

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY IS MONDAY

Indigenous Peoples' Day, a holiday to celebrate and honor indigenous American peoples, their histories and cultures is Monday.



SLOW DOWN IN KILLINGTON

The Select Board recently approved reduced speeds on Killington Road and River Road. A public comment period is in session.

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ANNUAL SKI SALE IS COMING OCT. 6

The 2023 Killington Ski Club Monster Ski & Bike Sale is happening at the Ramshead Base Lodge, Oct. 6-8.

Page 25



By Polly Mikula

FOLIAGE IS PEAKING

It's nearly peak foliage. Share your best shots with us @MtTimes.



By Zach Godwin, Killington Resort

Bike up Killington Mountain without breaking a sweat

Emery Mikula, 15, enjoys the climb up Killington mountain effortlessly. How? On an e-bike. Killington Resort offers tours that are as easy as you want them to be. The pedal assist makes the experience accessible to all. It's a unique way to get up close to fall foliage. See page 8.

Pittsford Haunted house returns for 40th year

By Katy Savage

The Pittsford Haunted House, dubbed one of the biggest and scariest in the area, started humbly over a dinner conversation about 40 years ago.

A group of firefighters were brainstorming how to raise money for the department.

Tom Hooker, who was a captain at the time, suggested a haunted house.

"I said, 'you know, there hasn't been a haunted house for a long time,' Hooker said. "A haunted house on Main Street (in Rutland) had been closed for several years."

A large abandoned house in the woods that dates back to the early 1900s became the ideal location. It was once the Caverly Preventorium, where children at risk of developing tuberculosis went to receive preventive care and treatment.

The first meeting for the haunted house was in June, leaving little time to prepare, but it was an instant success. The first year saw about 100 people.

Now, returning for its 40th anniversary, the Pittsford Haunted House sees up to 1,000 people a night on average and it raises up to \$30,000 a year for the fire department.

"I want to think over the years we've raised a million dollars," Hooker said. "It just kept getting bigger and bigger and bigger. It's actually gotten to the point sometimes that it's too big. Our biggest night ever, I think, was like 1,700 people. We were there at three o'clock in the morning. Needless to say we were all dead by then."

The Pittsford Haunted House sees up to 1,000 people a night.

Haunted house → 16

Great Gulf announces design team for village at Killington Resort

Staff report

Killington village developer Great Gulf announced Thursday, Sept. 28, that the world-renowned Safdie Architects and PWP Landscape Architecture have been chosen as the design team for the future village at the base of Snowshed and Ramshead at Killington Resort.

Also, Thursday, Great Gulf launched an updated website for the Killington project: LiveKillington.com.

"We knew early on, only a world-class design team could realize our vision for the 4-season mountain resort we believe is the future of Killington," said Elly Reisman, chairman of Great Gulf on LiveKillington.com.

"Great Gulf has assembled a globally renowned design team to bring their vision for the most exceptionally designed and innovative luxury mountain village in the country to life." Great Gulf stated in a news release, Thursday. "When complete, the one-of-a-kind mountain village will pair world-class architecture and innovative resort-style amenities with highly coveted ski-in/ski-out access in the private setting of a residential community."

The 450-acre master-planned development will include a walkable mountain village with ski-in/ski-out access as well as restaurants and retail. It will also have the largest ski beach

Village design team → 13

Casella buys rest of CSJ campus

Staff report

A year after buying the eastern portion of the former College of St. Joseph (CSJ) campus, Casella Waste Systems has purchased the western portion, making them the sole owner of the property.

Casella bought the remainder of the campus from Heritage Family Credit Union for \$750,000 on Sept. 27, Rutland City records show.

Jeff Weld, the director of communications at Casella, said the company held back on buying the full campus last year to understand its growth concerns.

"There was a question of what our needs might be, what the planning process might look like," Weld said. "There was a question of how much growth there might be."

Casella, based in Rutland, is Vermont's largest waste management company, employing 4,200 workers around the U.S., with around 400 based in Rutland.

The company plans to turn the campus into a training hub for employees, with orientations and commercial driver's license training. Weld estimates they'll train about 100 people a month on the campus.

"I think everybody's looking forward to moving forward and getting some permits," Weld said.

Once permits are secured, the campus will be renovated in phases.

In Phase 1, Casella will relocate about a dozen people on the human resources team to the former administration building.

In Phase 2, the company will demolish the former dormitories.

"They aren't usable," Weld said. "That's kind of where things are. We're hoping to have those permits in hand and get those buildings demoed by the end of the year."

The campus has been in limbo since Heritage Family Credit Union foreclosed on the college in 2019 after CSJ lost its accreditation.

A number of parties, including the Housing Trust of Rutland, have expressed interest in the property.

Weld said Casella wants to enhance economic growth in Rutland.

"Housing is a major need," Weld said, explaining the company could work with other employers to offer temporary housing.

Governor requests major disaster declaration for early August flooding in Rutland and Addison Counties

Governor Phil Scott has made a formal request to President Joe Biden for a Major Disaster Declaration to help communities in Addison and Rutland counties recover costs for repair of public infrastructure damage caused by rainfall and severe flooding on Aug. 3-5.

“For Addison and Rutland counties, the severe storms and flooding from early August compounded the impacts of July flooding and rainfall,

overwhelming state and local resources,” said Scott. “Municipal budgets are stretched thin as towns work to recover from these additional storms, and another disaster declaration is needed to help address infrastructure damage that is not covered by the July disaster declaration.”

If granted, a federal Major Disaster Declaration unlocks Federal Emergency Manage-

Federal assessors identified more than \$1.2 million in program eligible costs incurred by public entities.

ment Agency Public Assistance Program funding to reimburse municipalities for 75% of funds already spent on things like debris removal, road and public building repairs, and staff overtime responding to and cleaning

up after the storm.

Federal assessors identified more than \$1.2 million in program eligible costs incurred by public entities, exceeding the minimum needed for the state to re-

quest a declaration. Because the incident period for the July declaration closed before the August incidents, a separate declaration was necessary, after the threshold was met.

The declaration request also

seeks funds from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). That funding can be used to provide 75% reimbursement for projects anywhere in the state that reduce the likelihood of damage to public infrastructure in future disasters.

The request was sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which will review and then send to President Biden with a recommendation for a final decision.

One dead in motorcycle crash, Sunday

A man died in a motorcycle crash on Route 7 in Clarendon around 11:21 a.m. Oct. 1.

Police said Roy Loomis, 70, of West Rutland, was traveling west on North Shrewsbury Road in a Kawasaki motorcycle and failed to stop at a red light as he entered the intersection. The motorcycle was struck by Nicholas Winne, 38, of West Rutland, who was traveling south on Route 7 through the intersection in a Ford F-150.

Loomis was pronounced dead at the scene while Winne, who was wearing a seatbelt, received minor injuries.

The incident is still under investigation, anyone who witnessed the crash is asked to contact the Vermont State Police.

Troopers were assisted on scene by Regional Ambulance Service, Clarendon Fire Department, and Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT).

Student shows support of fired coach in text messages

A text message exchange shows a female student at Woodstock Union High School supported her snowboard coach after he was fired for alleged transphobic remarks, court documents reveal.

David Bloch, who founded the program at Woodstock Union High School, was fired in February after explaining he had a conversation about gender differences with two athletes. A male athlete said it was unfair that a trans female on another team could compete against females while the female athlete called those remarks transphobic.

Bloch filed a lawsuit for wrongful termination, explaining he engaged in a brief conversation with the students about the biological and skeletal differences between males and females. Bloch said he was fired the next day by Superintendent Sherry Sousa after Sousa said she received a complaint.

The female student, whose identity is protected in Sept. 14 court documents, wondered if Bloch was fired because of her. “I didn’t tell anyone about it,” the student wrote. “Maybe

somebody over heard (sic) it. I’m so sorry I feel like it was my fault because I’m the one who had the conversation with you.”

Bloch said someone shared the conversation with the superintendent.

“They made me out to be a monster,” Bloch told the student via text.

“You’ve done so much for me and the team,” the student said, adding, “I feel like I could do something to help bring you back to being our coach. It won’t be the same without you.”

The student later told Bloch she was called into the office and told administrative staff the conversation “didn’t affect me or anyone on the team.”

Bloch has argued in court documents his first amendment rights and due process rights were violated. He said he was fired before the district conducted an investigation, while Sousa has maintained in court documents there was an investigation.

A trial date has been set for August 2024 despite the school’s attempts to get the case tossed out.

Killington Select Board approves lower speed limits

By Curt Peterson

As a resort town whose population grows from 1,500 to almost 20,000 on a FIS Women’s Cup ski weekend, Killington has unique challenges regarding traffic management. Police Chief Whit Montgomery and three full-time Killington Police Department officers face those challenges on a day-to-day and night-to-night basis.

At the regular Select Board meeting, Sept. 25, Town Manager Michael Ramsey cited two traffic studies performed by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, both of which indicated dropping speed limits on some town roads might be helpful in reducing speeding and traffic accidents.

But that’s not the only reason for considering lower speed limits, Selectman Jim Haff said. Public Works Director Chet Hagenbarth explained that qualifying as a true “village center,” requires 30 MPH or less speed limits. Making this change will open the town up for future funding opportunities.

The board voted unanimously to lower the Killington Road speed limit to 30 MPH.

Selectman Chris Karr pointed out that there will be a reduction in frontage between Killington Road and businesses when the road is reconstructed, so slowing cars down will improve safety for people entering and exiting.

Public Works Director Chet Hagenbarth explained that qualifying as a true “village center,” requires 30 MPH or less speed limits. Making this change will open the town up for future funding opportunities.

Haff added that new sidewalks will increase walking traffic as well.

The traffic studies also suggested adding “traffic calming” measures, such as traffic lights and speed indicator signs. Some people have also suggested parking an unused marked cruiser in various spots to remind people of their speed.

“Traffic lights work,” said Chief Montgomery, whose three officers patrol 55 miles of roads in Killington. “It’s hard to educate people, a lot of whom are from out

of state. Traffic lights help with that.”

Hagenbarth admitted he was originally against lowering the speed limits.

“I thought it was just picking the low-hanging fruit and wouldn’t accomplish anything,” he said. But the village

center designation made him change his mind, he said.

River Road is another story — with the library, recreation center and town offices, the board felt 25 MPH would be a more reasonable limit for all of River Road. It is currently 25 MPH on the paved portion from Route 4 to the rec center and town offices, but then turns to 35 MPH limit when the road turns to dirt north of the town offices to Route 100.

Long-time resident Ken Wonsor

voiced strong concern about how the new speed limits would be enforced. He said he had a very near catastrophe involving a speeding car, and wondered how changing speed limit signs was going to make Killington safer.

Chief Montgomery said traffic has always been a problem in town, plus he and his officers are dealing with a sharp increase in home burglaries. The town and Killington Resort host frequent events that draw thousands of out-of-area visitors, absorbing police manpower and resources for traffic and crowd control related to the events.

“Maybe the chief and three officers is not enough to provide what the people want,” Haff mused.

Ramsey said, “Well, budget talks start in November — let’s talk about it then.”

Signs will be installed depending on the outcome of the public comment period. Residents who wish to make a public comment should send a letter to the town manager at PO Box 429 or drop it off at 2706 River Road.

Velomont Trail study, master plan is underway

By Katy Savage

Consultants are gathering community feedback for the new Velomont Trail throughout the state with the help of a \$140,000 Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) grant.

The consultants from SE Group in Burlington are holding eight open houses to understand concerns pertaining to trail use, conservation and trail design.

“I think the opportunity to build a brand new experience all the way across the board is just exciting,” said Dayton Crites, a senior outdoor recreation planner for SE Group. “I think something like this isn’t just about trails outside their backyard, it’s something for businesses to be involved in.”

The vision is to create an end-to-end mountain bike trail that extends the length of the state and covers about 485 miles with huts along the way for overnight users. Trail building started in 2019 in Rochester and is expected to take about a decade to finish.

“We really want to get a trail that reaches everybody,” Crites said, explaining so far people have been most concerned about accessibility.

Multiple state agencies, including Green Mountain National Forest and state parks are working collaboratively on the project.

“We really want to zoom out a little bit and hear from members of the community who are not in the project and give them the opportunity to voice any concerns or just ask questions about elements of the trail and the hut network and really just help inform our decision making

“I think the opportunity to build a brand new experience all the way across the board is just exciting,” said Dayton Crites.

going forward,” said RJ Thompson, the executive director of Vermont Huts Association.

Phase one of the Velomont will connect Brattleboro and the southern border to the Stratton area. Phase two will connect the Mendon area to Warren and the final phase will connect the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail between Morrisville and St. Johnsbury.

There are 13 huts in the state so far. The goal is to have one every 10-15 miles of the Velomont Trail, with 30-45 once complete.

The organizers have received around \$7 million in federal and state grants so far. They expect the total project will cost around \$20 million.

A 2020 economic impact report found that Velomont could have a \$6.2 million annual economic impact, cre-

ating 91 full-time jobs and \$685,000 in tax revenue.

Though the trail will extend the entire length of the state, the consultants predict only 1-2% of users will use the trail for that purpose. An estimated 20% of users will use the trail overnight.

The open houses have been held at mountain bike trailheads around the state and have been well attended with refreshments provided. The last open house is scheduled for the St. Johnsbury welcome center Oct. 10 at 6 p.m.

“The connectivity element of the vision encompasses not only mountain bike connectivity, but also local mobility connected from a broader bicycle/pedestrian/transportation context and supports many other elements of the vision framework such as raising local quality of life and access to outdoors,” the consultants said in documents.

Results of the study are expected later this year. The results will be used to develop a master plan for the trail network.

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Scam Jam provided tips to prevent common scams

By Karen D. Lorentz

Editor's note: This is part two of information and tips shared at the AARP Scam Jam held recently in Rutland.

Scams are perpetrated by smart and organized con artists who make it “their business to get your money. They only have to be successful once,” Philip Latvis, the executive director of the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation (DFR), warned of scams’ potential to wreak havoc in peoples’ lives.

A panel of DFR officials explained how scammers work, and succeed, by using their victim’s emotional state and exerting pressure to respond immediately — wire money now or invest right away because it’s a limited opportunity.

It’s hard to resist news that you’ve won a lottery or

you can make a killing in an investment.

But take time to think about what is being said, verify the facts, and don’t rush to send anyone money,

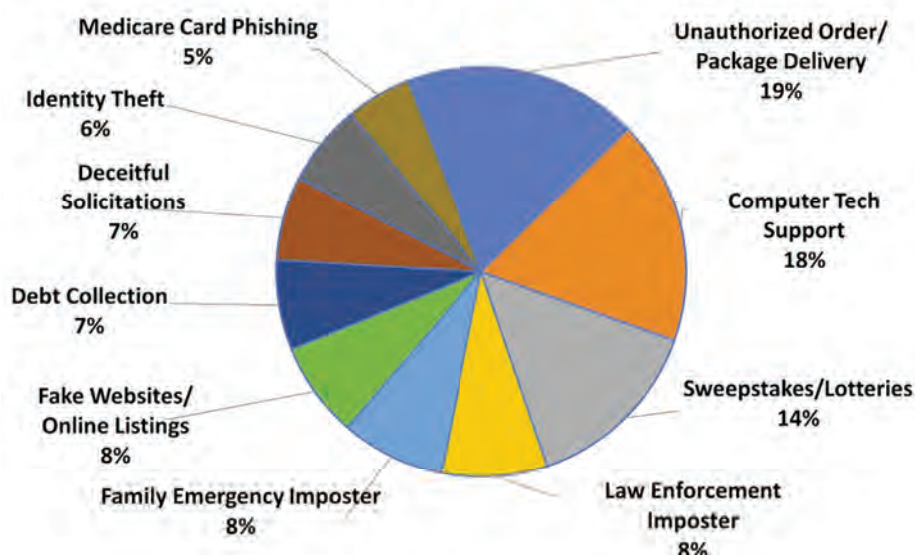
they advised.

Likewise, fraudsters prey upon emotions when they impersonate a family member pretending to be in trouble and urgently need

money. To prevent being taken in by this scam, have a prearranged family code word that only they would know and ask for it. This

Scams → 17

Vermont's Top 10 Scams of 2022



The chart shows the relative percentages of the most common scams in Vermont in 2022.

Courtesy AARP

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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Vermont declaration of inclusion initiative reaches 125 communities

In its quest to bring the Declaration of Inclusion to all 247 communities in Vermont, the initiative has reached another milestone – 125 communities have adopted the declaration. Those communities represent more than 70% of the state’s population and get the initiative more than halfway to its overall goal.

The Declaration of Inclusion initiative is spearheaded by four individuals: Norm Cohen, Bob Harnish, Barbara Noyes Pulling and Al Wakefield, all from the Rutland area. Harnish and Wakefield began the initiative in 2020 to help bring the benefits of inclusion to the attention of all of Vermont.

“For every community in the State, large or small, our objective is the same,” said Harnish. “To raise awareness of the positive effects of diversity, to tell the world that Vermont welcomes all people, and to build a stronger economy and future for Vermont by attracting people to live, work, and raise families here.”

Because of the disastrous flooding in some parts of the state this summer, the initiative needed to pivot and wait for many communities to wrap up their emergency response measures.

“Many select boards have been very busy since July,” said Wakefield.

“When they are ready, we will be here to help them adopt the declaration, put it into practice, or get it on the Town Meeting ballot.”

Besides being adopted by 125 communities, the Declaration of Inclusion also has wide support among organizations across the State. The Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Vermont Interfaith Action and various local diversity committees are among the supporters of the Declaration of Inclusion initiative.

For more information about the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion, visit: vtdeclarationofinclusion.org.



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How much can a bridge really carry?

Discussion over Hartland bridges capacity continues

By Curt Peterson

Wooden covered bridges are a hallmark of Vermont charm, especially when the backdrop is the glorious changing of the leaves. But for one Hartland farmer, the iconic North Hartland twin covered bridges over the Ottauquechee River represent more challenge than charm.

Kelly Lemax approached the selectboard to ask for reconsideration of the weight limit on the bridges — both are rated for 5,000 pounds maximum — as they need to transport manure to their fields twice a day, and the bridges would be

the most direct route.

“If we cross the bridges with a tractor and loaded manure spreader,” Lemax told selectmen, “we would be overweight by 6,000 to 8,000 pounds.”

The required detour avoid the bridges involves going around a hill and adds quite a bit of extra time.

“And the manure falls out of the spreader on the hill,” Lemax added.

Local Jim Lewandowski is credited with building the Carrying capacity → 13

“We may be able to help a local small business overcome an unnecessary hardship,” Rielly said.

MOOver free public transit expands to Hartland

By Curt Peterson

Resident Chuck Fenton made a presentation to the Hartland Select Board Monday evening, Oct. 2, announcing expansion of the popular MOOver free public transit service to include Hartland Three Corners. The service, that includes a wheelchair lift van-type vehicle, will cover the territory from the Hartland Public Library parking lot to Ascutney Village.

Windsor is one of only five towns in Vermont to enjoy MOOver service.

Users must schedule their rides, using an app on their phone, through the MOOver website, or by calling — a la Uber or Lyft. Riders cannot flag the MOOver vehicle down like a bus.

The van runs from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Fenton said it can be used to shop, visit friends, restaurants or sites, go to medical appointments, or just sightsee the MOOver area. Rides may be timed to connect with commuter buses, and there is a bike rack.

“The service is aimed at seniors,” Fenton said. “They just have to find their way



Submitted

The free public transit van, the MOOver, will now service Hartland residents.

to the Library to meet the van. Wait time maximums should be 30 minutes.”

Riders are protected from the weather, and can enjoy Wi-Fi internet access while traveling.

Service in Windsor began in January this year, funded by a Microtransit Grant

from VTrans, and operated by Southeast Vermont Transit (SEVT). Mt. Ascutney Hospital is a co-sponsor.

At 10:30 a.m. this Friday, Oct. 6, the MOOver van will be on display at the Hartland Library with more information on the services available there.



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municipal water and road projects.**

**A reception will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the
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ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please RSVP: [JimHaff@ KillingtonTown.com](mailto:JimHaff@KillingtonTown.com)



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Vermont not meeting climate responsibility, missing economic opportunity, report finds

A new report from the non-profit Energy Action Network (EAN) finds that Vermont has made the least progress of any state in the Northeast toward the Paris Climate Accord emissions reduction commitment made by the U.S. and is not on track to meet its own state legal obligations by 2025 and 2030 under the Global Warming Solutions Act.

Vermont has the second highest per capita emissions in New England, behind only New Hampshire, and the third highest in the Northeast, with only Pennsylvania and New Hampshire creating more climate pollution per person. Looking internationally, Vermont's per capita climate pollution is more than twice as high as the global average and is significantly higher than most countries.

"Not only does Vermont have a legal obligation and a moral responsibility to do our part in reducing the climate pollution that we create," said Jared Duval, executive director of the Energy Action Network and an appointed member of the Vermont Climate Council, "doing so is also a massive opportunity to save Vermonters money and strengthen our state economy."

Vermonters collectively spent about \$2.6 billion on fossil fuels in 2022, with about \$2 billion of that total draining directly out of the state economy.

High energy costs place a particular burden on households with lower and middle incomes.

In contrast, cleaner and more efficient technologies such as electric vehicles and heat pumps offer significant consumer savings over the life of the equipment and also keep a far higher share of energy dollars recirculating locally while doing more to support Vermont jobs, EAN stated.

The report found that Vermont will almost certainly not meet its responsibility—or fully seize the available econom-

ic benefits for all Vermonters—unless durable policy and regulatory action in line with Climate Action Plan recommendations are adopted.

The report comes in the wake of continued international scientific warnings, including from the chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), who stated earlier this year that "we are walking when we should be sprinting" when it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The flooding that hit much

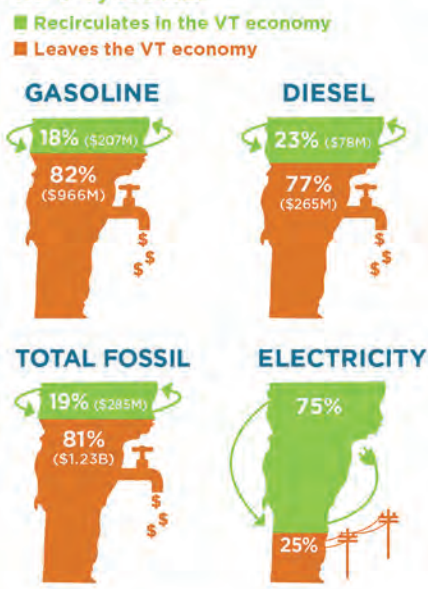
of Vermont this summer further highlights the significant financial and social costs of not following science-based policy recommendations, according to the report.

"EAN's Annual Progress Report is the best single overview of energy issues available," said Senator Christopher Bray, chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee. "I know of no organization that gathers more information and distills it into a more useful format in this

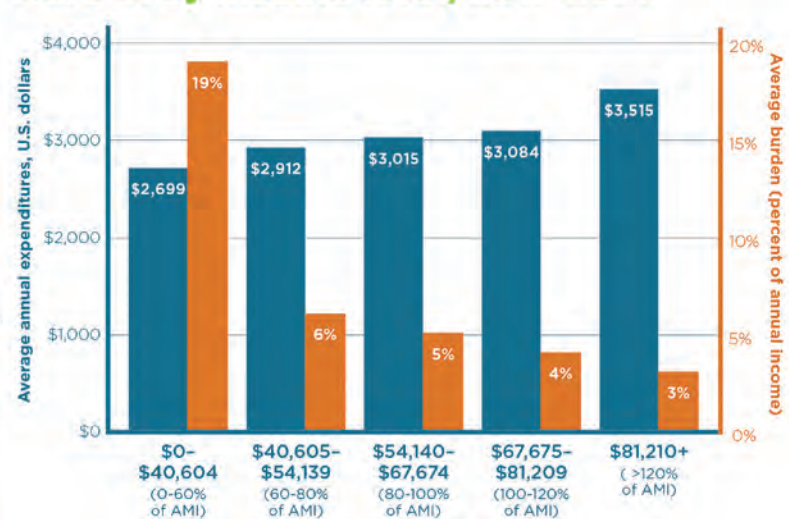
Climate economy → 13

Vermont's per capita climate pollution is more than twice as high as the global average.

Transportation spending in VT, 2022



Vermont combined average household heating and electricity fuel costs and burden by income level, 2017-2021



Courtesy Energy Action Network

Vermont expects a huge pot of federal money to provide broadband, but with strings attached



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

A shipment of fiber optic cable was delivered to the Washington Electric Co-op in East Montpelier last year.

By Fred Thys/VTDigger

Hunting camps in remote areas, off-the-grid houses, summer camps out in the woods — locations like these would have to get broadband service if Vermont taps a huge source of federal funding.

The Vermont Community Broadband Board recently released a draft proposal that would determine how the state would spend \$229 million in new federal funding to expand high-speed internet access. However, the money from the federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program comes with a catch: It requires that every unserved address in Vermont be covered by high-speed broadband.

The federal government defines unserved locations as those that get less than 25 megabits-per-second download and 3 megabits-per-second upload speeds.

Until this new pot of federal money became available, Vermont's goal had been to get all E911 addresses on the electric grid connected to internet service providing at least 100 megabits-per-second for uploads and downloads, according to Ellie de Villiers, president of the Vermont Communications Union District Association. The federal plan aims to cover more locations — just how many is not yet clear.

"Some of the challenge is that we're now going to have to include some of these locations that we haven't had to consider before," de Villiers said. "These are locations that tend to be extremely remote, and the cost to get to them is really high."

De Villiers said the communications union districts are trying to figure out how to make this work under the new federal rules. Neither de Villiers nor other broadband officials could provide an estimate of how many off-grid sites would need to be included under the federal guidelines.

"It doesn't make sense to spend \$50,000 or \$100,000 to get to the one address that someone lives in here two weeks during hunting season," said de Villiers.

Broadband → 17



By Zach Godwin, Killington Resort

Emery Mikula, 15, and Polly Mikula, 40, enjoyed an e-bike tour at Killington Resort Sept. 22 — just before the fall colors popped! The experience was easier than expected; accessible for all.

Assisted pedal power: E-bikes reduce the effort, increase the opportunities

By Polly Mikula

Killington Resort's claim was hard to believe. "Enjoy a two-hour tour led by a knowledgeable and friendly guide up and around the mountain on a Trek Rail 5 E pedal assist bike — while barely breaking a sweat," the website read.

Really? Bike up the second biggest mountain in the state and barely break a sweat? Sounded unlikely. So — despite actually liking to break a sweat — I decided to give it a try. I brought my 15-year-old step-daughter, Emery Mikula, along for the ride. I was interested in her perspective of the experience (and I needed a model for this story).

We chose the 10:30 a.m. tour (there's also one at 1:30 p.m.) offered daily.

When we arrived at the Snowshed Base area, we met our guide Kinley Tener, who helped us get fitted with bikes and padding.

Once geared up, we first took a few laps around the base area and in the small progression loop. As it was my first time on an e-bike, Tener accurately intuited that I could use some practice with the basic mechanisms. We practiced with the four speed modes — eco, tour, sport and turbo — and felt the various degrees the bike worked to assist our pedal power. Then we headed up.

E-biking wasn't what I expected. The motor doesn't work unless you're pedaling, so it wasn't like a dirt bike or motorcycle. And it was totally silent. It wasn't like regular mountain biking either. The assist was powerful, rendering the climbs easy!

It turns out the resort hadn't been exaggerating their claim. We went right up the mountain without breaking a sweat! In fact, we didn't even get winded. (I joked with my step-daughter after the fact that walking up the hill to our car parked in upper Snowshed was a bigger workout!)

I immediately thought of bringing my mother and mother-in-law on a tour. Both are

active in their 70s but no longer able (or interested) in mountain biking up a mountain. But they could do this and I think they'd love it!

For those who enjoy the workout element of biking, e-bikes do not take away your fun, either! The bikes are much heavier than a standard mountain bike, so if you turned off the assist or used a lower mode you'd in fact get a better workout than on your mountain bike. The knowledge that the assist is there if you need it could also embolden folks to go further or longer than they might dare on manpower alone. Think gap rides; or the new Tunnel Ridge trail in Rochester (part of the expanding statewide Velomont trail system).

"Think how far we could go on one of these!" Emery quipped.

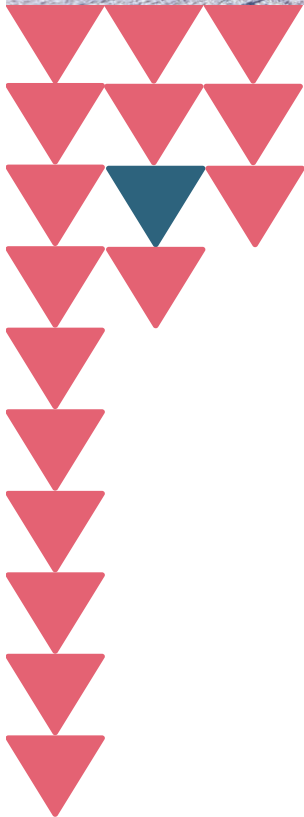
Once we ascended as far as we were going to go up Killington Mountain, Tener guided us through the downhill trails of the Snowshed bike park.

Tener was a stellar guide uphill and down, offering tips and reminders on form and best practices so we could get the maximum enjoyment out of our ride and the optimal boost out of our bikes.

Riding downhill, the e-bike also acted a bit different than my mountain bike, it being much heavier, but the difference wasn't nearly as big as I expected. It was different but still so much fun!

Not that you'd need to ride a lift (as the uphills are so easy and fun), but e-bikes are allowed on the lifts at Ramshead and Snowshed but not on the K-1 Gondola, due to the type of bike carriers installed there.

The two-hour guided tour is \$68 per person and includes the bike, helmet and pads. Advance reservations highly recommended to ensure availability and guides. For more information visit: Killington.com/plan-your-trip/summer-activities/bike-park/ebike-tours.



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VHFA announces homeownership funding

The Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) Board of Commissioners recently awarded Vermont State Affordable Housing Tax Credits for homeownership development projects across the state. Once sold to investors, the credits will yield nearly \$3 million in equity for downpayment assistance for newly constructed or substantially rehabilitated single-family homes as well as energy-efficient manufactured homes.

Additionally, commissioners awarded more than \$8.5 million as part of the Missing Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program, which will create 180 homes across the state. Combined, these investments will support the construction or substantial rehabilitation of at least 254 homes.

“VHFA is committed to seeking innovative and sustained solutions that provide affordable, homeownership opportunities for all Vermonters,” remarked VHFA Executive Director Maura Collins. “With this summer’s devastating floods, increasing housing development costs and the continuation of soaring home prices, we need all the tools possible that provide a variety of housing options. Vermont’s long-standing state housing tax credit program and the newly created Missing Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program are two effective ways to meet our state’s housing needs.”

Created in 2000 and expanded several times since, the Vermont State Affordable Housing Tax Credit was created by the Vermont Legislature to support the development of affordable rental and for-sale homes, including energy-efficient manufactured homes. Additionally, the state credits are used to support down payment assistance for low- and moderate-income households when purchasing a home. Special consideration was given to flood resiliency when awarding this year’s state tax credits, especially as it relates to Vermont’s manufactured home communities, often times the hardest hit and most impacted by climate change, the state reported.

The Missing Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program was established in 2022 to create new, modest homes throughout the state and help meet the needs of low and moderate-income households due to decades of underinvestment in homeownership and increasing median home prices. The program provides subsidies and incentives for home builders to construct or rehabilitate modest homes affordable to Vermont homebuyers at or below 120% of the area median income. Subsidies from the program will remain in the homes in perpetuity. Additionally, of the Missing Middle-Income Homeownership awards announced Sept. 25, 42% or \$3.6 million, went to the development of Shared Equity homes. The program prioritizes factors including geographic disbursement across the state; locations with a history of underinvestment in affordable homeownership; home energy efficiency; proximity to services, public transportation, employment and historic settlement patterns; community revitalization including rehabilitation of historic buildings; new construction in areas targeted for growth; and restoration of natural landscapes.

These 15 homeownership projects received September awards from VHFA:

1. Salisbury Square Phase 2 in Randolph developed by Randolph Area Community Development Corporation was awarded both state tax credits (generating an estimated \$449,909 in equity) and \$1,671,742 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies to build nine single-family, zero-energy modular homes.
2. Central Street in Randolph developed by Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity was awarded both state tax credits (generating an estimated \$102,996



Courtesy VHFA

A new home on Hickory Street in Rutland was developed by Habitat for Humanity of Rutland County.

- in equity) and \$234,496 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies to construct a duplex with two homes.
 3. Bay Ridge Condominiums in Shelburne developed by Champlain Housing Trust was awarded both state tax credits (generating an estimated \$281,446 in equity) and \$576,148 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies for the construction of 26 homes as part of the Harbor Place redevelopment.
 4. Archibald & Volz in Burlington developed by Champlain Housing Trust was awarded state tax credits (generating an estimated \$150,000 in equity) for the redevelopment of two existing homes in the old north end of Burlington.
 5. The Manufactured Housing Downpayment Loan Program, a statewide program of Champlain Housing Trust, was awarded state tax credits (generating an estimated \$1,540,000 in equity) to be used to purchase or replace at least 35 manufactured homes. The statewide program provides 0% interest second mortgages to help new borrowers purchase a new Energy Star manufactured home or Zero Energy Modular home as well as to replace old manufactured homes with highly efficient modular homes.
 6. Tri-Park Cooperative in Brattleboro in collaboration with Windham & Windsor Housing Trust were awarded state tax credits (generating an estimated \$350,000 in equity) to establish 26 new home sites outside of the floodplain and aid in the purchase of “Zero Energy Ready” manufactured homes. This collaboration is modeled after the Manufactured Housing Downpayment Loan Program operated by Champlain Housing Trust.
 7. Main St in Greensboro developed by Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity was awarded \$218,391 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies for the construction of two new homes as part of a two-story duplex.
 8. Lofts at Sacred Heart in Newport developed by Rural Edge was awarded nearly \$2,297,284 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies to support the historic rehabilitation and construction of 24 homes at the former site of the Sacred Heart Convent and High School.
 9. Booth Woods in Vergennes developed by Habitat for Humanity of Addison County was awarded \$85,000 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies to build one new home.
 10. South Street in Springfield developed by Windham & Windsor Housing Trust was awarded \$146,140 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies and will work with Efficiency Vermont to build a new Zero Energy Modular home.
 11. Hickory Street in Rutland developed by Habitat for Humanity of Rutland County was awarded \$90,923 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies to build a new home.
 12. Accelerated Manufactured Housing Infill (AMHI) developed by Housing Foundation, Inc. was awarded \$419,458 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies to purchase 14 new manufactured homes on existing sites in communities located in Bennington, North Clarendon and Braintree.
 13. Affordable Agrihood Housing located in South Burlington developed by Longhouse Builders was awarded \$929,947 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies to build three single-family homes for farmworkers.
 14. Bob Perry Lane House in Londonderry developed by Mountain Towns Housing Project and Windham & Windsor Housing Trust were awarded \$140,534 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies to build a single-family home.
 15. Stonecrop Meadows in Middlebury developed by Summit Properties was awarded \$1,771,038 in Missing Middle-Income Homeownership subsidies to 37 homes in a mix of duplexes, row townhouses, and townhome flats in 10 buildings.
- Commissioners also awarded Addison Housing Works (formally Addison County Community Trust) a \$500,000 construction loan for their Lindale manufactured housing community as part of the Lindale Community Wastewater project.
- In addition to the housing credits and loans awarded by VHFA, a variety of other funding sources will help complete these homes including: Vermont Housing & Conservation

'Be prepared to pay 20% over the asking price'

Real estate market remains competitive in Killington through fall

By Curt Peterson

The real estate market is full of vagaries — prices, climbing mortgage loan rates, bidding wars, and the effects of climate change, to name a few.

Each town has its own characteristics. The area served by the Mountain Times and where our readers live or play, or both are no different. Three recognized experts discussed the market and its future.

Kyle Kerschner, owner/broker of Killington Pico Realty, Rick Higgerson, of the Higgerson Group/Williamson Group/Sotheby's in Woodstock, and John Bassette, owner/broker of Bassette Real Estate Group in Hartland, all agree the number of available properties is less than the number of buyers, creating a high demand for a limited supply.

Kerschner cited National Association of Realtors statistics: "There are 1.5 million Realtors in the U.S., and only 1.48 homes available to buy. And I don't see any dramatic changes in this situation in the near future."

Fewer divorces are predicted in '23/'24 — and a lack of affordable options for divorcing spouses as buyers.

"People stay together not because they love their spouse, but because they love their 3.5% mortgage interest rate more," he said.

Inventory isn't as much of a problem in Killington's second-home market. People are using their second homes less, and don't have to replace them at higher costs if they sell.

"Covid refugees increased the market exponentially in our area," Kerschner said. "But it's stabilizing now. Buyers are asking for contingencies with their offers again."

Stabilization comes to higher-end homes.

"We listed a property for \$3.25 million, and a bidding war ensued — the final sale price was \$3.475 million," he said. "That was the highest-priced property we sold this year."

The Killington market is still hot, Kerschner said. A buyer came within 45 days to complete a "1031 transaction" — replacing a sold property with another to avoid tax implications.

"Desperate for a Killington condo, he made bids over asking price on five properties, lost all," Kerschner said. "If you're a buyer in Killington, you have to be all in — be prepared to

pay 20% over the asking price."

Higgerson noted property prices have increased 40% over the past two years. For higher-priced properties, he is scheduling "delayed showings," grouping viewings into a short time period for efficiency. He cited a recent sale in Hanover.

"Sixteen people came, and five made offers. The final agreement was \$1.3 million over the asking price. And the four unsuccessful bidders are anxiously waiting for the next opportunity to bid," he said.

Escalation clauses, stating an offer with a maximum increase if there is a bidding situation, are common, he said. He doesn't predict any change in the market in the near future.

"A 2% increase in loan rates in the past year hasn't slowed demand," he said.

Several sellers in his area are older residents who are downsizing or going into an assisted living or retirement situation.

"They don't have to care about replacing their home at a higher price or interest rate," he explained. "They've cashed out."

Like Higgerson, John Bassette's area includes Vermont and New Hampshire. And his sales have a huge range — from \$150,000 to \$4.7 million.

He says prices are driven by demand, interest rates and inventory, but, while prices have stabilized post-pandemic, loan interest rates continue to climb, and inventory, while growing slightly, continues to be short of demand.

"And higher interest rates only hurt the 'little people,'" he said.

Bassette has seen bidding on properties in the \$400-500,000 range during the pandemic, and cash buyers had an advantage. Over 50% of his sales last year were cash transactions.

"Some young buyers could borrow from their parents," he said. "Then, later, they could apply to refinance without pressure."

Taxes are also an issue, according to the Hartland Realtor.

"Houses are less expensive in Vermont than in New Hampshire," he said, "but real estate taxes are generally higher there, and lower on this side of the river."

Mortgage loan demand still high, despite high rates

By Curt Peterson

The first important thing to know is that a mortgage is a lien, not a loan. A mortgage loan involves the borrower giving a mortgage on a property to a lender in exchange for funds, usually used to purchase the property. The property can't be sold without paying off any part of the lien due at time of sale.

The Mountain Times talked to Norm Frates, senior vice president of residential lending at Mascoma Bank, to find out what people might look forward to when seeking to mortgage a property this coming year. Frates has been in the mortgage lending business 33 years, and provided a long-range perspective on the loan market as it relates to housing.

Frates said a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage loan is the most popular option, and has a current interest rate as of Sept. 7 of 7.125% to 7.25%. The rate is driven by what the Federal Reserve sets as the fed funds rate for banks to borrow and lend among themselves. This also drives the bond yields and rates which directly influence mortgage interest rates.

Attempting to control inflation, the "Fed" has steadily raised its rates to banks since March of 2022 and the home mortgage loan rate has followed suit.

"Although," Frates said, "Fed rate increases have slowed down, as have mortgage loan rates increases. A month ago the mortgage loan rate was the highest it's been in some time — 7.75%. Now it's a little lower."

He thinks loan rates will stay about the same for some time. But demand for loans is still



Submitted
Norm Frates, senior vice president of residential lending at Mascoma Bank, shares his perspective.

Frates said home buyers are "OK with the current rates." ... "There's a very low inventory of available properties, and a resulting high demand."

strong — Frates said home buyers are "OK with the current rates."

"There's a very low inventory of available properties, and a resulting high demand, but that doesn't affect mortgage loan rates either way," Frates said.

With notable increases in property prices,

it's important to know that mortgage loans over \$726,000 are classed as "jumbo" loans with interest rates about .125% higher than smaller loans.

A buyer has to come up with a downpayment to make up the difference between the purchase price and any mortgage loan.

Frates said the downpayment amount is determined by both the qualifications of the borrower, and the characteristics of the property.

"For a primary single-family residence, the down-payment might be as low as 3%," he said. "And for second-home purchases, down-payments might be 20% for condos, and 10% for single-family units."

"Most mortgage loans in Killington are 20% down situations," he added.

If a borrower arranges a 15-year pay-back mortgage loan, they would currently pay an interest rate of 6.875%.

Cash buyers don't have an advantage when purchasing property, he said, but they find real estate appreciation attractive vis a vis low savings interest rates.

"If higher returns on their money relative to mortgage loan rates becomes a reality later, they can 'cash-out' by refinancing, and use the funds to earn higher yields."

What does the future of mortgage loan rates look like?

"It's a crap shoot," Frates said.

Adding, a bit later, "it's just really hard to predict."

← **VHFA:**
from page 10

Board, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, Efficiency Vermont, Congressionally Directed Spending, Flood Resilient Communities Fund, Community Recovery and Revitalization Program, Vermont Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program, Rural Development grant, Agency of Natural Resources, local grants, and private funding.

Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) was established in 1974 to finance and promote affordable, safe and decent housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income Vermonters.

Since its inception, VHFA has helped 30,000 primarily first-time home buyers and their families purchase homes. It also provides financing, development and management support, subsidy administration and tax credits for approximately 8,800 affordable apartments statewide. Each U.S. state has a housing finance agency.

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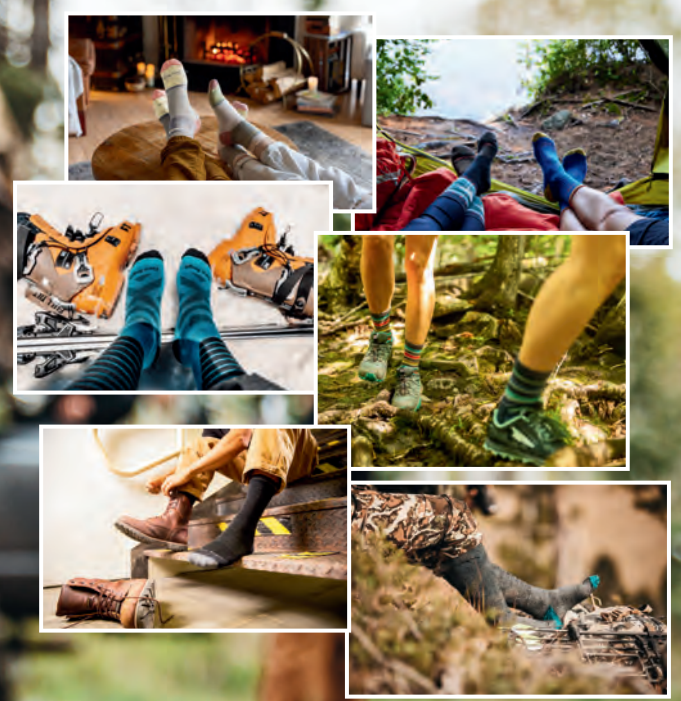
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← **Carrying capacity:**
from page 5

newer of the two bridges — the older span is well over one hundred years old. Selectman Jim Reilly sympathized with the Lemaxes’ problem, suggesting no professional has ever looked at the underlying trusses to assess an accurate reasonable weight limit, and the bridges might be capable of carrying more than the 5,000 pound advertised limit.

At the subsequent Select Board meeting acting town manager Martin Dole said he was told the newer bridge was built with what’s called “lattice trusses,” and, it was implied, Lewandowski had built his span to match the stated 5,000 pound capacity of the older bridge.

Board chair Phil Hobbie opined that he thought lattice trusses would be stronger than the traditional “rigid” variety, but did not claim to be an expert. Selectman Clyde Jenne said he thought both bridges had lattice trusses, and Selectman Tom Kennedy said he knew Lewandowski and thought he might be more of a timber construction craftsman than an engineer.

The board decided Lewandowski would be the first contact, possibly to be followed up by consultation with an engineer familiar with bridge capacities.

There was agreement the goal of finding a way to expedite transportation of the Lemaxes’ organic fertilizer was desirable.

“We may be able to help a local small business overcome an unnecessary hardship,” Rielly said.

← **Village design team:**
from page 1

in the East, according to the news release. Phase 1 of Great Gulf’s village will command over 32,000 square feet of commercial space and approximately 225 residences,

In North America, the firm is responsible for creating the renowned Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Arkansas and Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Missouri.

PWP Landscape Architecture

For 35 years, PWP Landscape Architecture has developed a tradition of design practice that responds to and influences its environment.

“We believe that humans are an inseparable part of landscape ecologies. Ultimately, our designs allow for straightforward and seemingly simple construction of landscapes that link the natural world and the human environment,” the company stated.

The firm is led by world-renowned architect Peter Walke and is known in the U.S. and around the world for its impressive body of work including the National September 11 Memorial in New York City. PWP is also celebrated for the world’s largest indoor waterfall at the Jewel Chang Airport in Singapore and the 5.4-acre rooftop Salesforce Park in San Francisco.

Great Gulf

Founded in 1975, Great Gulf is the residential division of the Great Gulf Group of Companies; a multifaceted company that includes commercial, mixed-use, and residential development, construction

With pre-construction currently underway on site, sales for the first residences are slated to launch in 2024

Phase 1 of Great Gulf’s village will command over 32,000 square feet of commercial space and approximately 225 residences.

consisting of condominiums, townhomes and single-family homesites with ski-in/ski-out access.

Envisioned as a vibrant village the development will prioritize innovative entertainment, recreational activities and experiences that will attract visitors and residents of all ages year-round.

With pre-construction currently underway on site, sales for the first residences are slated to launch in 2024, according to the news release, Thursday.

Safdie Architects

Safdie Architects is a design studio driven by a spirit of innovation and idealism, founded upon the principles that architecture should be inherently timeless, connected to nature, and profoundly humane, according to the news release. “Their design philosophy is rooted in the metaphor, ‘For Everyone a Garden,’ perceiving architecture as a generous act of creating meaningful spaces that serve as catalysts for vibrant public life,” the release continued.

Killington’s village will be the latest North American project. The firm is led by Moshe Safdie, the renowned multi-national architect behind some of the world’s most celebrated buildings. Safdie Architects is headquartered in Boston and has designed some of the world’s most innovative residential and hospitality projects, including the iconic Marina Bay Sands Hotel in Singapore and Sri Lanka’s sky-defining Altair Residences.

management and software, engineered panel manufacturing, architecture and hospitality, and is responsible for building more than 90,000 homes in 20 cities across North America.

“Great Gulf is committed to building great spaces that foster experiences, inspiring the people who live, work, and play there,” the company stated.

← **Climate economy:**
from page 7

state than the Energy Action Network.”

Among the new analysis in this year’s report is a comparison between energy used by fossil fuel equipment versus more efficient electric alternatives. Specifically, electric vehicles use about four times less energy than gas vehicles because they are much more efficient at transferring energy to propulsion and do not experience the same heat and engine losses as gas vehicles.

Similarly, cold climate heat pumps are, on average, nearly three times as efficient as fossil fuel-based heating systems, since heat pumps transfer heat from the air or ground rather than generate it from combustion.

These energy savings can translate into significant cost savings. For instance, compared to the current \$3.80 per gallon average price for gasoline, the cost of charging an electric vehicle (EV) is the equivalent of only about \$1 per gallon in most of Vermont—and EVs also have lower maintenance costs than fossil fueled vehicles.

Additionally, federal, state, and utility incentives now often bring the upfront price of new or used EVs down lower than the cost of comparable gas vehicles. The report shares similar consumer data about heating, with heat pump water

heaters, heat pumps, and advanced wood heating systems all enabling sizable fuel cost savings and often costing less up front to install than fossil options, after incentives — all while keeping more money in Vermont.

To ensure that all Vermonters can

Compared to the current \$3.80 per gallon average price for gasoline, the cost of charging an electric vehicle (EV) is the equivalent of only about \$1 per gallon.

access pollution-reducing, money-saving options, the report highlights the importance of equitable design of policies and incentives to prioritize Vermonters with lower incomes, in particular.

EAN produces the Annual Progress Report for Vermont on Emissions, Energy, Equity, and the Economy to help ensure that statewide energy and climate conversations are grounded in and guided by the latest and highest quality data and analysis.

The report was unveiled and first presented at EAN’s Annual Summit Sept. 28.

For more information and to read the full report, visit: eanvt.org.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Democracy, autocracy and the U.S.A.

By Haviland Smith

Editor's note: Haviland Smith is a retired CIA operations officer who focused during his Cold War career in Eastern and Western Europe on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The Oxford dictionary defines democracy as “a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.” It defines autocracy as “a system of government by one person with absolute power.”

Clearly, the major difference between democracy and any form of autocracy is that under democracy, freedom and constitutional governance rule whereas under autocracy, both of those key elements are junked in favor of total subjugation to the wishes and whims of one person, the Ruler.

The major issue here is that democracies, where they exist, are open to every conceivable crazy political idea. Autocracies, however, are open only to ideas that are approved by the Ruler. The result is that democracies are far more vulnerable to revolutionary change than autocracies. And that is where we now stand. We Americans are custodians of a democracy in which internal opposition to our form of government is getting deeper and deeper. And those who argue for newer antidemocratic approaches represent a growing, anti-status-quo change.

Are these Americans knowingly promoting autocracy? Perhaps some, but certainly not most of them. They are simply responding to their ongoing (often unhappy and unsatisfactory) relationship with the in-power democratic leaders. The problem for our democracy is that the issue that motivates this political discontent is not our form of government. It is, rather, that the solution they back is the election of the individual who seeks the highest power in the country, former President Trump.

To understand how change in 2024 might affect us and our democracy, it is most important to understand precisely what the leader of the opposition to our current government has said that he, as new Ruler, would seek for the future of America.

Essentially, the entire focus of a new Trump administration would be to weaken the existing federal governmental structure, bringing it under the President's control. He declared publicly in 2019, “I have an Article 2 (of the Constitution) where I have the right to do whatever I want as president.” In this regard, he seeks the following national, internal changes:

- Return the independent agencies to total presidential control. They will have to present their plans and programs for White House review and approval.
- Employ the practice of refusing to spend appropriated funds on programs he doesn't like.
- Castrate the U.S. Civil Service, which he views as part of the “deep state.”
- Strip job protections from federal employees who oppose him or his programs in any way.

Over time, Trump's personality patterns have been Governance → 17

Democracies, where they exist, are open to every conceivable crazy political idea.



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LETTERS

More funding needed for cancer

Dear Editor,

Last month I had the honor of representing Vermont on Capitol Hill. Along with roughly 600 of my fellow American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network volunteers from across the county, I traveled to Washington, D.C. to urge lawmakers to make cancer a national priority. As someone who has lost family members and friends to cancer, I am using my voice to call on Congress to prioritize investments in cancer research.

With over 18 million cancer survivors alive today, we know that past investments in cancer research have made a real difference. Today, however, those investments are at serious risk. This was my fourth trip to Capitol Hill, and we have always stated that without adequate funding we are at risk of losing researchers. This year, we learned that we aren't just at risk anymore. We heard from a young researcher that some researchers are closing labs due to lack of funding, while others are not even opening labs in the first place due to the

challenges in securing and maintaining funding. Another source remarked on a recent PhD recipient choosing to forego research altogether and write policy because of the funding challenges.

This is not okay. If increases in research funding are not provided, we may lose the advances in treatment and diagnosis that have created those 18 million survivors.

I met with staff from the offices of Senator Peter Welch, Senator Bernie Sanders, and Representative Becca Balint. I shared the stories of these researchers, as well as my own story of losing loved ones. I explained that the threat of missing out on medical advancements in cancer is real and is happening.

Congress must act now. By increasing medical research funding through the National Institutes of Health we can continue to make progress in the fight against cancer.

Melissa Cox, Volunteer, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, West Rutland

BIPOC folks put in tough spots

Dear Editor,

“It's dirty work but someone has to do it.”

I can't help remarking on the many movies and TV series, for instance, that depict Black people in the so-called “helping professions” — hospital staff, law enforcement, private service, hospitality — or other roles that call for sympathy and helpfulness toward the suffering or needy white character.

Why do we as white people look to Black or Brown people for comfort, protection, even wisdom? Because we cannot take responsibility for our own actions and attitudes but must have the target, the victim, point it out to us and — even more — help us “fix it?” Help US fix ourselves?

Ms. Esther Charleston was hired to do and took on arguably the most unpopular position in any school, a charge she attempted to fill with grace and honesty. As the Dean of Climate & Culture at Middlebury Union Middle School, she writes in an Aug. 31 community forum in the Addison Independent, “My job consisted of overseeing discipline, putting out the


day-to-day fires that would arise, communicating with teachers and parents, hosting in-school suspensions, detentions, and ensuring 504 plans were adhered to.” Easily the dirtiest job in a school, let alone a middle school, an age bracket that is notorious for discipline issues as they struggle with leaving childhood and with their own hormonal transformation.

School disciplinarians are never popular among students. The old-timey spinster schoolma'am who wielded the ruler in the one-room schoolhouse had no easier time of it. Having taught in middle school myself, I know that some students are bent on disruption no matter what and seek out opportunities to be outrageous. And the virus seems to be spreading.

Kids, also, are not immune to the political turmoil that rages around them. Now in Vermont, achievement is suffering in part because teachers and school boards and parents are at each other's throats like feuding parents, and who can concentrate on

BIPOC → 16

CAPITAL QUOTES



As Taylor Swift attended her second NFL game on Sunday, Oct. 1 to see rumored boyfriend, Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, the effect of her fandom has been noticed. After news broke she would be attending the Jets/Chiefs game, ticket sales doubled in 24 hours. Meanwhile, Kelce's jersey sales climbed 400% and he gained 800,000 new followers on Instagram.

“It’s sort of a gift from the heavens for this all to happen, but it’s our job now to ensure that these fans coming in will stay,”

said **Tim Ellis**, the NFL's chief marketing officer.

“They’re kind of endeared by the dedication to understanding what she’s interested in, which right now is football,”

said **Jordan Pellerito**, a doctoral candidate at the University of Missouri, who teaches a course on Swift, said of Swift's fans.

“It could last a week. It could last a year. They could marry each other for 50 years. I don’t know but whatever this is, it’s amazing,”

said football commentator and former tight end **Greg Olsen**.

“We just slid off in the getaway car at the end. Shoutout to Taylor for coming through and see me rock the stage,”

Travis Kelce said on his podcast, New Heights, after the Chiefs beat the Bears 41-10 on Sunday, Sept. 24.

COMMENTARY

Poverty limits school success

By David Sharpe

Editor's note: David Sharpe of Bristol is a former long-time member of the Vermont House of Representatives, where he chaired the Education Committee.

It's no surprise that the latest educational report of the widening gap in student performance in Vermont's public schools is between students of means and those who live in poverty.

This trend started in the late '60s when communities were required to integrate their public schools. Relatively quickly, white flight from public schools began in the racially divided southern states. As more and more white parents found ways to circumvent the rules by placing their students in private schools, there was less and less interest in properly funding public schools. The underfunded public schools found it more and more difficult to provide quality education to their students.

This was especially true of students who required additional resources. Since public schools struggled to provide quality education, their students graduated with insufficient skills to be successful in the evermore sophisticated United States economy.

This inequality existed in Vermont as well, particularly in the roughly 90 school districts that provided vouchers for their secondary students. It also existed in towns with lower property values. Vermont has tried to level the playing field by enacting Act 60 as mandated by the Vermont Supreme Court. Although the gap in funding between wealthy communities and poorer community has narrowed, the spread out

increased tax requirements has tended to curtail the budgets of public schools throughout Vermont. Parents want the best for their children and many have used the private school subsidies when they can afford it. The once racially motivated separation of white children and black children has developed in Vermont as a separation between children who live in families of means and those living in poverty.

In addition, the rules under which schools provide education for Vermont children are different for public and private schools. One example is, private schools only need to admit students that they deem “fit” into their culture. If a child is more costly to educate, or perhaps is

Students graduated with insufficient skills to be successful in the United States economy.

disruptive in the school, that child may be sent back to the local town for the educational services they need. Notably, there are private schools in Vermont that are committed to educating all the students in a community; as we note that quality we must also note that the private schools that are educating all students also strongly support and lobby for the rules that permit private schools to be choosy about who they accept as students.

Although bills have been introduced to address the privileged rules under which private schools operate, they have gone nowhere. It's my view that there currently

Right to education → 16

LETTER

Celebrating World Day for Farmed Animals

Dear Editor,

Oct. 2 was World Day for Farmed Animals when activists around the world draw attention to the devastating impacts of animal agriculture on animals, our health, and our environment. The campaign was launched in 1983 by Alex Hershaft, a Holocaust survivor and founder of Farm Animal Reform Movement, to memorialize and mourn the billions of animals killed for food world-wide each year. While the suffering of farmed animals is rarely given proper consideration as a serious ethical issue, perhaps the irrefutably

devastating environmental impacts of animal farming will encourage us to think hard about our dietary choices.

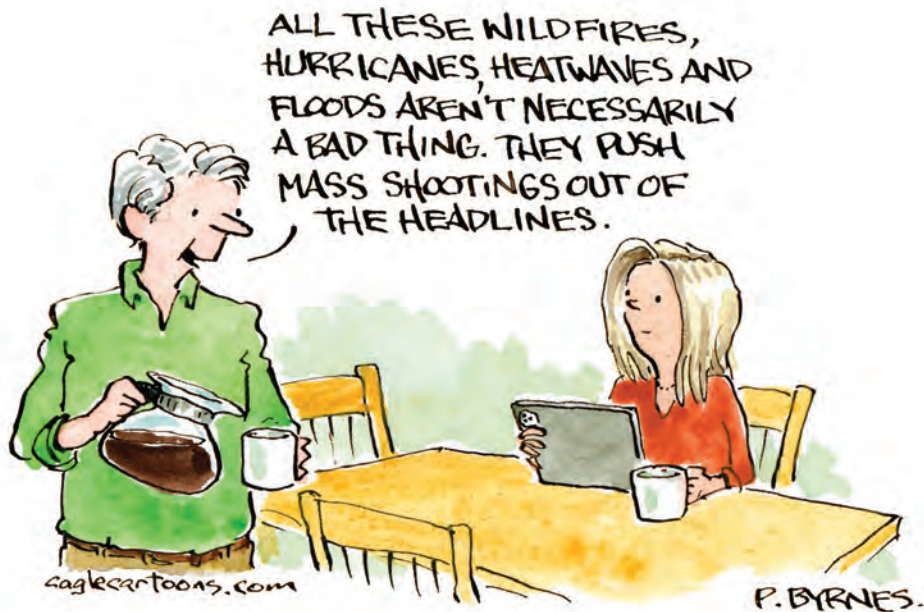
This summer Oxford University released the findings of a comprehensive study of the food sector's impact on global warming. The food sector produces roughly one-third of global GHG emissions and has been notoriously difficult to decarbonize. Oxford researchers concluded that a global switch to diets that rely less on meat and more on fruits and vegetables could save up to 8 million lives by

2050, reduce greenhouse gasses by two thirds and lead to healthcare savings. It could also avoid climate-related damages of \$1.5 trillion.1.

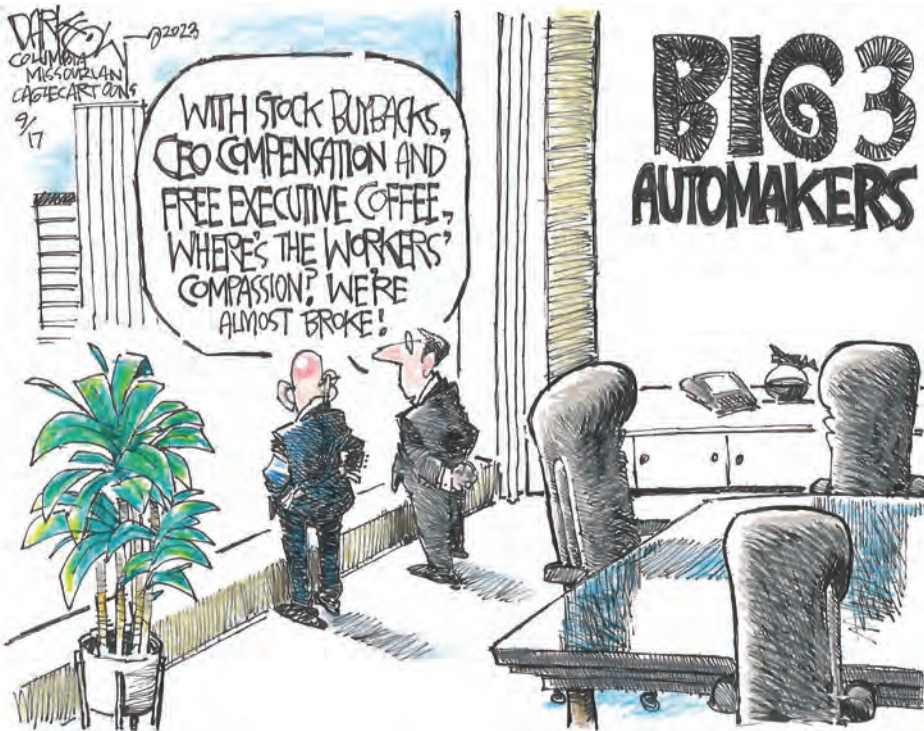
According to lead researcher Professor Peter Scarborough, “Our results, which use data from over 38,000 farms in over 100 countries, show that high meat diets have the biggest impact for many important environmental indicators, including climate change and biodiversity loss. Cutting down the amount of meat and dairy in your diet can make a big difference

Farmed Animal Day → 17

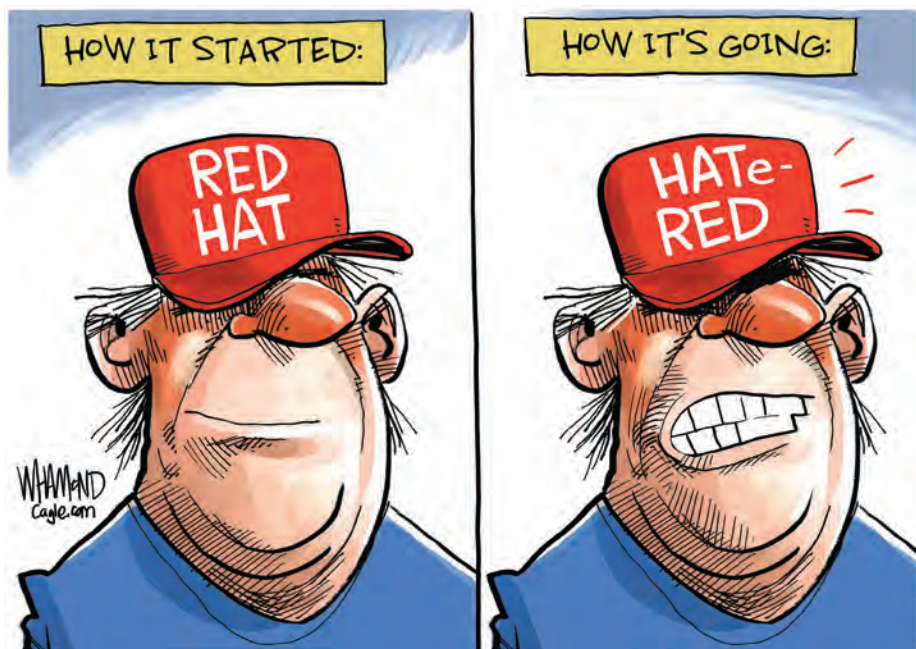
CARTOONS



Not a Bad Thing by Pat Byrnes, PoliticalCartoons



Pleading poverty by John Darkow, Columbia Missourian



The Red Hat by Dave Whamond, Canada, PoliticalCartoons

← Haunted house:
from page 1

The money has been used to purchase trucks, radios and uniforms.

The old house is now owned by the town and maintained by the fire department. Some believe the building itself might be haunted itself. Hooker said a series of odd occurrences, like light bulbs falling from the ceiling and doors suddenly closing, has scared locals.

Joanne Gerbera, a psychic medium from Boston, visited the property about six years ago.

"She could feel the spirit of a young girl on the second floor. She just said she could see a girl white dress," Hooker said, recalling stories of a child who died in the house. "I mean, these are things — she isn't even from the area so she shouldn't have known it."

This will be the event's first time back in three years since the pandemic.

Jamie Hamilton, a firefighter who's organizing the event this year, is anticipating one of the largest crowds ever.

"A lot of people are talking about it knowing it hasn't happened in a while," he said.

More than 100 volunteers contribute every year. Medical personnel and police are also on scene.

Hamilton said volunteers have needed to do more upkeep and maintenance to

the building this year. The roof was recently repaired.

"It's been idle for so long," he said.

The inside of the haunted house features 12 scenes while the exterior of the entire three-acre property becomes decked in all things Halloween at the end of October. The outside becomes similar to an old fashioned Western saloon. Over the years there have been hillbillies, pirates and monsters greeting people on the outside, complete with a band. There's also a maze and fireplace to keep guests entertained while they wait to go inside the haunted house.

Hooker, 76, has been part of the fire department for 55 years. He was chief for 32 years until he retired four years ago. He remains an active member.

"I will be as long as I can," Hooker said. "When I'm not able to, I'll be on the veteran's list."

Hooker also remains part of the beloved haunted house.

"People don't realize what it takes to run that thing," he said. "The whole community gets involved, which is great."

This year's haunted house will take place Oct. 21-22 and Oct. 27-28. The cost of admission is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for kids under 12.

← BIPOC:
from page 14

their schoolwork in that atmosphere? As Gov. Scott (I think) said, the kids are listening. How they interpret and act upon what they hear is, ultimately, up to them. So to put a person like Ms. Charlestin, as professional, realistic, determined and experienced as she is, into such a highly charged situation, which quite possibly no one else wanted, is doing Ms. Charlestin an insult

and a harm, personally and professionally.

"Within the first week of the new job, I reviewed the Code of Conduct and suspected many students would not respond well to its punitive nature," she continues. No surprise there. Undoubtedly the hiring committee patted themselves on the back for modeling diversity and equity in hiring. But only a

hiring body with a totally tin ear for implicit racism, or in denial, despite all the talk, could not foresee the outcome.

It is time for white "progressives" to look in the mirror. Stop looking to BIPOC individuals and groups to fix our wagon. With all we know historically, we should know better by now.

Julia Purdy, Rutland

← Right to education:
from page 15

exists in the Vermont Legislature a sufficient number of legislators who support private schools and a well-funded lobbying effort to thwart any change in those rules.

A recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court requires states that pay tax dollars to private schools for educating the children in their state, must also remit those tax dollars to religious schools. This decision exacerbates the lack of tax dollars to fund public schools and contributes to the crippling of our public school students.

There has been a lot of conversation and lobbying to fund preschools. Unfortunately, the well-funded preschool lobbying effort has succeeded in securing significant new funding for a preschool system that favors families of means. Children of families that have the ability

to pay the difference between the voucher and the cost of the preschool and the ability to transport their children to and from the preschool at odd hours will have the full benefit of the preschool experience while children in poverty will enter kindergarten even further behind.

It is not a surprise that the educational gap between the children of families of means and those who live in poverty has grown. The gap has always been there primarily because families of means, by definition, have the ability to give their children educational opportunities at every turn in their young lives. Once behind, it takes twice the effort to catch up. It's yet to be seen if Vermont has the courage and ability to do the work necessary to truly give all children the benefit of a quality education.

← Farmed Animal Day:

from page 15

to your dietary footprint.”². The new research showed that vegan or plant-based diets resulted in 75% less climate-heating emissions, water pollution and land use than diets in which more than 100g of meat a day was eaten. Vegan diets also cut the destruction of wildlife by 66% and water use by 54%, the study found.³ The Oxford University study is the first to pinpoint the difference high- and low-meat

diets have on greenhouse gas emissions. It is the latest research to suggest that a wholesale shift away from animal products is critical to meeting Paris Agreement targets of keeping global temperatures below a 1.5°C rise over pre-industrial levels.

As we come to terms with climate change, pandemics, and economic instability, prioritizing and investing in plant-based

and alternative protein sectors is not just an option -- it's a necessity. We are all experiencing the catastrophic effects of climate change at an alarming pace and scale, but changing what's on our plates is an easy and impactful way to be part of the solution.

Please visit dayforanimals.com for more information.

Lucy Goodrum,
Reading

← Broadband:

from page 7

The state is counting on private telecommunications providers to upgrade all the homes that already have cable. For the largely rural regions of the state without access to high-speed internet, Vermont is relying on a strategy of allowing municipalities to band together into communications union districts to build out fiber optic service.

Vermont will prioritize affordability, according to Lucy Rogers, rural broadband technical assistance specialist at the Vermont Community Broadband Board. She said affordability includes the cost of a monthly internet plan but also factors in how much revenue providers would be willing to reinvest to make service more affordable and how building in one area might affect affordability in adjacent areas.

“It's easy to make the internet affordable in densely populated areas,” said Rogers, a former state representative.

Other criteria for how the broadband board proposes to award contracts include how efficiently they would use the federal funds; whether they would meet fair labor standards; whether projects reflect community will and community input; whether they would be built in coordination with local government and regional planning commissions; whether they would promote equitable workforce development; and whether they would build climate-resilient infrastructure.

Vermont expects to get the federal money next year, according to Rogers. Under the federal guidelines, Vermont and every other state must complete deploying broadband by 2028.

“Of course we're going to try to get everybody connected as quick as possible, but we don't control the timeline for when the federal government gives us funds,” said Robert Fish, deputy director of the broadband board.

In a sense, this new influx of federal money could delay when Vermont provides fast internet to everyone.

“In a lot of ways, the earlier federal funds that came through the coronavirus, through CARES and ARPA, were much more flexible,” said Robert Vitzke, execu-

tive director of the Vermont Communications Union District Association, referring to the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. “The state was able to put them directly in use.”

Vitzke called the earlier federal funds a “perfect match” between the federal funding coming in and the program that the state had created.

The federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program was created for states that, unlike Vermont, had no broadband plan, Vitzke said, and yet \$229 million has been designated for Vermont, money the state wants to take advantage of.

“This is the big pot of money,” said Vitzke, but it comes with an onerous process that will take time.

Fish argued that Vermont is still well ahead of schedule, and pointed to the progress the CUDs have made:

Southern Vermont CUD, in Bennington County, is expected to have connected all but a dozen or so addresses by this fall.

ECFiber expects to connect everyone in its coverage area of the Upper Valley and central Vermont by next summer.

Lamoille FiberNet, in Lamoille County, and Otter Creek CUD in Rutland County are on track to be more than three-quarters of the way to completion by the end of next year.

NEK Broadband has secured additional federal funds through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ReConnect program and is connecting hundreds of customers in the Northeast Kingdom.

Maple Broadband in Addison County, DVFiber in the Deerfield Valley and CVFiber in central Vermont are all in construction and have connected their first customers.

Northwest Fiberworks is expected to begin construction in Franklin, Grand Isle and Chittenden counties in the spring.

Anyone wishing to weigh in on the state's draft plan can email comments to vcbb.info@vermont.gov, write to VCBB, 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620, or call 800-622-4496 by Oct. 15.



By Karen D. Lorentz

Panelists pictured (l-r): Crystal Baldwin, outreach coordinator with the Attorney General's Office, and DFR officials: Katie Humphrey, Sheri Rockcastle, Joe Canavan. Philip Latvis is standing at the podium.

← Scams:

from page 3

is a good strategy because AI makes it possible for the imposter to imitate the voice of the person they're pretending to be, thus easily fooling you to send money right away.

Having a trusted person with whom one can discuss a money request — whether for an emergency or investment — is a good way to prevent a mistake. If someone does wire money and then realizes it was a scam, an ACH transfer may be able to be stopped (money recovered) within 72 hours so fast reporting is necessary.

Identity theft occurs when thieves steal your personal information — social security number, birth date, credit card or bank account numbers, or medical information. The fraudsters can then use your identity to pay bills, obtain loans, open new accounts, or empty your bank accounts.

To protect against identity theft, check credit reports, credit card bills, medical and bank statements frequently; and if you don't recognize charges or medical treatments, get more information. Prevention includes requesting fraud alerts and freezing one's credit reports at the three credit agencies so no one can take out a mortgage or loan in your name. Obtain a free copy of your credit report at annualcreditreport.com.

If you think you've been a victim of identity theft, you can get help with steps to take by calling Vermont's Consumer Assistance Program (800-649-2424) or visiting Ago.Vermont.gov/cap.

Investment frauds require people to be wary of high return and minimal risk promises. Joe Canavan, a securities officer with DFR, explained that 'confidence men' work to gain your trust. They may be a stranger or an influential person you know as was the case of those who trusted Bernie Madoff. The “pig butchering” tactic engages a person so they trust the fraudster and invest. Then a return of some money causes a victim to invest more — they've “fattened the pig” as the victim loses a larger amount.

To prevent this situation, check credentials to see if they are a registered investment broker and if there are any complaints against them (finra.org or hotline 800-289-9999). Check an investment firm's registration with the Secretary of State. Never volunteer financial information, learn to say no, and report scams to authorities, the panelists advised.

For help with investment scams, contact the DFR asap: 833-337-4685 or 802-828-3307. (<https://dfv.vermont.gov/consumers/file-complaint/banking>). Report to the Federal Trade Commission 1-877-382-4357 (ReportFraud.ftc.gov) and to the FBI.

Learn more about these and other scams—like charity scams or cryptocurrency frauds that are hard to trace—at the AARP website aarp.org/fraud. The AARP Fraud Watch Network™ is a free resource for all and offers free emailed (fraud) Watchdog Alerts. Get help or report scams by calling 877-908-3360 or visiting aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

← Governance:

from page 14

found to be narcissistic, impulsive, dominating, risk-taking and controlling.

He has promoted conspiracy theories and made many false and misleading statements during his campaigns and presidency. Many of his comments and actions have been characterized as racially charged or racist and many as misogynistic.

He has consistently approved of some of the world's most dangerous autocratic leaders, like Putin of Russia, Xi Jinping of China, Erdogan of Turkey, and Orban of Hungary.

What we have seen of Trump as a leader can be characterized as self-centered, wildly impulsive, deprecating, and uncontrolled. He also comes across as racist, anti-immigrant, completely unprepared to tell the truth, and anti-free trade.

In terms of his approach to any past or present job, it is clear from what he has said that, once elected again as President, Trump would use his executive power to effect as many of his desired changes as possible. What this clearly means is that a new Trump presidency will bring autocratic changes to this country, trashing all thoughts of preserving any vestiges of the democracy that has served us so well throughout our long history.

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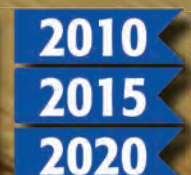
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WORDPLAY

CHIROPRACTIC WORD SEARCH: Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

- ACTIVATOR
- BONES
- DIAGNOSIS
- JOINT
- NECK
- SPINAL
- ADJUSTMENT
- CERVICAL
- DISC
- LUMBAR
- NERVES
- STIMULATION
- ARTICULATE
- CHIROPRACTIC
- FLEXORS
- MANIPULATION
- PAINFUL
- SUBLUXATION
- ATLAS
- COCCYX
- HANDS
- MASSAGE
- SACRUM
- VERTEBRAE

SUDOKU

Solutions →29

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Illinois on October 6, 1976. I trained at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and with the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre comedy troupe. I've been on a number of shows, including "Fleabag" and "Stranger Things."

Answer: Brett Gelman

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →29

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Flat tableland with steep edges
 5. Byproduct of fire
 10. Talked
 12. Unique skill
 14. Unembarrassed
 16. Where teenagers go
 18. Boxing's GOAT
 19. Used to anoint
 20. Reproductive structure found in rust fungi
 22. Auburn great Newton
 23. Some are for Christmas
 25. Dried, split pulses
 26. Self
 27. Where to get your mail
 28. High schoolers' test
 30. Flightless bird
 31. Expectorated
 33. Practice of misrepresenting the truth
 35. Type of patch
 37. French river
 38. Told on
 40. Hillside
 41. Peyton's little brother
 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
 44. Progressive country musician
 45. Witness
 48. Brews
 50. Yellowish-brown

52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
 53. Mexican agave
 55. Type of "cast"
 56. Popular breakfast food
 57. Atomic #52
 58. Position north or south of the equator
 63. Gadget
 65. Another recording
 66. Irregular bulges in cell membranes
 67. Dark brown
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Licensed for Wall Street
 2. Partner to flow
 3. A very large body of water
 4. Accumulate on the surface of
 5. Central cores of stems
 6. Angry
 7. Spanish stew: ___ podrida
 8. Fastened with a pin
 9. On your way: ___ route
 10. Soviet labor camp system
 11. Enmities
 13. B complex vitamin
 15. Go quickly
 17. Toast
 18. A team's best pitcher

		1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9			
		10	11					12					13	
		14					15						16	17
18						19			20		21			
22					23				24		25			
26					27				28		29		30	
			31	32					33		34			
35	36								37					
38						39			40					
41				42		43		44				45	46	47
48			49		50		51					52		
53				54		55						56		
57			58		59				60	61	62			
	63	64						65						
			66					67						

21. Philly culinary specialty
23. Small child
24. Unhappy
27. Trims away
29. Full of tears
32. Touch softly
34. Former OSS
35. A person's chest
36. Came from behind
39. Fall back
40. Nellie ___, journalist
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Weather
46. Sports broadcaster lan
47. Electroencephalograph
49. Phenyl salicylate
51. Web of Things
54. Ship goods as cargo
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. Young female
61. OJ trial judge
62. One's grandmother
64. West Siberian river

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WEDNESDAY

10/4

Early Literacy Playgroup

10 a.m.-Noon. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. For 2-to-5-year-olds. Join RCPCC's Miss Allie, a certified teacher, for a weekly literacy-based playgroup at the Rutland Free Library's Fox Room. Light snacks will be provided, along with crafts, songs, games, and more! To register, email allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Vermont Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Depot Park, Evelyn St., downtown Rutland through October. Free to browse. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, and the first to operate year round. 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.

Fall Storytime for 5-and-under

10:30-11:15 a.m. (Wednesdays through Nov.15) Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow. Story Time is a wonderful weekly routine to establish with your young child. Each week focuses on early literacy activities, stories, songs and ends with a craft or science exploration. It is a great opportunity for your child to socialize and meet new friends and for adult caregivers to connect. Info: fmlnews.org/youth.

Market on the Green

3-6 p.m. On The Green, Woodstock. Free to browse. Local produce, crafts, and music take over the town center. Info: woodstockvt.com. (Last market of the season is October 13.)

Cribbage!

3-5 p.m. Meeting room, Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Group for adult cribbage players. Info: hartlandlibraryvt.org

Jewelry Making (ages 9 and up)

3:45-4:45 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. For details visit: sherburnelibrary.org.

Tales to Tails: Kids Reading to Dogs

5-6 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Join some of our favorite therapy dogs in the Children's Room to practice your reading. Perfect for beginning readers, there is no better audience to practice on. Info: rutlandfree.org

Jethro Tull's own Martin Barre, 'A Brief History of Tull' Tour

7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St, Rutland. \$40-\$55. The show will feature a special visual presentation that, together with the music, highlights the 50 years of Jethro Tull musical career. Info: paramountvt.org.

**THURSDAY**

10/5

Storytime! at Rutland Free Library

10-11 a.m. (Weekly except Thanksgiving Thursday.) 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 toward ages 2-5. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. 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. Free. 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.

Ukulele Group

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

Farmers' Market Fair Haven

3-6 p.m. Village Green, Fair Haven. Free to browse. The Fair Haven market boasts a variety of seasonal produce, flowers and herbs, dairy, maple products, tasty foods prepared by local chefs, fun crafts, and much more. Info: vtfarmersmarket.org. (Last day is Thursday, Oct. 12.)

Fall Rummage Sale, Day 1

6 p.m.-9 p.m. Grace Congregational UCC, 8 Court St, Rutland. Free to browse. Enter Fellowship Hall from Center Street. Limited parking available, or free parking on Center Street. Bring your own bags. Info: gracechurchvt.org.

Open Mic Night at Artistree

7-9 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd, South Pomfret. Free. (Every other Thursday Oct. 5-Dec. 14.) Join our relaxed, supportive, and fun atmosphere and show off your musical stuff. All levels and abilities are welcome to participate in the open mic experience. Come alone or with a group. Come to play or just to watch. Info: artistreevt.org.

FRIDAY

10/6

Bear and Friends Sleepover

All day until 5 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. This is a drop-off event for stuffed animals. Drop your stuffed animal off at the library on Friday. Pick-up is from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 7. Each stuffer will go home with a goody bag and memories to share. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Murder Mystery Weekend

A two-day event (10/6 and 10/7) at Echo Lake Inn, 2 Dublin Road, Ludlow. \$499. For the first time in Okemo Valley, Echo Lake Inn is hosting a Keith & Margo's Murder Mystery Weekend. Since 1985, they have been offering these thrilling opportunities to play detective, discover clues and solve a mystery. Info: murdermystery.com. Register at echolakeinn.com.

KSC/KMS Golf Tournament

9 a.m. Killington Golf Course, 227 East Mountain Road, Killington. \$125 contribution per player. Tee it up for a fun-filled round with KSC Club members, KMS students, alumni, friends, supporters and community members. 18 holes - scramble format - cart & BBQ lunch. Post-tournament reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Info: killingtonmountainschool.org/golf.

Fall Rummage Sale, Day 2

9 a.m.-noon. Grace Congregational UCC, 8 Court St, Rutland. Enter Fellowship Hall from Center Street. Limited parking available, or free parking on Center Street. Bring your own bags. Info: gracechurchvt.org.

Brandon Farmers' Market

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Central Park, Brandon. Free to browse. Locally made produce, goods, and crafts. Last day, Oct. 27. Info: brandonfarmersmarketvt.com/about.

Weston Craft Show, Day 1

10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Weston Theater's Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston. Admission: \$10 good for all three days. Under 16 free. Come shop your favorite Vermont artists while helping to raise money to repair the Weston Playhouse and help preserve other historic buildings of the Weston Historical Society & Museums. Info: westoncraftshow.com.

Artery at Chaffee Art Center

10am-noon. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$10-\$20. Weekly adult group for connection and inspiration. A time and place to create with others. Painting in all mediums welcome. No set topic or instructor, attendees will work on their individual artwork. When possible, will include 30-minute focus on technique with rotating artists. Must pre-register. Info and registration: chaffeeartcenter.org.

Vintage Market Days of Vermont

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 So. Main St., Rutland. \$15. An upscale vintage-inspired indoor/outdoor market featuring original art, antiques, clothing, jewelry, handmade treasures, home décor, outdoor furnishings, consumable yummys, seasonal plantings and a little more. Info: vintagemarketdays.com.

Story Time at the Library

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

Story Hour

11 a.m. Shrewsbury Library. Free. Babies to 7-8-year-olds. Have fun in the fall with stories. Info: shrewsburylibrary.org.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) lecture

1:30 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$8. Former Vermont Governor Jim Douglas will speak on "Vermont, Small State with a Big Influence." Preregister at learn.uvm.edu/olli/rutland, or call 802-656-5817.

Killington Ski Club Monster Ski & Bike Sale, Day 1

5-8 p.m. Ramshead Base Lodge, Killington Ski Resort. Free to browse. Get deals on new and used ski & snowboard equipment, along with a great selection of street & mountain bikes. Many local shops will be participating. Info: killingtonskiclub.com.

Haunted Hayride

7 p.m. Windy Acres Farm, 2204 Old Turnpike Road, Mount Holly. \$5-\$10. Join Mount Holly volunteer fire department for its annual Haunted Hayride. Tickets on sale from 6:30-9 p.m. Refreshments available and fire to stay warm around. Info: facebook.com/MHVFDD.

SATURDAY

10/7

Killington Ski Club Monster Ski & Bike Sale, Day 2

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Ramshead Base Lodge, Killington Ski Resort. Free to browse. Get deals on new and used ski and snowboard equipment, along with a great selection of street and mountain bikes. Many local shops will be participating. Info: killingtonskiclub.com.

Spring Brook Farm Annual Open House

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Spring Brook Farm, 734 Caper Hill Road, Reading. Free. Family event featuring a BBQ, wagonrides, kids' crafts and games, face painting, baby animal petting zoo, and much more. Rain or shine. Info: yourplaceinvermont.com.

Weston Craft Show, Day 2

10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Weston Theater's Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston. Admission: \$10 good for all three days. Under 16 free. Come shop your favorite Vermont artists while helping to raise money to repair the Weston Playhouse and help preserve other historic buildings of the Weston Historical Society & Museums. Info: westoncraftshow.com.

Harvest Celebration

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Included in admission to the farm. Activities, food, and fun for the whole family. This two-day harvest celebration will feature traditional barn dancing, live music, pumpkin bowling, crafts, stories, wagonrides through the pastures. Come husk and shell corn, harvest sunflower seeds for next year's garden, and press apples into delicious cider. Guests can help gather ripe produce in the Farmstead Gardens, learn all about the varieties of apples in Vermont, and sample the sweet and savory combination of apples and Billings Farm cheddar cheeses. Info: billingsfarm.org.

Mount Holly Cider Days

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Belmont Village Green, 7 Maple Hill Road, Belmont. Free to browse. Celebrate the fall harvest with apple cider-making and craft vendors. Cider Days is a festive day featuring an 100-year-old cider press still working to produce cider. Vendors fill the Belmont Village Green with their crafts, food and fall produce. There is a photo contest, book sale, and a roast beef supper. The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum is also open throughout the weekend. Proceeds benefit historic preservation. Info visit: yourplaceinvermont.com.

Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 20

Eighth Annual 'Christmas Under the Tent' Sale

10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Chester Andover Family Center, 908 Route 103 S, Chester. Free to browse. Holiday items for decorating, entertaining and giving will be available. After shopping, enjoy a free hot dog lunch as a "thank you" to our CAFG loyal shoppers and guests. Info: website at chester-andoverfamilycenter.org or follow us on FaceBook.

Chaffee Art Center's 62nd Annual Art in the Park Fall Foliage Festival, Day 1

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Rutland's Main Street Park at the junction of routes 4 & 7. Free to browse; donations appreciated. Food vendors, live music, free kids' activities, and demonstrations of works in progress. Unique handicrafts from handmade apparel to wood and herbal products, stained glass to jewelry, and fine arts from paintings to photography, and everything in between. Along with the food vendors, there will be apple pie sundaes, cotton candy, ice cream floats, kettle corn, kettle fudge and roasted nuts. Live music will be performed all day on Saturday and Sunday featuring Caber Wilson, Dirty Red Hearts, James Cram, Breanna Elaine, and Jamie Snook. Back again this year are Chaffee Bucks tokens that will be given away randomly at the gates throughout both days and can be spent during the festival weekend at any booth in the park. Info: chaffeeartcenter.org.

Wellwood Orchards Car Show

10 am to 3:30 pm. Wellwood Orchards, 529 Wellwood Orchard Road, Springfield. Free for spectators. Trophies awarded for best in each category: Classic, Trucks, Hot Rod, Rat Rod & Motorcycle. Food, deejay, petting zoo, country store, and their famous apple cider donuts! Call Walter at 603-209-2940 to enter your vehicle. (Rain date, Sunday Oct. 8). Info: yourplaceinvermont.com.

Vermont Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Depot Park, Evelyn St., downtown Rutland through October. Free to browse. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, and the first to operate year round. 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.

That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$85. We'll greet you with a warm welcome at our mountain top retreat. Award-winning Chef Ted will lead a hands-on pizza and calzone making class. Info: odyseeyeventsvt.com.

Harvest Faire

10 a.m. Killington Resort - Snowshed Base Area, 3861 Killington Rd. Killington. Free. Children's activities including pumpkin painting, horse-drawn hayrides, apple launching, face painting, and a bouncey house. Participants in apple launching will have a chance to win lift tickets for the upcoming winter season. Axe throwing and the crowd favorite stein hoisting competition will return. Each participant will receive a souvenir Killington mug, while the winners from both the men's and women's divisions will take home the grand prize. SP4 will perform live music will play outside during the afternoon.

Vintage Market Days of Vermont

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 So. Main St., Rutland. \$10. An upscale vintage-inspired indoor/outdoor market featuring original art, antiques, clothing, jewelry, handmade treasures, home décor, outdoor furnishings, seasonal plantings and a little more. Info: vintagemarketdays.com.

Make & Take Saturday Kids' Class for Ages 6-12

10:30-11:30 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$15. Weekly fun activity featuring arts and crafts. Minimum required: 5 students. Must pre-register. Info: chaffeeartcenter.org.

Ludlow Rotary Club 32nd Annual Chili Cook-off

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Depot St., Ludlow. Free to attend. The cook-off will be located at the traffic light on Depot Street. Proceeds will benefit the Ludlow Rotary Charitable Fund to enable the LRC to continue its programs of local support. \$20 to enter; over 20 entrants will compete for the various awards offered by the cook-off. Cash prizes will be awarded. Sample a wide variety of chilis and enjoy great local cider and Vermont ice cream. For more info, contact Kevin Barnes at 802-558-0479 or ludlowrotary@gmail.com.

Ludlow Skatepark Grand Reopening

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Dorsey Park, 41 Andover St., Ludlow. Free. The grand re-opening of the skatepark will be celebrated with live music, fresh BBQ, give-a-ways, and competitions. Info: yourplaceinvermont.com.

Rutland Railroad Museum & Model Club

11 a.m.-3 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.

Capitol Fools

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$35-\$45. The Capitol Fools hold up a mirror to our crazy political culture, providing song parodies and foolish reflections that continue to inspire belly-laughs. Cast members from past seasons of the Capitol Steps will perform all the favorites, the mind-boggling backward-talking spoonerisms, break-neck costume changes, over-the-top impressions, and all-new song parodies reflecting the day's news. Info: paramountvt.org.

'Vanish: Disappearing Icons of a Rural America'

7:30-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. \$15. "Vanish" chronicles the adventures of fine art photographer, Jim Westphalen, as he traveled across the country seeking out and creating stunning imagery of America's disappearing rural structures. Equal parts art, history and seat-of-the-pants storm chasing, road-trip with Westphalen as he races against time and the unrelenting elements to capture the extraordinary beauty of aging barns, one-room schoolhouses, grain elevators, prairie churches and all the classic structures that our country's rural heritage was built upon. Info: pentanglearts.org.

SUNDAY
10/8

Vintage Market Days of Vermont

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 So. Main St., Rutland. \$10. An upscale vintage-inspired indoor/outdoor market featuring original art, antiques, clothing, jewelry, handmade treasures, home décor, outdoor furnishings, seasonal plantings and a little more. Info: vintagemarketdays.com.

The Plymouth Annual Townwide Tag Sale

9 a.m.-6 p.m. The Plymouth Community Center, 35 School Drive, Plymouth. Free to browse. Open to all Plymouth residents and those in adjoining communities. For more information contact Lauren Skaskiw-Harootunian at 802-417-6895 to sign up and learn more.

Killington Ski Club Monster Ski & Bike Sale

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Ramshead Base Lodge, Killington Ski Resort. Free to browse. Get deals on new and used ski and snowboard equipment, along with a great selection of street and mountain bikes. Many local shops will be participating. Info: killingtonskiclub.com.

Weston Craft Show

10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Weston Theater's Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston. Admission \$10 good for all three days. Under 16 free. Come shop your favorite Vermont artists while helping to raise money to repair the Weston Playhouse and help preserve other historic buildings of the Weston Historical Society & Museums. Info: westoncraftshow.com.

Harvest Celebration

10 a.m-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Included in price of admission. Activities, food, and fun for the whole family. Participate in traditional barn dancing, live music, pumpkin bowling, crafts, stories, and wagonrides through the pastures. Husk and shell corn, harvest sunflower seeds for next year's garden, and press apples into delicious cider. Guests can help gather ripe produce in the Farmstead Gardens, learn all about the varieties of apples in Vermont, and sample the sweet and savory combination of apples and Billings Farm cheddar cheeses. Info: billingsfarm.org.

Chaffee Art Center's 62nd Annual Art in the Park Fall Foliage Festival, Day 2

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Rutland's Main Street Park at the junction of routes 4 & 7. Free to browse; donations appreciated. Food vendors, live music, free kids' activities, and demonstrations of works in progress. Unique handicrafts from handmade apparel to wood and herbal products, stained glass to jewelry, and fine arts from paintings to photography, and everything in between. Along with the food vendors, there will be apple pie sundaes, cotton candy, ice cream floats, kettle corn, kettle fudge and roasted nuts. Live music will be performed all day on Saturday and Sunday featuring Caber Wilson, Dirty Red Hearts, James Cram, Breanna Elaine, and Jamie Snook. Back again this year are Chaffee Bucks tokens that will be given away randomly at the gates throughout both days and can be spent during the festival weekend at any booth in the park. Info: chaffeeartcenter.org.

Fall Into Winter Celebration

Noon-5 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard, Okemo Ski Resort, Ludlow. Free. A seasonal celebration featuring hayrides, live music, axe throwing, craft beer, face painting, live music, local vendors, fall activities and more. Comedian-ventriloquist Al Getler will also perform. He brings his sharp wit and skill for a show filled with laughs for audiences of all ages. Info: okemo.com.



Middletown Springs Historical Society Museum

Open House

2-4 p.m. The Middletown Springs Historical Society Museum, 10 Park Avenue. Free. A dramatic reading of excerpts from the 1907 childhood diaries of sisters Lucy and Hazel Grover. A gallery talk about the new exhibit, Childhood in Middletown Springs 1850-1920, follows the reading. Refreshments will be provided. Info: mshsvt.org.

Choral concert—'Eternal Brightness'

4 p.m. Grace Congregational UCC, 8 Court St., Rutland. A freewill offering will be accepted to benefit Companions in Wholeness. The concert is offered by professional musicians from the Rutland area and will include a performance of Gwyneth Walker's song cycle, "Eternal Brightness," by the Grace Church Sanctuary Choir. Info: gracechurchvt.org.

Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$85. Learn how to make three different types of pasta: tortellini, fettuccini, and ravioli plus three different fillings and three accompanying sauces. Info: odyseeyeventsvt.com.

MONDAY
10/9

Babies and Toddlers Rock

10-10:30 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. Rutland. Free. A music and pre-literacy program for children 0-24 months. Children and caregivers love this program, join us and see why. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. For additional information call the library at 802-422-9765.

Art Bar Open Craft Time!

3:30-4:30 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Craft supplies galore, work on any project you want! Browse our craft books for ideas. We'll occasionally provide a specific craft or have special supplies available. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Poetry Group

4-5:30 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. You are invited to join the poetry group at NWPL for sharing and critique. Info: normanwilliams.org.

TUESDAY

10/10

Bird & Wildflower Walks in Wells

7:30-10:30 a.m. Free. Meet at the Delaney Woods parking area (enter E. Delaney Cross Road off North Street in Wells, across from the Lakeside Park. Join Slate Valley Trails and the Rutland County Audubon Society for weekly walks in the Poultney area, on the trails of the SVT system. The walks are at a slow pace (3-4 miles, 3-4 hour) with lots of opportunities for observing and photographing. Info: slatevalleytrails.org.

Needlepoint Get-Togethers

10 a.m.-Noon. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Welcoming needleworkers at all levels. Bring your work-in-progress, needles, and threads or yarns, for a morning of sharing and encouragement. Info: normanwilliams.org.

Storytime at Hartland Public Library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. We'll read books, color, play with Legos, and have fun. Each week we'll explore different themes in books. Recommended for ages 0-5 but all are welcome. All books read during story time count toward 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Info: hartlandlibraryvt.org.

Springfield Area Parent Child Center Playgroup

10:30 - a.m.-Noon. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow. Free. Ages birth to 6. Playgroups provide parents and children with opportunities to socialize, learn and have fun in a safe environment lead by parent-child center specialist. Info: fmlnews.org.

Baby Story Time

10:30-11 a.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. This story time features short stories, interspersed with songs, finger puppet plays, free play, and more. It is geared for children ages birth to 20 months and will run for about 20 minutes. Info: normanwilliams.org.

Stories on a String

10-10:30 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Join Ms. Helen of Green Mountain Music for interactive storytelling and songs for all ages! No registration is required, free to all. Geared for ages 2 and up. Info: rutlandfree.org.

Cooking Class: Create Top-notch Veggie Dishes

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.

Swing Dance Class

6:30-8 p.m. Fox Room Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. East Coast swing dancing. Move to music with Richard and Sue Good for beginners and intermediate swing dancers. Richard starts each class with instruction on steps; the rest is the dancing.



Courtesy Killington Ski Resort

Killington will celebrate the change of season with their harvest fair at Snowshed Base Lodge this Saturday. Throughout the day, there will be fun-filled activities for the entire family including pumpkin painting, horse-drawn hayrides, apple launching, face painting, & a bouncy house, ax throwing, food, live music and more.

This Saturday's harvest faire at Killington Resort has something for the kids and the kids at heart

Saturday, Oct. 7 at 10 a.m.—KILLINGTON—This Saturday, Killington Ski Resort will celebrate fall with a family friendly harvest fair at Snowshed Base Lodge. Throughout the day, there will be free children's activities including pumpkin painting, horse-drawn hayrides, apple launching, face painting, & a bouncy house. Participants of apple launching will have a chance to win lift tickets for the upcoming winter season. For the big kids at heart, there will be a station for ax throwing, courtesy of BurlyAxe (18+ only). Additionally, the crowd favorite stein hoisting competition will return once again. Each participant will receive a souvenir Killington mug, while the winners from both the men's and women's divisions will take home the grand prize. Sign ups for stein hoisting will take place during the event and are first come, first served! Live music will be playing outside during the afternoon from SP4 performing a song catalog spanning the genres of Funk, R&B, Jazz, Yacht Rock; with catchy sing-a-longs & groovy instrumentals. Admission for all Harvest Faire activities is free. For more information, visit: Killington.com.

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[MUSIC Scene]

By DJ Dave Hoffenberg
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WED 10/4

LONDONDERRY
6 p.m. New American Grill – Sammy B

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

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

RUTLAND
5:30 p.m. Strangefellows Pub – Ryan Fuller

THURS 10/5

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS
5 p.m. Long Trail Brewing – Nick Redice

KILLINGTON
5 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

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

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

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

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

RUTLAND
6 p.m. Strangefellows Pub – Trivia Night

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

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

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

FRI 10/6

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

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Liz Reedy

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

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Curragh's Fancy

LUDLOW
6 p.m. Calcuttas – Satin & Steel

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

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

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Duane Carleton

RANDOLPH
7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Western Terrestrials and Danny & The Parts

RUTLAND
9 a.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds - Vintage Market Days of Vermont with Rutland's Least Wanted

STOCKBRIDGE
7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Heather Lynne

SAT 10/7

BELMONT
10 a.m. Village Green – Cider Days

BRIDGEWATER
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Maine Invades VT Part Deux

KILLINGTON
10 a.m. Snowshed Base Area – Harvest Faire with music by SP4

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

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Liz Reedy

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Curragh's Fancy

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Radio Stranger

LUDLOW
6 p.m. Calcuttas – Aaron Audet

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Rhys Chalmers & Bob Kennedy

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

RUTLAND
9 a.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds - Vintage Market Days of Vermont with Rutland's Least Wanted

10 a.m. Main Street Park - 62nd Annual Art in the Park Fall Foliage Festival

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

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

SUN 10/8

BRANDON
1 p.m. Estabrook Park – Harvest Festival

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS
3 p.m. Long Trail Brewing – Nick Redice

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

KILLINGTON
12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with James Joel

5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia Night

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Jim Yeager

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

LUDLOW
12 p.m. Okemo's Jackson Gore Courtyard – Fall into Winter Seasonal Celebration

8 p.m. Off the Rails – Red Daisy Revival

RUTLAND
10 a.m. Main Street Park - 62nd Annual Art in the Park Fall Foliage Festival

4 p.m. Grace Church – Snow Angel: A Concert to benefit Companion in Wholeness

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

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

MON 10/9

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

6 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 10/10

KILLINGTON
5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – Mountain Music with Bow Thayer & Krishna Guthrie

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

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

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

PITTSFIELD
7 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Music Jam

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

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



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8:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Acoustic Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave

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Chaffee Art Center's annual Art in the Park Festival: Celebrating creativity and community

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 7-8—RUTLAND—The Chaffee Art Center is set to host its 62nd annual Art in the Park fall foliage festival on Oct. 7 and 8 at Rutland's Main Street Park, located at the southwest corner of the intersection of routes 4 and 7. This highly anticipated event brings together juried fine artists, craftspeople, specialty food producers and a vibrant array of activities for all ages.

The festival promises a diverse showcase of handcrafted art and fine creations available for purchase. Art lovers will see an array of oil paintings, watercolors, acrylics, and photographs, capturing the essence of visual artistry. Craft enthusiasts will find keepsake-worthy treasures too. Again this year, Chaffee Bucks tokens will be given out randomly at the gates throughout both days and can be spent during

the festival weekend at any booth in the park.

Food connoisseurs will be in for a treat with an array of delectable options from apple pie sundaes to cotton candy, kettle corn to kettle fudge and an enticing range of sweet delights.

Live music will fill the air throughout both days, featuring talented artists like Caber Wilson, Dirty Red Hearts, James Cram, Breanna Elaine, and Jamie Snook. In addition to the art and music, the festival offers a range of free kids' activities as well as demonstrations.

Volunteers still needed

Volunteers play a crucial role in ensuring the success of the event. From set-up to assisting at the gates and tear-down, their dedication is invaluable.

Those interested in lending a hand can reach out via email to info@chaffeeartcenter.org or call 802-775-0356.

Then & Now exhibit

As part of the event, the Chaffee Art Center is hosting an exhibit titled "Then & Now." This special feature pays tribute to individuals and businesses that have made significant contributions to their communities, Vermont, and beyond. Among the highlights are Ann Clark Ltd., PegTV (celebrating its 30th anniversary), and Vermont Country Store.

The exhibit will run until Oct. 28.

For more information about Art in the Park or Chaffee exhibits, visit: chaffeeartcenter.org or email: info@chaffeeartcenter.org or call: 802-775-0356.



Photos courtesy Chaffee Art Center

Festival-goers browse the many options available at a past Art in the Park fall foliage festival. The festival returns on Oct. 7 and 8 at Rutland's Main Street Park.

Killington ski and bike swap is a monster of a sale

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 6-8—KILLINGTON—The 2023 Killington Ski Club Monster Ski & Bike Sale is happening at the RamsHead Base Lodge on Oct. 6-8. If you plan to sell your ski or snowboard equipment at the KSC Monster Ski & Bike sale, you'll need to go through the consignment registration process. Consignment registration and drop-off days are scheduled for Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 30-Oct. 1 and Oct. 5-7. These dates and times have been carefully selected to ensure a smooth process for both sellers and buyers.

Not accepted

- Torn, faded, old, or stained clothes (no street clothes)
 - Long straight skis (non-DIN bindings)
 - Ski boots with worn heel and toes
 - Items priced under \$5
 - Used accessory items such as gloves, goggles, long underwear, hats, helmets, etc.
- The goal is to provide customers with dependable, high-quality equipment. By adher-

ing to these guidelines, a successful ski swap experience for everyone involved is guaranteed.

The ultimate ski swap experience

The 2023 KSC Monster Ski & Bike Sale offers the perfect opportunity to find the perfect gear at unbeatable prices. Whether you're a seasoned skier looking to upgrade your equipment or a beginner in need of affordable options, this ski swap is the place to be.

Not only is the ski swap a great opportunity to buy, but it's also a chance to sell unused gear and make some money. With a commission rate of 25%, you'll receive 75% of the sale price for your items. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved.

The ski swap is a chance to connect with fellow ski enthusiasts, share stories, and learn from each other. The sense of community and camaraderie at the ski swap is what makes it truly special.

For more information, visit killingtonskiclub.com.



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Courtesy Martin Barre

Martin Barre of Jethro Tull

Martin Barre: A journey through 50 years of Jethro Tull — A Brief History of Tull Tour

Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m.—RUTLAND—In 1969, a quartet of British musicians touched down in New York City and ignited a musical revolution that would resonate across America. Over the subsequent half-century, this iconic ensemble amassed a staggering 65 million record sales and fostered a devoted global fanbase that remains the

envy of rock bands worldwide.

This legendary group was none other than Jethro Tull.

At the heart of Tull's distinctive sound lies the virtuosic guitar work of Martin Barre, celebrated for his command of historic riffs, commanding power chords, and transcendent melodic solos. "A Musical Odyssey: Martin Barre" embarks on a captivating journey

through the decades-long saga of Jethro Tull in his enthralling new show, "A Brief History of Tull."

This performance will include a special visual presentation that illuminates the glorious 50-year musical odyssey of Jethro Tull.

Timeless hits and albums

Audiences can anticipate the electrifying renditions of classic Tull hits throughout this interactive

spectacle. Expect to be transported by songs hailing from the iconic albums like "Thick As A Brick," "Aqualung," "Stand Up," "Songs From The Wood," "A Passion Play," "Heavy Horses," and more.

A stellar lineup

Joining Martin Barre on stage will be his remarkable touring ensemble, featuring the distinctive vocals of Dan Crisp, the rhythmic founda-

tion of Alan Thomson on bass, and the dynamic beats of Darby Todd on drums. Together, they promise an unforgettable experience.

This is a chance to be part of Martin Barre's extraordinary tribute to the legacy of Jethro Tull. It'll be an evening that celebrates five decades of unforgettable music.

For more information visit: ParamountVt.org.

The Harvest Celebration at Billings Farm promises to be a bountiful weekend

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 7-8—WOODSTOCK—Families and friends are invited to participate in an autumn seasonal celebration weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. The 32nd annual Harvest Celebration is set to take place this weekend from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. It promises an assortment of harvest-themed activities, culinary delights, and live entertainment for all ages. Events will include traditional barn dancing with live music, pumpkin bowling and an array of crafts.

Guests can embark on scenic wagon rides, husk and shell corn, and even harvest sunflower seeds for next year's garden. One of the highlights is the chance to press apples into cider. For those curious about apples, informative sessions will be held at 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4 p.m., offering insights into the diverse varieties of apples grown in Vermont.

Lively barn dance sessions will, punctuate the festivities at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., accompanied by live music.

The Farmhouse Scoop Shop will be open for those seeking the quintessential flavors of fall. From hot spiced cider to apple cider donuts, available for purchase from 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. guests can sample the tastes of the season.

The Billings Farm Mooveable Feast food truck and the Wicked Awesome BBQ food truck will be on hand from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. offering an assortment of choices from grilled cheese and mac & cheese featuring Billings Farm cheddar cheese to waffle dogs and traditional American BBQ.

The Harvest Celebration is included with daily admission to Billings Farm & Museum. For more information, visit: billingsfarm.org.

'Fore!' Swing for the kids

The Killington Ski Club/Killington Mountain School Golf Tournament is a day of golf and community support

Friday, Oct. 6 at 10 a.m.—KILLINGTON—The leaves are turning and the air is cooling, which means it's time to pick up those clubs and head for the Killington Golf Course on Friday for the annual KSC/KMS Golf Tournament. This event is a celebration of camaraderie, a showcase of talent, and most importantly, a testament to the strength of community.

Whether you're a seasoned golfer or new to the game, this tournament welcomes players of all levels.

Killington Mountain School and Killington Ski Club join to offer a diverse range of mountain sports programs, catering to athletes of various ages, abilities, and disciplines. Participation in this tournament directly contributes to the continued success and growth of these programs.

The Friday tournament will include a line-up of activities, including a scramble-format 18-hole round of golf, complete

with a cart and a delicious BBQ lunch. Following the tournament, a post-event reception awaits, with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

In addition to the main event, participants can engage in a variety of games and contests. Prizes await the top-performing teams, along with accolades for the best putter, longest driver, and closest to the pin.

Registration opens at 9 a.m., with coffee and donuts to kickstart the day.

A shotgun start is set for 10 a.m., ensuring a synchronized beginning for all participants.

Teams of four are encouraged, but opportunities are available for singles to join awaiting teams.

The tournament asks for \$125 contribution per player.

For additional information, visit: killingtonskiclub.com or killingtonmountain-school.org.



PICO SKI CLUB'S SKI SWAP

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SAT. OCTOBER 21: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
SUN. OCTOBER 22: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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 OCTOBER 14: 9:00 - 1:00 - PICO SKI CLUB
 OCTOBER 18: 4:00 - 7:00 - PICO SKI CLUB
 OCTOBER 19: 4:00 - 7:00 - PICO SKI CLUB
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visit www.picoskiclub.com/swap
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Vintage Market Days provides a unique experience of timeless treasures

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 6-8—RUTLAND—Step into a world where nostalgia meets creativity, where the past finds new life, and where vintage enthusiasts come together. Vintage Market Days is an indoor/outdoor market at the Vermont State Fairgrounds in Rutland that goes beyond the typical flea market. This event showcases a curated selection of original art, antiques, clothing, jewelry, handmade treasures, home décor, outdoor furnishings, delectable treats, seasonal plants, and more.



Event hours and admissions

- Friday, Oct. 6, early buying event: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 7, general admission: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 8, general admission: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Admission for children under 12 is free. Cash and credit cards are accepted at the gate. Once purchased, your ticket is good for re-entry into the event all weekend.



The visionaries behind the experience

With a shared love for all things vintage, Amanda and Jared Wilkinson have dedicated themselves to bringing this unique market concept to life. Amanda envisions Vintage Market Days as a gathering place for individuals who appreciate the beauty of items and people that bear the marks of time, telling stories of their own.



A marketplace like no other

Vintage Market Days is not just an event; it's an immersive experience. Held multiple times a year in various communities across the country, each market is a canvas for vendors to showcase their talents and passions. From original art to carefully curated antiques, from handcrafted jewelry to bespoke clothing, this market offers a rich tapestry of timeless treasures.



Exploring childhood through time

Middletown Springs open house presents diaries from 1907

Sunday, Oct. 8 at 2 p.m.—MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS—The Middletown Springs Historical Society invites you to step back in time and experience through the childhood diaries of Lucy and Hazel Grover. Held at the Middletown Springs Historical Society Museum from 2-4 p.m., this open house promises a unique glimpse into life on a Vermont family farm at the dawn of the 20th Century.

In 1907, Lucy Grover, aged 14, and her younger sister Hazel, aged 10, embarked on a written journey that would provide a rare window into the daily life of a family living on a farm in West Tinmouth, merely 4 miles from Middletown Springs. The entries, meticulously penned in identical composition books, chronicle the joys, duties, and discoveries that filled their days.

To breathe life into these historical accounts, young actors Anya Brostek from Hubbardton and Ellie Ruck from Middletown Springs will take the stage, embodying the roles of Lucy and Hazel, respectively. Under the guidance of Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman, a partner in the Theatre in the Woods summer camp located in Middletown Springs, they will bring to life the experiences and emotions of the Grover sisters.

The event is part of the broader exhibit, Childhood in Middletown Springs, 1850-1920, which delves into various aspects of growing up in this Vermont community during that era. The exhibition will run until March 17, 2024, providing ample time for visitors to explore the nuances of childhood, work, education, and play in Middletown Springs.

Following the dramatic reading, guests are invited to a gallery talk, providing additional context to the exhibit. Light refreshments will be provided.

The open house is open to the public and free of charge. For more information, visit: mshsvt.com.

'The People's Choice' award awaits top chili aficionados at Ludlow's 32nd annual chili cook-off

Saturday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m.—LUDLOW—The aroma of simmering chili will fill the air as the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) prepares to host its 32nd annual chili cook-off on Saturday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. This event will take place at the traffic light junction on Depot Street in Ludlow.

This event will support the Ludlow Rotary Charitable Fund, which fuels the club's various local assistance programs.

With over 20 participants vying for culinary glory, guests will have the opportunity to sample an array of chili varieties, complemented by the finest local cider and Vermont's famous ice cream.

Cash prizes will be bestowed upon

winners in several categories. The coveted "People's Choice" award will see the top three entries receive: 1st place: \$200. 2nd place: \$100. 3rd place: \$50. Additionally, accolades will be presented for "Judges' Choice", "Spiciest", and "Team Spirit" categories.

Leading the judging panel are Ludlow Town Manager Brendan McNamara, Cavendish Town Manager Richard Chambers, and Plymouth Select Board Chair Jay Kullman.

Admission for the event is \$15 per person, \$5 for children aged 12 and under and there will be a special family package: \$35 for two adults and two kids.

Admission grants access to a diverse array of chilis, accompanied by

bread, ice cream, and cider, promising a delightful gastronomic experience for all attendees.

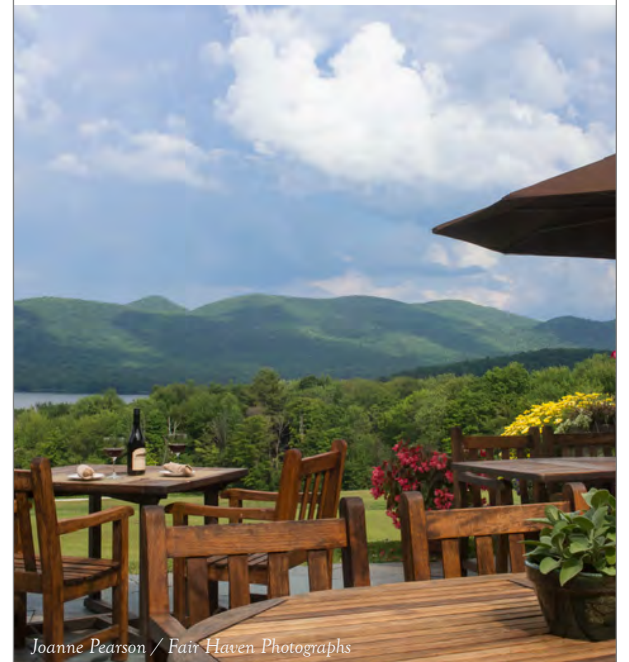
For more information, reach out to Kevin Barnes at 802-558-0479 or ludlowrotary@gmail.com.



Courtesy Ludlow Rotary Club

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SUDOKU

PUZZLES—from page 19

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Early defoliation of trees

By Ann Hazelrigg

Editor's note: Ann Hazelrigg is the University of Vermont Extension plant pathologist and director of the UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic.

A lot of Vermonters are noticing that their crabapples and apples (*Malus spp.*), in addition to many other deciduous trees, have dropped many of their leaves well before the first autumn frost. This has been a common occurrence for the past few years in many parts of the state depending on the microclimate of the area. The cause is typically stress-related. The good news is that these early defoliated trees usually will look fine the next spring.

The emerging leaves and blossoms of many trees were damaged by the low temperatures in the third week of May. Although the trees have recovered and new leaves replaced those that were damaged, the energy required to do that caused stress on the tree. Vermont also experienced a very rainy summer. *Malus spp.* are susceptible to a wide variety of foliar fungal diseases, and all these fungi like wet weather. Diseased leaves tend to drop earlier in the season than healthy leaves, and these fungal leafspot

diseases are a big contributing factor to the early leaf drop.

Apple scab is the primary disease that will infect fruit and leaves, causing olive brown spots on the foliage. Another contributor to diseased leaves is cedar apple rust, a fungus that requires both a *Malus* host and a juniper host to complete its lifecycle. This rust disease causes bright yellow leaf spots on the apple or crabapple host.

If you notice early leaf drop in your apples or crabapples, check to make sure there is a good bud set on the tree for next year.



These are the dormant buds that will start to grow next May.

Scratch the bark lightly to make sure you see green healthy tissue under the bark. Both indicate that the tree is ready for next spring and is still alive in spite of the leaf drop.

To improve the vigor of the tree and to minimize fungal diseases next year, rake and destroy fallen leaves this autumn. If raking is too much work, mow over the leaves several times to encourage them to break down quicker. Prune the tree this winter when it is dormant to open it up to air and light.

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The Vermont Female Farmers photography exhibition continues through October at Billings Farm

Aug. 19-Oct. 31—WOODSTOCK—Vermont Female Farmers is a showcase of 45 captivating photographs by the talented JuanCarlos González. This exhibition, held in the Historic Barn at Billings Farm, will run from Aug. 19 to Oct. 31. It is an ode to the invaluable contributions made by women farmers to Vermont's culture, identity, and economy. Through his lens, González has documented the daily lives of 38 farmers, capturing their labor, passion, and the essence of their livelihood.

The exhibition title, Vermont Female Farmers, expresses the three main elements portrayed in each photograph.

González's portraits of women who work in the farming industry tells a story of farming, showcasing the products or animals that are nurtured on these farms. Moreover, the backdrop of Vermont's picturesque landscapes adds to the appeal of these photographs, emphasizing the beauty of the landscape of Vermont.

Within each composition, González captures the uniqueness of each farm, shedding light on the diverse tales behind them. Through these photographs, the exhibition shines a spotlight on the contributions of the women who shape the agricultural landscape of Vermont, a viewpoint that has been historically

underrepresented.

JuanCarlos González, the artist behind this exhibition, is a photojournalist and storyteller. Originally from Maunabo, Puerto Rico, González currently resides in Plymouth, Vermont. His work has been featured in prestigious publications such as National Geographic, Vogue Italia, the Boston Globe, and Leica Fotografie International. With an innate ability to capture the essence of his subjects, González brings the stories of Vermont's female farmers to life through his lens.

For more information, visit www.vermontfemalefarmers.com.



Courtesy Billings Farm and Museum

The Vermont Female Farmers photograph exhibit will showcase 45 captivating photographs by JuanCarlos González.

The spirit, irreverence and DNA of The Capitol Steps lives on with 'The Capitol Fools'

Saturday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m.—RUTLAND—When Washington, D.C.'s premiere political satire group, "The Capitol Steps" called it quits after nearly 40 years, most folks would agree that it was a great run, and the story would end there. But an intrepid group of cast members and a co-writer would not go quietly into the night. This band of fools reflected on a world without musical, political satire, and didn't like what they saw. And just like that The Capitol Fools were born.

While foolish enough to embark on this new journey, they were smart enough to not reinvent the wheel. Fast-paced, laugh out loud show...check. Equal opportunity offenders...check. Skewering both sides of the aisle...check. If a "Steps-style show" is wrong, they don't want to be right.

The Capitol Fools hold up a mirror to our crazy political culture, providing hilarious song parodies and foolish reflections that continue to inspire belly-laughter. Audiences will continue to see cast members from past seasons of the Capitol Steps performing all the beloved bits, the mind-boggling backward talking spoonerisms, break-neck costume changes, over-the-top impressions, and all-new song parodies reflecting the day's news. They will give you a memory that will last a lunch time.

The show is playing at the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center Street, in downtown Rutland at 7 p.m. Saturday. For more information and tickets, visit: ParamountVt.org.

If a "Steps-style show" is wrong, they don't want to be right.

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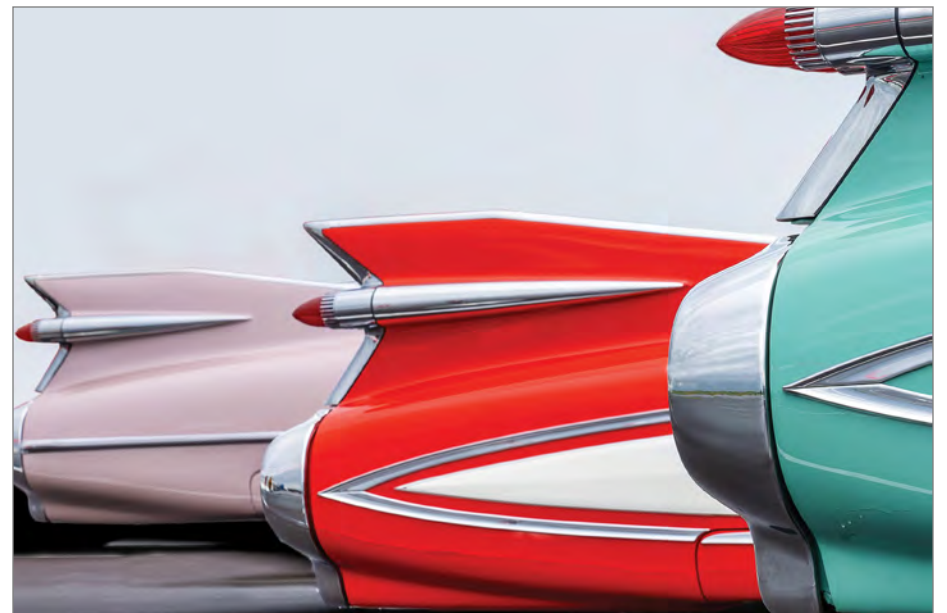


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Car Lovers to gather at Wellwood Orchards for the annual car show

Saturday Oct. 7 at 10 a.m.—SPRINGFIELD—If you're a car lover looking to celebrate the start of fall with family and friends, the Wellwood Orchard annual car show on Saturday Oct. 7 from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. is the perfect place. There will be trophies awarded for best in each category: classic, trucks, hot rod, rat rod and motorcycle. There will be food and entertainment including a Deejay, a petting zoo, along with the country store, and their famous apple cider donuts. A perfect way to ring in the autumn season.

For more information call Walter at 603-209-2940. (Rain date is Oct. 8).



Submitted

The Wellwood Orchards annual car show is on Saturday from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in Springfield.

Mt. Holly Cider Days celebrates fall with food and fun for the whole family

Saturday and Sunday Oct. 7-8, —MT. HOLLY—On Saturday Oct. 7 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 8 from 12-4 p.m., the fun will begin and end with apples. Watch fresh cider being made on an antique apple press, and enjoy the fresh pressed cider (hot or cold) along with a cider donut, home-baked apple pie or crisp topped with ice cream. Pick up a gallon of fresh cider to take home. There's plenty of non-apple fun to enjoy too: Cider Days features live music, food, beer and crafts vendors, a library book sale, and more to enjoy as you take in the fall colors in our historic village. You can also learn more about town at the Mount Holly Museum, right next to Green.

Highlights this year include Karma Sanctuary, providing a petting zoo for animal lovers, and the ever-popular cow plop contest starring Miss Liberty from Dairy Aire Farm. Visitors can also come and cast a ballot in our local photo contest. The winning entries will be featured in the Mount Holly 2025 calendar.

Belmont Cider Days has been ranked as one of the top fall events in the state of Vermont.

Belmont may be tucked away off the numbered roads, but it's easy to find. From Route 103 turn left at the flashing light if coming from Ludlow, or right if coming from Rutland. If you're driving up Route 155, turn at the Belmont sign. Then head up the hill, find a place to park and stroll through Belmont Village to the Belmont Baptist Church green, just like the folks did so many years ago when they brought their apples to be pressed.

For further information, visit: mhcvvt.org.



Submitted

Mt. Holly Cider Days celebrates fall with apples and family fun this weekend in Belmont.

Murder Mystery Weekend at Echo Lake Inn provides a murderous fun weekend

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 6-8—WOODSTOCK— This weekend Echo Lake Inn holds a weekend retreat bringing a live action murder mystery game to life. Murder Mystery Weekend at the inn includes accommodations for two nights, with a Friday night welcome reception with cash bar and gourmet hors d'oeuvres; Saturdays breakfast, lunch, cash bar reception and lite hors d'oeuvres, dinner; and finally a wrap-up Sunday breakfast.

The following outline, provided by Keith and Margo's Murder Mystery at murdermystery.com, details the weekend's events.

Friday

Cocktail Party: Here's where you get to meet the other guests. All you know at this point is that there are impostors in the group. Hmm... that's strange. Suddenly you start to notice that your drink smells like burnt almonds.

A little later that evening: Over dinner or heavy hors d'oeuvres you observe that everyone in the group has some suspicious characteristics about them. Then of course, nobody believes a word you've said so far either. Suffice it to say that this isn't going to be the quiet little dinner you had imagined. After all, this is where it all gets started— usually with a bang.

And you without an alibi. Because of the circumstances at this point, you may even start to notice how interesting it is the way seasoned homicide investigators can twist things around and make it look like you aren't who you say you are. Particularly since that crumbled up piece of paper you casually tossed away during the cocktail party turned out to be a major clue. Oh, well, a murder investigation is under way and so far you've managed to make it to the top of the suspect list. Who's counting?

Later that evening: Perhaps a drink in the bar and some casual conversation will turn up some new leads. Hopefully, somebody without a badge will still want to talk to you.

Sometime during the night: You are awakened by a scream coming from somewhere in the hotel. You discard it as someone listening to a very bad Italian opera.

Saturday

Breakfast: Seems the investigation has turned up some new evidence. The detective in charge looks like he's been up all night doing what ever detectives do all night when they're up investigating. You begin to see a picture starting to form. Maybe that old lady across the room isn't old... or even a lady for that matter. Something's not adding up. After a hearty breakfast and some updates you decide to enjoy one or two of the hotel's activities while at the same time keeping your eyes open.

Lunch:

Again exquisite. Didn't you just finish breakfast? Go ahead. With all the running around you just did you've earned it. Wait a minute! Another major twist! Dang! Just when you thought you were onto something. You decide to spend the afternoon nonchalantly grilling a few of your prime suspects—off the record of course.

Another major twist...

Another cocktail party:

Why not? It's time to celebrate. You've managed to narrow this down to one person and every clue turned up so far points in the right direction. You've got this nailed. Don't say anything to anyone. You don't want to tip 'em off. After all, there is a prize.

Dinner:

The *piece de resistance!* It's a good thing you didn't tell anyone about your theory— it just got carried out the door in a body bag. Now what?

You gotta re-think this.

Whoever's running this weekend just announced that when we come into Brunch in the morning we have to hand in our solutions. Didn't you just have...? Forget about it. You got better things to worry about. All those clues, twists, turns. Mayhem! Wait a minute... What was it that guy said at lunch about... Of course! You've got another idea! And it's brilliant! After a cognac or two you might be able to put this down on.

Sunday

Brunch:

You've handed in your brilliant solution. You can even read it. A hush falls over the room as our tireless detective paces back and forth. There's that smirk on his face again. He has it figured out.

At the end of the *denouement!* you're feeling pretty good about yourself. Missed it by that much! How were you to know you were going to be up against a couple of brainy 14-year-olds that memorized every episode of "Murder, She Wrote."

Anyway, you had a great time. Great location. Great food. Interesting people. You forgot about work for awhile... all those everyday annoyances... and even though you worked at the investigation... you relaxed. You feel good. If you'd just followed... Oh, never mind. Mystery solved.



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Fall is in the air

The fall foliage on Kent Pond in Killington was on display on Monday, Oct. 2. The colors continue to brighten in the mountains and soon the valley forests will join in the colorful displays. By Pat Wise

'Second Sight,' a play about the Eddy Brother's mystique, is coming to Middlebury's Tond Hall Theater

The infamous Eddy Brothers from Chittenden, Vermont, are coming to Middlebury. Well... their spirit is being brought back to life by Rutland's Ryan Mangan. "Second Sight," a play about the brother's mystique, written by Mangan and directed by Kim Moyer, is coming to Middlebury's Town Hall Theater Oct. 19-21 at 8 p.m., and Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. The play is being put on by the Middlebury Community Players and the cast includes Ryan Mangan, Michael Eaton, Evan Breault, Jillian Torres, Ethan DeWitt, Piper Harrell, Stephen Kelly, Mary Morris, Tomas McElhaney, Leila McVeigh, Meghan Kennedy, Beth Diamond, and Jon Fenner.

"Second Sight" comes from a term a magician used in France, referring to a telepathy routine he would do with his son in the 1700s. It also refers to the idea of clairvoyance.

The idea for the play was conceived as a project that was going to be a magic show. Mangan said, "The audience can expect to have more than the experience of a play but truly a theatrical experience. There will be interactive "magic routines" that we've dug up out of old manuals from the fraudulent mediums of the Victorian era. It will be an exploration in all sorts of different themes ranging from morality to the morality of mediumship to the idea of sacrifice and doing what's good, doing what's right, while also digging into a local legend that still remains in the Green Mountain history."

Ryan Mangan began writing the project six years ago while studying at Castleton University. He wanted to thank the library there for helping him gather all his research. He said, "Myself and Matthew Eckler, a collaborator, had this idea of creating a magic show that would use the techniques of the old spiritualists from the time. As we were doing that, we thought it would be wise to put a narrative to this magic show. While we were exploring all different characters and stories of the American spiritualist movement, including stories involving Abraham Lincoln, the Fox sisters of New York, we stumbled upon the Eddy Brother Family of Chittenden. We recognized this story which happened just seven miles north of the house I grew up in."

The house still sits there today although now it's the "High Life Lodge," a ski share house.

Mangan said, "Growing up you'd hear stories of this Eddy house turning on its axis by the power of séance forces and magic. Every time in my adolescence driving up to the Chittenden Reservoir, I'd pass this house and every time a friend would say, "That's the Eddy Brother house."

I used to live in Chittenden and drove by it many times and also heard all the folklore.

Mangan added, "It wasn't until I really

dug into the story for this project that I realized how remarkable the story is and how much there is to discover about the story, the family and about the spiritualist movement."

It's interesting to know that the global Theosophical Society was formed in Chittenden after Henry Olcott met Helena Blavatsky, while both were visiting the Eddy farm. Chittenden is known as the spirit capital of the universe.

Mangan and Eckler got the opportunity to produce it as a student project at Castleton at the Black Box Theatre.

Mangan said, "When that opportunity came about, it was really an invitation to really dig in, form the project and turn it into a one-act play."

After Castleton, he went on to the The Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford where he spent a lot of time writing this play. It was there that he turned it into a two-act play and dug into the psychological background of the Eddy family characters. Mangan added, "They almost all had this gift of clairvoyance and could speak to the dead. They would undergo these trances which were very frightening to the community and their father. They were ostracized and abused, very horrendously by their father who was Methodist."

Mangan graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance, summa cum laude.

The play doesn't answer if they're frauds or authentic, but both are hinted at. That's the same as in real life, nobody really knows for sure. Supposedly their father sold his sons to the traveling circus. There are stories of the brothers speaking in tongues during these spirit-controlled trances.

Mangan said, "They were speaking in Russian and German, languages that were hardly available to these poor farmers living in the hill town of Chittenden in 1874. On top of that the amount of costumes they would've had to have to portray the amount of spirits that were seen in the dark. Costumes that nobody ever saw or could find under the floorboards. Things like this are almost impossible to explain. I think that's why it's still a mysterious story to this day."

Back in Castleton in 2016, the great-great-granddaughter of Mary Eddy (sister) came to see their play. She brought a ring of her grandmother's which she wore on her finger. Mangan said, "That was remarkable. It brought the story to real life. She told us every story we mentioned in the play is exactly what she learned, growing up as a child. She kind of gave us a thumbs up!"

The play is something to not miss. The audience can be as much a part of the story as they're comfortable with. "We want people to feel like they're at a séance," he said. "There will be spirits in the dark, whispering



Rockin' the Region
By Dave Hoffenberg



Submitted

"Second Sight," a play about the brother's mystique, written by Ryan Mangan and directed by Kim Moyer, is coming to Middlebury's Town Hall Theater Oct. 19-22.

the names of loved ones that people in our true audience are coming to see. They will be answering questions for the audience about their loved ones who are really deceased. We do this through magic. It's going to be an experience. It's really exciting."

Due to the intense and potentially frightening nature of some scenes, parents should use discretion when deciding whether it is appropriate viewing for their child.

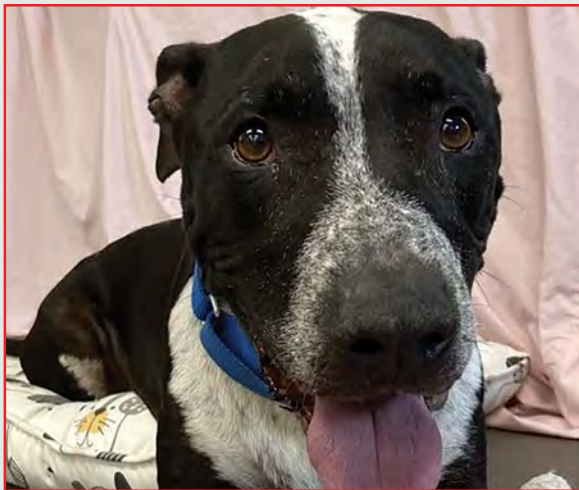
Mangan's goal with this play is to tour it around the state, maybe each year around Halloween. He said, "The story has so much to do with Vermont history and the Vermont

community that it only makes sense that it can be a Vermont project."

He loves that the cast got into the story so much. One actor would question something about his character and the next moment the entire cast was in a deep conversation about the theology or the family's history. Mangan said, "To see everyone's conversations in all those ideas was exciting and humbling."

I am looking forward to seeing this masterpiece. I'm a big fan of magic so that's a plus but having just lived in Chittenden for 17 years, I'm intrigued by the Eddy Brothers. For tickets, please visit: TownHallTheater.org.

Rutland County Humane Society



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I'm a 10-year-old neutered male Boxer mix. While I'm in my senior years, I act a lot like a puppy most of the time! I'm loving and playful, and adore being around humans. I'm really happiest when I'm with people. I lived my entire life with my human companion until he had no other option than to bring me to Lucy Mackenzie - it was sad. But, as you've already guessed, I've made many friends - I love them all! I'm a good boy and get along well with other dogs (as long as they're good with me, too!), cats and dog-savvy children.

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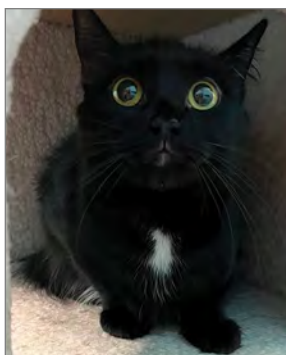
Fluffarina—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic mediumhair. She is a beautiful young cat with long fur that will need some extra care.



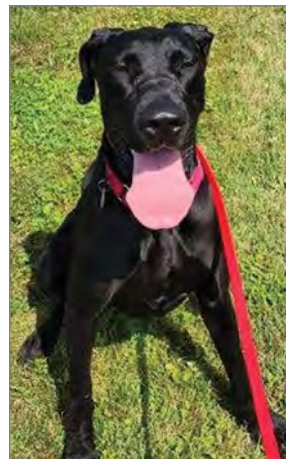
Zoey—2-year-old. Spayed female. Retriever mix. Zoey is a timid girl who is looking for a family who will give her lots of love and build her confidence.



Max—1-year-old. Neutered male. Siberian husky. Max is a super friendly fella who loves to roll in the grass!



Jekyl—3-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic longhair. She loves being near you, enjoying your company, and snoozing in your arms.



Mia—2-year-old. Spayed female. Great Dane. She loves people and is a total goofball when she goes for walks.



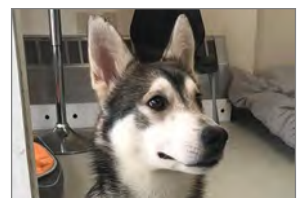
Sophie—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Sophie is a quiet, shy girl who just needs someone who will be patient with her.



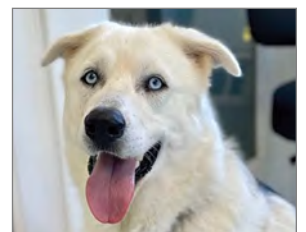
Fido—10-month-old. Neutered male. St. Bernard mix. As soon as you meet him you'll get a smile on your face and a spring in your step!



Seniza—9-month-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Seniza is a beautiful girl who would make a great sidekick!



Ranger—1-year-old. Neutered male. Siberian husky. Ranger is an on the go fella who will need lots of exercise and playtime to keep him happy and out of trouble.



Gus—2-year-old. Neutered male. Siberian husky mix. Gus has the most adorable floppy ears so get ready to smile!



June—8-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Dilute calico. June is a beautiful girl who just needs someone to share a couch with.



MOWGLI

Mowgli—2-year-old. Neutered Male. Shepherd/husky mix. He has a bubbly personality and is always up to make new friends.

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Rutland County Humane Society has launched its annual membership drive!

Join RCHS and know you are a partner in helping abandoned, stray, and abused animals find their forever home. Your membership enables us to provide medical care, food, and comfortable warm kennels, PLUS all the time and love they need to become healthy and begin the next chapter of their lives. Please consider joining RCHS, and as an added bonus, receive discounts at our partner vendors: Brandon Blue Seal, Castleton Pet Supply, Catamount Pet Supply, Happy Paws Daycare, S. E. Smith, Inc., and The Pet Cage! Go to www.rchsvt.org to join now!

Cosmic Catalogue



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Aries March 21 - April 20

We do a lot of things in love to keep the peace. It's the turning of a blind eye, swallowing the words we want to speak, going with the flow because it just feels... easier. However, if you avoid battle, you end up in war within yourself and that is never a great feeling. This week, you may need to hash things out with someone else in a professional or personal setting. It won't be easy, but necessary.

Leo July 21 - August 20

In order to get what you want and need, you need to speak up. So much has changed for you in recent months and you may no longer want what you once did. You feel it, you know it, but how do you explain it? That's the hard part now! This week, do what you can to explain it. Get your point across in the best way you know how. It won't be easy but the alternative isn't easy neither.

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

Your warmth and optimism can be so attractive. People may flock to you and enjoy being in your company. That said, not everyone who smiles at you is a friend. It might be wise to keep your cards close to your chest this week. Old issues, old entanglements and old drama may resurface among your social circles. How much oxygen you choose to give that is totally your call. Less is probably better though.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

Jupiter in your sign has been a boon for blessings and benefits. Perhaps you've been living some of the good life too. Treats, indulgences and living large have their way of catching up with you. It could be an expanding waistline or a health issue that requires your attention. This won't be easy for you, but this week, cut back on the nasties you love, but you know aren't good for you.

Virgo August 21 - September 20

The best thing you can do for yourself right now is to go through your finances with a fine-tooth comb. Eliminate any expenses you don't really need, especially if they fall in your "wants" category. A bit of a financial detox will do you the world of good and you'll feel in control of things again. Seal up any money leaks, it will do wonders for your overall confidence.

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

It can feel like an anticlimax once you reach a goal or outcome and it didn't turn out the way you hoped. This may be the case in a career situation this week. You may have to make a choice that no matter which way you look at it, isn't easy. You may need to choose your family first rather than what the external world wants or demands from you. The choice is always yours.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

Social media is little more than the projection of people's "perfect" lives. "My world" or "my everything" can leave you feeling lessor than and wondering why you don't feel the same way. Even more so when you know what goes on in their real life. This week, shut out the noise and tend to your own backyard. Immerse yourself in your life. The grass is greener where you choose to water it.

Libra September 21 - October 20

We all carry habits and attitudes that we would be better off letting go of. You're no exception. Right now, you need to let go of something or someone. Old ways don't open old doors. Let go of any past pain, anger or resentment too. Carrying old emotional baggage into your future won't do you any favors neither. Embrace some healthy selfishness and do what you want to rather than attempting to keep the peace.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

You're being encouraged to explore your philosophical or spiritual life. This means that as new horizons open – either metaphorically or literally, you may have to cut ties with all that you were taught or told. It won't be easy, but necessary. Go somewhere different. Learn something new. Be open to a new perspective. This week, face your cognitive dissonance. True intelligence comes with the ability to change your mind and integrate a new way of being.

Cancer June 21 - July 20

If you've avoided dealing with domestic issues in order to keep the peace, this week may reach a tipping point. Whether it's dealing with family dynamics or there are some DIY projects around the home you need to tackle, get the slate cleared away. If things have been less than ideal on the home front, consider extending an olive branch. You can either be right or be happy, rarely both at once.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

More often than not, it's the way we think about a problem is worse than the problem itself. This week, you're encouraged to let go of anything that is taking up rent free space in your mind. Cut it away. Clear it away. If you're one to meditate, it would serve you well now. Keeping the mind at peace can help you make decisions that are responsive rather than reactive.

Pisces February 21 - March 20

If you can do something this week that would ease any financial discomfort, then do it. Call your bank and negotiate your interest rate. Change utility companies. Pay down some debt if you can. Whatever it is, the money you share with someone else or money that you owe is in focus. Free yourself from any entanglements – financial as well as emotional, that may be holding you back or weighing you down.

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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.

October's eclipse

October brings a month of change, especially compared to the past few months. While it's nice to have a break in the weather, each of us have our preferences for what that break might look like. Blue cloudless skies and endless sunshine is one person's idea of bliss while someone else delights in a dreary, rainy day. This month begins with threatening storm clouds rolling in from a distant horizon. Deep down, you know what this storm is about. When in your life have you been going along to get along and quite frankly, you've had enough? Where have you buried your

head in the proverbial sand and not taken action on the things you know you should have?

You see, this month, you'll see a lot of click bait about eclipses on the internet. But if you sit with the above metaphorical weather update, you'll get a sense of what you'll be dealing with. For some of us, it will barely be a blip on the radar, while for others, the inevitable outcomes from the past few months will reveal themselves.

This week past action you took or didn't take may bring up feelings of anger, bitterness or resentment. Events this week will indicate what October's eclipse cycle offers.



Cosmic
Catalogue
By Cassandra
Tyndall

Crystalized fire

Leaves of fire,
Red and orange,
Flames flickering in the wind,
Shimmering with dew droplets.
In the early morning light,
Burning bright with color,
Even in the night,
Crystal drops,
Turning the leaves into,
Crystalized fire.
So beautiful you try,
To save its beauty for,
Another time.
For,
Forever,

But its nature.
It can't be taken,
It can't be caught,
It must be free,
You can never capture life.
Even if you caught it,
It wouldn't be as,
Pretty as it was,
In nature,
Where it belongs,
Free.
Fiery flames of leaves,
Shimmering crystals of dew,
Crystalized fire,
All in nature.



Poetry Is Power
By Bree Sarandrea

Black bear, turkeys, and a return to the Bear Cave

Our son, grandkids and two dear friends came for this past glorious weekend. We described recent animal sightings (we never know who'll show up or when). On Saturday, their young friend and I entered a Bear Cave meditation to meet our power animals and see what they'd say.

That afternoon, once again, our home was a hotbed of animal sightings. (Perhaps our meditation stirred them up.) I hollered to all when I glanced outside: "a black bear's crossing the grass out back! It came to our bedroom window again!"

I snapped several photos as fast as I could.

Everyone raced to windows for glimpses before the bear disappeared in the woods. (He was the size of our son's Newfie dog,

Shiloh.) But then the adolescent bear reemerged at the driveway turn around. He gingerly stepped down into the creek, drank his fill, then climbed up the bank on the far side. Among the trees, his blackness stood out.

It was Cora's first bear sighting—she's 2 1/2. (Now she wants to go hug the bear...) Silas is 8. He saw the bear last year who got our attention by scratching our wood siding.

While we discussed the bear's timely visit, I
Meditation → 46



Mountain
Meditation
By Marguerite
Jill Dye

Buttonbush is a boon for wildlife

As autumn begins and insect populations dwindle, many waterfowl species rely increasingly on seeds as a food source. Common buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), with its spherical bouquets of seeds now ripening, provides food for an array of ducks, geese, and other wetland denizens.

Buttonbush's range spans southern Canada to Florida and from the Atlantic coast to the Midwest. This deciduous, water-loving native shrub, a distant relative of coffee, colonizes wet areas, including along waterways, at lake and pond edges, and in moist forest understories. Other folk names include "crane-willow" and "river-bush."

At least a dozen species feed on the shrub's seeds, including wood ducks, mallards, pintails, teals, and gadwalls. The secretive American bittern also noshes on buttonbush's bounty. Each seedhead can contain up to 400 individual seeds, or "nutlets," and waterfowl gobble these from the water's surface once they are dislodged by wind or disturbance.

The autumn seeds are only one dimension of buttonbush's wildlife value. From mid- to late summer, the shrub offers a feast to pollinators. The eponymous "buttons" are globular, fragrant collections of small, cream-colored flowers that sit at the branch ends. A long, delicate style juts from each flower, giving the buttons a pin-cushion-like appearance. Multiple species of butterflies, including Eastern Tiger and black swallowtail, frequent the inflorescences. Bumblebees, smaller native bees, and beneficial wasps flock to buttonbush flowers for their pollen and nectar, as does the ruby-throated hummingbird.

Buttonbush also hosts several songbird species: red-winged blackbirds, alder flycatchers, and song sparrows nest in its branches, and buttonbush thickets provide shore cover and shade for waterfowl. White-tailed deer and beavers will nibble the leaves and twigs. The foliage hosts the larvae of several large moth species, including the royal walnut moth, the hydrangea sphinx, and the titan sphinx. Humans, meanwhile, have used buttonbush's bark as a quinine substitute to treat malaria.

At the landscape level, buttonbush is

a critical species for riparian ecosystems. More than just tolerating standing water, buttonbush thrives in it. Shrubs can grow in areas submerged in up to 4 feet of water. Its fondness for consistently wet soils renders it an effective erosion-control species that can stabilize eroded riverbanks and pond and lake shores. (The consequence of

buttonbush's affinity for waterlogged or submerged soils, however, is its poor drought tolerance.) Once established, buttonbush will form thickets via rhizomes. And, importantly for disturbed or rewinding sites, buttonbush is gritty; according to the Wild Seed Project of Maine, Henry David

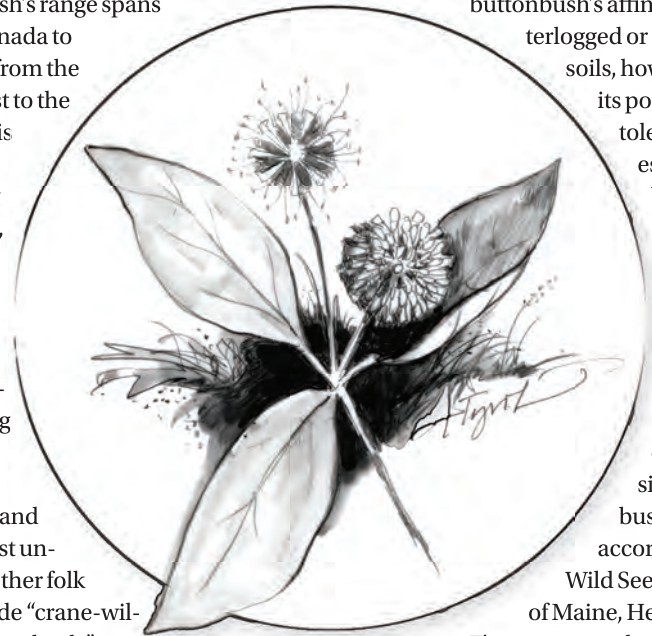
Thoreau once observed a flotilla of buttonbush, displaced by flooding on Massachusetts' Sudbury River, that eventually reestablished itself at a different spot downstream.

My first encounter with buttonbush came in one of its preferred habitats: at the edge of a local pond. I spotted a large shrub about four or five feet tall growing from the shallows. It was in full mid-July bloom, vibrating with pollinators. Bumblebees, wasps, and skippers buzzed around each button, jockeying for real estate. Dazzled by the life

supported by the plant, I soon acquired two young buttonbushes for an area of standing water in my backyard that has killed some of the hardiest native perennials and shrubs of the Northeast. The two plants weathered this summer's interminable waves of moisture and months of standing water with ease. They flaunted a pageant of blooms even showier than last season's brilliance. A variety of bees, butterflies, and beetles all clamored to the white buttons as soon as they opened.

Now, with the days shortening and cooler temperatures creeping in, buttonbush seeds are ripening and will soon be ready for hungry beaks.

Colby Galliher is a writer who calls the woods, meadows, and rivers of New England home. To learn more about his work, visit colbygalliher.com. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



The Outside
Story
By Colby
Galliher

All the world's a stage

Not long after college and prior to getting married, my wife and I traveled to England for a vacation. She'd been there for a semester during school and wanted to return to show me how wonderful the country was.

We visited many of the popular attractions and did our best to find food worthy of eating. But the highlight of the trip was when we attended a theater production in London's famous West End district.

My wife purchased tickets to see "Les Misérables," which was enjoying a stellar run around the world at that time. She was adamant that I had to see that particular production since it was widely regarded as one of the best.

To be honest, I wasn't initially interested. At that age (mid-20s), I was more attentive to sports and loud rock music; the theater did nothing for me. (Ironically, my brother was an accomplished stage actor, but even with that, I found little appreciation in the discipline.)

So, outside of some high school productions that I was forced to watch, and a couple of my brother's roles (that fell into the Shakespearean genre, which I found inaccessible), I had little exposure to the art form.

However, since I was still in the courting phase of our relationship, I obliged my wife's wishes and agreed to attend even though I was thoroughly against the idea.

Based on the 1862 novel by Victor Hugo and set in early 19th-century France during the French Revolution, "Les Misérables" tells the story of Jean Valjean and his quest for redemption after being held in captivity for 14 years for stealing a loaf of bread.

The book is considered a literary masterpiece and widely regarded as one of the greatest novels ever written. It's also one of the longest with 655,478 words (the novel is divided into five volumes, with each volume divided into several books, and subdivided into chapters, for a total of 48 books and 365 chapters). I love to read, but I've never even considered reading that behemoth.

Our seats were right in the middle, about 10 rows back. The theater was packed and I was actually getting excited to see what this was all about, although, in the back of my mind, I was still convinced I was going to be bored.

Much is lost to memory since this event occurred 30 years ago, but I do remember being mesmerized by the majesty of the actors. In my uneducated mind, I expected the story to feel fake since much of the set was representational. However, quite the opposite happened. The actors were so immersed in their characters that I was transfixed by the emotion they projected.

Everything felt so real, even more real than the movies I was used to watching.

At one point, I remember seeing the lead actor project his speech so passionately that he was spitting into the air and all over the first two rows. And no one seemed to mind!

When the show ended, I along with the rest of the audience, sprang to a standing ovation. I was so overwhelmed with emotion that I actually felt tears streaming down my face. I had never been so emotionally overcome by a story and to this day, I'm not sure any theater experience has topped it.

And there's been many.

After that experience, I fell in love with theater productions and attended many of the great Broadway shows of the last several decades. Some I loved, some I found underwhelming. But on almost every occasion I enjoyed the activity of watching people perform live theater art.

I recently went to see a traveling Broadway production of Michael Jackson's life called "MJ - The Musical." The musical incorporates 25 songs from Michael's career with and

without the Jackson 5. It also delves into the demons that MJ fought while bringing his art to the world.

Once again, I went into this show with low expectations, but walked out in complete awe. Sure, I knew the music was going to be good (after all, it's Michael Jackson), but the story and set designs were equally magnificent. From beginning to end, I was transfixed with the flow of the production and the creative use of metaphor to tell Michael's unique story.

If you have the opportunity to see this show, by all means, go, even if you have to travel overnight - it's that good.

A thrilling "A" for "MJ - The Musical," now touring throughout the U.S. and in residency on Broadway.

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



The Movie
Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Foliage: Beauty before death

Oh man, do I wish autumn lasted longer. Or that the days were longer within the season. I cannot get enough of this absolutely perfect fall weather that we've been having. I mean, driving to work every morning I think this must be peak and then the next day is even brighter and more full of color. How can that be? How can each day be absolutely more gorgeous than the day before? The reds we were told weren't going to pop this fall are glowing full and bright, reminding us how special and unique our maple trees are.

You have to steal fall while you can get it. This past Monday, thinking that it might be peak, I called my mom at 9am and told her I was picking her up for a foliage tour at 11 a.m. I told her to drop everything and we could sneak out for the day on a ladies trip around Vermont while the colors were at their most vibrant — or at least the weather was. We drove for quite a few hours, exploring Lincoln and Mad Gaps, and stopping for a quick lunch at Mad Taco in Waitsfield.

I never wanted it to end. We would drive a few miles with the duller browns and then come around a corner to be shocked with a vibrant wall of color on the side of a mountain. You never knew quite when the colors would hit you or where they would be. It seems almost like this year the foliage

is playing a game of hide and seek, not making any sense about elevation or latitude.

Instead, it seems to be popping where it feels like it. Making us work for it a little bit, forcing us to explore the side and mountain roads of Vermont, rather than sticking to the big highways and byways.

But we are more than roads. So much more. After a quick couple of hours on my front porch office, I texted a friend to meet me at Kent Pond for sun-

set. I couldn't get enough of the beautiful fall weather and couldn't sit at my desk any longer. I needed to be surrounded by the foliage and the best place for that is always that 100 acre lake in the middle of town. Paddlers come from all over Vermont to photograph this lake at all hours of the day, to float around surrounded by water and trees on all sides. And those of us who live here are no different. We bumped into friends taking in the gloriousness on all shores, from half-moon cove to the causeway.

Oh man, do I wish autumn lasted longer. Or that the days were longer within the season. I cannot get enough of this absolutely perfect fall weather that we've been having. I mean, driving to work every morning I think this must be peak and then the next day is even brighter and more full of color. How

Living the dream →47



Livin' the Dream
By Merisa
Sherman

Bikes for all ages

It seems like our street had more bicycle riders this summer than I have ever seen here. The adults seem to outnumber the children and teens.

For most of us our connection to biking begins with a tricycle. When I was a child back in the '50s there were about a dozen kids in our neighborhood. Many of them were the same age as I was. That meant a lot of tricycles in action at the same time! If one kid was outside riding we all wanted to be out there. The fact that Rutland city has sidewalks must have been a welcome feature to the parents.

Either a mother or a father could be seen walking next to their young child as the youngster navigated the tricycle up and down the sidewalk. No doubt the parents got tired of that activity long before the child did!

It didn't take long for the younger kids to want a "big kid's bike" that had just two wheels. I remember getting a "two-wheeler" for Christmas and what a tease that is when there is a foot of snow on the ground! It got put in the shed along with a promise that as soon as the snow went away and the weather warmed up I could take my first ride. Training wheels helped me transition to the next level of biking.

But no kid wants to keep those training

wheels on any longer than necessary. It wasn't very long before my father took them off and walked beside me holding onto both me and the bike as I learned to balance myself.

My friends were learning to ride "two-wheelers" too so it wasn't long before all of us were all cruising up and down the street solo. However, at times we would get going too fast and didn't turn properly. The city streets back in the '50s had a layer of sand over a fresh tar-like surface. When you fell off your bike your knees were covered in blood, tar and sand. I can remember the stinging sensation as my knees were cleaned up. I still have

scars to remind me of my mishaps!

The bikes that we had as children were not equipped with gears that made it easier to climb hills. You just pedaled as hard as you could to get to the top.

After my teenage years biking ended for me but I took it up again when I was in my 40s. My husband and I both got 10-speed bikes and rode around the northeast section of Rutland for short rides. When we wanted more distance we left our car in the vicinity of the Clarendon Grange and rode on the Creek Road to Wallingford and back. There is a

Looking Back → 45



Looking
Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw

DIAMOND EXPRESS BUS SCHEDULE

Rutland to Killington

RMMTC*	7:15 AM	8:15 AM	9:15 AM	10:15 AM	11:15 AM	12:15 PM	1:15 PM	2:15 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:15 PM	8:15 PM	10:15 PM
Top of West Street**	7:16 AM	8:16 AM	9:16 AM	10:16 AM	11:16 AM	12:16 PM	1:16 PM	2:16 PM	3:16 PM	4:16 PM	5:16 PM	8:16 PM	10:16 PM
Rt 4 @ Lafayette Street **	7:17 AM	8:17 AM	9:17 AM	10:17 AM	11:17 AM	12:17 PM	1:17 PM	2:17 PM	3:17 PM	4:17 PM	5:17 PM	8:17 PM	10:17 PM
Town Line Road**	7:23 AM	8:23 AM	9:23 AM	10:23 AM	11:23 AM	12:23 PM	1:23 PM	2:23 PM	3:23 PM	4:23 PM	5:23 PM	8:23 PM	10:23 PM
Mendon Mountain Orchards & Motel**	7:24 AM	8:24 AM	9:24 AM	10:24 AM	11:24 AM	12:24 PM	1:24 PM	2:24 PM	3:24 PM	4:24 PM	5:24 PM	8:24 PM	10:24 PM
Mendon Mountain View Lodge**	7:32 AM	8:32 AM	9:32 AM	10:32 AM	11:32 AM	12:32 PM	1:32 PM	2:32 PM	3:32 PM	4:32 PM	5:32 PM	8:32 PM	10:32 PM
Pico Resort Hotel	7:36 AM	8:36 AM	9:36 AM	10:36 AM	11:36 AM	12:36 PM	1:36 PM	2:36 PM	3:36 PM	4:36 PM	5:36 PM	8:36 PM	10:36 PM
The Inn at Long Trail**	7:38 AM	8:38 AM	9:38 AM	10:38 AM	11:38 AM	12:38 PM	1:38 PM	2:38 PM	3:38 PM	4:38 PM	5:38 PM	8:38 PM	10:38 PM
Deli @ Killington Corners	7:41 AM	8:41 AM	9:41 AM	10:41 AM	11:41 AM	12:41 PM	1:41 PM	2:41 PM	3:41 PM	4:41 PM	5:41 PM	8:41 PM	10:41 PM
Killington Park and Ride	7:44 AM	8:44 AM	9:44 AM	10:44 AM	11:44 AM	12:44 PM	1:44 PM	2:44 PM	3:44 PM	4:44 PM	5:44 PM	8:44 PM	10:44 PM
Hillside	7:45 AM	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	10:45 AM	11:45 AM	12:45 PM	1:45 PM	2:45 PM	3:45 PM	4:45 PM	5:45 PM	8:45 PM	10:45 PM
Killington Road Stops***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
K1 Base Lodge	7:58 AM	8:58 AM	9:58 AM	10:58 AM	11:58 AM	12:58 PM	1:58 PM	2:58 PM	3:58 PM	4:58 PM	5:58 PM	8:58 PM	10:58 PM
Human Resources	7:59 AM	8:59 AM	9:59 AM	10:59 AM	11:59 AM	12:59 PM	1:59 PM	2:59 PM	3:59 PM	4:59 PM	5:59 PM	8:59 PM	10:59 PM
Snowshed Base Lodge	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	9:00 PM	11:00 PM

Additional Summer Hours

Killington to Rutland

Killington Grand Hotel	8:02 AM	9:02 AM	10:02 AM	11:02 AM	12:02 PM	1:02 PM	2:02 PM	3:02 PM	4:02 PM	5:02 PM	6:02 PM	9:03 PM	11:03 PM
Mountain Green Resort	8:06 AM	9:06 AM	10:06 AM	11:06 AM	12:06 PM	1:06 PM	2:06 PM	3:06 PM	4:06 PM	5:06 PM	6:06 PM	9:06 PM	11:06 PM
Killington Road Stops***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Hillside	8:12 AM	9:12 AM	10:12 AM	11:12 AM	12:12 PM	1:12 PM	2:12 PM	3:12 PM	4:12 PM	5:12 PM	6:12 PM	9:12 PM	11:12 PM
Killington Park and Ride	8:14 AM	9:14 AM	10:14 AM	11:14 AM	12:14 PM	1:14 PM	2:14 PM	3:14 PM	4:14 PM	5:14 PM	6:14 PM	9:14 PM	11:14 PM
Gazebo Plaza (across from Post Office)	8:15 AM	9:15 AM	10:15 AM	11:15 AM	12:15 PM	1:15 PM	2:15 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:15 PM	6:15 PM	9:15 PM	11:15 PM
The Inn at Long Trail**	8:21 AM	9:21 AM	10:21 AM	11:21 AM	12:21 PM	1:21 PM	2:21 PM	3:21 PM	4:21 PM	5:21 PM	6:21 PM	9:21 PM	11:21 PM
Pico Resort Hotel	8:23 AM	9:23 AM	10:23 AM	11:23 AM	12:23 PM	1:23 PM	2:23 PM	3:23 PM	4:23 PM	5:23 PM	6:23 PM	9:23 PM	11:23 PM
Mendon Mountainview Lodge	8:25 AM	9:25 AM	10:25 AM	11:25 AM	12:25 PM	1:25 PM	2:25 PM	3:25 PM	4:25 PM	5:25 PM	6:25 PM	9:25 PM	11:25 PM
Pico Mountain Commons**	8:27 AM	9:27 AM	10:27 AM	11:27 AM	12:27 PM	1:27 PM	2:27 PM	3:27 PM	4:27 PM	5:27 PM	6:27 PM	9:27 PM	11:27 PM
Old Turnpike Rd**	8:28 AM	9:28 AM	10:28 AM	11:28 AM	12:28 PM	1:28 PM	2:28 PM	3:28 PM	4:28 PM	5:28 PM	6:28 PM	9:28 PM	11:28 PM
Meadow Lake Drive**	8:30 AM	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	4:30 PM	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	9:30 PM	11:30 PM
Best Western**	8:31 AM	9:31 AM	10:31 AM	11:31 AM	12:31 PM	1:31 PM	2:31 PM	3:31 PM	4:31 PM	5:31 PM	6:31 PM	9:31 PM	11:31 PM
Eastridge Professional Bldg**	8:32 AM	9:32 AM	10:32 AM	11:32 AM	12:32 PM	1:32 PM	2:32 PM	3:32 PM	4:32 PM	5:32 PM	6:32 PM	9:32 PM	11:32 PM
Deer Street**	8:36 AM	9:36 AM	10:36 AM	11:36 AM	12:36 PM	1:36 PM	2:36 PM	3:36 PM	4:36 PM	5:36 PM	6:36 PM	9:36 PM	11:36 PM
Nichols Street**	8:38 AM	9:38 AM	10:38 AM	11:38 AM	12:38 PM	1:38 PM	2:38 PM	3:38 PM	4:38 PM	5:38 PM	6:38 PM	9:38 PM	11:38 PM
RMMTC*	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	10:45 AM	11:45 AM	12:45 PM	1:45 PM	2:45 PM	3:45 PM	4:45 PM	5:45 PM	6:45 PM	9:45 PM	11:45 PM
Staples Plaza	8:55 AM	9:55 AM	10:55 AM	11:55 AM	12:55 PM	1:55 PM	2:55 PM	3:55 PM	4:55 PM	5:55 PM	6:55 PM	9:55 PM	-
RMMTC*	9:05 AM	10:05 AM	11:05 AM	12:05 PM	1:05 PM	2:05 PM	3:05 PM	4:05 PM	5:05 PM	6:05 PM	7:05 PM	10:05 PM	-



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Practice: Part 1

You get good at what you practice

A few years ago, I took a solo trip while my book was at the printer. The trip was purposeful with a specific agenda; I was putting into practice what I shared in the book.

As a happy, busy, grandmother, I had not traveled solo for some time. An avid traveler, the stretch of homebodiness combined with middle age allowed the fear gremlin to settle in.

I wanted to shift my relationship with the fear gremlin regarding solo travel before it turned to mental concrete. It was not true, yet I was getting good at telling myself it was. It was poppycock!

When fear or any other gremlin (Should, Can't, Later, Expectation, etc.), has the upper hand in any area of my life, I feel stuck. When I am stuck, I am spinning my wheels. This feels bad.

I prefer to be in "forward" mode. In this mode, I feel free. This feels good.

driving my own ship now. She smiled, said nothing, and looked relieved. I plucked her up and gently placed her in the backseat of an imaginary car, where I could see her in the rearview mirror. I assured her that I knew where to find her if I needed her. With the peaceful exchange of power in place, I feel my confidence surge and prepared to move forward.

My solo trip scared me. So I practiced closing my eyes, breathing deeply, and shifting my relationship with fear.

I was going on a trip and in my suitcase I packed ...

During the summer, my long-time mini iPad died and I bought my first cell phone. I set the voiceover for the GPS to a British accent and bought a plane ticket. Over the next few weeks, hearing this accent added to my travel excitement as I had bicycled and hitch-

hiked (solo) in the British Isles as a teenager. I had skirted the southern border of Scotland and wanted to experience more of it.

Excitement was expanding, as fear diminished.

Two days before leaving, a mock-up of my book arrived for review. "Fear" is the second book in the series. My first, "Should" was the first of "the gremlins" series. They are both small; quick and easy reads. I gave the printer the thumbs up and packed the mock-up to read out loud (on social media) at some cool location in Scotland.

Shift your mind

The overarching trip agenda was to be a noticer. I told myself that every time I heard the fear gremlin tell me I could not do something—I would stop, and if it was safe to do so—do it.

No hesitation. Just do it.

I also set a fun goal of swimming in EVERY Loch, Sea Loch, alpine pond, or the ocean, whenever I encountered them. I knew they would be chilly, which is seriously fun and holistically healing for me.

This was my kind of adventure!

For more information visit: sandradeeowens.com.



The Funologist
By Sandra Dee Owens

Funology

Visual aids work well for me. In my mind's eye, I visualize a dial with two settings; "Stuck" and "Forward." When I recognize I am stuck, I close my eyes, breathe deeply, then reach out my hand and flip the switch from 'stuck' to 'forward.' I am giving notice (to myself and the gremlins) that my intention is set. It is the first move in setting myself free. It is a process. I do not lay expectations on myself that I will instantly resolve the issue. I am attentive to the process because that is where the fun is. And I take fun seriously.

Years ago I began shifting my relationship with the gremlins. Instead of viewing them as enemies to conquer, I sought a fun, effective and sustainable route to managing negativity. In my mind's eye, I turned each gremlin into an animated being and imagined a lifelong relationship with them. Then I shifted my relationship with them from contentious to friendly.

In my mind's eye, I imagined fear as an animated human and invited her in for tea at a round kitchen table. I laid my hand on top of hers, thanked her for saving my life over the years, and told her I was capable of



By Sandra Dee Owens

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← Looking Back:
from page 39

lot of mountain scenery to admire along the way, plus some cows. There are a few spots where you can stop and watch the creek flowing along. You get both exercise and relaxation on this route!

Biking means different things to different people. I had a relative in Florida who used to ride an adult tricycle around the development she lived in. She told me that she rode it to her hairdresser's shop that was in her complex. All I could think of was the expression, "What goes around comes around!" A tricycle rises again! This particular relative rode her tricycle until she was over 100 years old. How is that for commitment?

I know a couple of people who recently got electric bikes. They really enjoy them and look forward to exploring new places. These bikes are a great option for those of us

who are in the "senior category."

Another popular option is mountain biking. In Rutland City that can be done at Pine Hill Park. If you are in the Killington area some of your choices include: Killington Bike Park, Green Mountain Trails, Sherburne Trails and Gifford Woods. Other options nearby are Woodstock's Aqueduct Trail and Mt. Peg. In Poultney, Slate Valley offers mountain biking. Do you get the picture? This is a popular activity in our area with many choices that are close to wherever we live.

But biking isn't just a summer sport. You can ride a fat tire bike on snow in the winter. Pine Hill Park grooms its trails as do Slate Valley, Mt. Peg and Aqueduct.

As you can see there is a type of biking that is suitable for just about everyone at every age. Feeling adventuresome? Why not get on a bike and have some fun!



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← Meditation:

from page 38

happened to notice more movement out back. Three huge male turkeys strutted across our yard at a leisurely pace—the biggest toms I’ve ever seen. After that, we laughed and joked, “what will be next, coyote or fox?”

Last fall, our neighbor Kay watched 30 turkeys parade down her long driveway. A week later, she couldn’t believe who joined her, precisely, on Thanksgiving Day. Her deck was crowded with a flock of turkeys who knew, somehow, they were safe at her house. Why? Kay happens to be a committed vegetarian!

Now we’ll return to my meditative journey into the Bear Cave last summer.

I dressed more warmly for my second visit to not feel the chill and roughness of the cave wall. I took four deep breaths, raised, then lowered my eyebrows while exhaling, then my body relaxed. I set my intention, began meditation, then entered the Bear Cave once again. Soon my bear friend entered in.

“Good morning, Bear. May we please speak? You shared much wisdom. I’d like to hear more.”

“Good morning, Jill. Are you feeling better?”

“Last night I didn’t rest very well!”

“Do what you can to get enough sleep. Your mood and health will surely improve.”

“It’s sometimes a matter of self-discipline—overcoming bad habits like my iPad and TV,” I confess, guiltily.

Bear replies, “I love spontaneity but structure is good to help you live the life you desire. If I don’t structure my day very well, I go to bed hungry and can’t hibernate. Bears are like squirrels—we must plan ahead—but mostly we eat whenever we can. To grow big and strong takes many bites!”

“That’s why we say ‘as hungry as a bear.’ I have been known to nibble all day,” I confess.

“Times of fasting are also helpful to give the digestive track a break. Then the body can focus on healing rather than using its energy to digest,” bear said.

“Good point! What else would you like to teach me today?”

“Lifting up mood seems to be on point. Let’s strategize to resolve this in you.”

“Thank you!”

“Jill, look around. What do you see? Duality and polarity. Sometimes you need to consciously choose on what you want your focus to be.”



By Marguerite Jill Dye

“I see.”

“Will you choose turmoil, anguish, and strife, suffering, negativity, or choose life? If injustice and pain are your choice, they will empower more challenges in your life. Decide to become a bright beam of light to spread love and joy around on Earth. Look to nature to find your peace. It will reset and heal your brain. Healing vibrations stem from love and feelings of gratitude for living this life. You can also go within to trigger healing and Source connection.”

“Bear, how do you share your strength?”

“By standing and planting my feet on the ground, I feel the power and energy of Earth. Naturally, I get to plant all four!”

“I love your sense of humor, Bear!”

“We bears are quite serious when out on a mission, but we love to guffaw, too. After all, big belly laughs originated with bears!”

“I don’t know if I’d recognize the sound—like the baby bear calls I recently heard. I thought they came from a turkey being tortured until I listened to cubs on the internet.”

“Augh! Augh! (Bear laughed guffaw sounds.) As long as it puts a smile on your face!”

Bear guffawed. I giggled. Then he leaned forward and suggested: “Jill, this is the moment to think forward and envision the life you wish to live—with a purpose greater than yourself. What brings you joy that you’d like to include?”

I thought for a moment, then this came out: “Time with our grandchildren and son. Good health so I can do as I wish without the main focus being on my health. A loving affectionate relationship with my hubby with lots of bear hugging, kissing and connecting. Spiritual growth and a way to share it with fellow seekers and curious kids.”

“That’s a great start. Now begin to imagine the details of this life. Plan your future schedule, events, journeys, workshops, and together times. Write it all down so you can see what you’ll be doing and where you’ll be when.”

“Thank you, Bear!”

Then I slowly creep out from the cave. I feel excited and energized. I have a plan of steps to change my focus to my future dream life. In the meantime, I choose to enjoy life!

To be continued next week. . .

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

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By Merisa Sherman

Mendon resident Cindy Bergstrom enjoys a foliage paddle on Kent Pond in Killington.

Living the Dream:
from page 39

can that be? How can each day be absolutely more gorgeous than the day before? The reds we were told weren't going to pop this fall are glowing full and bright, reminding us how special and unique our maple trees are.

Don't get me wrong, I am super stoked for winter and can feel the changing of the air and the wind and will rejoice when the leaves fall and the snow guns turn on. But there is something magical about foliage. A beauty right before death, a time when we should be mourning their loss of leaves we can only remark on their greatness. Last Wednesday, I skipped out on work to summit Camel's Hump (about 90 minutes) and relished in being a part of the mountain for a few strenuous miles until I hit the stunning summit and could only see the trees changing below me.

Another stolen moment, a quick decision the night before based on an opening in my

calendar and the beauty of the world around me. But we must be sure we don't miss this time of year. When so many people from around the world come to our little state of Vermont to see the beauty that surrounds us, we must take the time to look as well. To take the day or the afternoon off, to hike up for a sunset or wake in the dark for a sunrise paddle. The amount of time doesn't matter - it could be a morning coffee outside on the front porch, but be sure to surround yourself with color this foliage season.

Practice your powers of observation and truly notice that which is around you. Enjoy the leaves - but most especially, look out for motorcycles.

Merisa Sherman is a long-time Killington resident, local Realtor, KMS Coach and bartender. She can be reached at female-skibum@gmail.com.

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