Clash of Gold and Silver Concert

4 p.m. Grace Congregational Church sanctuary, 8 Court St, Rutland. This event will include Grace Church's music minister, Alastair Stout, and Vermont musicians Bill Keck (tuba) and Ron Wold (French horn). The program will include contemporary dancer Zoe Warren, and the world premiere of a new arrangement of an original composition by local composer Daniel Luther Graves. Info: facebook.com/GraceChurchVT.

Poultney-Granville Band Concerts on the Green

6:30-8:30 p.m. East Poultney Green, 1500 East Main St., East Poultney. The talented musicians of the Poultney-Granville Town Band 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. Don't forget your lawn chair or blanket for a relaxing summer evening. Info: poultneyareachamber.com/events.

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.

Ludlow Summer Bandstand Concert Series:

Michelle Fay Band

7 p.m. Veterans' Memorial Park, Ludlow. Free. Local live music on Sunday evenings at the bandstand at High Street and Route 103, featuring this band's comfortable groove of folk, swing, and bluegrass-influenced songs. (Rain venue Ludlow Community Center). Info: facebook.com/LBandstand.



MONDAY 8/7

Farm Discovery Camp, Session 4 Day 1

9 a.m.-4 p.m. 5 days, Aug. 7-11. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$300-\$350. Farm Discovery Camp is a hands-on program for young people, ages 11-14 (rising 6th-9th graders), who want a deeper understanding of farming and all that it encompasses. Info: billingsfarm.org.

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.

Robots! Robots! Robots!

1-4 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$140. Ages: 6-12. Build a robot buddy from recycled materials, as well as learn robot games and dancing. Must pre-register. For registration and info visit: chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

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.

TUESDAY 8/8

Farm Discovery Camp, Session 4 Day 2

9 a.m.-4 p.m. 5 days, Aug. 7-11. Billings Farm & Musuem, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$300-\$350. Farm Discovery Camp is a hands-on program for young people, ages 11-14 (rising 6th-9th graders), who want a deeper understanding of farming and all that it encompasses. Info: billingsfarm.org.

What's on Your Nightstand? The Not-A-Book-Club Book Club

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Every 2nd Tuesday at Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock or via Zoom. This is NOT the usual book club. We chat about books you are reading, the books you've loved, and the books you've always wanted to read. For more info visit: normanwilliams.org.

Calendar:
from page 13

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.

Robots! Robots! Robots!

1-4 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$140. Ages: 6-12. Build a robot buddy from recycled materials, as well as learn robot games and dancing. Must pre-register. For registration and info visit: chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

Green Mountain National Golf Course League Night

4:30 p.m. Tuesdays. 476 Barrows Towne Road, Killington. Pass Holders \$22 per person; Non-Pass Holders \$40 per person, this includes 9-holes with cart. 4-person scramble, Teams welcomed or individual/pairs will be linked up into groups of (4) and play the front nine. To sign up please email greenmountainnational@gmail.com before 12pm on Tuesday or in person at Gracie's Grill.

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.

Tuesday Concert Series: The Plumb Bobs

6-8 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Free. A folk/rock/eclectic sound that is all their own. Enjoy this classic farm property, repurposed as a community resource, overlooking the Taconics skyline. Info: pittsfordvillagefarm.org.

Learn to Create Top-notch Veggie Dishes: Cooking Class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. This is a perfect class for vegetarians or vegans who want to learn how to make special dishes and for carnivores who are looking for unique vegetable accompaniments—and for everyone a delightful lunch or light supper. Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 or info@odysseyeventsvt.com.



Submitted

Plants react differently to soaking wet conditions. Gardeners should proceed with caution when rehabilitating gardens.

How to rescue food gardens after floodwaters recede

Heavy rainfall followed by flooding in early July had a devastating impact on communities throughout the state. Not only were buildings, roadways and bridges damaged, but vegetable gardens were impacted as well, leading many home and community gardeners to ask, "Are my vegetables, berries and edible flowers still safe

to eat?"

The answer is, it depends. If your yard did not flood, and the soil in your garden is just saturated from rainwater, your produce is fine to consume. Plants that took a beating from all the rain should bounce back in well-drained soil.

However, if any edible parts of vegetables and

berries or edible perennials came into contact with floodwaters, either above or below ground, do not consume. Edible parts include fruit, stems, roots, berries and foliage.

Why? Because floodwaters likely contained debris, household and hazardous waste, heavy metals, chemicals and other contaminants. Or there could

be disease-causing bacteria, viruses and parasites from raw sewage and animal manure. Any garden crops that have been submerged or splashed by floodwaters are considered adulterated and should be discarded in the landfill or tilled under to avoid food-borne illnesses.

Cooking does not eliminate the risk posed by industrial pollutants.

Do not attempt to make produce from an unsafe, flooded garden safe by using chlorine bleach.

The safest option for flooded gardens is to till to a depth of at least 6 inches, adding in compost to increase tilth and dilute contaminants. Then plant cover crops, such as winter rye or oats, to speed the decline of pathogens before replanting next season.

However, if you are considering replanting this year, wait at least 30 to 60 days, and then weigh the health risks of replanting certain crops. For example, leafy greens, melons, cucumbers, root crops typically consumed raw (such as carrots and radishes) and other crops that have direct contact with flooded soils are at a much higher risk from microbial contaminants than crops with no direct contact with the soil.

Before replanting, have your soil tested for heavy metals at the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab (go.uvm.edu/soiltest).

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WED
AUG 2

BRANDON
6 p.m. Brandon Inn (Lawn Behind It) – Concert with Jenni Johnson

KILLINGTON
8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jim Devlin

LUDLOW
3 p.m. Calcuttas – Aaron Audet

7 p.m. Off the Rails – Nick Bredice

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

PROCTORSVILLE
6 p.m. Svec Memorial Green – Sammy B

QUECHEE
6 p.m. Public House Pub – Lily Welch

RUTLAND
5 p.m. Roots Restaurant – Ryan Fuller

5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Duane Carleton

7 p.m. Main Street Park – Rustie Bus

SOUTH POMFRET
6 p.m. Artistree – Summer Concert Series with Nat Williams & Emily Musty

THURS
AUG 3

BARNARD
5:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Feast & Field with Bandits on the Run

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

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

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS
5:30 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Tony Lee Thomas

FAIR HAVEN
7 p.m. Town Park – Whiskey River Band

KILLINGTON
4 p.m. Casey's Caboose - Psylas

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library Lawn – River Road Concert Series with Twangtown Paramours

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
7 p.m. Off the Rails – Zach Yak

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

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

RUTLAND
6 p.m. Strangefellows Pub – Trivia Night

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

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

FRI
AUG 4

BARNARD
7 p.m. Town Hall - Newsies

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

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

CASTLETON
6 p.m. Castleton Pizza Place and Deli - Name That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Red River North

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Live Music

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Shakespeare in the Alley

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Zach Yak

LUDLOW
6 p.m. Calcuttas – Liz Reedy

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

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

PITTSFIELD
8 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Breanna Elaine

POULTNEY
6 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Mean Waltons

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jon Clinch

STOCKBRIDGE
7 p.m. Wild Fern – Heather Lynne

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

SAT
AUG 5

BARNARD
2 p.m./7 p.m. Town Hall - Newsies

BRIDGEWATER
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Aaron Kominos-Smith (Comedy Central)

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 Bob Wagner & Friends with special guest opener Kenny Mehler

5 p.m. Charity's 1887 Saloon – Sammy B

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Acoustik Ruckus

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Shakespeare in the Alley

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Nic Bredice

LUDLOW
6 p.m. Calcuttas – James Joel

6 p.m. Off the Rails – Kenny Mehler

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Dance Party with DJ Dave

PITTSFIELD
7 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Bow Thayer

POULTNEY
6 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Erin Powers

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Em & Nat

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

SUN
AUG 6

BARNARD
2 p.m. Town Hall - Newsies

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS
4 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Tony Lee Thomas

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

KILLINGTON
12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Acoustik Ruckus

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

5 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Open Mic Night with Indigenous Entertainment

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 Jr

LUDLOW
6 p.m. Calcuttas – Chris P

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

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

MON
AUG 7

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

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

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
AUG 8

CASTLETON
7 p.m. Castleton Pavilion – Summer Concert Series with Studio Two

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

PITTSFORD
6 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm - Tunesday Concert with Snake Mountain Bluegrass

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Calvin Coolidge Oath of Office Centennial anniversary offers historic experience

Wednesday, Aug. 2-5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—Plymouth—On August 2, 1923, Vice President Calvin Coolidge was vacationing in Plymouth Notch, Vermont, when word came that President Warren Harding had suddenly passed away. Coolidge's own father, Colonel John Coolidge, was a notary public and justice of the peace. By this authority, the father swore the son into the highest office in the land at 2:47 a.m. the next morning. This lamp-lit inauguration, unique in America's history, became a symbol of Coolidge's willingness to live the values he professed: humility, federalism, and the rule of law.

A century after taking office, Coolidge stands as perhaps America's most misunderstood chief executive. Ronald Reagan called Coolidge "one of our most underrated presidents." It's time to change that. When you take a close look at Coolidge, you discover a leader who offers urgent lessons for our age of inflation, exploding debt, and partisan rancor. You also find a model of character, principle, and humility—rare qualities in Washington, then or now. Join the centennial celebrations brought to you by the Coolidge Foundation, the nonprofit founded by President Coolidge's son John.

Events include:

Wednesday, Aug. 2

- **10 a.m.-5 p.m.** Tour the historic site. Explore the buildings and grounds of the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, often called the "best preserved presidential birthplace in America."
- **4 p.m.** Coolidge Foundation annual meeting, Union Christian Church. Coolidge Foundation members are invited to join chairman Amity Shlaes and president Matthew Denhart at the 2023 annual meeting to learn how the Coolidge Foundation is sharing President Coolidge's legacy and values with Americans across the country. Musical performances and declamations by Coolidge scholars will enliven the hour. The annual meeting will be held in Plymouth's Union Christian Church: 43 Messer Hill Road, Plymouth, Vermont. The annual meeting is open to all current members.
- **6:30 p.m.** 100th Anniversary Gala, under the big tent. Join Coolidge friends from far and wide for a once-in-a-century gala celebration. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Vermont's former Governor Jim Douglas will emcee



Submitted

The Calvin Coolidge Historic Site will hold a centennial anniversary of President Coolidge's oath of office on Aug 2-5.

with a toast to President Coolidge and all those who work to keep his legacy and values alive.

- **Late Evening:** Coolidge Readings, Union Christian Church. A late-night group reading at Union Christian Church of the entire autobiography of Calvin Coolidge. This group reading will lead up to the homestead inauguration reenactment at 2:47 a.m. when Coolidge took this historic oath on precisely the 100th anniversary in 1923.

Thursday, Aug. 3

- **10 a.m.-5 p.m.** Tour the historic site. Explore the buildings and grounds of the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, often called the "Best Preserved Presidential Birthplace in America."
- **11 a.m.** Official Naturalization Ceremony, under the tent. Immigrants living in Vermont will take the Oath of Allegiance and become official U.S. citizens in a naturalization ceremony hosted by the Coolidge Foundation and U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services. A moving 1-hour outdoor ceremony will congratulate the new Americans. A reception with light refreshments will follow. A naturalization provides the ideal opportunity for school age children and young adults to observe what it means to choose to be an American.
- **2 p.m.** Coolidge Centennial Ceremony. A public ceremony marking the centennial anniversary of the Coolidge presidency. The ceremony will take place in front of the Coolidge Homestead in Plymouth Notch, followed by a repeat a reenactment of the 1923 inauguration.
- **2:47 p.m.** Homestead Inauguration Reenactment (**reprise**), Coolidge Homestead. A reprise of the Homestead Inauguration Reenactment, held in the afternoon for those unable to join the earlier overnight rendition.
- **4 p.m.** Special presentation: Coolidge and the 1923 Tokyo earthquake, Union Church. One of Coolidge's first challenges as president came in September 1923 when the Great Kanto Earthquake struck Japan, killing thousands and devastating the country. The response of President Coolidge and the American people is still remembered in Japan today. Learn more as Gov. Jim Douglas interviews Professor Yuichi Ono of Japan's Tohoku University.
- **6 p.m.** Theatrical premiere of "Coolidge: Rediscovering an American President." The Woodstock Town Hall Theatre will present Vermont's theatrical premiere of the new Coolidge film.

Friday, Aug. 4

- **10 a.m.-5 p.m.** Tour the historic site. Explore the buildings and grounds of the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site.

Saturday, Aug. 5

- **10 a.m.-5 p.m.** Tour the historic site.
- **11:30 a.m.** President Warren G. Harding Memorial Service, Union Christian Church. A memorial service for President Harding was held in Plymouth in the days following the sudden passing of America's 29th president. Step back in time for a period recreation with hymns and readings.
- **2:47 p.m.** Homestead Inauguration Reenactment (**reprise**), Coolidge Homestead. A reprise of the Homestead Inauguration Reenactment, held on Saturday afternoon for those unable to join the Aug. 3 celebration.

For more information, visit: Coolidge2023.org.

The 16th annual Mount Holly garden tour will be held on Saturday

Saturday, Aug. 5, at 9:30 a.m.—Mount. Holly—A self-guided tour of diverse high-altitude gardens that display truly creative landscaping ideas is available for interested garden aficionados.

The gardens are designed around Vermont's natural features, such as huge rock formations, ledges, hills, and valleys. All touch the senses with colorful plants, wonderful scents, and the sounds of birds, bees, and rushing water. Some gardens feature architectural elements such as pergolas, gazebos, and stonework. Antique garden fixtures reflect the passion for collecting of the owners of one garden, while quilts will be displayed among the gardens of another.

Tickets include entry into our garden themed gift raffle, featuring floral pillows, landscaping plants, and locally created products. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour at the Mount Holly Library/Community Center on The Green in the Belmont section of Mount Holly. The price is \$15 per person (children 12 and under are free). All proceeds benefit the ongoing restoration of the Mount Holly Library and Community Center. A rain date of Sunday, Aug. 6. For more information, visit: mhcavt.org.



Courtesy Mount Holly Community Association

Unique landscaping idea will be on display for Mount Holly's 16th annual garden tour on Saturday to benefit the restoration of the Mount Holly Library and Community Center.

Brandon annual yard sale day takes place on the first Saturday in August

Saturday, Aug. 5 at 9 a.m.—Brandon—Every year, hundreds of people descend upon Brandon for its annual yard sale day, which helps recycle and reuse. With dozens of yard sales registered on the official listing and scores more set up around town, Brandon will be a busy place. Although most sales will not start until 9 a.m., the official regular and enhanced listings will be available starting at 7 a.m. on-line at brandon.org and at the Brandon Museum & Visitor Center, located next to the Baptist Church at the corner of Routes 7 and 73 West. A listing sheet will be available to use with GPS on smart phones to input the complete addresses provided on the sheet, which will make following the sales easier.

Sales will be held rain or shine.

For more information, visit: brandon.org.



Submitted
Alastair Stout and Luther Graves and friends will perform Clash of Gold and Silver concert at Grace Church on Sunday, 6 p.m.

Grace Church offers Clash of Gold and Silver concert

Sunday, Aug. 6 at 4 p.m. — RUTLAND — Grace Congregational Church will offer a concert on Sunday at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. The event, Clash of Gold and Silver, will include Grace Church's music minister, Alastair Stout, and Vermont musicians Bill Keck (tuba) and Ron Wold (French horn). The program will include contemporary dancer Zoe Warren, and the world premiere of a new arrangement of an original composition by local composer Daniel Luther Graves.

Daniel Luther Graves is a life-long resident of Rutland. He taught music in public schools for 34 years, including 26 years as choral director at Rutland Middle School and Rutland High School. The title of his composition, "I'm So Glad You're Here," reflects on the return to his musical process months after the numbing September 11 attacks, and gratitude for the love of friends who also ventured out.

"Faraway Nearby," written by Lon W. Chaffin, is an exploration in music of the art of Georgia O'Keefe. Since the early 20th Century, the art of O'Keefe has inspired, challenged and delighted us. Today, her connection to the Southwest is simply understood. The desert's hills, sky, flowers and bones became a comfortable vocabulary with which she communicated. This music draws its creative breath from O'Keefe's work. Each of the three movements (I. Bones, Blue and White, II. Hills, Red and Gray and III. Music, Pink and Blue) explores a subject common to her paintings. Each subject presents a dichotomy of

color.

Zoe Warren, a senior at George Washington University, will interpret the music of "Memories of Things Both Lost and Found" and a couple of other pieces through dance. Written by Barbara York, "Memories of Things Both Lost and Found" is a commentary piece on the transient nature of all things. Youth, fame and fortune, success, passion, romance, all are fleeting and insubstantial — illusion in a sense. The memories rise and fall from the mists of consciousness, fragmentary, unfinished until nothing remains but a pulsating movement through light.

About the musicians

Bill Keck was born in Joliet, Illinois in 1943. He graduated from the Eastman School of Music with a degree in music education and a performance certificate on tuba. After working for four years with the Joliet band program he was a founding member of the Fine Arts Brass Quintet at the University of Southern Mississippi. He then freelanced in New York City and followed that with a tour with the rock band Emerson, Lake, and Palmer. Bill then joined the newly formed Mexico City Philharmonic as principal tubaist. He currently performs with the Inora Brass, Constitution Brass, and Royal Town Brass quintets.

Ron Wold is an itinerant musician, traveling from place to place with his horn and playing in musical performances of all kinds. For many years his base of operations was Boston, but he now lives in central Vermont, which has increased the mileage on his tired

car, but has also expanded his opportunities to grow blueberries, play with tractors, and talk to poultry. He can be heard in many musical groups, including: the Middlebury Opera Orchestra, the Glens Falls Symphony (regularly), the Vermont Symphony (frequently), and innumerable other groups (constantly). His hobbies include metal-working and old diesel machinery, and when the pandemic stopped all the concerts, he took up maple sugaring to help maintain his sanity — tapping 350 trees and splitting a ridiculous amount of wood by hand. Whether his sanity survived is an open question, but now he has lots of maple syrup.

Grace Church Minister of Music Alastair Stout grew up in the Shetland Islands, which are located 200 miles north of the Scottish mainland in the wild North Atlantic. Shetland has been a source of inspiration for Stout's composing for some 40 years. His latest piece, "Skylark Variations," commissioned by New Jersey organist James D. Hicks, is a tone poem about the small but dramatic bird that lives in the Shetland heather. Most of his music, including a preview of "Skylark Variations" performed on the Grace Church organ, can be heard at stoutworks.net. James D. Hicks will record "Skylark Variations" in Bodø Cathedral, located above the Arctic Circle in Norway, for his "Nordic Journeys" CD Series in August 2024.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/GraceChurchVT or call 802-775-4301.

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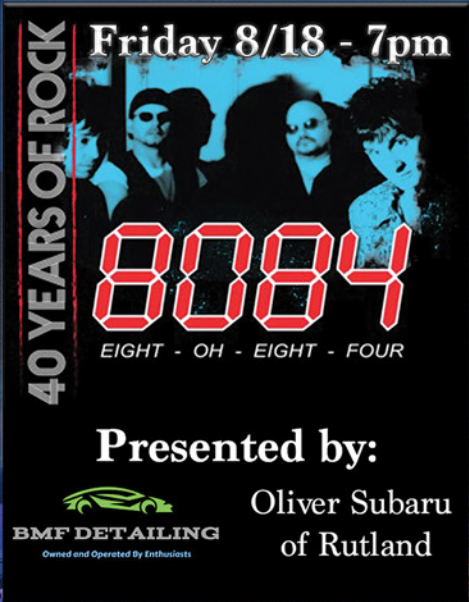
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Billings Farm and Museum offers farming camp

Monday-Friday, Aug. 7-11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.—WOODSTOCK—Farm Discovery Camp is a hands-on program for young people, ages 11-14. At Farm Discovery Camp, campers will meet local professionals and farmers who are leaders in their fields — the Billings Dairy Farm manager, local beekeepers, and a large-animal veterinarian. Activities will include the opportunity to work alongside the Billings' farmers to learn the ins and outs of dairy production. Take part in a local service project — at Billings Farm or in the Woodstock community and make a lasting difference. Activities will teach awareness of the many ways food systems and ecosystems are interconnected.

Activities

- Experience the daily rhythms of farming and learn firsthand how farmers make decisions about caring for the herd and the land.
- Make farm-fresh food including homemade macaroni and cheese and ice cream with Billings Farm's Jersey cow milk.
- Meet farmers in the community and learn how to care for a calf, raise bees, and more.
- Try fiber arts such as felting wool from Billings Farm sheep.
- Explore the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park with a park ranger.
- Make an impact on the farm and in the community with organized service projects.

For more information, visit: billingsfarm.org.

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Southern Vermont Natural History Museum

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Too much:
from page 8

almost 19 million in relief dollars. That's about \$440 per person, which is four times the allocation (\$105 per person) dedicated to most Vermont communities. According to economist Michael Dalton from the federal government's Bureau of Labor Statistics, every dollar in wages that would have been lost during Covid cost us \$4.13 in the Paycheck Protection Plan. This was due to fraud, and eligible entities receiving dollars even though they had ongoing revenue to cover payroll.

A major unintended consequence of the pandemic relief and the Inflation Reduction Act, which was forecasted by some early on, is that the \$6.7 trillion pumped into the economy and into Americans' hands, is a major factor towards causing the inflationary pressures we have been experiencing for almost two years. Demand for goods and services has remained steady with many households and businesses having financial cushions. These

financial benefits exist even though the Federal Reserve is trying to put the brakes on price pressures through aggressive interest rate hikes over the last 16 months. With some of two programs' money yet to be spent, the Fed will have a hard time meeting its inflation number target until the tap runs dry.

Higher interest rates are credited for slowing inflation, but the 5% rise in the Fed rate in a little over one year has also had many negative consequences like several banks failing, in part, due to the Fed's interest rate increases and its effect on banks' government bond holdings. Treasury Bond market prices are negatively impacted in a rising interest rate environment. Millions of Americans with variable rate loans outstanding are also feeling the pain.

The tremendous increase in federal government spending has also occurred with virtually no change in tax policy to pay for the \$6.7 trillion. As a result, our government is

borrowing more money to pay the bills. As of February of this year, our debt was \$31.46 trillion. This equals 121% of the nation's total Gross Domestic Product (the value of all goods and services produced in America). It is also about six times our 2023 federal budget figure approved by Congress. Close to 7% of the nation's budget goes to pay the interest on our debt. With the rising interest rate situation, the cost of paying for the country's debt increases. And let's not forget the government runs a deficit every year.

So, it seems Congress is happy to spend money, ostensibly, to help us all, but doesn't have the fiscal prudence to levy fees, or raise taxes to pay the bills. This approach, assuming it is a conscious choice by our elected officials, only works if there is strong economic growth that brings in enough money from existing levies to cover spending, and remember: the Federal Reserve wants to slow economic activity. These

factors have me scratching my head as to our future.

In recent years there seems to be a bipartisan willingness to expand government's role in the social fiber of our country, at least in areas they have access. \$6.7 trillion is an unprecedented amount of government spending. Many have been helped. However, unlike many other nations that are democracies, free, and have a capitalistic-based economy, Congress seem to lack the fiscal foresight to take actions that will allow us to pay bills.

Expanding government's role in all our lives is a choice. When a legislative body makes that choice, they will be judged by the electorate. If the government that makes the choice does not make plans to pay for it, there will be severe consequences.

As an aside, the Vermont Legislature added several new social benefits for Vermonters this last session and they did raise taxes to cover those programs.

Fred Baser, Bristol

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Local speakers provide double feature program in Chittenden

Tuesday, Aug. 8, at 7 p.m. — CHITTENDEN —This Tuesday evening, two distinguished local Chittenden residents will present their research into two radically different subjects.

The first program's topic will be given by this year's recipient for the Society's Muzzy Davenport Award, an award given for outstanding work in history and interest in local history: Natalia Svoren, daughter of Jan and Elana Svoren of Chittenden. According to Jamie Gallagher, Natalia's teacher at Barstow Memorial School, Natalia put together a rather interesting examination of the development of Chittenden over its history. Her project even garnered an award at the state level for History Day, qualifying her for a trip to the National History contest in Washington, D.C.

Following a short intermission, the second program will be "Adventures in DNA: What does it tell us about who we are?" Michael Dwyer of Pittsford, a Fellow of the

American Society of Genealogists, will present an overview of the different types of DNA tests, their results, and their impact on his four decades of family research.

The evening's programs are free and handicap accessible. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call: 802-483-6471.



Courtesy of VINS

VINS hosts Magnificent Mammals Day

Saturday, Aug. 5 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—QUEECHEE—Head to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) on Saturday for a day exploring the amazing lives of mammals. Discover the specialties of these furred cousins and find out how important they are to our ecosystems. There will be live mammals, pelts and skulls, and hands-on activities and crafts. It's sure to be a magnificent day!

All day events include: Exploring pelts and skulls of mammals across the world, discovering the world of keeping goats and the mammals of VINS with visuals from trail cameras, finding tracks and scats and crafting.

Presentations at the Hawkfly:

10:30-10:45 a.m. Raptor Encounter

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Mammals Around the World: Get to know the exotic adaptations of mammals from other continents.

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Frankfurters Family Catering will be on campus serving hot dogs (vegan option available) with fresh homemade condiments and fresh squeezed lemonade.

12:30-12:45 p.m. Raptor Encounter:

1-2 p.m. Mammals Around the World: Get to know the exotic adaptations of mammals from other continents.

2-3 p.m. Mammal Tales – A storytelling naturalist shares tales of animals and magic from around the world.

3-4 p.m. Mammals of New England

4-4:15 p.m. Raptor Encounter

For more information, visit: vinsweb.org.

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SUDOKU

PUZZLES—from page 11

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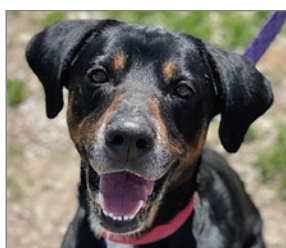
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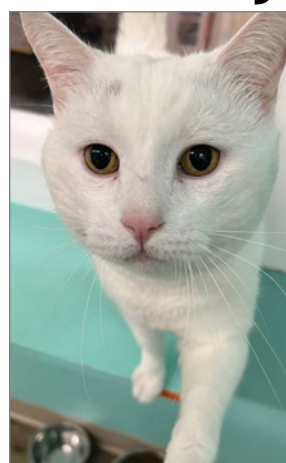
Sox—5-year-old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Sox is an exuberant pup who is ready for his next adventure.



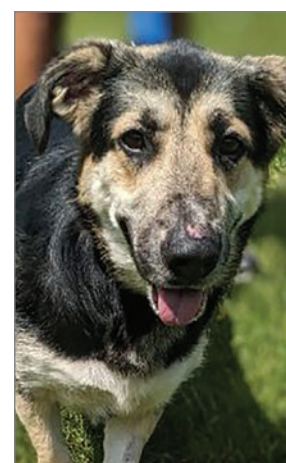
Sunny Girl—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Sunny Girl is the perfect name for this lovely cat, she is a vibrant cat who just wants some love and attention.



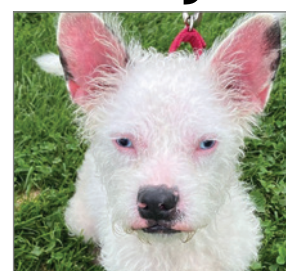
Luis—2-year-old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Luis has a well-rounded and sweet personality.



Ghost—10-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. This guy is a handsome fella who absolutely loves attention.



Bella—3-year-old. Spayed female. Mixed breed. She loves everyone and has a happy-go-lucky personality.



Patch—8-month-old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Patch is such a goofball, he spends most of his time playing with toys, and looking for people to hang out with.



Mowgli—2-year-old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. He has a bubbly personality and is always up to make new friends.



Bernice—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Look up! What is that? A plane? A bird? No, it's Bernice who likes to hang out on the high ledges of the cat room.



Abby—5-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. She is a super sweet cat and loves people.



Maizi—3-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Maizi has beautiful markings. She has a lot of love to give to her new person.



BO

Bo—2-year-old. Neutered male. Terrier mix. He is a total lovebug and is happy to chill and relax, but is always ready to go.

All of these pets are available for adoption at
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Cool Cats of Summer adoption event

The Rutland County Humane Society hopes you're ready to find your feline soulmate! Beginning July 25 and until they're adopted, our adoption fee for our long-stay cats is dropping from \$110 to \$30! With many people on school breaks and work vacations, summertime is a great time to prepare your home and spend time with a new addition! By the time winter rolls around, your summer cat will be a seasoned snuggle buddy.

Cosmic Catalogue

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Aries March 21 - April 20

You've really been grinding it out behind the scenes. As a result, you may be beginning to wonder if and when the rewards will arrive. The good news is, one of the luckiest planets in the sky will affirm your actions this week. The rewards could be financial or you could be bestowed with the confidence and inspiration to take a new course of action. In either scenario, things are looking up so keep doing whatever it is you're doing.

Leo July 21 - August 20

If you've been on relationship tenderhooks, this week will spotlight everything that's good and not so good between you. This doesn't have to be as bad as it sounds, though. Sometimes things do have to reach a tipping point before a new perspective can be reached. Before you complain about the adoration you're not getting, consider why someone else has distanced themselves from you in the first place. It's not always about you – at least not all the time!

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

In obvious and not so obvious ways, life might feel as though it's slowly falling into place this week. A Full Moon spotlights one of your travel zones, so you might opt to keep your wandering spirit closer to home. A day trip or a weekend away in the not-too-distant future may be just the medicine you need to revive your sense of purpose. A change of scenery may also help you figure things out.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

As ruler retrograde woes continue, a Full Moon in your career and life direction zone may help you think beyond the here and now. Ask yourself, how are the thoughts and feelings you're currently evaluating impacting the big picture? Whether it's a career change you're considering or your domestic life is feeling dissatisfying, you'll need to weigh up all your options and discover what feels true inside your heart. Authenticity counts, so don't sell yourself short for a quick fix.

Virgo August 21 - September 20

There are occasions where navel gazing can be beneficial. Then there are times when sweating on the small stuff really keeps you from seeing the big picture. This week, you're encouraged to think far and wide and outside the box. If you're feeling stuck in a loop, you're not going to get out of it while you're feeling dizzy. Imagine where you'd like to be and take a step forward. Figure out the details along the way.

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

Finance is front and center in your mind this week. As you've been reevaluating things these past couple of weeks, you'll gain a new clarity around what your actual financial position is. Avoiding what you might not like seeing doesn't change the reality of it. Face it head-on so you can make a choice that is authentic and feel right for you. Staying in a state of denial is not recommended now. Fortune favors the brave. Make an inspired move.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

Are you taking the path less travelled or have you become distracted along the way? Thankfully, a series of planetary alignments this week will refuel your curiosity for leading a life worth living. Think outside the box when it comes to your purpose. Adventure, in whichever way it may come – figuratively or metaphorically – will be the direction you need to head this week and beyond. Consider all avenues, be it travel, spirituality or a study pursuit.

Libra September 21 - October 20

You may not be feeling like your charming and social self, thanks to Venus, your special star that is heading in reverse. If you're just not up to it, then go do something that YOU really enjoy doing. Don't worry about the crowd or what anyone else says or thinks. If there is a hobby, pastime or outlet you've let fall by the wayside, start it up again. It may just be the new lease of life you needed.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

In this all-about-you Full Moon week, the celestial spotlight shines in your direction. This could be a tough week in the sense you may come to a new relationship realization. Whether you like what you see or whether you don't, it doesn't matter. Once something is seen, it can't be unseen and then the onus is on you to make a choice. This new clarity can be really inspiring and lead you toward a more authentic choice. Also, don't expect things to change overnight.

Cancer June 21 - July 20

It's not abnormal for you to feel increasingly sensitive when it's a Full Moon. As this week spotlights your most private zone, hidden fears and phobias may be what keeps you up at night. Whatever it is you worry about, face the issue head on. When you do, you can find solutions to the problem. Letting problems take up rent-free space inside your mind really saps your happiness. Be open to exploring new ideas.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

It's your domestic life that becomes illuminated this week, thanks to a Full Moon. As you turn your attention to the foundation of your life, it will help inform the bigger questions you've been grappling with. Other people are also part of the picture, be that friends, personal or professional relationships, and may be the source that inspires you toward a new direction or a right-for-you and authentic choice. Consider all perspectives before making any significant moves.

Pisces February 21 - March 20

Your inner landscape is the terrain that will be spotlighted this week. It may be your dreams that speak louder during slumber than usual. It could be the worries and the stress that occupy your thoughts without you being fully aware of it. Whatever is on your mind, talk it over with someone you love and trust. As they say, a problem shared is a problem halved. Mediation of some kind could help a lot too!

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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.

Turning point

The month of August is set to be a month of illumination and clarity, with this week being no exception. Beginning with a Full Moon in Aquarius, the chance to realign priorities in terms of how much you've sacrificed your needs and desires for the sake of something or someone else is highlighted. Distancing yourself from the thoughts and opinions of others will help you gain clarity around what is right for you by revealing fresh perspectives. This may involve groupthink type ideas and the general attempt to confuse what's real and conceal what's hidden. Remind yourself you're allowed to have your own thoughts, opin-

ions and ideas that run against the grain of whatever the "next thing" is. Turning points are promised which may spur you to head in a new or different direction.

What kind of direction, you may ask? One that inspires you or renews your sense of hope and enthusiasm. This might mean carving out time to chase your dreams, work on your health, fitness and general wellbeing. Establishing new rules, boundaries and systems will be helpful too. Getting clear

and organized will help you stay on the path. This week, draw your proverbial line in the sand and move towards action or an endeavor that's worth taking.



Cosmic
Catalogue
By Cassandra
Tyndall

Nature's musical ballet

Flowing over rocks and stones,
Crystal clear,
Beautiful, too,
Singing its song of love to you.
Gurgling and swishing,
Then the birds join in,
Little tweets and chirps of
happiness,
All start blending in.
To a beautiful song of nature,
The wind starts to blow,
Rustling the tree's leaves,
Creating a beautiful scene.
Nature's beautiful music in
the background,
Making the leaves dance and
twirl about,
As if they were performing a
ballet for you.

A ballet of joy and happiness,
Of kindness and love,
Nature is doing this all for you,
And for others listening, too.

You could sit there all day,
With that beautiful ballet,
Looking deep into the water's
soul,

As the leaves blow away.
Pure with kindness,
Pure with love,
Water is beautiful,
Like geese flying in the starry
night sky,
Like the sound of joy,
Fluttering around like a
playful butterfly.

Laughter joins in,
Making the song even sweeter,
This is nature's music,
Nature's ballet,
Nature's musical ballet.

You can join in too,
You don't have to be a good
dancer,
Or even a good musician,
Just laugh and play,
Have fun,
Have hope,
Laugh and spread kindness,
Wherever you go,
Put bad things aside.

Listen to nature's musical
ballet,
Then join in.



Poetry Is Power
By Bree Sarandrea



Spicebush swallowtails: Beauty and defense

At first, I suspected it was the deer that had almost completely defoliated the northern spicebush sapling I had planted just weeks earlier. Only days prior, it had been brimming with new growth, and now all that remained were two leaves wrapped into cigarlike cylinders. Curious, I inspected this pair of surviving leaves. At the opening of each, snug between the leaf edges, was a bulbous green head adorned with a set of black, cartoonish eye spots. I had found my perpetrator, and it wasn't the deer; it was the caterpillars of the spicebush swallowtail.

The spicebush swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*) is one of several butterflies in the Papilionidae family, whose range extends into the Northeast. The name is a nod to one of this butterfly's preferred host plants, although spicebush swallowtails count multiple species in the laurel family among their caterpillar hosts. The adult butterflies will visit a range of both native and non-native flowers for nectaring. Their wide array of host plants and food sources means that spicebush swallowtails may occur from forests and swamps to roadsides and backyards, although they're especially likely to be found in moist woodlands and at the margins of fields.

Against these green summer backdrops, spicebush swallowtails cut a striking profile. As do their Papilionidae relatives, the butterflies sport ethereal dustings of cobalt and a row of pale blue, circular markings along

the margins of their jet black forewings and hindwings. One similarity to another swallowtail species acts as a defensive advantage: female spicebush swallowtails, whose coloring slightly differs from males, resemble the poisonous pipevine

swallowtail (*Battus philenor*), which helps to deter would-be predators. Bluish-green spots along the base of their dorsal hindwings distinguish spicebush swallowtails from their relatives.

Also similar to other swallowtail species, the spicebush swallowtail caterpillar employs several defensive tactics to avoid predation. The first two larval instars (stages) look like

bird droppings. Later instars, with their bright green and yellow coloration and two black eyes on a bulging head, mimic a green snake (or, some say, a green frog). At this stage in their lifecycle, the caterpillars turn into daytime recluses. Exhibiting a remarkable feat of engineering, they affix a bed of silk to a chosen leaf. When the silk dries, the tension folds the leaf edges into a shelter — like the two I found on my denuded spicebush — to which the caterpillars retreat until emerging at night to feed. When threatened, the caterpillars can also deploy special organs, called osmeteria, to form a phalanx of bright orange horns.

The spicebush swallowtail's range extends from the southern United States to New England and southern Canada.

Outside Story → 27



The Outside
Story
By Colby Galliher

Pretty in pink

I grew up in a family with two older brothers; one was 8 years older and the other was 13 years older. Given the age gap, we did not play together much. So, by default, I was left to fend for myself, and while there were plenty of neighbor kids around, when I was home, most of my playtime encompassed solo endeavors.

One of my favorite pastimes was playing in the large sandbox underneath our porch. The area was shaded from the elements, which made it cool in the summer and devoid of snow in the winter. And the dirt had the perfect consistency; moist enough to form castles and forts, but soft enough to move around in large quantities.

I spent countless hours in that sandbox creating intricate runways for marbles and twisting roadways for my Matchbox cars. But the greatest adventures in that sandbox involved my all-time favorite toy: G.I. Joe.

I always had an infinity for inanimate playmates, which manifested in a bed full of stuffed animals when I was very young. As I matured, I turned my attention to army men and cowboys and Indians. But then, one Christmas, everything changed when I was gifted a G.I. Joe action figure (remember, boys like to say “action figure,” only girls play with dolls).

I created countless memories with that 12-inch tall plastic army man. With his moveable joints and clutchable hands, nothing could stop G.I. Joe from winning any war, climbing any cement wall, or digging out from any pit. I tried to kill him — even set him on fire a few times — but he always survived.

My G.I. Joe had dark, short cropped hair and a full beard. And the hair wasn’t painted on — it was furry to the touch! He came with the standard issue camouflage army outfit, but I lobbied my parents for several other accoutrements. I had the scuba gear and the safari paraphernalia, along with an assortment of combat weaponry. My good friend (who also had a G.I. Joe), had the Adventure Team Jeep, which I coveted terribly, but never acquired.

I used to come up with elaborate adventures for my G.I. Joe. I especially liked climbing into trees and tying him to a rope before swinging him into danger. And on more than one occasion, I fashioned a raft and sent him down the brook that bordered our property.

If we went on vacation, I took G.I. Joe along. If I stayed overnight at a friend’s house, G.I. accompanied me. And if there was a show-

and-tell at school, there was no question what my selection would be.

When I went to bed at night, G.I. Joe slept on the shelf just above my head in a bed that I fashioned out of a cardboard box filled with crumbled up paper towels. And if I couldn’t sleep, he’d be the first thing I’d grab for entertainment.

Eventually, I grew weary of playing with G.I. Joe because other activities started to commandeer my time. He only came out of his locker box on rare occasions,

like when I procured some firecrackers and wanted to use him as a projectile. Or when I wanted to freak out my buddy’s younger sister by placing G.I. Joe and her Barbie doll in compromising positions. At one point we even took Polaroids, but that backfired when my buddy’s dad found them and gave us a serious tongue-lashing.

Not surprisingly, I had no interest in Barbie as a child. And honestly, I still have little interest in her. But with the release of her recent feature, “Barbie,” and all the commotion surrounding the film, I figured I had to give it a try.

“Barbie” is not at all what I expected. I had prepared myself for a goofy, highly-stylized comedy paying homage to a classic American icon. And while it was definitely that, it was also a dose of blunt force

trauma in the form of some sophisticated feminist ideology. If that sounds like it might be too much for the anticipated audience (young girls), let’s be very clear, this is not a children’s movie.

I’ll happily remove myself from speaking about the cultural undercurrents that this film concentrated on, and will instead focus on the storytelling aspects. With that said, “Barbie” was a visually intoxicating film to look at, with its pink-infused imagery and dreamlike surroundings. And it did contain a multitude of creative references to the doll and her history (many of which were lost on me, but I happily learned about afterwards).

However, while there were a few laughs to be had, I found the humor mild at best. Moreover, the storyline, which was surprisingly hard to make sense of, left me feeling uninspired.

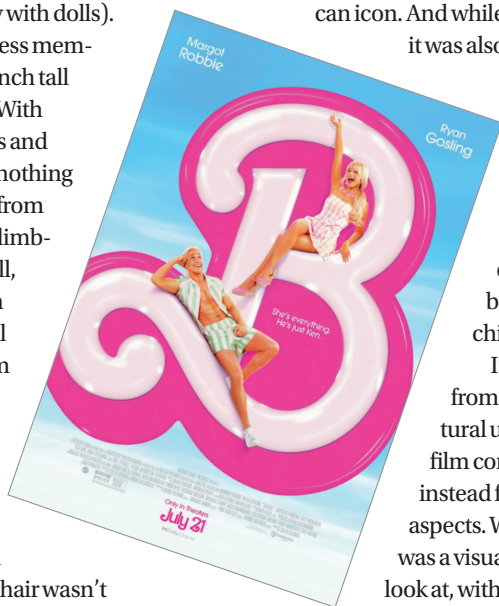
In the end, “Barbie” felt like it wanted to be too many things: a cartoon, a musical, a diatribe on the patriarchy. It may work for some, but it definitely fell flat for me.

A colorless “C+” for “Barbie,” now playing in theaters everywhere.

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



The Movie
Diary
By Dom Cioffi



By Dave Dixon

Water, community ease the pain of loss

There’s a cradling, a sense of calm that takes over you as the water moves gently beneath your boat. A soft bounce that you can feel almost immediately as you step foot into your craft and shove off from the shore. You almost don’t need to go anywhere, you can simply float in place by trusting yourself to the buoyancy of the water below. You surrender to the feel of the water beneath you and let it take away some of your pain.

A float on the water can work its magic and work it quickly. Unlike air or earth, water embraces and supports you. Water, beautiful flat water, brings life to those both in and on top of it. It is nurturing, giving support when you need it the most. It brings peace to those who are hurting and eases their pain. There is a magic to flat water, one that you might not even recognize while you are floating atop its beauty.

And so we spent some time on that water this past Monday, honoring the memory of a very good friend and a beloved member of our community. Almost 100 boats floated on the waters of Kent Pond, awaiting the sunset and the rise of the full moon. We had all come with memories of a beloved friend and as we floated amongst the sunflowers, we shared

those stories over and over again.

In some religions, a group of people gather each evening for several days to say prayers after the loss of a loved one. A single person praying alone is not enough; in the toughest of times you need the gathering of a minyan to grow strong and lean against in times of pain and suffering. Instead of being allowed to pull inward and dwell in your suffering, the community gathers to show its support and help you through the pain.

And so we gathered together, connected by our loss and our pain in losing someone way too soon. Between the water and the community, we were strengthened. Instead of

suffering alone, we memorialized together. Instead of taking our grief onto ourselves, we shared the gift of our love with others and tightened the ponds of our community.

It was beautiful.

Paddlers of all different ages and watercraft gathered together to celebrate both the beauty of Kent Pond, paddling and the life of our loved one. So many variable experiences all melded together in one celebration. It was strikingly colorful, each boat a different color and style from the one next to it. A beautiful

Living the Dream → 30



Livin' the Dream
By Merisa
Sherman

Time on Kent Pond
is time to breathe,
to renew and a
reminder to celebrate
life as we have it.

The week that was with our grandkids; three cheers for Wonderfeet

Our grandchildren have come to our Killington lodge to spend a week with “Gammy and Papa.”

Cora Irene (2 1/2 years old) joined brother Silas who just turned 8 in mid-July.

Silas has his dad’s disposition—calm, centered and often serene — but his toddler sister is strong and defiant, very determined and cute as a button. She chatters constantly; we understand 10%. Her activity level is off the chart.



Mountain
Meditations
By Margeurite
Jill Dye

Her favorite book is “Goodnight Moon” but it doesn’t help at nap or bedtime.

Cora’s a challenge for Gammy and Papa. Part of our problem is memory-related. We’re in our 70s with issues galore. We can’t recall where we left our own keys, and Cora’s main passion is to move things around—hidden treasures, tooth and hair brushes, puzzle pieces, vitamins, books, Papa’s

Meditations → 28



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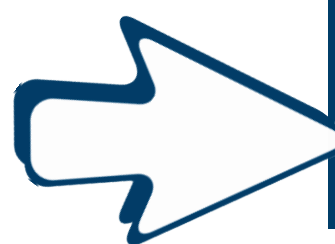
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Outside story: from page 24

Although historically limited by northern New England's climate, sighting records from iNaturalist indicate the spicebush swallowtail and its eponymous shrub now reach into central and northern New Hampshire and Vermont.

Spicebush swallowtail populations are secure, but laurel wilt disease poses a threat to their abundance. Discovered near Savannah, Georgia, in 2002, laurel wilt is caused by a fungus transmitted by the red bay ambrosia beetle, and has already devastated red bay, an important spicebush swallowtail host plant in the Southeast. The disease may eventually affect spicebush and sassafras, this swallowtail's primary northern hosts, if warmer winters facilitate the ambrosia beetle's spread into the Northeast.

In my own yard, upon cracking the mystery of the naked spicebush, I fretted. Unable to tell how far along the two leaf-munching caterpillars were, I wondered where they would find their next meal. A grisly turn of events soon made that question irrelevant; the following morning, I opened my back door to check on the

caterpillars and saw a gray catbird fluttering around the nude sapling. A quick inspection revealed the leafy hammocks robbed of their tenants.

While these two caterpillars met their end last year before their metamorphosis into handsome swallowtails, the cycle began anew this spring. The spicebush endured its trauma and threw new growth, buoyed by my addition of another, fuller sapling in the same area. And earlier this summer, I discovered a series of cloudy-white, spherical eggs spread across several leaves of the new spicebush and its older counterpart. The shrubs may not welcome the coming caterpillars (while the catbirds flap for joy), but I hope to see a crop of spicebush swallowtails rising from the late-summer garden.

Colby Galliher is a writer and analyst who calls the woods, meadows, and rivers of New England home. 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.



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← Meditations:

from page 25

shoe horn, tv controls, and his precious iPhone.

No matter how high the object is, Cora climbs or crawls so she can reach it.

"Put it back where it belongs," Papa retorts to no avail. The disarray leaves him flustered. "No wonder parents are younger," I mutter.

Yet, Cora helped unload the dishwasher, placed plates and cups in their correct spots. She's precocious and truly adorable, but even Silas gets worn out.

We reached a point of utter exhaustion with a house in chaos and disarray. After a couple of active pool days where Cora jumped fearlessly off the steps, we sought a safer solution for survival.

Hallelujah—Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, the answer to grandparents' sheer exhaustion when caring for grandkids (while quite out of practice.) We took Silas and Cora at the end of the week when Papa and I needed a break.

Its new address is 66 Merchants Row. We entered a bigger and better version of kids' heaven-on-earth that opened May 6 with its majestic array of colorful adventures that await.

Silas and Cora disappeared as they ran to explore their favorite things. The big furry cow caught my eye as she grazed by hay bales on the dairy farm. Milk her if you dare from the three legged stool. I liked the rocking chairs on the farmhouse porch.

Engineer Silas, lifelong train aficionado, was drawn to the cab and passenger car. We paid our fare at the ticket booth then

hopped aboard Silas' Orient Express. He greeted us with "Bonjour" and spoke with an accent as he catered to our whims with *café au lait* and lavish meals—salad, mussels, croissants and desserts he prepared at the gourmet diner down the street. The farmer's market assured fresh produce. Chef Silas' creations were delectable like his chef dad's culinary creations.

Two near disasters were averted by Engineer Silas and his colleague—a potential explosion of the engine and a tsunami that nearly washed us away. Papa and I were

too tired to evacuate but fortunately the train was in excellent hands.

Meanwhile Cora discovered the credit union vault and made change on the wall of the bank. A computer keyboard was quite enticing, then she thrilled driving Casella's garbage truck. Its recycling bin helps teach young minds.

I used to remain at the old museum's craft table, cutting, stamping and pasting away, but this time I never reached the back room where an art studio awaits



Submitted

Worn and weary led to a long-awaited nap.

creative tykes.

Our week together at our lodge in Vermont is nearly over and we are worn out, but visiting the Wonderfeet Kids' Museum is an activity we're sure to repeat. Additional interactive exhibitions will be added in the near future—a Killington inspired mountain experience, and a robot sure to surprise and delight. Rutland is blessed with this rich resource that inspires imaginations and boosts parents and grandparents.

Marguerite Jill Dye is an artist and writer who divides her time between Vermont and Florida.

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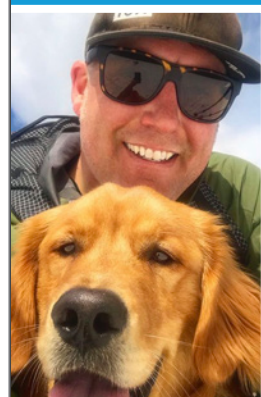
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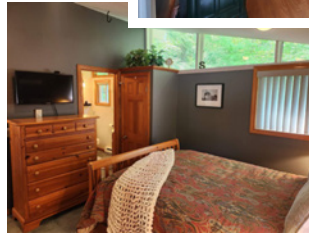
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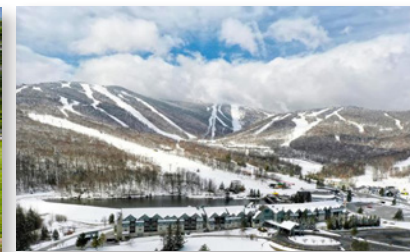


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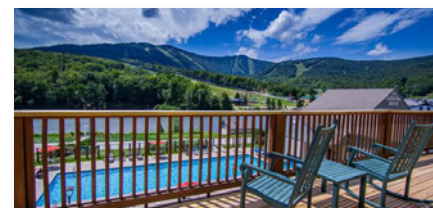
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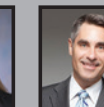
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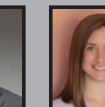
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← **Living the Dream:**
from page 25

chaos swept up in a wave of love.

Right when we were supposed to meet, the heavens open and the rain came pouring down upon us. And no one flinched. I mean, you might have seen every set of shoulders droop just a bit as we paddled across the pond, but no one turned to leave. Instead, we looked at the bright sun just starting to peek through the clouds on the other side. We knew if we “just waited five minutes,” the weather would turn and we would once again find ourselves basking in the sunlight.

And out it came. In fact, as the multitude of boats gathered at the shoreline for a group photo, a rainbow grew out from the rain. A full rainbow, a clean crisp beautiful rainbow that grew into a double rainbow. The cheers from the crowd were from the amazement. Of course, on this day, there would be a double rainbow to celebrate Barb Wood. Nature was smiling on us as we remembered a friend who cherished nature and photographed it for all to share.

Barb wanted everyone to see Kent Pond as she saw it — a magical place hidden right in front of us. A beautiful cove filled with loons, ducks, geese, cranes, hawks, beavers, turtles, fish and a stunning bald eagle to terrorize them all. It’s a precious gift, this pond. For many, it’s just a quick 100 acres on their way to work or a toast on the causeway to watch the sunset. Time on Kent Pond is time to breathe, to renew and a reminder to celebrate life as we have it.

Next time you are feeling out of sorts, might I suggest pulling out your canoe, kayak or paddle board and head to the lake, the pond or the reservoir and let the water comfort you. Surround yourself in nature and just let yourself take it all in, the beauty of the world just as it is. Let the water surround you, and calm you and bring you peace. And if you go with a beloved friend, you will find that life is just how it should be.

Paddle on, Barb. You will be greatly missed.

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, local realtor, bartender and coach. She can be reached at femaleskibum@gmail.com.

← **Bloated:**
from page 8

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan end and tens of thousands of troops are brought home, yet still the Pentagon’s budget goes up.

Every year, despite partisan fights on all manner of things, Congress comes together with little debate to vote for the one thing they seem to agree on: more and more money for the Pentagon.

Right now, despite all of the enormous needs facing working families in this country, over half of the discretionary budget goes to the military.

Mr. President, I support a strong military. But I will oppose this legislation for four main reasons.

First, more military spending is unnecessary. The United States remains the world’s dominant military power and is in no danger of losing that position.

Alone, we account for roughly 40% of global military spending. This comes despite the end of the war in Afghanistan and despite the fact that the United States spends more on the military than the next 10 countries combined, most of whom are allies. Last year, we spent more than three times what China spent on its military, and more than ten times what Russia spent.

And while this year’s NDAA would merely match the Pentagon’s record budget request, in most recent years Congress has seen fit to give the Department of Defense (DOD) more money than it even asks for, requiring that it submit “wish lists” of items to Congress. The Pentagon is routinely given so much taxpayer money it literally does not know what to do with it. According to the GAO, over an 11-year period, the Pentagon returned an astonishing \$128 billion in excess funds back to the Treasury.

They couldn’t even spend the money Congress gave them. Second, the Pentagon cannot keep track of the dollars it already has, leading to massive waste, fraud, and abuse in the sprawling military industrial complex.

The Pentagon accounts for about two-thirds of all federal contracting activity, obligating more money every year than all civilian federal agencies combined. Yet the (DOD) remains the only major federal agency that cannot pass an independent audit, more than 30 years after Congress required it to do so.

Last year, the department was unable to account for over half of its assets, which are in excess of \$3.1 trillion, or roughly 78% of what the entire federal government owns. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports that DOD still cannot accurately track its finances or capture and post transactions to the correct accounts. Each year, auditors find billions of dollars in the Pentagon’s proverbial couch cushions; in fiscal year 2022, Navy auditors found \$4.4 billion in untracked inventory, while Air Force auditors identified \$5.2 billion worth of variances in its general ledger.

These problems are why Senator Grassley and I have again introduced our Audit the Pentagon Act, with a number of co-sponsors, which would force the Pentagon to get serious about these shortcomings by reducing by 1% the budget of any DOD component that cannot pass an audit. A meaningful effort to address this waste should be undertaken before Congress throws more money at the Pentagon, yet this absolutely necessary oversight is again missing from this bill.

In June, the GAO found that in the preceding year — a single year! — DOD’s largest acquisition programs had seen cost estimates rise by \$37 billion.

This comes after decades in which we spent more than \$2 trillion on ill-considered wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Somehow, despite this record of waste and fraud, the military-industrial complex escapes meaningful scrutiny.

Third, much of this additional military spending will go to line the pockets of hugely profitable defense contractors—it is corporate welfare by a different name.

Almost half of the Pentagon budget goes to private contractors, some of whom are exploiting their monopoly positions and the trust granted them by the United States to line their pockets. Repeated investigations by the DOD Inspector General, the GAO, and CBS News have uncovered numerous instances of contractors massively over-charging DOD, helping boost these companies’ profit margins to nearly 40%—and sometimes as high as 4,451%—while costing U.S. taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. TransDigm, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and Raytheon are among the offenders, dramatically overcharging the taxpayer while reaping enormous profits, seeing their stock prices soar, and handing out massive executive compensation packages.

As an example, last year, Lockheed Martin received \$46 billion in unclassified federal contracts, returned \$11 billion to shareholders through dividends and stock buybacks, and paid its CEO \$25 million. These companies are fully reliant on the U.S. taxpayer, yet their CEOs make over a hundred times more than the Secretary of Defense, and 500% more than the average newly enlisted service member.

TransDigm, the company behind the 4,451% markup on spare parts, touted \$3.1 billion in profits on \$5.4 billion of net sales, almost boasting to investors about just how fully it was fleecing the taxpayer. Indeed, over the past two decades, major defense contractors have paid billions in fines or related settlements for fraud or misconduct. Just the other day, the consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton was fined \$377 million for overcharging the Defense Department.

Yet the contracts never dry up.

This is why I introduced an amendment to this year’s NDAA to require the Secretary of Defense to produce an updated report on defense contractor fraud. The amendment was not included.

Mr. President, if this pandemic has taught us anything — a public health crisis that cost us over a million lives — it is that national security relies on much more than just a strong military. True security means doing everything we can to improve the lives of ordinary Americans, in terms of healthcare, education, nutrition, housing, and, of course, climate change and the environment.

This body could decide to have one or two fewer ballistic missile submarines, saving almost \$15 billion over the next decade, and put that money toward housing the homeless or feeding the five million children in this country who are food-insecure.

Instead, day after day here in Washington, many of my colleagues tell the American people that we just don’t have the money. They say we can’t guarantee healthcare to all, can’t provide quality education for our kids, can’t build affordable housing, and can’t do what we need to do to prevent our planet from becoming uninhabitable.

Mr. President, let me conclude by reiterating that I believe in a strong military. But we cannot keep throwing money at the Pentagon while veterans can’t access adequate healthcare, millions of children go hungry, and so many Americans can’t afford the basic necessities of life.

We have emergencies here at home that we must address: from the climate crisis that recently blanketed our cities in smoke, to the floods that recently devastated my home state of Vermont, to the outrageously high price of childcare, housing and healthcare.

Here’s the good news: in the richest country on Earth, we do not need to force false choices. We can fund critical domestic priorities while maintaining a strong military, caring for our veterans, and getting Ukraine what it needs. But it will require the wealthy and corporations to pay their fair share in taxes, and it will require members of Congress to care less about the profits of Lockheed Martin, Boeing, or Raytheon, and more about the needs of working people.

Now is time to rethink what we value as a society and to fundamentally transform our national priorities.

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