



## FIRST DAY OF SUMMER, LONGEST DAY

Wednesday, June 21, is officially the first day of summer! Enjoy the longest day of the year with sunrise at 5:09 a.m. and sunset at 8:36 p.m. — 15 hours and 27 minutes!



## NEW ESTHETICIAN COURSE OFFERED IN KILLINGTON

Stafford Technical Center is now offering an esthetician course for adults above Spa at the Woods in Killington.

Students can learn nails, cosmetology, facials and eventually massage. It's a yearlong course three days a week. A dozen people are in the program.

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## GREG CARTER RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS AS LIFT MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR AT OKEMO

Carter reflects on decades of change. When he started there were just nine lifts, now there are 20!

Page 4

# Paul Ginther named Killington's new Chief

Fire Chief Chis LaHart and Asst. Chief Glenn Burres leave dept.

By Katy Savage

After a tumultuous start to Killington's first hybrid volunteer fire department, the town's first paid fire chief and assistant chief have departed.

Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth announced June 20 that he accepted Fire Chief Chris LaHart's verbal resignation on June 14 effective immediately, while Assistant Chief Glenn Burres was fired on June 19.

Paul Ginther will step up as the new fire chief and receive an annual \$82,000 salary.

Ginther, who lives in Middlesex, will take over July 10. He originally applied for the fire chief

position but was turned down over LaHart. He is currently the director of the Barre Town EMS Department. Ginther did not immediately return a phone call on Tuesday afternoon. He said in an email Tuesday night that he was not yet ready to speak about his new role.

"He was interviewed by the search committee and is highly qualified for the position," Hagenbarth wrote in a news release. "Paul is an experienced career fire officer looking to further a 34-plus year career by serving and leading the town of Killington Fire and Rescue Department."

Ginther has a bachelor's degree in fire service administration and training in EMS management.

The Select Board called an emergency meeting on Tuesday evening, after the Mountain Times' deadline, to determine the department's future and current status, Hagenbarth said.

Both LaHart and Burres were in their positions for less than a year. LaHart took the reins in January under a six-month contract and paid an annual \$70,000 annual salary plus benefits, while Chief change-up → 3



## Resort bike park now open all week

By Calvin Merrill

Killington Resort is now open for mountain biking seven days a week on Ramshead and Snowshed and held its first adult bike camp this past weekend. K-1 will open to the public June 29 for access to those trails and scenic rides. This weekend, June 24-25, it's open but only for the Eastern States Cup competitors. See page 13 for more information on that event.

## West Rutland residents meet with developers of \$11.5M housing project

By Steven Jupiter/The Reporter

W.RUTLAND—Residents of West Rutland met last month with representatives from the Housing Trust of Rutland County (HTRC) and their development team to discuss the affordable-housing project that HTRC is proposing for a site in that community. The conference room at West Rutland Town Hall was at capacity, as dozens of community members came to hear HTRC's pitch and ask questions about the impact of the project.

The meeting was organized by W. Rutland Town Manager Mary Ann Goulette. Presenters included Mary Cohen, the executive director of HTRC; Matt Moore, a senior developer with Evernorth Community Developers, Pat Griffin of the engineering firm Enman-Kesselring, and Nick Wood and Jean Terwilliger of Vermont Integrated Architecture (VIA) in Middlebury.

Moore began the presentation with an overview of the project and his firm's involvement. Evernorth is a nonprofit that specializes in community development in northern New England, with a particular focus on affordable housing. The firm is overseeing the project on behalf of HTRC.

The proposed project would consist of a single, multi-wing building with 24 apartments of various sizes—17 one-bedroom units, five two-bedroom units, and two studio/efficiency units. Nineteen of the units would be income-restricted and five would be "market."

Applicants for the capped-rent apartments would be vetted W. Rutland housing → 28

## State Police investigates fatal police shooting in Fair Haven

Staff report

The Vermont State Police has identified the officer involved in a fatal shooting that occurred Monday evening, June 19, in Fair Haven.

Police said Kenneth W. Barber Jr., 38, of Castleton, was shot and killed by Fair Haven Police Detective Shaun Hewitt around 7:40 p.m. on Monday night on Washington Street.

Maj. Dan Trudeau, commander of the Vermont State Police Criminal Division, said Tuesday afternoon that Hewitt responded to an ongoing altercation between the driveways of 26 and 28 Washington Street.

Trudeau said residents of 28 Washington Street

were trying to remove a gun from Barber's hands.

Residents were able to take the gun away just as

"The use of force is up to the perception of the officer at the time," Trudeau said.

the officer from Fair Haven arrived. They continued to try to get Barber into custody, but Barber refused and fled to a car in his driveway at 26 Washington

Street.

Hewitt approached the vehicle's driver side and ordered Barber to stop, police said. At which time, Barber put the car in gear and struck Hewitt, Trudeau said. Hewitt fired a single shot from his handgun to Barber's torso.

Barber was transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center, where was pronounced dead. An autopsy on Tuesday, June 20 verified Barber died from a single gunshot wound to the torso. The manner of death was homicide.

The investigation was still ongoing as of Tuesday. "The Fatal shooting → 10



# New esthetician course comes to Killington

By Katy Savage

Stafford Technical Center has a new satellite program in Killington.

The tech center is renting space above Spa at the Woods on Woods Lane in Killington to offer an esthetician course for adults.

The upstairs has been transformed to a classroom to offer training on nails, cosmetology, facials and eventually massage.

Charlene Palfey, who has been an esthetician and massage therapist at the Spa at the Woods for about 10 years, started the adult esthetician program at Stafford Technical Center in 2017.

"They just had cosmetology at the time," she said. "I knew there was a need for other services."

The program outgrew the space at Stafford Tech last semester.

"We had to scramble to get the rooms together," she said.

That's when Perry Beede, the facilities director at the Woods and members of the board,

allowed Palfey's students to finish the semester up at the Woods. It worked well enough to make the program more permanent. In May, Stafford Technical Center signed a lease for the space.

"It's a spa environment that they could potentially work in, it's a win-win," said Beede, 40, who started working at The Woods when he was 18.

The yearlong course is offered three days a week. There are about 12 people in the program currently, ranging from recent high school graduates to 47 years old.

"To be at The Woods, where they can see what real spa life is like, is amazing," Palfey said. "I wanted to be away from all the mayhem. I thought it would be nice for them to be in a real environment."

Palfey got her interest in teaching after she completed an apprenticeship about five years ago.

"It was a nightmare to get further education," she



By Perry Beede

*There's new sign outside the Spa at the Woods for Stafford Technical Center's beauty course.*

said, explaining the quality of education was poor. She wanted to educate people the proper way.

The Woods has 12 private treatment rooms, a fitness center, sauna, eucalyptus steam, an

indoor pool and hot tub. It offers massage, facials, body treatments, acupuncture, and manicures and pedicures.

"I get to keep my hands in the field while teaching," Palfey said.

# Additional funding allocated for Pittsfield Town Hall

By Brett Yates

The Pittsfield Town Hall Building Committee shared some potentially unpleasant news with municipal officials last week: in order to complete the town's long-standing renovation project on the historic structure that houses both the Pittsfield Select Board and the Pittsfield Historical Society, the committee would need more money.

Over the course of three town meetings, starting in 2020, Pittsfield residents voted to deposit \$93,000 into a Town Hall reserve fund to update the facility. It had closed in 2019 after an inspector cited safety concerns. Work began, and it reopened two years ago.

The Select Board also set aside a portion of Pittsfield's federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 with the goal of turning the Town Hall into an "emergency shelter," equipped to protect townspeople in the event of a natural disaster. According to a compliance report filed with the U.S. Treasury this spring, Pittsfield had spent \$57,179 on the project, excluding the \$27,430 price tag on a backup generator that will serve both the Town Hall and the adjacent Town Office.

"Members of this committee have spent countless hours ourselves demoing, putting back together, adding on, doing all the things we could," he said. "We have saved the town thousands and thousands of dollars."

In the meantime, however, the Town Hall has yet to earn an occupancy permit for its lower floor. It doesn't yet comply with Vermont's egress requirements or fire code. Plus, the building still needs new clapboard, new flooring, and new paint in spots, along with a couple new doors and a chimney repair, according to the Town Hall building committee. And unexpected expenses, small and large, have amassed.

"Today, we thought the electrical panel total was going to be \$500. Because of the old wiring and whatnot, it went up \$435 to \$935," said Richard Gaston, who chairs the committee. "When we did the foundation work on the front, we realized the whole front underneath the vestibule was rotted. We had to replace that."

Gaston pointed out that private donations and volunteer labor had already mitigated the cost to the town, which, in his view, would need to increase the Town Hall's share of the federal stimulus.

"Members of this committee have spent countless hours ourselves demoing, putting back together, adding on, doing all the things we could," he said. "We have saved the town thousands and thousands of dollars."

The Select Board expressed its appreciation but also noted that, of its original ARPA payment of \$165,306, only \$44,423 remained uncommitted.

"There are suggestions for other things in the community, like a new playground for the kids in the area," Selectwoman Joyce Stevens observed.

"We're tired. We'd like to get this done," Gaston emphasized. "We are so close to having this be a gem for this town."

The board trimmed Gaston's \$30,000 request by \$10,000 before signing on. According to Selectman A.J. Ruben, next year's budget, already approved, will release additional funds for the Town Hall, covering the gap between the board's new allocation and Gaston's estimate of the remaining cost.

"It seems that it would be responsible for us to finish this project in a timely manner and not delay it," Ruben said, "because, if we delay, things will likely be more expensive later."

# Maclure Library receives grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation

The Maclure Library in Pittsford has been selected to receive a Rural Library Grant for the 2023-2024 school year from the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF), a nonprofit located in Waterbury Center.

Awarded annually to 12 qualifying public libraries in Vermont and New Hampshire, the Rural Library Grant is designed to help small-town libraries create excitement around literacy, update the collection, increase circulation, and strengthen the library's connection with the community.

"We're really looking forward to the collaboration with Lothrop," said Maclure Youth Librarian Sophie Marks. "Our summer CLiF events in the past have been very popular, so I'm excited to be able to reach even more kids during the school year."

Christine Tate, the Lothrop School Librarian, agreed, "This grant will give us an opportunity to put more books into the hands of young readers!"

The grant provides \$2,000 in new children's books for the public library, \$500 in new books for the local elementary school, two storytelling events for children at the local elementary school, two new books for each child in attendance to choose, and funding for mini-grants for special library programming over the course of the year.

"CLiF's Rural Library Grant program is a wonderful way to support libraries by generating awareness and enthusiasm through in-person events and book giveaways for local children," said CLiF Program Manager Cassie Willner. "In addition, we know how important it is to help small libraries update and diversify their children's book. Our ultimate

goal here at CLiF and through this grant is to inspire kids to love reading and writing."

The grant provides \$2,000 in new children's books for the public library, \$500 in new books for the local elementary school, two storytelling events for children.

To be considered for the grant, libraries must be located in towns with a population of 5,000 or less. The Rural Library grant is one of CLiF's longstanding programs, and CLiF has partnered with approximately 90 percent of libraries in both states that fall into that category.

The 2023-2024 CLiF Rural

Library grantees are:

- Alden Balch Memorial Library in Lunenburg, VT
- Allenstown Public Library in Allenstown, NH
- Fairlee Public Library in Fairlee, VT
- Harrisville Public Library in Harrisville, NH
- Lawrence Memorial Library in Bristol, VT
- Maclure Library in Pittsford, VT
- Marc A. Hurlzler M.D. Library in Jefferson, NH
- New Durham Public Library in New Durham, NH
- Olivia Rodham Memorial Library in Nelson, NH
- Patten Library in North Haverhill, NH
- Rochester Public Library in Rochester, VT
- Sheldon Municipal Library in Sheldon, VT

CLiF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to nurture a love of reading and writing among children up to age 12 at higher risk of growing up with low literacy skills throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. Since 1998, CLiF has supported and inspired over 350,000 young readers and writers through its literacy program grants and has given almost \$10 million in new, high quality children's books.

For more information about CLiF, visit [clifonline.org](http://clifonline.org).



# Hartland forms safety committee after random shooting in home

By Curt Peterson

For years, Hartland has been a quiet place to live, work and recreate, residents feeling relatively safe under the watchful eye of the Vermont State Police (VSP), contracted to provide a certain number of hours of patrol coverage, and to respond to calls from townspeople for help. Now the Select Board has created the Safety and Policing Committee to recommend future policing policies.

A shooting incident on Lords Road in May served as a wake-up call. Andrea Robinson, according to police accounts, reported someone had fired shots into her home, causing visible damage. One person, Tim Murphy Jr., was taken to Mt. Ascutney Hospital for treatment of a “superficial gunshot wound.” The state police considered the incident “suspicious, and not “random.”

Minor thefts, accidents and dangerous traffic infractions, as well as annoying nighttime firearms incidents have increased over recent years, but these events were not what triggered creation of the committee.

The state has wanted the VSP to give up the kind of “rural policing” Hartland has enjoyed, and to concentrate on statewide specialized services, said to Select Board chair Phil Hobbie.

The decision was accelerated by a recruiting problem. The Safety committee → 5

# Hartland faces reappraisal

By Curt Peterson

There is a lot of talk around the Three Corners Market coffee counter about the looming general reappraisal of Hartland properties and what it will mean to Hartland tax bills.

Not all Vermont towns will be affected by the new evaluation — while two-thirds of the state’s 254 municipalities will be required to undergo reappraisal, one third will not. Whether a town is subject to the mandate is determined by the difference between property values as determined by current sales, and the property values reported on the town grand list.

If the grand list value is below 85% of actual sales records over three years, a reappraisal is required. This difference is expressed in the town’s “Common Level of Appraisal,” or CLA.

Hartland’s CLA was 90.24 in 2021, but has dropped currently to 81.3%. According to listers chair Stacey Bradley, it will be even lower when announced in July.

Vermont property became very popular with “down-country” emigrants hoping to escape Covid, as the state’s ow infection rate promised relatively safe haven.

“Housing prices increased more than 30% as millennials aged into the housing market, older residents resisted leaving their homes, people moved away from jobs to work remotely, and construction slowed to a snail’s pace,” Bradley said, adding: “There were only four ‘valid sales’ between April 1 and mid-June — historically there were more than 30 in the

Reappraisals → 30

## ← Chief change-up: from page 1

Burres was hired in April under an hourly salary.

The transition of the Public Safety Building to a hybrid department of paid personnel and volunteers was approved by voters in March 2022 in an attempt to bolster the roster and get more people to respond to emergency calls. At least 25 people quit or were fired over the past six months under LaHart’s leadership, some calling him a bully and sexist.

Hagenbarth estimates there are about 21 people on the department, down from about 40 when LaHart took over, though Hagenbarth said the town will verify the roster before the new chief takes over.

LaHart said in an email that he was not yet ready to comment on his departure from the department.

Hagenbarth declined to speak about Burres’ termination.

LaHart hired Burres, 58, as the part time assistant fire chief at the beginning of April. Burres had been a volunteer on the Killington Fire and Rescue since he moved to Killington 16 years ago, after retiring as the deputy chief of a fire department in Newburgh, New York. He originally applied for the Killington fire chief position but didn’t have the credentials to lead a department in Vermont. As assistant chief, he was primarily in charge of training and inventorying the department’s equipment.

Burres came under scrutiny earlier this month when he made a homophobic comment on his public Facebook page. The remark, “Hero’s (sic) get a day, homos get a month! I don’t care what your choice is but don’t force it in (sic) me or my family,” was reposted in the Killington Locals

Facebook group, which has 19,000 members.

Some on Facebook noted the post violates Killington’s Declaration of Inclusion, adopted by the Select Board in November 2022, which says the town “condemns racism and discrimination in all its forms and commits to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community.”

Attempts to reach Burres weren’t successful.

Burres has since deleted the post from his Facebook page, but it is still on the Killington Locals page. His public social media page has been riddled with homophobic, transphobic and anti-muslim remarks comments

“I don’t hold grudges but I’m hoping the townspeople are able to work together and move forward,” said Coriell.

since his employment in Killington began and before.

On April 11, he reposted an image of transgender swimmer Lia Thomas with the comment, “Changes his name to Lia and is now ranked #1 in women’s swimming. In the feeble mind of a woke liberal, this is fair. In the real world it’s not only unfair, but it’s insane.”

On May 6, he reposted an image of the American flag with the comment, “LIBERALS ARE SAYING THE AMERICAN FLAG IS OFFENSIVE TO MUSLIMS. SHARE IF YOU DON’T

GIVE A DAMN.”

Mark Foote, 30, is now the town’s only paid staff member. He became the department’s first full time paid firefighter as well as the head of the EMS program at the end of April.

It’s unclear if volunteers who left the department will return under new leadership.

Tom Rock, who resigned in May after 33 years, said he would be willing to go back. “There are a lot of members that want to be part of the fire department so hopefully some of those members will go back,” Rock said.

Denise Coriell, who was on the department for 15 years and led EMS, was relieved LaHart was gone.

“I think it allows the town to move forward,” said Coriell. “It’s to be seen how the town wants to progress with any of the people who were fired, let go or dismissed or resigned.”

Coriell was one of 13 members of Killington Search and Rescue (KSAR) who left the department in March after an uproar with LaHart and his wife Leslie. Coriell is one of three women who filed harassment complaints against LaHart.

Former search and rescue team members joined Rescue, Inc., in May while LaHart attempted to form his own search and rescue team with new volunteers in June. Coriell said the former KSAR team is unlikely to return to the fire department, though she hopes a new fire chief in Killington will be willing to work with Rescue, Inc. on calls.

“I don’t hold grudges, but I’m hoping the townspeople are able to work together and move forward,” Coriell said. “I think we would be happy to have the Killington area back in our

## KILLINGTON FOOD SHELF



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**Sherburne UCC “Little White Church,” Killington, VT**

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## MOUNTAIN TIMES

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**Contributors:**

Julia Purdy	Sandra Dee Owens
Curt Peterson	Brett Yates
Gary Salmon	Kevin Theissen
Dom Cioffi	Robin Alberti
Mary Ellen Shaw	Dave Hoffenberg
Paul Holmes	Victoria Gaither
Merisa Sherman	Jim Harrison
Liz DiMarco Weinmann	Alison Clarkson



**©The Mountain Times 2022**  
The Mountain Times • P.O. Box 183  
Killington, VT 05751 • 802-422-2399  
Email: [editor@mountaintimes.info](mailto:editor@mountaintimes.info)  
**[mountaintimes.info](http://mountaintimes.info)**



# Greg Carter retires after 40 years as lift maintenance director

By Karen D. Lorentz

Director of Lift Maintenance Greg Carter recently retired from a challenging and satisfying 40 years of working at Okemo Mountain.

Born in Springfield, Carter had learned to ski at age 5 at Ascutney and later skied at Round Top. He joined Okemo in 1983 as a lift operator and when recalled to his job at Fellows Gear Shaper, he served as a volunteer ski patrolman at Okemo. He returned to the ski area permanently in January 1985 and worked as the lift operations supervisor from 1986 to spring 1998, when he became the assistant lift maintenance supervisor. In 2001 he became the lift maintenance manager with his title changed to Director of Lift Maintenance when Vail Resorts bought Okemo in 2018.

Asked about the most impressive change he's witnessed at Okemo, Carter said, "The thing that stands out most is 1992 when the first detachable quad — the Northstar Express — was put in. The first time I rode it, I was like an amusement park ride, so fast and exhilarating."

Other impressive milestones included the Solitude, South Face, and Jackson Gore expansions. "We changed the fixed grips [original chairlifts] to detachables at Solitude and South face," he noted, adding that Jackson Gore was built with two detachables with the upper Quantum Four receiving a bubble in 2015 and then being replaced by a six pack in 2021. "Okemo has grown immensely," he added.

Asked if he was surprised that the Muellers, who took over the area and owned/operated it from 1982 to 2018, were so successful considering they had no previous ski resort experience, Carter said, "No. They were entrepreneurs and knew what people wanted and kept up with times."

## Changes and challenges

Carter recalled there were nine lifts when he started at Okemo — four chairlifts, five Pomalifts (surface disc lifts). Now there are 20 total — six detachable and seven fixed-grip chairlifts, six carpets, and one T-bar (for a terrain park and halfpipe).

Replacing the original lifts and keeping them turning and operating safely is an enormous task that includes preventative maintenance and repairs. And until 2018, Okemo's lift maintenance department also built the lifts. "Building the lifts was our work until Vail Resorts took over and then the lift manufacturer's crews installed them," Carter said.

However, he noted that because the maintenance department had originally installed 19 of today's lifts, they had



Courtesy Okemo

*Greg Carter enjoyed learning something every day with no two days the same in his 40 years at Okemo.*

benefitted from putting them together and knowing how they work and thus how to repair them.

"Wear is to be expected with moving parts like bearings and belts so there are some checks we do every day and some we do weekly and there are all sorts of different checks we do monthly and yearly. Maintenance is a necessary process to keep the lifts safe and functioning. They don't fix themselves.

"Everything gets looked at and we do whatever needs to be taken care of. Workers ride the lifts every day — generally all of them — inspect them visually and watch for telltale signs before something happens," Carter said.

That includes inspecting and lubing the cable (occasionally replacing them as they get worn); climbing towers and checking and greasing the sheave bearings and making sure the sheaves (wheels the cable rides) are in good condition; maintaining the bullwheels and drive mechanisms; and looking at backup motors among myriad other tasks.

With some lifts like the detachable quads, maintenance is performed based on hours of operation. The detachables are more labor intensive and a greater challenge to take care of due to more belts and pulleys, Carter noted. Icing presents a particular challenge and on those days maintenance gets in earlier to tackle the job of de-icing the sheaves and then putting the chairs, which had been taken off the cable, back on.

Due to ongoing preventive maintenance and understanding how the lifts work, there is less lift downtime today, Carter said. That makes for a better guest experience, but Carter also noted that "on a busy day there are lift lines at every detachable, but you can go to a fixed grip and get right on — sometimes you can get more skiing in on the fixed grip lifts than on riding the faster express lifts. The detachables cost more due to specialized parts and having more to them, but skiers like them so areas with detachables generally get more skier visits."

Summer is also a busy time for the crew who go over each lift, inspecting cables and running machines to check for cracks on chairs that have been taken off the cables. Non-destructive testing includes the bends, welds, grips, and steel all

getting checked out. "Twenty percent of chairs — around 250 chairs — have to be inspected every year, but manufacturers do a good job of building them today so we don't find cracks very often," Carter said.

The maintenance challenge that stands out for Carter over the years is "all the electrical changes that happened from year to year. Electronics got more technical and it was a lot of work to understand them from year to year — there was always a learning curve there. The old way always worked well, and now newer electronics can fail in the blink of an eye, and it takes a little longer to figure out where the problem is. Nothing is the way it used to be — just like our cars."

Asked about other challenges, Carter noted that "Weather is near the top in my book; sometimes you have to shut the lifts down in inclement weather. Mice can get in and cause problems. They like the wire and insulation that protects the wire and chew on it and eat it and make a mess and create an issue. Bearings can be good but can fail at any time. Things like that are unpredictable and keep you on your toes."

As for the most enjoyable parts of his job, Carter cited the thrill of riding the aforementioned Northstar Express and building the lifts. "It was good, fun work. It was the same procedures each time but also a source of thrills. You definitely had to have your wits about you," he said of times when a helicopter hovered over the crew with a tower to be set!

Noting that having a stable maintenance crew is important, Carter said that they can't be afraid of climbing towers, heights, or what's involved in maintenance challenges in a seven-days-a-week job in winter. He takes satisfaction in having trained "a topnotch crew over the last three to 10 years and being able to retire and say I left Okemo in real good shape."

Now that he is retired, Carter is enjoying relaxing and riding his motorcycle more. He looks forward to "traveling a little and sleeping in, in winter — not having to worry about getting out of the house and to the area in the middle of the night in a snowstorm."

And he'll sleep a little better knowing his longtime associate and assistant manager Shawn Hains, who also started out as a lift operator and then moved to lift maintenance, will be taking over for him.



Courtesy Okemo

*Left to right, Shawn Hains, who has been promoted to Lift Maintenance Manager for Okemo, is shown here with Greg Carter, who recently retired.*



# Original General Store will soon serve beer and wine

By Brett Yates

Seven days a week, the Original General Store in Pittsfield serves hot breakfasts, sandwiches, soups, and pizzas. It also sells beer and wine, but not to its dine-in customers. That'll soon change. Last Thursday, June 15, co-owner Katie Stiles appeared before the Pittsfield Select Board with an application for what the Vermont Division of Liquor Control calls a First Class License, which permits bars and eateries to sell wine and beer for on-premises consumption.

At the same address, Stiles and her husband also operate a seasonal fine-dining restaurant called the Backroom, which already has a First Class License. But until now, the Original General Store, a separate business, has made do with a Second Class License for takeaway sales only.

The Original General Store stays open until 6 p.m. on Saturdays, but usually it closes at 4. With beer and wine on the menu, it could eventually become a dinner destination of its own.

"The goal is, we're trying to build additional revenue streams, so we can support additional staff, so we can support additional hours," Stiles said.

Things may not change much immediately, but staff will have to abide by a few new rules to keep the two categories of beverage sales separate.

"You have to have a server," Stiles noted. "It has to be a designated area that's kind of cordoned off."

The selection behind the counter will differ, too. "It has to be a different product than we actually sell in the store," she said.

That'll mean more variety for customers. According to Stiles, some wine merchants don't authorize retailers to buy their products, reserving them for restaurants. With a First Class License, the Original General Store will qualify as the latter.

The board approved the application, which now awaits the state's review.

## OBITUARY

### Joseph Kay III, 32

Joseph William Kay III, 32, of Rutland died on June 15, 2023 at his home.

He was born Dec. 21, 1990 in New Haven, Connecticut, the son of Brian and Cathy (Rieben) Kay.

Joseph Kay attended Hamden Hall and later RTT.

He worked as a senior network engineer and had his own business, Killington IT Services.

He was a member of Killington Fire Department and worked with Regional Ambulance.

Kay was an avid skier and member of the Killington Freestyle Team.

He is survived by his mom and dad, his sister Miranda, and his wife Laura, Aunt Kathryn Ellen Franzman, Uncle Joseph William Kay Jr., Aunt Lorraine Kay, and numerous cousins and nephews.

He is predeceased by his



Joseph William Kay, III

uncle Al Franzman.

A memorial service will be held at the Killington Fire Dept. at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 22. Memorial Contributions may be made to

Rutland County Humane Society 765 Stevens Rd. Pittsford, Vermont. Arrangements are under the direction of Clifford Funeral Home.

## ← Safety committee: from page 5

state police no longer has the manpower to fulfill its obligation to Hartland, and urged the Select Board to seek alternative sources. The Windsor Police and Windsor County Sheriff's Department have indicated interest in serving the town, but the board opted to sign a contract renewal with the VSP until proper research is completed.

On June 19, the Select Board voted to form the Safety and Policing Committee, consisting of two Select Board members (Mandi Potter and Tom Kennedy), three citizens, one school board member, and one Fire and Rescue representative. The Select Board chair and the Town Manager would be "personnel resources". A compensated "scribe" was suggested for efficient communication and record-keeping.

Hobbie presented a draft "charge" to the committee, which the board hopes to populate quickly.

"The purpose of the Safety and Policing Committee is to define what is meant by safety in Hartland, prioritize those needs, create recommendations on how to achieve those identified needs, and draft a budget associated with these recommendations," the charge reads.

Two sources for research are cited — the VSP, relative to incidence records, and the townspeople themselves. The charge includes anecdotal references to residents' concerns: "Speeders, drug use, domestic violence, stolen property, vandalism, noisy neighbors, mental health, suicide checks, suspicious activity, vehicle crashes, fighting, choking, child abuse, death investigation, dog and wildlife complaints, alarms, sexual deviants and landlord/tenant problems, etc."

Relationships with other law enforcement authorities and first responders will be documented. Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission will facilitate a public meeting for discussion of the committee's findings and recommendations.

The committee is expected to submit their final report to the Select Board no later than October 2023.

"The purpose of the Safety and Policing Committee is to define what is meant by safety in Hartland... and draft a budget," the charge reads.

# Manslaughter case in infant's death moves toward trial

By Alan J. Keays/VT Digger

A Vermont judge has rejected a bid by a former Rutland child care provider — charged more than four years ago with manslaughter and child cruelty in the death of 6-month-old Harper Rose Briar — to dismiss the counts against her.

Stacey Vaillancourt was accused in 2019 of giving a fatal amount of a sedative found in over-the-counter antihistamines to the infant in her care.

Vaillancourt, through her attorney, sought to dismiss the two charges against her, leading to hearings that delayed the case proceeding to trial.

Judge Cortland Corsones recently wrote a 14-page decision rejecting Vaillancourt's move to throw out the charges.

"Because there is substantial admissible evidence upon which a jury could find, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Defendant is guilty of both charges, the court denies the motion," Corsones wrote.

The judge set a tentative trial date for Nov. 27.

When Vaillancourt was arraigned on the two charges in March 2019, she pleaded not guilty. If convicted of the charges, she faces up to 25 years in prison.

The Pittsford infant died Jan. 24, 2019, at the child care facility that Vaillancourt ran out of her home on North Street in Rutland. According to an affidavit filed by Detective Trooper Seth Richardson of the Vermont State Police, police were called at about 4:15 p.m. that day to the emergency room of Rutland Regional Medical Center, where Harper was pronounced dead.

Harper had been taken by ambulance to the medical center from Vaillancourt's daycare, the affidavit stated. The ambulance had been called to the in-home child care facility for a report that Harper was not breathing, Richardson wrote.

It was Harper's second day at the home when Vaillancourt gave her a fatal amount of diphenhydramine, an "over-the-counter (sedating) antihistamine used for treatment of allergic reactions," according to a police affidavit filed in the case.

Stacey Vaillancourt is accused of providing a fatal dose of a sedative found in over-the-counter antihistamines to Harper Rose Briar, a 6-month-old infant in her care.

According to the affidavit, Vaillancourt told investigators she was the sole person who provided care for Harper that day.

An autopsy report from the state's chief medical examiner's office showed that Harper's death was a homicide caused by "diphenhydramine intoxication."

The prosecution has alleged that Vaillancourt provided the drug to sedate the infant.

Robert McClallen, Vaillancourt's attorney, said at his client's arraignment that she had run the daycare for 25 years but stopped operating it following the infant's death.

In seeking to dismiss the charges, Vaillancourt's defense had argued that the state case was based on circumstantial evidence and raised the possibility that another person could have administered the medication.

"The court is not persuaded by Defendant's arguments," Corsones wrote. "There is ample evidence that (Harper) was alive and breathing, well into the afternoon on January 24."

The judge added that there was enough evidence for the case to go to trial and for a jury to weigh.

"To be sure, there is no evidence that Defendant knew that the amount of diphenhydramine she administered to (Harper) would cause intoxication, or death by intoxication," Corsones wrote.

"However," he added, "the circumstances here are at least sufficient to have a jury decide whether Defendant was subjectively aware that her actions risked harm to (Harper's) health or well-being."

Vaillancourt has been free on a \$25,000 bond since her arraignment.

Rutland County State's Attorney Ian Sullivan, the prosecutor in the case, declined comment when reached Monday. McClallen, Vaillancourt's attorney, could not be reached Monday for comment.



## Vt enacts country's most comprehensive law against police sexual violence

Gov. Phil Scott signed S. 33, an act relating to miscellaneous judicial procedures. The law prohibits a police officer from engaging in sexual contact with an individual who is in custody, being detained, or being arrested to also prohibiting law enforcement from engaging in a sexual act with a person who is the subject of an open investigation or a confidential informant or victim in an open investigation. With this legislation, policy makers reiterated that non-consensual sex is a crime, while consenting adults should be afforded the autonomy and dignity to make choices about their own bodies.

Consistent with this view, S.33's ban on police sexual assaults will help prevent the second-most prevalent form of police violence behind excessive force, police sexual misconduct, which most commonly occurs between police and consensual adult sex workers. Due to their engagement in a criminalized activity, victims engaged in prostitution are targeted by officers who use their fear of arrest to exploit them. "The fear of arrest makes it impossible for a sex worker to give consent even if it appears that they may have made a choice. There is no choice to be made between violation and incarceration. Additionally, because consent was

obtained by deception, it amounts to sexual assault," said Henri Bynx, co-founder and co-director of The Ishtar Collective.

"Laws addressing police sexual violence codify the notion that consent, or lack thereof, is key when determining if a crime has occurred," said Rep. Taylor Small, sponsor of the initial bill included in S.33. "By delineating when consent cannot be given, we acknowledge that it is possible for sex workers to consent to paid sex in other instances and that when consent is involved, it should not be a crime," Small continued, referencing the companion bills introduced last legislative session that would decriminalize consensual adult sex work.

The majority of Vermonters agree that consensual adult sex work should be decriminalized. In a 2022 poll, when asked if they think "prostitution between consenting adults should be legal...or a crime," 46% said it should be legal, while only 33% said it should be a crime. 21% were unsure. Sex workers, academics, human-rights activists, and public-health experts are increasingly calling on legislators to consider the evidence around decriminalization, which demonstrates increases in public health and safety and decreases in exploitation and trafficking.



By Emma Cotton/VTDigger

Attorney General Charity Clark announces that Vermont is suing Monsanto on the steps of the Chittenden Civil Division of the Vermont Superior Court in Burlington on Monday, July 19.

## Vermont attorney general sues Monsanto over PCB contamination in schools

Though a number of other states have sued the company, Vermont is the first to sue on the grounds of damage to educational institutions.

By Emma Cotton/VTDigger

Attorney General Charity Clark has filed her first major lawsuit since taking office in January, taking on agrochemical giant Monsanto for alleged damage to the state's natural resources and schools.

According to Clark, the damage comes from Monsanto's PCB products, which were made to use in household and construction goods such as paints, caulks, dyes and fireproofing substances, among others. PCBs have been linked to cancers and negative health impacts to the endocrine system, immune system, nervous system and reproductive system.

"Monsanto manufactured, marketed, sold, and distributed PCBs while knowing that its products would cause significant, long-term damage in Vermont," Clark said in a press release Monday.

"This lawsuit seeks to hold Monsanto accountable for knowingly misleading the public about the harmful impacts of its products. The cost of cleaning up after Monsanto's deception will be considerable and should be borne by the multibillion-dollar company that profited from the misconduct, not by Vermont taxpayers," she said in the statement.

At a press conference Monday on the steps of the Chittenden Civil Division of the Vermont Superior Court in Burlington, Clark announced that her office filed the complaint in that court Friday.

"We know that Vermont's natural resources,

including surface waters and aquatic wildlife are contaminated, and we know that Lake Champlain is severely contaminated," she said, adding that the state has issued fish advisories for lake trout, smallmouth bass and yellow perch.

While other states have sued and settled cases against Monsanto, Vermont is the first state to sue for damage that has occurred in schools. The suit seeks to remedy harms to

"We're seeing around 30% of the schools coming back with elevated levels of PCBs," said Justin Kolber.

all schools in Vermont with traceable PCB contamination.

Following the discovery of PCB contamination at Burlington High School in 2019 — which required the school to shutter and move operations to the abandoned Macy's department store in downtown Burlington — the Vermont Legislature approved a statewide program to test all of the state's 321 schools for PCB contamination.

"So far, almost 50 schools have been tested," Justin Kolber, chief of the environmental and public protection division in the Attorney General's office, said at Monday's press conference. "The testing continues, and we're seeing around 30% of the schools coming back with elevated levels of PCBs."

Last December, Burlington School District filed a separate lawsuit against Monsanto for the cost of rebuilding a new high school.

## Lawmakers are set to extend the motel program, but many will be left out

By Lola Duffort/VTDigger

Sitting in the drizzling rain outside of Montpelier's Kellogg-Hubbard Library on Friday afternoon, Jeffrey Dorsey rolled back the

black sock on his left ankle.

"I just want to show you that so you believe me. Because I feel like some people don't," he told a

reporter as he revealed a fist-sized, red-and-purple lump on the joint, and, in one crevice of his shin, a small abscess. "They don't know the extent of it."

The 57-year-old had lived in Barre's Budget Inn for months as part of a state program that sheltered people experiencing homelessness in motels and hotels. But on June 1, he was shown the door, and told he no longer qualified for a voucher because of the state's newly narrowed eligibility criteria.

The news had come as a surprise to Dorsey, because he'd heard that disabled people would continue to be helped. Between his diabetes (an infection this spring landed him in hospital for 17 days) and the continued effects of a hit-and-run in 2019 which required a succession of surgeries (one just seven months ago), he'd assumed he qualified. He didn't.

Dorsey stayed with his girlfriend for a couple days, but he couldn't stay long-term. And since then,

Motel program → 29



By Lola Duffort/VTDigger

Jeffrey Dorsey sits outside the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier on Friday, June 16.



# 16,000 Vermont health insurance customers affected by data theft

The cyberattack mostly impacted members of Vermont Blue Advantage  
By Tiffany Tan/VTDigger

The personal information of at least 16,000 Vermont health insurance customers was stolen in a cyberattack in January — more than twice the number originally reported.

The affected people included over 14,000 Vermont residents, of whom 13,700 were members of Vermont Blue Advantage health insurance plans, the state Attorney General's Office said this week.

It said the other residents were on different insurance plans: nearly 300 with Aetna ACE and about 50 with UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust.

Another roughly 2,250 individuals were members of Vermont Blue Advantage who lived out of state, according to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont, an owner of the privately managed Medicare Part C plan. The company said that, nationwide, the cyberattack affected thousands of organizations and millions of people.

VTDigger reported earlier this month that the Jan. 30 data breach of an IT management software company, Fortra LLC, compromised the personal information of 7,000 retired Vermont teachers who were members of Vermont Blue Advantage, based on information from the state treasurer's office. (Fortra provided software that Vermont Blue Advantage used to exchange files with its supplemental benefits administrator, NationsBenefits.)

After the story was published, VTDigger received multiple messages from Vermont retirees affected by the data breach — people who were not retired teachers and

The state Attorney General's Office didn't learn until May 26 that over 14,000 Vermont residents were involved, said Lauren Jandl.

wondered about the extent of the breach within the state. The state Attorney General's Office didn't learn until May 26 that over 14,000 Vermont residents were involved, said spokesperson Lauren Jandl.

Blue Cross Vermont said the company didn't inform the state Department of Financial Regulation of the data breach until late last Thursday, because of a miscommunication between it and NationsBenefits about who was going to contact the department.

Blue Cross spokesperson Sara Teachout said NationsBenefits had sent a letter to each affected member, detailing what personal information was stolen in the data breach.

She said that information included names, dates of birth, addresses, medical and insurance details and, for 5% of the affected customers, their bank information. The company said no Social Security numbers or credit card numbers were taken.

When asked why NationsBenefits sent the notification letters — which some recipients initially thought was junk mail because they had never dealt with that entity — Teachout said that was NationsBenefits' responsibility in the incident.

"As the company that experienced the cyberattack and resulting data breach, NationsBenefits is responsible for notifying impacted parties," she said in an email.

Teachout said NationsBenefits, Blue Cross and Vermont Blue Advantage also reported the breach to the Office for

Data theft → 27

# Protect nesting loons and loon chicks

## Enjoy loons from a safe distance

Few birding experiences rival hearing the haunting call of the loon or seeing them glide by in protected coves on a lake. However, for the birds' protection, Vermont Fish and Wildlife is asking boaters and anglers to enjoy loons from a safe distance this summer.

"Loons were removed from Vermont's endangered species list in 2005, but they face continued threats from human disturbance during the breeding season and ingestion of fishing gear," said Rosalind Renfrew, wildlife biologist with Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

"Many areas where loons nest on Vermont's lakes are surrounded by signs reminding people to give loons the space they need, but not all nesting areas are marked. We're asking people to enjoy loons from a distance rather than approaching them, whether you are in a boat or on shore."

Renfrew also reminds people to avoid using lead fishing tackle. Every year Vermont loons die from lead poisoning after swallowing fishing tackle. Lead sinkers weighing one-half ounce or less are prohibited in Vermont, but larger tackle still has the capacity to slough off lead into the environment over time. Renfrew also recommends anglers to be careful to not attract loons to their bait and lures, and especially to not leave any fishing line behind as it can entangle and kill loons.

Eric Hanson, biologist with the Vermont Loon Conservation Project and Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE), asks anglers to reel in for a few minutes if loons are diving nearby. To give anglers a place to discard

their lead tackle, VCE will be placing collection tubes for lead tackle and discarded fishing line at over 20 boat access areas beginning this summer. VCE coordinates the loon project in partnership with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept.

Hanson and his colleagues monitor Vermont's loon population and have put out game cameras around loon nests to monitor the behavior of people around them. Hanson says most people are respectful of nesting loons and give them space, but people sometimes inadvertently harm loons without meaning to.

"Loon chicks can be difficult to see, so we ask motorboaters to note where loon families are and to avoid those areas," said Hanson. "We also ask that motorboaters obey 'no wake' laws within 200 feet of shorelines because boat wakes can flood and destroy shoreline loon nests."

As Vermont's loon population continues to increase and canoeing and kayaking continues to become more popular, there is greater potential for people to come into conflict with loons. Hanson reminds boaters to avoid pursuing loons in a canoe or kayak, especially loons with young.

"Occasionally a loon will be curious and approach people, and if that happens, just enjoy it," said Hanson.

"However, loons that are constantly swimming away from you are stressed and may abandon their young if they feel they are in danger."

Hanson also urges shoreline property owners to maintain appropriate habitat for loons, including shrubby and forested areas along shorelines, where loons can nest. Having shrubs and trees instead of lawns along shorelines also improves water quality which

"Occasionally a loon will be curious and approach people, and if that happens, just enjoy it," said Hanson. "However, loons that are constantly swimming away from you are stressed and may abandon their young if they feel they are in danger."

is essential for healthy lakes, aquatic insects, fish eggs, fish, and loons.

Volunteers interested in monitoring loons for the Loon Conservation Project should contact Hanson at loon@vtecostudies.org. Volunteers can monitor lakes all summer long with a focus on lakes with loon pairs and nesting.

Volunteers can also survey one or two lakes on Loonwatch Day, being held on July 15 this year, between 8 and 9 a.m. The goal is to survey all lakes greater than 20 acres at the same time, which provides a population count and checks on small lakes that are surveyed less often during the rest of year.



Loons nesting along lake shorelines are susceptible to human disturbance; their nests can be destroyed by motorboat wakes.

By Mitch Moraski and John Hall, VTF&W



## GUEST EDITORIAL

# The housing crisis challenge for the residential home building industry

By Guy Payne

*Editor's note: Guy Payne is the executive director of Sustainable Energy Outreach Network in Brattleboro.*

Did you know: Vermont's Energy Code is the law, yet many builders and homeowners are unaware or choose to ignore it?

Vermont's housing crisis has highlighted not only the lack of adequate housing in the state but also the lack of an adequate workforce to build new homes. We will need thousands of new builders to join our existing contractor community. Along with the challenges of doing so comes the opportunity to help builders, new and old, learn new techniques, get better training, and build the most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly homes possible. Vermont's Energy Code is a key piece of this effort. We need builders to know it and adhere to it. Consumers need to know it so they can demand compliance and get the best home they can. And Vermont needs it as we work towards reducing greenhouse gases and battling climate change.

As a buyer of service, you as a consumer have a significant say in ensuring that your home is safe, comfortable, healthy, durable, and energy-efficient, while also utilizing products that absorb carbon — all of which are hallmarks of high-performance buildings. "High-performance buildings" should be the new standard for home building and we need to help builders achieve that standard.

To guarantee that your project can withstand the test of time, it is essential to hire a high-performance certified builder to prevent potential disasters in newly built or retrofitted houses.

Although referrals can be helpful, they may not be

adequate to ensure long-term durability and performance. Poor work performance, such as inadequate water, air, and thermal control layers, insufficient flashing around windows and doors, and lack of attention to exterior water drainage, can lead to severe consequences.

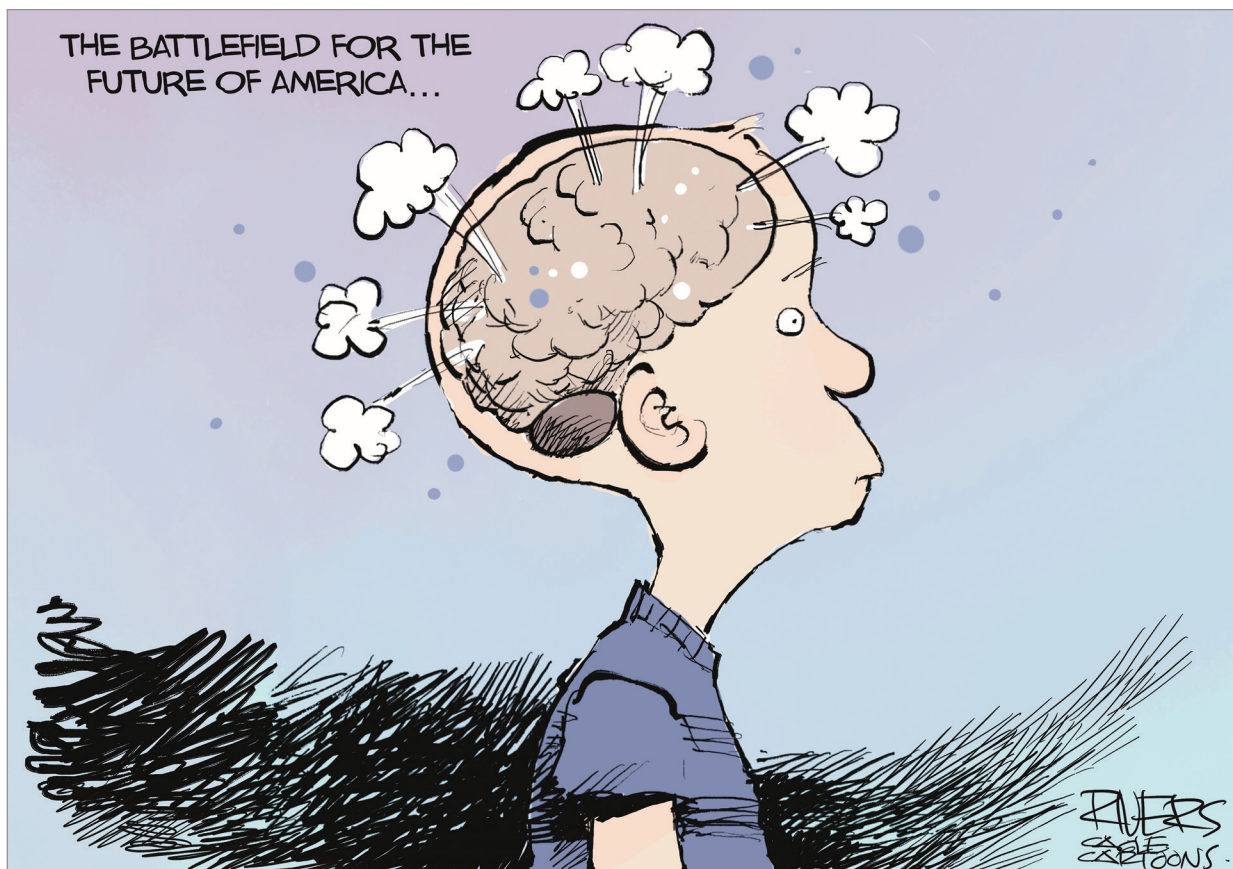
Continuous learning is non-negotiable when it comes to high-performance building. For Vermont builders, there are many organizations that offer information and training on basic carpentry skills, high-performance building strategies, Energy Code updates, and high-performance certifications. Additionally, there are nationally recognized conferences, online learning opportunities, and nonprofits with a wealth of knowledge to help guide builders and carpenters.

Despite Vermont's Energy Code being excellent, many builders are unaware of the code, do not build to conform to the code, do not have the skills to build to the code, or provide documentation of their work to the owner, town clerk, or the Public Utility Commission (PUC). Which brings us back to the question "Do you hire a company knowledgeable of the code, capable of understanding the code, believing in its relevance and purpose, and capable of building according to the code?" Remember, poor evidence of compliance with the code comprises any sale of your property.

But you, as a homeowner or future homeowner, can be proactive and smart. You can start by asking these questions to make sure your project is up to code so your home will be comfortable and safe for you for years to come — and one of the homes that help make a big change on a local level in our heavily, carbon footprint world:

We will need thousands of new builders to join our existing contractor community.

Building → 10



New Battlefield by Rivers, CagleCartoons.com

## LETTERS

## 'American Pickers' returns to Vermont

Dear Editor,

I am reaching out because our show is planning to return to Vermont in August 2023! We're looking for leads throughout the state, specifically interesting characters with fascinating items and lots of them! The way we find people and collections for our show is through spreading the word far and wide so that people know we're coming to town. We hope you can help us let your community know about our search!

We at "American Pickers" are still taking the pandemic very seriously and will follow all guidelines and protocols for safe filming outlined by the state. However, we are incredibly excited to continue connecting with the many collectors in the area to discuss their years of picking! If you feel it appropriate, we really hope you can help us let the people in your backyards know how eager we are to hear their stories!

Collectors interested in being considered for the show should reach out to us by phone at (646) 493-2184 or email at AmericanPickers@cinetflix.com. Be sure to

Pickers → 10

## One year since Roe was overturned

Dear Editor,

Saturday, June 24, marks one year since the Supreme Court of the U.S. overturned Roe v. Wade in the case titled Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

With that decision, the court ended the federal constitutional right to abortion after nearly 50 years and allowed states to ban abortion. This was a devastating decision, but abortion remains legal in Vermont. And Vermont remains a beacon of hope for all who seek this basic health care.

Together, we have the strength to win the fight for abortion rights and access. The chaos and anguish caused by last year's Supreme Court ruling to rob us of our rights has led to devastation for tens of millions of people and counting. It stripped people of their right to make personal medical decisions. It left patients across the country desperate, confused and fearful, and forced doctors to prioritize politics over medicine — putting health care at risk.

But opponents of sexual and reproductive rights are no match for the will of the American people. This movement is powerful and built to last. Together, we've already secured major victories at the ballot box and in state

legislatures, and we're just getting started.

State by state, we will hold elected officials accountable for any attempt to control our bodies, our lives, and our futures. And know this: Planned Parenthood advocacy organizations won't stop. Freedom is our birthright, and we will build a just world that includes nationwide access to abortion for all.

Since Roe v. Wade was overturned, the Legislature, Gov. Phil Scott, and Vermonters made history by passing Prop 5, the Reproductive Liberty Amendment in November 2022. This addition to our state constitution protects every person's right to make their own reproductive decisions, such as whether/when to become pregnant, use temporary or permanent birth control, or abortion care.

In this past legislative session, lawmakers passed, and Gov. Scott signed, two abortion and gender-affirming "shield bills" into law that are the first in the country to explicitly include protecting access to a medication widely used in abortions even if the U.S. Food and Drug Administration withdraws its approval of the pill, mifepristone. These bills protect health care providers from repercussions for providing legally

protected reproductive and gender-affirming health care services.

With future access to a widely used abortion medication — mifepristone — in the hands of federal courts, Vermont officials have secured a supply of the pill. We have your back.

We are the majority. Support for protecting access to safe and legal abortion is at an all-time high.

The public is with us, and Planned Parenthood advocacy and political organizations will continue to be bold as we fight for their freedom to control their own bodies.


A post-Roe world is scary for millions of Americans. We're fortunate to live in Vermont, where the majority of politicians have no intention of getting involved in our personal medical decisions. So thank your representatives and the governor for supporting reproductive rights and basic health care.

Planned Parenthood will never stop fighting for reproductive rights, abortion rights, and transgender rights. We will always be in your corner.

*Lucy Leriche, VP of public affairs for Planned Parenthood Vermont Action Fund. She is a former Vermont state legislator*



## CAPITAL QUOTES



Former President Donald Trump was indicted on 37 federal charges, including obstruction and unlawful retention of national defense information for storing dozens of classified documents at his Florida resort. Each of those charges carries a maximum fine of \$250,000, with maximum prison sentences between five and 20 years. But Trump has only continued to climb in the polls since the indictment, rising above his Republican competitors. Polls show him with 51-53% after his second indictment. A new NPR/PBS Newshour/Marist College poll found about half of all voters believe Trump broke the law and want him to drop out of the race.

**“Trump is ‘scared s\*\*tless’ by the circumstances in which he finds himself. He’s never been held accountable before,”**

former White House chief of staff **John Kelly** told the Washington Post.

**“I can’t believe that politics didn’t play some role here,”**

Former Vice President **Mike Pence** told CNBC.

**“Trump always gets all the coverage. This is what it’s like to run against Trump,”**

said **an adviser** to one of Trump’s opponents.

**“It’s like they are challenging a sitting president, and in some ways, Donald Trump is a legitimate president in the minds of many Republican primary voters. That could explain why there isn’t a bounce. It’s not a completely open field. And we’re considering all these new faces who are popping in, it’s like these are challengers to an incumbent,”**

said **Christine Matthews**, president of Bellwether Research.

## OP-ED

# ‘The system is broken’ is a cruel joke, there is no system

By Richard Rawson

*Editor’s note: Richard Rawson, Ph.D, is a research professor at the UVM Center for Behavior and Health. He lives in Brandon. He also is a professor emeritus in Psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.*

In a June 8 commentary, Jim Tomczak poignantly described the impossible situation he faces in caring for his son who suffers schizophrenia.

He and his family members have spent many years experiencing the grim consequences created by the periodically severe symptoms of his son’s brain disease. He describes without anger or accusation his “no good choice” options that he has in caring for his very sick son. Let the son live at home and subject the family to living as hostages to their son’s brain disease, or, evict the son to fend for himself on the street. A choice no parent should be forced to make.

Tomczak is far from alone in this Catch-22 world. Many parents and spouses and children of seriously mentally ill or severely addicted individuals live in this world without humane choices. Options for involuntary treatment are very limited. The abuses of involuntary commitment portrayed in “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” in the 1970s led to laws that make it nearly impossible to intervene on an individual against their will.

In his brilliant new book, “The Best Minds: A Story of Friendship, Madness and the Tragedy of Good Intentions” (2023), Jonathan Rosen tells the story of his brilliant

childhood friend, Michael Laudor, who overcame his struggle with schizophrenia to graduate from Yale Law School, only to crash into tragedy when psychosis gained control of his brain and behavior.

As he tells the story of his friend, Rosen weaves into the narrative a history of the American mental health system from the idealistic days of the Kennedy administration, when the 1963 Community Mental Health Act outlined a plan to “deinstitutionalize” people with mental illness. The plan

involved closing the state mental institutions and a transition to a system of community mental health centers, combining medication treatment and psychological and social supports.

Over the next decade, many mental institutions in the U.S. were closed. But the community mental health system never happened. “Deinstitutionalization” became synonymous with “dumping” seriously mentally ill individuals into communities with no adequate system of treatment and support.

The current situation described by Tomczak is repeated for millions of families in the U.S. Individuals like Mr. Tomczak’s son are the “lucky” ones, as they have families who provide love and support. However, for those without families to provide support, or for individuals whose illness is so severe that they are unable to accept support, they are abandoned to life on the street, with their lives governed by brains tortured by psychosis and/or addiction.

Mental health → 10

With what other illnesses do we call on police to be the health care system’s therapeutic agents?

## We can see clearly now

By Bill McKibben

*Editor’s note: Bill McKibben is an internationally known climate activist and writer who lives in Ripton.*

In Vermont, the scent of wood smoke on a late fall afternoon is an iconic smell. It’s not like that here today, in the first week of June — it’s more like sitting on the side of the campfire where the wind is blowing, but without any of the benefits of the blaze. The air is a dull gray, and the sunshine through it looks and feels diminished, as if from a different star circling a different planet. My chest is tight, and I keep bringing up phlegm.

And I’m lucky. The air is worse in New York and in D.C. — indeed, across the East, cities are breaking all-time pollution records. (I imagine it was smokier back in the early Industrial Revolution, but we weren’t measuring it.)

And we’re all lucky. Because this is what a huge percentage of the world’s people breathe every single day of their lives. In fact, we should probably — in our hearts if not our lungs — be grateful for a few days like this. They bring us much, much closer to the lived experience of billions of our brothers and sisters.

In the case of the eastern U.S. today, the smoke — and the dangerous particulates it carries — comes from Canadian wildfires. They are a result of the hot, dry weather that climate change has made more likely. It began out west earlier in the spring, as parts of Alberta turned into an inferno. And then, as the go-to meteorologists Bob Henson and Jeff Masters reported:

“By late May and early June, the dangerous fire weather extended into the moister climates of Ontario and Quebec — and even the Canadian Maritimes — as lush trees and grasses became tinder-dry amid severe drought and heat.”

Clearly → 31



← **Mental health:**

from page 9

The often-heard “the system is broken” is a cruel joke. Although there are many deeply committed individuals and organizations working to provide help to individuals suffering from serious mental illness and severe addiction, there is no coordinated “system” that is even close to being adequate to meet their needs.

And while no one is advocating for a return to an authoritarian civil commitment approach in pre-“Cuckoo’s Nest” times, for individuals like Tomczak’s son and Michael Laudor, a new paradigm is needed so that individuals whose brain is controlled by psychosis and addiction can be helped despite the wishes of their dysfunctional brains.

In every American city and in rural America, there are legions of unhoused individuals, some percentage of whom have serious mental illness and/or severe addiction. In many communities, the people who are called upon to manage crisis situations with these most seriously ill patients are the police. With what other illnesses do we call on police to be the health care system’s therapeutic agents?

When the coronavirus derailed normal life in the U.S. and was killing tens of thousands every week, the U.S. scientific community, together with pharma and the public health system, almost miraculously came together to develop and deliver multiple effective vaccines in less than a year. This Covid vaccine story demonstrated that, when a problem is deemed serious enough, America can focus and coordinate its technical expertise and funding to produce solutions.

The situations described by Tomczak and Jonathan Rosen and experienced by millions of seriously mentally ill and addicted individuals requires a similarly intensive and coordinated effort. Half-measures won’t fix this situation.

Fifty years ago we shut down mental hospitals, but failed to build a replacement system. It’s time to bring together the best minds in psychiatry, addiction treatment, housing, and social services to create a coordinated response to the needs of these individuals with severe brain disease and provide hope and alternatives to them and their families.

← **Pickers:**

from page 8

have them include their full name, city/state, contact information, and a brief description of their collection.

Also, please note that the Pickers only pick private collections, so no stores, malls, flea markets, museums, auctions, businesses, or anything open to the public.

Let me know if you are able to get the word out! My contact info is below, don’t hesitate to call me with any questions. Thank you so much for your time and help!

**Jasmina Joseph**  
**Producer, American Pickers**

← **Building:**

from page 8

- Are the architects/builders/carpenters (not just the owner) up-to-date with high-performance certifications or in the process of learning best practices?
  - When did they take the training (should be updated every 3 years) and who conducts the training (reputable)?
  - What percentage of the work crew, from top to bottom, is engaged in continuous learning?
  - Is your builder aligned with state or nationally recognized Energy Star/high-performance building?
  - Is your builder registered with Vermont’s Office of Professional Regulation?
  - Research the record of Energy Code compliance of the builder’s last few projects. You can go to the town clerk’s office for evidence of compliance.
  - Inquire as to the registration of the builders’ crew in ongoing learning. Ask for certificates of attendance/completion. The knowledge base of high-performance building must be deployed throughout the crew.
- Finally, read this article about interviewing your building professional, written by one of Vermont’s most highly-recognized high-performance builders, Peter Yost: [buildingscience.org/interviewing-your-building-professional](https://www.mountain-times.com/interviewing-your-building-professional).



Submitted

Vermont Adaptive volunteer Liz Mead of Chittenden and her husband, Malcolm, stand in Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts. Mead was one of 26 recipients of the 2023 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award on Thursday, June 8.

# Vermont Adaptive volunteer Liz Mead named 2023 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winner

Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports Volunteer Liz Mead, a resident of Chittenden, was recognized by the Kraft Family, Patriots Foundation and Gillette, along with 25 other volunteers, as a 2023 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winner on Thursday, June 8.

Twenty-six volunteers were recognized for their contributions at an awards ceremony and luncheon at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts. In total, \$275,000 in donations were distributed to the nonprofits represented by each volunteer. Twenty-five organizations each received \$10,000 and the Brian Dagle Foundation received this year’s grand prize of \$25,000.

For the past 25 years, the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Foundation have been recognizing volunteers for going above and beyond to give back to their communities through the Myra Kraft Community MVP Awards program. Formerly known as the Community Quarterback Awards, this volunteer recognition was renamed in 2011 in memory of Myra Kraft.

“It is an honor to be selected for the Myra Kraft Community MVP award,” said Mead. “The spirit of volunteerism that the award recognizes is crucial to improving our communities; and I am deeply honored to have been nominated — much less selected! Volunteering with Vermont Adaptive is important to me because it gives me the opportunity to expose athletes from the adaptive community to the benefits of outdoor activity. The smiles that light up the faces of our athletes experiencing the freedom of movement on snow, water, or bike path, are inspiring. Mead was the recipient of Vermont Adaptive’s Volunteer of the Year Award in 2019 for her love

and commitment to the Vermont Adaptive community. She has been a volunteer with the organization since 2016 and typically skis more than 100 days a winter, the majority of that time volunteering with Vermont Adaptive.

“She brings her vast experience with her own children on the slopes and outdoors to our programs every day and is a supportive and caring mentor to everyone she works with,” said Tom Alcorn, senior program coordinator at Vermont Adaptive. “Her support at our special events year-round has been invaluable and you will be hard pressed to find her not helping her fellow volunteers and staff members. The commitment she gives to our Special Olympics athletes and school groups has made for some amazing successes and plenty of fun times on the bike path, water and snow.”

Mead was selected for the Myra Kraft Community MVP Award from more than 350 nominations. The 2023 award-winners range from 21- to 80-years-old and represent every New England state. The selected nonprofits provide support for many causes, including education, domestic violence prevention, healthcare, homelessness, mentoring and military support.

On hand to congratulate the award winners were President of Kraft Family Philanthropies Josh Kraft; Patriots, College and Pro Football Hall of Famer and Patriots Executive Director of Community Affairs Andre Tippett; and Procter & Gamble’s, VP of Grooming, North America, John Claughton.

“Each year we have the privilege of reading hundreds of stories about volunteers who go above and beyond to build stronger New England communities,” said Josh Kraft.

← **Fatal shooting:**

from page 1

use of force is up to the perception of the officer at the time,” Trudeau said.

Hewitt has served with the Fair Haven department since 1998 after beginning his police career with the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department in 1991. He also worked for the Brandon Police Department. In Fair Haven, he works as the department’s firearms instructor.

Barber has previous convictions. The Rutland Herald reported Barber pleaded guilty in 2005 to second-degree murder in a 2003 beating of Charles Shlosser, 85, of Benson.

Barber allegedly told police in a 2003 statement that he

struck Shlosser in the head with a hammer due to a drug money issue. Barber entered a plea deal in 2005, calling for him to serve at least 15 years in prison for the murder of Shlosser, the Rutland Herald reported.

Last year, Barber pleaded guilty to a felony charge after Castleton police said he was driving 95 mph on Route 4 to avoid being stopped, according to the Rutland Herald. Police said Barber told them he didn’t want to be stopped because there was a warrant for his arrest in connection to the furlough he was serving because of the murder. Barber was on life supervision for the murder.



WORDPLAY

'HURRICANE SEASON' Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

SUDOKU

Solutions →21

N	O	S	A	E	S	U	Y	D	I	K	Y	O	O	D	U	L	Y	A	A
D	W	S	T	O	R	M	Y	H	O	L	O	P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N
P	A	R	O	M	S	D	S	I	O	R	X	W	R	L	E	S	U	N	X
G	A	U	R	E	Y	I	O	C	V	G	R	E	N	T	S	A	O	C	M
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- ADVISORY  
ALERTS  
ATMOSPHERE  
CENTER
- COAST  
CYCLONE  
EYE WALL  
GALE
- HURRICANE  
INTENSITY  
INUNDATION  
LANDFALL
- LOCATION  
POSITION  
PRECAUTION  
RAINING
- SEASON  
STORMY  
TRACKING  
TYPHOON
- VORTEX  
WARNING  
WATCH  
WINDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →21

CLUES ACROSS

1. Understand intuitively  
5. Two of something  
9. Not involving computer tech  
11. Acclaimed  
13. Undermine  
15. The condition of being concealed or hidden  
16. Irritate  
17. The process of developing a theory  
19. Ceramic jar  
21. Not fresh  
22. Dad's fashion accessory  
23. Popular review site  
25. New Mexico county  
26. '\_\_\_ death do us part  
27. Fees  
29. Takes with force  
31. One-time Yankees rookie sensation  
33. Gordon and Snider are two  
34. Body parts  
36. Arranges  
38. Fiddler crabs  
39. Mimics  
41. Witnesses  
43. They \_\_\_  
44. Lasso

CLUES DOWN

1. Mangled  
2. Ruffled some feathers  
3. Not young  
4. Lakers legend  
5. Nocturnal S. American rodent  
6. Direction (Scottish)  
7. Intestinal inflammation  
8. Spring back in fear  
9. Owl genus  
10. Girls  
11. Unbeliefs  
12. Force unit  
14. Expired trade agreement  
15. Went alone  
18. Animal noises  
20. Woman who graduated from a  
24. The very top  
26. Organs in males  
28. Earnings  
30. Z Z Z  
32. Reddish browns  
34. A salt or ester of acetic acid  
35. A place to get off your feet  
37. More disreputable  
38. Kidney condition  
40. Cease moving  
42. Quick  
43. Extra seed covering  
45. "Survivor: Panama" winner  
47. Six  
49. One who inspects lamps

46. Runs down  
48. In response to  
52. Bird-like dinosaur  
53. Metamorphic stages  
54. Conditions of incapacity  
56. Sodas are sold in these units  
57. Break away from  
58. Ethereal  
59. Boggy

specific school  
24. The very top  
26. Organs in males  
28. Earnings  
30. Z Z Z  
32. Reddish browns  
34. A salt or ester of acetic acid  
35. A place to get off your feet  
37. More disreputable  
38. Kidney condition  
40. Cease moving  
42. Quick  
43. Extra seed covering  
45. "Survivor: Panama" winner  
47. Six  
49. One who inspects lamps

50. Small parrot  
51. Primordial matter of the universe  
55. \_\_\_ fi (slang

How to Play

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Alabama on June 20, 1949. I found early success as a member of a 1970s R&B group, before branching out into a solo career. I co-wrote the hit single "We Are the World."

Answer: Lionel Richie

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## WEDNESDAY

### 6/21

#### National junior golf tournament returns to Killington

Begins at 8:50 a.m. Green Mountain National Golf Club, 476 Barrows Towne Road, Killington. Prices vary. The future stars tee it up with 132 players (ages 12-19) will compete. A practice round on Monday continues with a 3-day tournament June 20-22. For more info visit [ajga.org/tournaments/2023/golf-performance-center-killington-junior-golf-championship](http://ajga.org/tournaments/2023/golf-performance-center-killington-junior-golf-championship).

#### Pre-K Storytime at Billings Farm & Museum

9:30-11 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road. \$12/child or \$10/member child. Young ones from are invited to Billings Farm & Museum to hear farm tales wrapped in rich engagement, make a craft, and enjoy a snack. Adult attendance is required. One adult admitted free with a paid child. For more info visit: [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

#### Early Literacy Playgroup

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. A fun playgroup for your 2-5 year old. Miss Allie hosts. For more info visit: [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org).

#### Bike Bum race series

2-5 p.m. Top of Rabbit Hole, Killington Ski Resort. Cost: \$200 per team / \$50 per individual. Individuals may enter a single race for \$20. Day-of registration will take place at the start gate. All pricing includes a \$5 chip fee. 10-week race series is held Wednesday afternoons (2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.) from June 21 to August 23 followed by an exclusive after-party for Bike Bum racers. For more info visit [killington.com/things-to-do/events](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events).

#### Graphic Novel Book Club for Kids

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

#### Kids' Monthly Mosaic Summer Club

4 p.m. Day Breaks Glass Studio, 285 Main St, Bethel. Cost is \$25-\$35. Welcome to Summer Session of Monthly Mosaic Art for kids aged 6-12 years. We will learn Mosaic technique through hands on creation of mosaic art. For more info visit [daybreaksglassvt.com/event-details/kids-monthly-mosaic-summer-club](http://daybreaksglassvt.com/event-details/kids-monthly-mosaic-summer-club).

#### Book Group — 'Eat That Frog!' by Brian Tracy

4:15-5:15 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland.

#### Slate Valley Trails Group Mountain Bike Ride

5:30-7:30 p.m. Analog x SVT gravel rides See membership inclusion for details. Join SVT for our weekly summer group MTB rides which will take place every other Wednesday through September. For more info visit [slatevalleytrails.org](http://slatevalleytrails.org).

#### Name that Fish Stew! Cooking Class

12-3 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$95. Chef Ted will teach the skills to create a delicious New England seafood stew with shellfish and vegetables. For more info visit [odysseyeventsvt.com](http://odysseyeventsvt.com).

#### Michelob ULTRA Golf League

5 p.m. Killington Golf Course  
The format is a 9-hole scramble tournament on the front 9. Sign ups are available as a team or as an individual. Handicaps will be considered and reviewed to ensure fair play. Each week, prizing will go to the 1st and 2nd place teams by score, as well as proximity to the pin & long drive winners. Prizes are provided by local shops & restaurants. For more info visit [killington.com/things-to-do/events](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events).

#### BarnArts production of "Arcadia"

7 p.m. Barnard Center for the Arts, 1544 Royalton Turnpike, South Royalton. Cost is \$15-\$20. Tom Stoppard's Arcadia, an award winning play, beloved by theater majors, science nerds and anyone who likes to ponder life, the universe and everything explores the nature of history, ambition, and love alongside a mind-bending experience of real-time quantum mechanics.

#### Wild Woods Music Song Circle

7:15 p.m. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Music lovers, singers, players of acoustic instruments, and listeners are welcomed. The atmosphere of the song circle is easy-going and encouraging to beginners or anyone developing their interest in music. This is a good place to break-in a new instrument or to play a well used and loved one. For more info visit [rutlandrec.com/godnick](http://rutlandrec.com/godnick) or call Jack Crowther at 802-775-1182 or e-mail Gus Bloch, song circle leader, at [gusbloch@gmail.com](mailto:gusbloch@gmail.com).

## THURSDAY

### 6/22

#### National junior golf tournament returns to Killington

Begins at 8:50 a.m. Green Mountain National Golf Club, 476 Barrows Towne Road, Killington. Prices vary. The game's future stars tee it up with 132 boys and girls (ages 12-19) competing. The tournament consists of a practice round on Monday and continues with a 3-day tournament from June 20-22. For more info visit [ajga.org/tournaments/2023/golf-performance-center-killington-junior-golf-championship](http://ajga.org/tournaments/2023/golf-performance-center-killington-junior-golf-championship).

#### The American Red Cross Hosts a Blood Drive

10 a.m.-2:20 p.m. The Northstar Room, Killington Grand Hotel, 228 E Mountain Rd, Killington. Free. All donors will receive a \$10 gift card to a merchant of their choice. Plus, you'll be automatically entered for a chance to win a backyard theater package, including a laser wireless projector and screen, smokeless firepit, Adirondack chair set, & more. If you are an eligible type O, B-, or A- donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component. Maximize your blood donation & help more patients.

#### Storytime at Rutland Free Library: 'Magical Creatures'

10 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Storytime promotes early literacy and socialization skills in a fun setting. Each session might offer stories, movement, and an activity. Geared towards ages 2-5. For more info visit: [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org)

#### Ukelele Group

12-1 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Meet on Thursdays as musician Steven Wilson leads attendees 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](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site) or call 802-775-0356.

#### 'You're a Good Man Charlie Brown'

1 p.m. Walker Farm Field, 705 Main St, Weston. Free. Charlie Brown navigates the ups and downs of growing up, playing football, flying a kite, and being friends with just about the best dog there is. Full of memorable songs and iconic moments from the classic "Peanuts" comic strip, this charming show is sure to delight audiences of all ages. For more info visit [westontheater.org](http://westontheater.org).

#### Summer Hockey League at Union Arena

Various times. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$225-\$250. Skaters have an opportunity to be on the ice and participate in drills, learning important skills and parts of the game from Steven Townley, local Woodstock alum and state champion, now playing D-1 collegiate hockey for Dartmouth's "Big Green" men's ice hockey team. For more info visit [unionarena.org/summer-camps](http://unionarena.org/summer-camps).

#### Crafts for Kids

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

#### Yoga with Kellie

4-5 p.m. Rutland Free Library 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Join Kellie for yoga weekly in the Fox Room. For more info visit: [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org).

#### Kids and Adults Ballroom Classes with Patti Panebianco

5-7:50 p.m. Green Mountain Community School, Brennan Circle in Poultney. \$15-\$112. Ballroom dancing classes for kids and adults. For more info visit: [stone-valley-arts.loxi.io/ballroom-dance-with-patti-panebianco](http://stone-valley-arts.loxi.io/ballroom-dance-with-patti-panebianco).

#### Feast & Field Music Series — Ladles

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$25. Live music at Fable Farm every Thursday night, all summer long. The Ladles have 3-part female harmony perfected - but their sound is more than that... They are an amalgamation of their respective histories and influences. For more info visit [feast-and-field.square.site/tickets](http://feast-and-field.square.site/tickets).

#### Watercolor Class with Dale Bills

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$35. All materials included. For more info visit: [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

#### Analog x SVT gravel rides

6-8 p.m. Analog Cycles, 188 Main St #1, Poultney. Priced according to membership. Join Slate Valley Trails and Analog Cycles for summer gravel rides each Thursday through September. The ride may include a mix of road, dirt road, double track and single track. Gravel bike approved. For more info visit [slatevalleytrails.org/calendar](http://slatevalleytrails.org/calendar).

#### Stephen P. Kiernan: 'The Glass Chateau'

6:30 p.m. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St., Rutland. Free. Phoenix Books welcomes critically acclaimed author Stephen P. Kiernan back to Rutland to celebrate the release of his latest novel, "The Glass Chateau." Stephen will be in conversation with Harry McEnery, actor, director, longtime professor at Castleton University. For more info visit [phoenixbooks.biz/events](http://phoenixbooks.biz/events)

#### Fair Haven Concerts in the Park

7 p.m. Fair Haven Park, Fair Haven. Free. Thursdays June 22 to Aug. 24th. This weeks performers are Wailon Waylon Jennings Tribute. For mo info visit [poultneyareachamber.com/events](http://poultneyareachamber.com/events)

#### 'God of Carnage' at Artistree Community Arts Center

7 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Tickets \$150 \$20. Winner of the 2009 Tony Award for Best Play and the Lawrence Olivier Award for Best Comedy, God of Carnage is an explosive comedy that's all fun and games until the grownups get hurt. For more info visit [artistreevt.org/special-events](http://artistreevt.org/special-events).

Calendar → 13



**MAXXIS EASTERN STATES  
CUP: OAKLEY SHOWDOWN**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**





**Calendar:** Email [events@mountaintimes.info](mailto:events@mountaintimes.info) from page 12

## FRIDAY 6/23

### Brandon Farmers' Market

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Central Park, Conant Square, Brandon. Free. For more info visit [brandonfarmersmarketvt.com/about](http://brandonfarmersmarketvt.com/about).

### WoodSpryte Early Learning Adventures

9:30-10:30 a.m. Green Mountain Community School, Poultney. \$12/class. WoodSpryte Arts classes will focus around WoodSpryte Garden, located at Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main St., Poultney. Ages 2-8. Stories and activities will be guided by what we are planting, what creatures are visiting, what is growing, what we are tasting and/or preparing, as well as the arts and cooking projects. Join us on the SVA lawn Fridays. For info call 802-235-2209, email [woodsprytearts@vermontel.net](mailto:woodsprytearts@vermontel.net), or on Facebook, [tinyurl.com/stonevalleyartswoodspryte](https://www.facebook.com/stonevalleyartswoodspryte).

### Adult Artery Weekly Workshop

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost depends on supplies needed, \$5-\$20. Join us every Friday 10am-Noon. For more info visit [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### 'You're a Good Man Charlie Brown'

1 p.m. Walker Farm Field, 705 Main St, Weston. Free. Charlie Brown navigates the ups and downs of growing up, playing football, flying a kite, and being friends with just about the best dog there is. Full of memorable songs and iconic moments from the classic "Peanuts" comic strip, this charming show is sure to delight audiences of all ages. For more info visit [westontheater.org](http://westontheater.org).

### That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$80. Award-winning Chef Ted will lead a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class. We'll use mostly organic and regional ingredients mainly from nearby Vermont farms. BYOB and eat what you make. Call or email us to discuss, 802-342-1513, or [info@odysseysvt.com](mailto:info@odysseysvt.com).

### Literary Open Mic

7-8 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. Writers in all genres are invited to perform your own original work, poems, slam pieces, classics, or favorite literary works. Ages grades 7-12. To reserve a spot visit: [stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com). For more info visit: [stonevalleyarts.org](http://stonevalleyarts.org).

### God of Carnage' at Artistree Community Arts Center

7 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$15-\$20. Winner of the 2009 Tony Award for Best Play and the Lawrence Olivier Award for Best Comedy. For more info visit [artistreevt.org/special-events](http://artistreevt.org/special-events).

### BarnArts production of 'Arcadia'

7 p.m. Barnard Center for the Arts, 1544 Royalton Turnpike, South Royalton. \$15-\$20. Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia," an award winning play, beloved by theater majors, science nerds and anyone who likes to ponder life, the universe and everything explores the nature of history, ambition, and love alongside a mind-bending experience of real-time quantum mechanics.

## SATURDAY 6/24

### Birding with Sue Wetmore

8 a.m. Pittsford Village Farm Free. Join local birding expert, Sue Wetmore, as we go on a morning walk around the Pittsford Village Farm trails! For more info visit [pittsfordvillagefarm.org/events](http://pittsfordvillagefarm.org/events)

### Maxxis Eastern States Cup: Oakley Showdown

9 a.m. Ramshead Lift, Killington Ski Resort. Race fees include a Saturday practice lift pass and a Sunday race lift pass. Downhill for all Enduro and DH racers at Oakley Showdowns. For more info visit [killington.com/things-to-do/events](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events).

### Castleton Townwide Yard Sale

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 2108 Main Street Castleton. Free. The 15th Annual Castleton Town has bargain treasures, crafts, food and one-of-a-kind items from over 40 vendor tables both outdoors and indoors at the Community Center. "Drive-around Maps" will also be available at the Center for various at-home yard sales in the area. For information call 802-468-3093 or visit [www.castletonncsi.org](http://www.castletonncsi.org).

### Youth Invitational Dairy Show: Session 1

10 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$15-\$17. Get a peek behind the scenes at the care and grooming of show cows, as youth from local 4H groups prepare to compete. The animals receive an impressive full body makeover by their young handlers who wash, brush, blow dry, clip, and groom their show cows. For more info visit [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org)

### Stoneflies & French Fries

10 a.m. White Cottage Snack Bar, 863 West Woodstock Road, Woodstock. Free. Join a VINS educator in a benthic macroinvertebrate survey of the Ottaquechee River, as we search for all things creepy and crawly, slimy and scaly, and fascinating and fun! Learn different sampling and identification techniques and learn what these animals have to say about the health of their local ecosystem. For more information, contact us at 802-359-5000 or [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org)

### Birds & Blooms Market Garden

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Proctorsville Green Rt 131. Free. Find bird-themed gift baskets, artful birdhouses, gift certificates, meadow seeds, garden tools, and surprising avian treasures. All donations fund the Cavendish Streetscapes Committee, helping to make our villages look better year-round. For more info visit [cavendishconnects](http://cavendishconnects.com).

### Climb Out of the Darkness: Walk for Maternal Mental Health

10 a.m. - noon. Free. Focus on donation. Gather for awareness and community connection: parents and survivors of depression, anxiety connected with childbearing or family building. The event will be a time to gather for activities including simple yoga, massage, and small activities to honor our well being. Kidzone, Door prizes, raffles, and Wellness bags to the first 20 participants at the event. For more info visit <https://www.classy.org/team/481765>

### Vermont Farmers' Market

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Proctorsville Green Rt 131. Free. Find bird-themed gift baskets, artful birdhouses, gift certificates, meadow seeds, garden tools, and surprising avian treasures. All donations fund the Cavendish Streetscapes Committee, helping to make our villages look better year-round. For more info visit [cavendishconnects](http://cavendishconnects.com).

### Celebrating Abenaki Art, Heritage, and Culture art show

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. Featured artists include Charlie A., Amy Hook-Therrien, Francine Poitras Jones, Hawk Schulmeisters, Vera Longtoe Sheehan, Diane Stevens, Paul Rene Tamburro, and Kerry Wood. The work represents a variety of media including basket making, photography, weaving, digital prints, painting, birch bark biting, ink prints, carving, and other traditional work that all connect to the cultural heritage, traditions, and philosophies of a people who have walked this land for over 13,000 years. For more info visit [stone-valley-arts.loxi.io](http://stone-valley-arts.loxi.io).

### Rutland Railroad Museum & Model Club

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

### The Soufflé Also Rises Plus Apple-Tart Cooking Class

12-3 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$80. Learn how to make our un-classic fallen soufflé. First, we handle the classic combo of Vermont dairy and eggs in an unclassic "fallen" soufflé. Then with apples from local orchards, you'll learn to make a light and delicious apple tart with Vermont maple cream. If it's sugaring season we may even walk to our neighbor's shack to see some of the processes. BYOB and eat what you make.

### You're a Good Man Charlie Brown'

1 p.m. Walker Farm Field, 705 Main St, Weston. Free. Charlie Brown navigates the ups and downs of growing up, playing football, flying a kite, and being friends with just about the best dog there is. Full of memorable songs and iconic moments from the classic Peanuts comic strip, this charming show is sure to delight audiences of all ages. For more info visit [westontheater.org](http://westontheater.org)

### Stained Glass Potted Plants

5-8 p.m. Day Breaks Glass Studio, 285 Main St, Bethel. \$95. Create a house plant or succulent in Stained Glass and "plant" it into a lovely repurposed planter of your choice! This is a great basic stained glass project to enhance your skills or jump start your stained glass crafting. No experience is necessary. For more info visit [daybreaksglassvt.com/event-details/kids-monthly-mosaic-summer-club](http://daybreaksglassvt.com/event-details/kids-monthly-mosaic-summer-club)

### Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners Bridgewater Bridgewater Corners. \$85. Learn how to make three different types of pasta: tortellini, fettuccini, and ravioli plus three different fillings and three accompanying sauces. Call or email us to discuss, 802-342-1513, or [info@odysseysvt.com](mailto:info@odysseysvt.com).

### Music in the Mountains Chamber Music Series — Simon Ghraichy and Daniel Andai

7 p.m. Pico Base Lodge: 73 Alpine Drive, Mendon Free. For 41 years, internationally-renowned musicians have performed in the Music in the Mountains chamber music series with the beauty of the Green Mountains as a backdrop. These distinguished artists also spend the summer at Killington teaching and mentoring young musicians who perform in the Young Artist Series. For more info visit [picomountain.com/things-to-do/events/calendar/music-in-the-mountains-concert1](http://picomountain.com/things-to-do/events/calendar/music-in-the-mountains-concert1).

### God of Carnage' at Artistree Community Arts

**Center**  
7 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Tickets \$150 \$20. Winner of the 2009 Tony Award for Best Play and the Lawrence Olivier Award for Best Comedy, God of Carnage is an explosive comedy that's all fun and games until the grownups get hurt. For more info visit [artistreevt.org/special-events](http://artistreevt.org/special-events).

### BarnArts production of 'Arcadia'

7 p.m. Barnard Center for the Arts, 1544 Royalton Turnpike, South Royalton. \$15-\$20. Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia," an award winning play, beloved by theater majors, science nerds and anyone who likes to ponder life, the universe and everything explores the nature of history, ambition, and love alongside a mind-bending experience of real-time quantum mechanics.

### Live Bookstock event featuring Speech Thomas

7 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Donations welcomed. The 2023 Bookstock Festival of Words features the theme: "Voices On the Village Green" and includes a three-day festival featuring free public conversations on key issues with renowned authors, poets and storytellers. For more info visit [pentanglearts.org/event/speech-thomas](http://pentanglearts.org/event/speech-thomas).

## SUNDAY 6/25

### Maxxis Eastern States Cup: Oakley Showdown

9 a.m. Ramshead Lift, Killington Ski Resort. Race fees include a Saturday practice lift pass and a Sunday race lift pass. Downhill for all Enduro and DH racers at Oakley Showdowns. For more info visit [killington.com/things-to-do/events](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events).

### Rare Day in June with the Mt. Tabor Historical Society

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Silas Griffith Memorial Library, 74 S. Main St., Danby. Free. An art exhibition and sale on the grounds will feature Vermont artist Peter Huntoon and local artists. . Huntoon will be set up and working on a new painting. Opportunities available to ask questions of the artists, or just watch the creative process in action. Hamburgers, hot dogs, cupcakes and drinks will be sold by the Danby - Mt. Tabor Volunteer Fire Dept. Music will be provided by Bob and Kim Ray. Across the street, come see the wonderful new Danby Marble fountain crafted by Vermont Quarry Corporation. The Society's museum, in the lower level of the Library, will welcome visitors. For more info visit [mounttabornj.org](http://mounttabornj.org).

### Youth Invitational Dairy Show: Session 2

10 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Cost is \$15-\$17. On Sunday, exhibitors will have the chance to show off their cows and the hard work behind preparing cattle for show. The youth will compete for showmanship awards and scholarships to be presented in three categories with one overall winner. For more info visit [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

### Celebrating Abenaki Art, Heritage, and Culture art show

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. Featured artists include Charlie A., Amy Hook-Therrien, Francine Poitras Jones, Hawk Schulmeisters, Vera Longtoe Sheehan, Diane Stevens, Paul Rene Tamburro, and Kerry Wood. The work represents a variety of media including basket making, photography, weaving, digital prints, painting, birch bark biting, ink prints, carving, and other traditional work that all connect to the cultural heritage, traditions, and philosophies of a people who have walked this land for over 13,000 years. For more info visit [stone-valley-arts.loxi.io](http://stone-valley-arts.loxi.io).

### Plein Air Needle Felting with Mallory Zondag

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Rutland. \$65. Learn how to paint with wool in the wonderful outdoors. Using a variety of needle felting techniques, you will learn how to translate the beauty of the natural world into a wool painting by needle felting what you see in the moment. All materials are included. Students will leave with a 6" embroidery hoop, assorted wool roving, a felting block and felting needles to continue their project on their own time. For more info visit [greenmountainfibers.com](http://greenmountainfibers.com).

### The Soufflé Also Rises and Apple-Tart Cooking Class

12-3 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$80. Learn how to make our un-classic fallen soufflé. First, we handle the classic combo of Vermont dairy and eggs in an unclassic "fallen" soufflé. Then with apples from local orchards, you'll learn to make a light and delicious apple tart with Vermont maple cream. If it's sugaring season we may even walk to our neighbor's shack to see some of the processes. BYOB and eat what you make. Call or email us to discuss, 802-342-1513, or [info@odysseysvt.com](mailto:info@odysseysvt.com).





## Calendar:

from page 13

### You're a Good Man Charlie Brown'

1 p.m. Walker Farm Field, 705 Main St, Weston. Free. Charlie Brown navigates the ups and downs of growing up, playing football, flying a kite, and being friends with just about the best dog there is. Full of memorable songs and iconic moments from the classic Peanuts comic strip, this charming show is sure to delight audiences of all ages. For more info visit westontheater.org.

### Open Mic Poetry

2 p.m. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St, Rutland. Free. Join us for an afternoon of poetry hosted by Phoenix Books Rutland's own Bianca Amira Zanella. Come to read, come to listen, or come for both! Those interested in reading can sign up at the door. For more info visit phoenixbooks.biz/events.

### BarnArts production of 'Arcadia'

7 p.m. Barnard Center for the Arts, 1544 Royalton Turnpike, South Royalton. \$15-\$20. Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia," an award winning play, beloved by theater majors, science nerds and anyone who likes to ponder life, the universe and everything explores the nature of history, ambition, and love alongside a mind-bending experience of real-time quantum mechanics.

### Bloom/Funkhouser Duo

4 p.m. Walker Farm Field, 705 Main St, Weston. \$20. In honor of Bookstock's theme of sharing many voices, Artistree presents a live concert with the internationally acclaimed Bloom/Funkhouser Duo (Peter H. Bloom, flute and John Funkhouser, piano), Celebrating Great Poets of the Great American Songbook. . For more info visit westontheater.org.

### Sunday Hockey Clinic with Jon Chamberlin

3:30 - 5 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. See website contact info for price. Players will receive college and junior level coaching from an experienced staff on the ice, developing their hockey skills through small area games and drills. Each session will end with the players putting it all together in a full-ice game. For more info visit unionarena.org/summer-camps.SVT Group Trail Runs 6-7:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Rd, Poultney Priced according to membership. Join Slate Valley Trails for a group trail run on Mondays starting in June through September. For more info visit slatevalleytrails.org.

### Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson

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

# MONDAY

## 6/26

### Elves, Gardens & Art

9 a.m. - noon. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost: \$140 Is the Elf in the Gardens? Let your imagination be your guide. Design and create an Elf House, garden painting, and more. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Greg Carter European Hockey Camps at

#### Union Arena

\$425-\$465. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. See website for itinerary. Waitlist only, ends Fri. June 30.. Instructor: Deb Dauphinais For more info visit unionarena.org/summer-camps

### Babies and Toddlers Rock

10-10:30 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. A music and pre-literacy program for children 0-24 months with Linda McFarlane. Free and open to all. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

### The Art of Science

1-4 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost is \$140. Create with paper maché, wire wrapping art, paper making & lots of surprises. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Bingo

1:15 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., in Rutland. Cost varies. Instructor: Karen Wurster Info: rutlandrec.com/godnick.

### Chronicles of Yarnia

3 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Learn how to knit, crochet, or do anything else with yarn. Make lots of cool things, chat, and have snacks. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

### Treasure Hunt

4 p.m. Mondays 6/19 - 7/24. Silas Griffith Memorial Library, 74 S. Main St., Danby. Free. Join the Mt. Tabor-Danby Historical Society for a short introduction to metal detecting with local trustee and metal detectorist Netanel Crispe. This kid-friendly event and will consist of a small treasure hunt with coins to take home and instruction on some of the basics of the hobby as well as a chance to view the museum collections and learn a bit more about some of our artifacts preserved through metal detecting. For more information, contact Netanel Crispe at netanelcrispe@gmail.com.

### 2023 Hockey Skating Clinic with Jacki Smith (Ages 14U / HS Session)

4:40-6 p.m. Mondays, 6/19 - 7/24. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Cost is \$200. Session 2—Ages 14U/HS. Come work on your skating this summer to get a jump start on the next season. This clinic focuses on skating forwards and backwards, and using your inside and outside edges to help skaters get more comfortable using them all. We will work on stride position, balance, transitions, and edge control. Having total control over your edges while keeping your upper body quiet will allow you to do anything with a stick and puck. For more info visit unionarena.org/summer-camps.

### Slate Valley Trails Group Trail Runs

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

# TUESDAY

## 6/27

### Elves, Gardens & Art

9 a.m. - noon. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost: \$140 Is the Elf in the Gardens? Let your imagination be your guide. Design and create an elf house, garden painting, and more. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Stories on a String

10-10:30 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. A music and pre-literacy program for children 0-24 months. Free and open to all. Children and caregivers love this program. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

### Baby Story Time

10:30-11 a.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. This story time features short stories, 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. For more info visit: normanwilliams.org.

### Children's Indoor Storytime

10:30-11:30 a.m. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Meets every Tuesday at 10:30 am in the Community Meeting Room. Storytime is offered for children, from infants to age 5, but everyone is welcome. For more info visit: hartlandlibraryvt.org or contact Traci at kids@hartlandlibraryvt.org.

### The Art of

#### Science

1-4 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost is \$140. Create with paper maché, wire wrapping art, paper making & lots of surprises. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Chess Club

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

### Make Your Own Musical Instrument

4:30 p.m. The Mint, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Cost is \$5-\$10. Youth will learn to make guitars, harmonics, and rainsticks. The instruments will be made out of paper towel rolls, tissue boxes, popsicle sticks, straws, and rubber bands. Youths will also learn the basic elements on how an instrument makes its sound. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

### Yoga with Emma! (Kids)

4:30-5:15 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Yoga with Emma! A safe environment where we will imagine, create, dance, play, explore and be free in our bodies. Please bring an open heart and your smile. We will have some yoga mats available for use. Kidding Around Yoga (KAY), a style of yoga that was created by Haris Lender, provides an amazing curriculum designed to motivate children to be active, build confidence, and manage the spectrum of emotions that they might experience in their day-to-day activities while encompassing the 5 branches of yoga in a clear and engaging method. Info@rutlandfree.org/calendar-events.

### Slate Valley Trail Women's Mountain Bike Group

#### Rides

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

### Tuesday Concert: Pluckett

6:30-8 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St, Pittsford. Free. Folk duo Willy Clemetson & Silas Hamilton bring a potpourri of songs, new and old. Described as "impossible not to dance to. Your feet will lead the way, like it or not." For more info visit pittsfordvillagefarm.org/events

### Learn to Create Top-notch Veggie Dishes, Cooking Class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$75. Award-winning chef shows you how to create beautiful veggie dishes. Perfect for vegans—or carnivores looking for special accompaniments! Learn hands-on how to prepare beautiful vegetable dishes. 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. For more call 802-342-1513 or visit info@odysseysvt.com





## [MUSIC Scene]

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

**WED**  
6/21

**LUDLOW**

7 p.m. Off the Rails - Chris Pallutto

**POULTNEY**

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

**QUECHEE**

6 p.m. Public House Pub - Lily Welch

**RUTLAND**

5 p.m. Marble Valley Kitchen - Make Music Day Festival with Phil Henry/Krishna Guthrie Trio  
5 p.m. Roots Restaurant - Ryan Fuller  
5:30 p.m. Strangefellows - Duane Carleton

**SOUTH POMFRET**

7 p.m. Artistree Hillside - The 4 Hoarse Men

**THURS**  
6/22

**BARNARD**

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm - Feast & Field with Ladles

**BETHEL**

7 p.m. Babes Bar - Trivia

**BOMOSEEN**

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

**BRIDGEWATER CORNERS**

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery - Tad Davis

**KILLINGTON**

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

**LUDLOW**

5 p.m. Off the Rails - Motorcycle Cruise Night with the Red Hat Band

**POULTNEY**

7 p.m. The Poultney Pub - Vinyl Night with Ken

**QUECHEE**

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

**RUTLAND**

6 p.m. Strangefellows Pub - Trivia Night  
6:30 p.m. Angler Pub - Open Mic hosted by John Lafave

**SOUTH POMFRET**

7 p.m. Grange Theatre - God of Carnage

**SOUTH ROYALTON**

5 p.m. 802 Pizza - Open Mic hosted by George Nostrand

**FRI**  
6/23

**BARNARD**

7 p.m. Feat & Field (Outdoors) - Arcadia

**BOMOSEEN**

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom - Aaron Audet  
6 p.m. Lake House Pub & Grille - Ryan Fuller

**CASTLETON**

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

**KILLINGTON**

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington - Red Daisy Revival

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

6 p.m. The Foundry - Aaron Audet

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub - Mance

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games - Rick Webb

**LUDLOW**

1:30 p.m. Calcuttas - Sammy B and Friends

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails - Live Music

**PITTSFIELD**

8 p.m. The Clear River Tavern - DJ Dirty D

**POULTNEY**

6 p.m. The Poultney Pub - Kowalski Brothers

**QUECHEE**

6 p.m. Public House Pub - Em & Nat

**RUTLAND**

5:30 p.m. Rutland Country Club - Eric King

**SOUTH POMFRET**

7 p.m. Grange Theatre - God of Carnage

**SAT**  
6/24

**BARNARD**

7 p.m. Feat & Field (Outdoors) - Arcadia

**BOMOSEEN**

6 P.M. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom - George Nostrand

**BRIDGEWATER**

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club - Comedy Night with headliner Tito Garza and featured act Bill Douglas

**CHESTER**

5 p.m. Country Girl Diner - Cruise In with Rustie Bus

**KILLINGTON**

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

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington - Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain - Rhys Chalmers

6 p.m. The Foundry - Ben Kogen

7 p.m. Pico Base Lodge - Killington Music Festival: Music in the Mountain Series Opener

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub - Mance

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games - Aaron Audet

**LUDLOW**

6 p.m. Calcuttas - Tony Lee Thomas

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails - Red Daisy Revival

**POULTNEY**

6 p.m. The Poultney Pub - Rebecca Padula

**PROCTORSVILLE**

4 p.m. Outer Limits Brewing - Lonnie Griffith

**QUECHEE**

6 p.m. Public House Pub - Bobby Sheehan

**RUTLAND**

5:30 p.m. Rutland Country Club - Ryan Fuller

**SOUTH POMFRET**

7 p.m. Grange Theatre - God of Carnage

**STOCKBRIDGE**

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

**SUN**  
6/25

**BARNARD**

4 p.m. Feat & Field (Outdoors) - Arcadia

**BRIDGEWATER**

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery - North County Band

**BOMOSEEN**

6 P.M. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom - Ryan Fuller

**KILLINGTON**

12 p.m. Rivershed - Brunch with Red Daisy Revival

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

5 p.m. Still on the Mountain - Open Mic hosted by Indigenous Entertainment

5 p.m. The Foundry - Summit Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Liquid Art - Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed - Trivia Night

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games - King Arthur

**LUDLOW**

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

**RUTLAND**

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

**SOUTH POMFRET**

4 p.m. Artistree - Bloom-Funkhouser Duo

**WOODSTOCK**

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

**MON**  
6/26

**KILLINGTON**

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

**LUDLOW**

6 p.m. Off the Rails - Sammy B

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

**QUECHEE**

6 p.m. Public House Pub - Tad Davis

**WOODSTOCK**

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

**TUES**  
6/27

**KILLINGTON**

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

**LONDONDERRY**

6 p.m. New American Grill - Trivia Tuesdays with Zach and Jamie

**LUDLOW**

8 p.m. Off the Rails - SINGO

**PITTSFIELD**

6 p.m. The Clear River Tavern - Duane Carleton

**PITTSFORD**

6 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm - Tuesday Concert with Pluckett

**POULTNEY**

7 p.m. The Poultney Pub - Open Bluegrass Jam

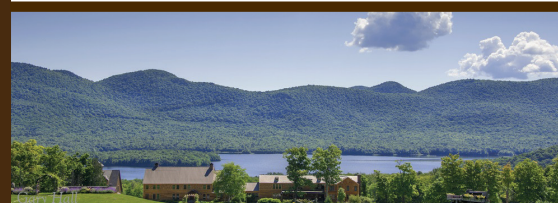
**QUECHEE**

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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# Killinton's Bike Bum race series begins Wednesday

Wednesday, June 21—KILLINGTON—The 8th annual Bike Bum race series begins Wednesday. The popular local race series that's all about fun and friendly competition is a 10-week race series being held on Wednesday afternoons from 2 p.m. starting June 21 and running through Aug. 23. Riders can sign-up solo or form a team of up to five people. Teams may be made up of any combination of age categories. Teams require a minimum of three people in order to score points.

Racing takes place on Lower Rabbit Hole at Killington Resort. The trail is accessed via the Snowshed Express lift. A valid lift ticket or season pass is required to participate.

Cost is \$200 per team or \$50 per individual for the season. Individuals may enter a single race for \$20. Day-of registration will take place at the start gate. All pricing includes a \$5 chip fee.

An after party is held after each race from 5 p.m. at rotating local establishments (see chart below) with prizes drawn at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Bike Bum is a fundraising event for the Killington Mountain Bike Club and all proceeds go directly towards building new bike trails and trail maintenance.

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

After party schedule:



# Weston Theatre presents 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown'

June 22-July 9—WESTON—The Weston Theatre will present “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” the heartwarming musical that follows the life of America’s most loveable loser, Charlie Brown. Along with his friends from the Peanuts gang, Charlie Brown navigates the ups-and-downs of growing up, playing football, flying a kite, and being friends with the best dog there is, Snoopy. The performance will be full of memorable songs and iconic moments from the classical comic strip.

The performance will be held outdoors at the Walker Farm and throughout southern Vermont from June 22-July 9. The cast includes Aiden Curley as Charlie Brown, Ellen McGihon as Lucy, Nate Walsh as Schroeder, Maya L’abbe as Sally, Daniel Jiminez Pagan as Linus, and Ana Laura Santana as Snoopy. The show is directed by Frances Limoncelli.

All ages welcome. The performance is free; however, due to restrictions, reservations are required in advance. For more info visit [westontheater.org/youre-a-good-man-charlie-brown](http://westontheater.org/youre-a-good-man-charlie-brown).



Courtesy Weston Theater Company  
The cast of "You're a Good a Good Man, Charlie Brown:" Aiden Curley, Ellen McGihon, Nate Walsh, Maya L'abbe, Daniel Jiminez, and Ana Laura Santana will be featured at Weston Theater and around Southern Vermont June 22 through July 9.

# Rare Day in June with the Mt. Tabor Danby Historical Society

Saturday, June 24—DANBY—An art exhibition and sale on the grounds of the Silas Griffith Memorial Library, 74 South Main St. in Danby, will feature Vermont artist Peter Huntoon and local artists from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Huntoon will be set up and working on a new painting. Opportunities available to ask questions of the artists, or just watch the creative process in action.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, cupcakes and drinks will be sold by the Danby - Mt. Tabor Volunteer Fire Dept. Music will be provided by Bob and Kim Ray. Across the street, come see the wonderful new Danby Marble fountain crafted by Vermont Quarry Corporation. The Society’s museum, in the lower level of the Library, will welcome visitors.

For more info visit [mounttabornj.org](http://mounttabornj.org).

# Castleton Community Center will hold its 15th annual Castleton town wide yard sale on Saturday

Saturday, June 24—CASTLETON—The Castleton Community Center members are hanging out the banner for the 15th annual Castleton town wide yard sale to be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. rain or shine.

With over 40 vendor tables both outdoors and indoors at the community center on 2108 Main Street, shoppers can expect to find bargains on used treasures, crafts, food and one-of-a-kind items. In addition to the vendor tables, the Community Center will also be providing “Drive -around maps” for the various at-home yard sales in the area that will allow shoppers to easily navigate the town and find even more great deals.

For information call 802-468-3093 or visit [www.castletoncsi.org](http://www.castletoncsi.org).



# Rutland's Climb Out of Darkness offers support for parents suffering mental health concerns

Saturday—June 24—RUTLAND—The Rutland Climb out of the Darkness will be held Saturday at Rotary Park on North Main Street in Rutland from 10 a.m. to 12-noon.

The climb is organized by a group of providers and parents in Rutland County, who have both "been there" and continue to support and travel alongside other parents who experience perinatal mental health concerns.

The main hope is that everyone would know they are not alone, and that those involved with the program are there to provide the help that is needed.

The climb is for everyone who is still experiencing

perinatal mental health or concerns, those who have recovered; partners; foster, kin and adoptive caregivers; parents who have experienced losses related to birthing and caregiving, and parents who have experienced trauma related to birthing and caring; for those who support and align with birth-givers, adopters, foster parents and carers; and who know that parenting is really hard and that everyone just needs more support. It is for new families or families who have been in recovery for years but remember that it was hard

**SAT**  
**6/24**

to be alone. It is for providers that wish to walk alongside all the others that come to climb.

Team members that raise \$100 or more will get the official PSI 2023 climb t-shirt. In addition, if you'd like to support the Rutland Climb, order our local Team Rutland 2023 T-Shirt, visit our Bonfire campaign: [bonfire.com/rutland-climb-out-of-the-darkness-t-shirt160](https://bonfire.com/rutland-climb-out-of-the-darkness-t-shirt160).

For more information visit: [classy.org/team/481765/updates/4373776](https://classy.org/team/481765/updates/4373776).



Providers of the Climb Out of Darkness support group gather for a picture after a recent event. The group will gather on Saturday to raise awareness for those who suffer with mental health. Submitted

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**kmfest.org**



Submitted

Revive Church is now hosting Celebrate Recovery meetings every Sunday from 6-8 p.m.

## Fair Haven church welcomes Celebrate Recovery

In 2022 there were 110,000 drug overdose deaths in the United States. Two-hundred-forty-three Vermont residents died of an opioid overdose last year alone.

Revive Church is now hosting Celebrate Recovery meetings every Sunday from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered 12 Step program modeled after the highly successful 12 Steps of AA and the “8 Principles of the Beatitudes.” The program is designed to help individuals who are struggling with various hurts, habits, or hang-ups. It provides a supportive and encouraging environment where people can find healing, freedom, and restoration.

By offering Celebrate Recovery, Revive Church demonstrates its commitment to providing a space for individuals to address their struggles and find hope through faith in Christ. This program typically incorporates elements such as worship, teaching, small group discussions, and individual sharing. It is free and open to all.

Those interested in attending Celebrate Recovery at Revive Church, please reach out to Revive Church directly for more information: [Wearerevive.church](http://Wearerevive.church) or call 802-444-0655

“Revive’s hope is that you have a meaningful and transformative experience at Celebrate Recovery, no matter what issue is holding you back from enjoying your life to the fullest. May it bring you healing, support, and renewed strength on your journey” stated Pastor Derik Kerber.



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# Livingston Taylor will perform at the Mountain Top Inn & Resort to fight hunger

Wednesday, June 28—CHITTENDEN—Looking for an enjoyable evening to support a worthwhile cause? Catch the legendary Livingston Taylor and Vermont native Tod Pronto in concert on the lawn at the picturesque Mountain Top Inn & Resort, Wednesday, June 28, starting at 7 p.m. All net proceeds will be donated to the Rutland Community Cupboard, BROCC Community Action, the Pittsford Food Shelf, and other worthy causes.

Described as “equal parts Mark Twain and musical icon,” Livingston Taylor has delighted audiences for over 50 years with his charm and vast repertoire of 22 albums and popular classics. Livingston has created numerous top-40 hits for himself and his brother James Taylor, and has appeared with music legends such as Joni Mitchell, Linda Ronstadt, Fleetwood Mac, and Jimmy Buffet. His work encompasses a wide range of musical genres — folk, pop, gospel, jazz — ranging from upbeat storytelling to touching ballads to full orchestra performances.

Taylor is a retired full professor at the Berklee College of Music, where for three decades he inspired future leaders, including non-musicians, with the knowledge gained from his long and storied career. A few of his other passions flying airplanes and riding

motorcycles.

Born, raised, and still residing in Newport Tod Pronto is a funny, insightful, and energetic folk singer/songwriter who perfectly combines modern and traditional folk to create a unique blend of Americana music. Engaging audiences with both his wonderful music and humorous storytelling, Pronto has released three studio albums and has written instrumental

Livingston has created numerous top-40 hits for himself and his brother James Taylor.

tracks for television programs, including “American Pickers,” “Last Week Tonight” with John Oliver and “Impractical Jokes.”

Besides opening for Livingston Taylor many times, Pronto has also performed with music icons Jonathan Edwards, Ellis Paul, Ben Caplan, and many others.

This benefit concert is being presented by the Chittenden Dammers, Inc, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports causes throughout the Rutland region. Currently, the Dammers are renovating the entire Pittsford Food Shelf in partnership with local businesses that donated the building materials.

Two in five Vermonters currently face food insecurity, with over 150,000 individuals across the state requiring assistance.

The economic downturn and food price inflation are combining to accelerate hunger across Vermont. Two in five Vermonters currently face food insecurity, with over 150,000 individuals across the state requiring assistance. Particularly hard hit are families with children, who are five times more likely to face hunger.

Local non-profits such as the Rutland Community Cupboard, BROCC Community Action, and the Pittsford Food Shelf are hard at work trying to fill this growing gap, but rising case loads along with higher food costs have limited their ability to supply basic staples such as fresh eggs, milk, butter, and produce.

The concert is funded in part by a growing list of corporate sponsors.

Tickets cost \$29 for adults, \$19 for attendees 19-21, \$10 for those 12-17 and \$5 if under 11 years old.

All net proceeds will be donated.

Come out and enjoy a great night for a great cause, with Livingston Taylor and Tod Pronto performing at the beautiful Mountain Top Resort, moving indoors to the Bar-

stow auditorium in the event of rainy weather.

For more information and tickets, visit: [concert4community.org](http://concert4community.org).

## How to create a healthy lawn for bees

By Bonnie Kim Donahue

Much of landscape maintenance in summer is devoted to mowing lawns.

Traditional lawns in the Northeast are typically made up of a mix of turfgrasses such as Kentucky bluegrass, perennial rye and fine fescues. Seed mixes often include a mix of species to provide full lawn cover in spite of changing conditions like heat and moisture.

Turfgrass lawns provide many environmental benefits such as erosion control, as well as caching and filtering water. They also have an appealing, carpet-like appearance that many of us in the Northeast have grown accustomed to seeing in the summer.

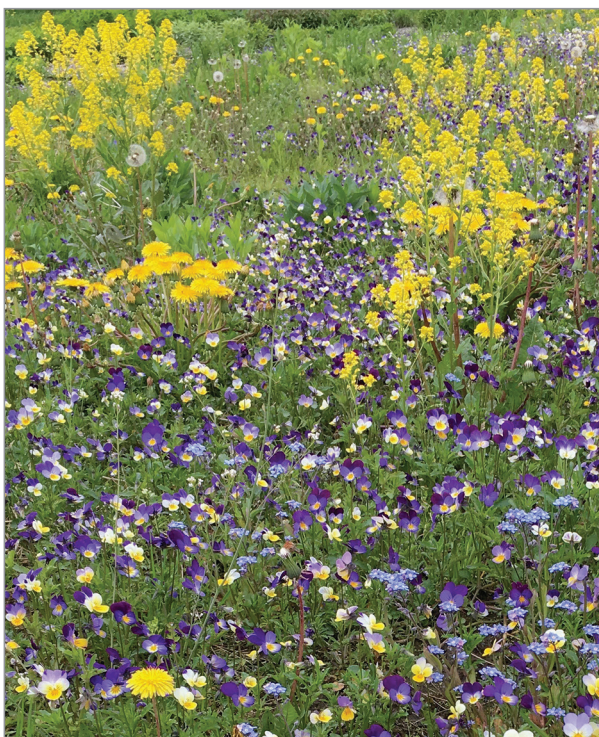
What these grasses do not provide is food for pollinators. Flowering plants produce nectar and pollen, which are food for pollinators including bees, butterflies, flies and beetles.

Pollinators are a critical part of earth’s ecological systems. They pollinate fruit, vegetable and nut crops so that we can have food to eat. They also provide food for creatures big and small, being eaten by birds, bats, reptiles, fish and other insects.

Unfortunately, pollinator habitat is dwindling as land becomes more developed. Lawns are one area where we can rethink our practices and reduce our environmental impacts while building habitat for pollinators.

One simple way to build pollinator habitat into your lawn is to avoid mowing areas that are flowering. Leave the blooms alone until they turn brown, and then

Lawn for bees → 20



By Bonnie Kim Donahue

By not mowing lawn areas when flowering, homeowners can create a healthy habitat for bees, butterflies and other pollinators that depend on flowering plants for nectar and pollen.

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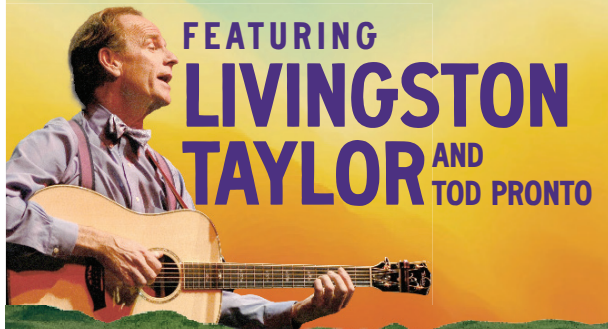
100% of net proceeds being donated to the Rutland Community Cupboard, BROCC Community Action, the Pittsford Food Shelf and other worthwhile causes.

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# Fair Haven announces the 2023 summer concert series lineup

By Ceil Hunt

FAIR HAVEN—Fair Haven’s Concert Committee has been busy throughout the past year lining up performers for the 2023 Summer Series. This summer the committee is going back to hosting ten summer concerts. They will be held on Thursday evenings beginning June 22. Concerts begin promptly at 7 p.m.

The first concert of the season features a Waylon Jennings tribute band, Wailon. They performed last year and the crowd really enjoyed them. The Spirit of Johnny Cash has been invited to perform as will Harold Ford and friends on July 20. Two groups performing for the first time in Fair Haven are Atlantic Crossing and Whiskey River. Atlantic Crossing plays Celtic music and Whiskey River plays classic country.

Returning this year are Studio Two, the Beatles tribute band Studio Two, Mellow Yellow, Twangbusters, Blue Jay Way, and Aaron Audet. These bands are very popular and lay down a groove that encourages singing, clapping, and tapping along the performances. The last concert of the season is Aug. 24 featuring Shake, Rattle and Roll who will take the stage with music of the '50s and '60s.

This year, the Congregational Church at the north end of the park has opened their doors to serve as a rain location and there were many sponsors and local community businesses that helped support the concert series with donations of not only financial support, but prizes for the raffles helped with the organization of the upcoming performances. 50/50 tickets will be sold, along with hot dogs, popcorn, water, and sodas. There will be free ice cream nights.

For more information visit: [poultneyareachamber.com/organizer/fair-haven-concerts-in-the-park](http://poultneyareachamber.com/organizer/fair-haven-concerts-in-the-park).



Submitted

Concert-goers gather to enjoy a musical performance in the park. The Fair Haven Concert Committee has announced its summer line-up which will feature a different artist every Thursday evening starting June 22.

**← Lawn for bees:** .....  
from page 19

mow them. If you take a moment to watch these flower patches, you will see multiple species of insects visiting the flowers.

If you are starting a new lawn, or reestablishing an old one, consider adding low-growing flowering species into your lawn.

Dutch white clover (*Trifolium repens*) grows 3 to 6 inches tall and has sweet white flowers that are attractive to bees. The rounded leaves in clusters of three creates a lovely textural contrast to thin blades of grass. Flowers bloom between May and September, providing season-long food for pollinators.

Lance self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris* ssp. *lanceolata*) has cones of lavender-purple flowers that attract bees and butterflies. Self-heal grows 6 to 12 inches tall with flowers that bloom from June to August.

Ask your local native plant nursery or seed supplier for ideas for other species that will do well in a lawn setting. Other options to try include alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), common violet (*Viola sororias*) or creeping thyme (*Thymus praecox* ssp. *arcticus*).

To overseed an existing lawn with pollinator seeds for lawns, make sure that the seed will have good seed-to-soil contact. Patchy, thin lawns with open soil will receive seed better than a thick, lush lawn. Scarify the soil gently to relieve any compaction, moisten the soil and spread the seed per the manufacturer’s recommended seed rate.

Lightly cover the seed with weed-free hay or straw, and keep the area watered as the seedlings establish. The best time of year to seed is the fall, but seeding also can be done in late spring to mid-June if the seeds are kept watered.

Bee lawns should be mowed higher, and kept to about a three to four-inch height. A benefit of bee lawns is that they will not grow as tall or fast as turfgrass, and they can be mowed less frequently (depending on site conditions, once every 3 to 4 weeks).

For more detailed information, check out “Planting and Maintaining a Bee Lawn” by University of Minnesota Extension at [go.uvm.edu/bee-lawn](http://go.uvm.edu/bee-lawn).

Ironically, flowers are often what we want to remove from lawns for their appearance. It just takes a shift in perspectives and priorities to see the beauty and purpose of these flowering species and their crucial role in the greater ecosystem.

Give a bee lawn a try!



## Rookie Roberts wins Sportsman thriller with last-corner pass

LaDuc, a multi-time Devil's Bowl track champion, took control at the lap 31 restart, and then held Roberts off at the final restart on lap 35. But as the laps clicked away, Roberts

Devil's Bowl Speedway is located on Route 22A in West Haven, four miles north of U.S. Route 4, Exit 2, and just 20 minutes from Rutland, Vt. For more information, visit [DevilsBowlSpeedwayVT.com](http://DevilsBowlSpeedwayVT.com) or call (802) 265-3112. Devil's Bowl Speedway is on Facebook at [facebook.com/Devils-BowlSpeedway](https://facebook.com/Devils-BowlSpeedway), and on Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat at [@DevilsBowlSpeed](https://twitter.com/DevilsBowlSpeed); follow the action using the #Devils-Bowl hashtag.

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# Rutland County Humane Society



## MAYBELLE

Primrose and her six 5-month-old-babies came to us from an overcrowded Georgia shelter. They have been waiting so long for a family/person to love and be loved by and we want to get them into homes fast! Pups are 18-21 pounds and mom is 45 pounds. If you want to be the lucky person to give them what they have never had before go to our website [spfldhumane.org](http://spfldhumane.org) and fill out an application or call 802-885-3997 for more information.

This pet is available for adoption at

**Springfield Humane Society**

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

\*Open by appointment only. [spfldhumane.org](http://spfldhumane.org)



## LUCILLE

I'm a 3-year-old adorable bundle-of-love that came to Lucy Mackenzie as a stray not too long ago. A really, really nice lady had been taking care of me for some time and made sure I made it here safely. Since I've been here, the tall humans have become smitten with me...they tell me all the time! And, me with them! I just adore people and being around them. I also like my comfortable perches and spots where I can snooze, especially if they're bathed in sunlight.

This pet is available for adoption at

**Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society**

4832 VT-44, Windsor, VT • (802) 484-5829

\*(By appointment only at this time.) Tues. - Sat. 12-4 p.m.

& Thurs. 12-7 p.m. • [lucymac.org](http://lucymac.org)



Koda—6-year-old. Spayed female. Retriever mix.

Tan. Koda's a gentle girl who does great with kids. knows "Sit", "Shake" and "Down".



Red—16-month-old.

Neutered male. Mixed breed. Red. Red is looking for an outdoorsy person to go on fun adventures with, and then enjoy afternoons on the porch just watching the world.



Bandit—1-year-old.

Neutered male. Husky/Pit Bull mix. Black. Bandit would be happy to play a game of ball with an outdoor family.



Sox—5-year-old. Neutered male. Lab mix. Black and tan. Sox enjoys the sunshine and can entertain himself with toys.



Cooper—1 ½-year-old. Neutered male. Terrier/Lab mix. Tan and black.

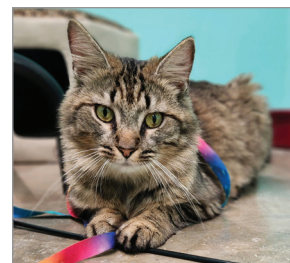
Cooper loves to go for walks, and how can you say no to a face like his?



Marcy—1-year-old. Spayed Female. Domestic shorthair. Black and white. Marcy is such a charming cat! We think a home with other cats will suit her nicely.



Lizzy—5-year-old. Spayed Female. Domestic shorthair. Dilute torti. Lizzy is a sweet cat who loves her pets and cuddles.



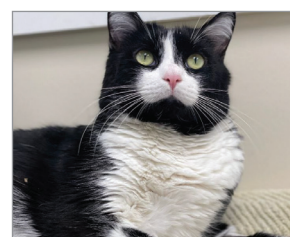
Dexter—2-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic longhair. Brown tiger. Dexter is an energetic boy who loves pets and head scratches.



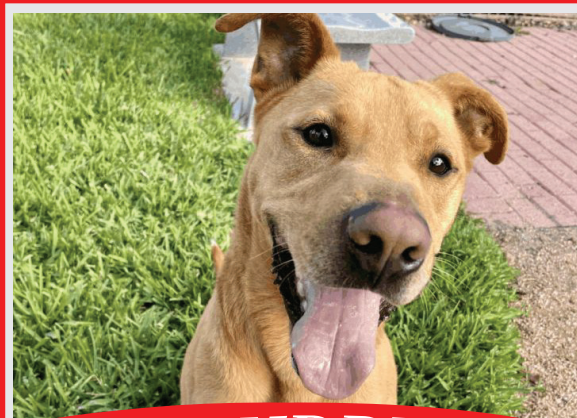
Shirley—10-year-old. Spayed Female. Domestic shorthair. Torbie. Shirley reminds us of Shirley MacLaine! She is full of "pizzazz."



Kevin—2-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic Mediumhair. Grey tiger. Kevin is an affectionate guy and will do best in a home with no other cats.



Eepa—5-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Black with white. Eepa is short for Eepa-Boing-Boing. He enjoys head scratches and rolling on his side for belly rubs!



## BUDDY

Buddy—3 ½-year-old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Blonde. Buddy is an athletic pup who needs a confident and experienced handler who has the lifestyle to fit his needs.

All of these pets are available for adoption at

**Rutland County Humane Society**

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

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

\*(By appointment only at this time.)

Closed Sun. & Mon. • [www.rchsvt.org](http://www.rchsvt.org)

### Concert held to benefit Rutland County Humane Society

The Rutland County Humane Society would like to invite you to a night of entertainment with the Onion River Jazz Band. We are working with The Paramount Theatre and the Pittsford Village Farm for a Night Under The Stars on Friday, July 7, 2023 at the Pittsford Village Farm to raise needed funds for the animals in our care. Since 1984, the Onion River Jazz Band has been delighting audiences throughout Vermont and New England with their spot-on renditions of vintage jazz, ragtime and swing instrumentals and songs. ORJB's seven red-hot musicians' combined professional performing experience is well over 300 years. Gates will be open at 6 pm and the concert begins at 7 p.m. Ticket fees are as follows, Adults: \$20 + tax/fees and Child/Under 18: \$5 + tax/fees. Tickets can be purchased online at our website ([RCHSVT.org](http://RCHSVT.org)), at the Paramount Theatre Box Office on Fridays from 11am-6pm and at the gate the night of. We can't wait for you to join us for a night of fun for all!

**Catamount Pet Supply Company, inc.**

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# Cosmic Catalogue



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## Aries

March 21 - April 20

There's a certain kind of inner peace you can experience when you get back to basics. For the next four weeks, the Sun lights up your home and family zone. The more radiance and light you can shed on all things pertaining to your home life, the happier you'll be. Time spent having fun and expressing yourself creatively will help you re-establish the foundation in your life, bringing meaning to everything else you do.



## Leo

July 21 - August 20

You're emerging into a deeply reflective phase. Your ruler, the Sun, combined with Venus on the go-slow in your sign, is prompting you to think about things differently. As you turn your attention within, you may realize you're beginning to think about things in a new light. It's OK to not want what you once did, or at the very least, questioning if you still want it. Don't expect to have all the answers just yet, they'll arrive soon enough.



## Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

You could treat the next months as a period to get back in touch with your finances. It's one thing to look at the amount that comes in, but what about the amount that goes out? All those subscriptions that don't amount to a whole lot but add up really quick are worth getting rid of if you don't use them! While you're at it, consider the emotions you experience when you spend – do you really need that thing, or are you fulfilling an emotional need?



## Taurus

April 21 - May 20

It can be easy to get stuck in a rut and become familiar with the things that you do on the daily. Every now and then though, you get to shine a light into a particular corner of your life and think, "Do I really want to be doing this?" For the next month, you'll get to explore new ways of doing little things. It doesn't sound like much, but you'd be surprised how little things add up. Change is as good as a holiday.



## Virgo

August 21 - September 20

This time of year is surprisingly social for you. As the Sun lights up your friendship and community zone, you may opt to spread your energy, warmth and radiance to those you're closest to. Is there someone you've not seen in a while? Is there a group or network you wish to become established with? Make the effort to be social this month and it will reward you both personally and professionally.



## Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

The next four weeks is your season of relationships. This means, that the more you extend yourself toward others in both a professional and personal setting, the happier you'll likely be. Be like the Sun and shine just because it's what you do, not because you want something in return. You're good at being someone's rock, but what might it also mean to be someone else's light? With your patron planet now in reverse, you may need to consider exactly how you can do that.



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

As the cosmic light turns toward your money, you might be considering new ways you can work with your cash as well as your confidence in being able to attract it. This might mean getting a little bit more frugal with your expenditure, while at the same time, boosting your cash flow with other means of making cash. Set yourself a challenge this month – can you cut back on expenses while at the same time earning more? You'll reach your goals faster this way.



## Libra

September 21 - October 20

Every now and then you have to opt not to compromise so much. At the least, give some thought to exactly what you are available for and what you're not. You get to set the bar more often than you give yourself credit for. This week, you can start to do this by being increasingly apologetic and determined at work or with anything that impacts your overall life direction. Allow yourself to be seen in your best light.



## Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

We all have periods of just having to do whatever it is that gets you through. With the combination of your planet, Saturn, in reverse and the Sun now in your hard work zone for the next month, it might just be a case of putting your nose to the grindstone and getting the job done. If you want a different result financially, then there is something different you need to do in the way you approach your work in order to make that happen.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 20

The mid-year Solstice welcomes your birthday season! With the Sun in your sign for the next month, this is not only a time of reflection but also of celebration! How far have you come in the last year and how much further would you like to go during the next? As your old year becomes new, a whole new world of possibility opens up. As you gain new perspectives on what's possible, you may need to adjust your plan of attack.



## Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

This week, your life begins to look and feel a whole light brighter. As the Sun emerges from your shadowy sector of fears and phobias and into your area of perspective and spirituality, you may start to recognize the benefit of any recent experiences. As your perspective shifts, you'll open up to so many more opportunities, especially if they involve professional progress. The time for navel gazing is over – onwards and upwards from here!



## Pisces

February 21 - March 20

Chances are, you're due for a season of joy! Saturn, since March, has been weighing you down with obligations and responsibilities. Now, it's your time to decide which ones continue and which ones remain. With the Sun moving into your joy and happiness zone, the next month will shine cosmic light into all the good things in life. Thus, it will make any hard decisions so much easier to make. Choose joy!

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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.

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## Solstice celebrations

We've reached the halfway point of the astrological year with the Sun's entrance into Cancer and the Summer Solstice in the North and the Winter Solstice in the South. Thus, this week is ideal for pressing the pause button and reflecting on the six months past and the next six to come. Recently, I heard someone online ask the question, - what would you be doing differently in your life if we were approaching the end of the year, rather than the middle of it? Well for one, you'd probably be celebrating! Two, you'd also be doing all

those things making sure all the loose ends of the year are tied up and setting intentions for the next year.

This week is a bit like that! There is a lot of dreaming and imagining as well as getting things done. If you could act now with the same level of intention and focus you do at the end of the year, what could you actually achieve by the next Solstice in December? You could be a lot further ahead on all your big life goals than you think is possible now. Decide and do and you may be surprised by what you can achieve in just another 26 weeks.



Cosmic  
Catalogue  
By Cassandra  
Tyndall

## Love of the Forest

The forest,  
Trees gently pierce the sky,  
With great bright green leaves,  
Sprouting with joy,  
Shooting up to the sky,  
Cute little animals crawling around,  
Soon become stunning,  
Like the only thing left in the world is kindness,  
Gracefully enjoying the sun,  
Beautifully living their lives,  
As friends,  
As family,  
Prancing through the forest,  
Dancing in the shadow of the trees,  
Enjoying their lives,  
Together they will be,  
Happy forever,  
Just you see,  
You could go with them,  
The animals in the forest,  
Help others have fun,  
Let your kindness flow,  
Deep in the forest kindness has sprouted,  
And it's all because of you,  
Because you were kind,  
Because you showed love,  
Make others' lives happy and yours will be happy, too.



Poetry Is  
Power  
By Bree  
Sarandrea



The Outside  
Story  
By William von Herff

## It takes a village to raise a veery

If you take a walk through a thick, broadleaf forest on a cool summer morning, you might recognize the cascading, metallic song of a thrush called a veery. It is an ethereal sound that echoes through the understory, like the ring of a haunted cell phone. You might even see a veery, with its russet back and upright stance, scampering through the underbrush as it forages for insects and other invertebrates.

Chances are, though, otherworldly songs and fleeting glimpses are the closest you will get to these skulky thrushes. Veeries tend to seclude themselves in the dense, scrubby vegetation, a habitat choice that makes veery nesting behavior hard to study.

When ornithologist Matthew Halley was a master's student at the University of Delaware, he focused his research on a population of veeries in White Creek State Park, Delaware, that his advisor, Christopher Heckscher, has been studying since 1998. At the time, Halley assumed veeries bred like most songbirds: one female and one male raising their young together. What he found, however, is that nearly half of all veery nestlings are raised by their mother and two or more males. These males seem to be related to each other, and they may also help to raise their brother's, uncle's, or father's children.

Cooperative parental care is rare in birds, especially in extremely long-distance migrants. The veeries that breed in the Northeast travel 5,000 miles from their wintering grounds in central Brazil each spring. Many of them find their way back to the same patch of woods each year, ready to raise the next generation – often with the help of relatives. In a sense, veeries act like royal houses, establishing family dynasties in their woods to ensure their bloodline's survival.

This communal parenting system has clear advantages for females. If one of the males – even the biological father – abandons the nest, the other bonded males feed the babies and keep them healthy. To increase their young's chances of survival, female veeries will mate with multiple males and establish a bond with each. In one instance Halley observed, a female veery even mated with a male wood thrush. That thrush was not the father to any of her nestlings, but he

nonetheless fed them day after day. "That wood thrush was a feeder," Halley said. "He was bringing in more food than the male veeries."

For the males, this behavior, at first glimpse, seems like a lose-lose: they have to attend, feed, and guard multiple nests at once, and risk wasting their energy feeding nestlings that aren't theirs. But these birds are part of a family, and if their family persists, some of their genes do as well. "If I can help [my brother's] offspring survive and reproduce," Halley said, "I'm indirectly helping a rather high percentage of my genes to pass on to the next generation."

These genetic benefits apply to females as well. While many other songbird species build their nests away from other nests, veeries tend to nest close to each other. The females build the nests on or near the ground, and other nearby nests often belong to sisters or aunt-niece pairs. Sometimes

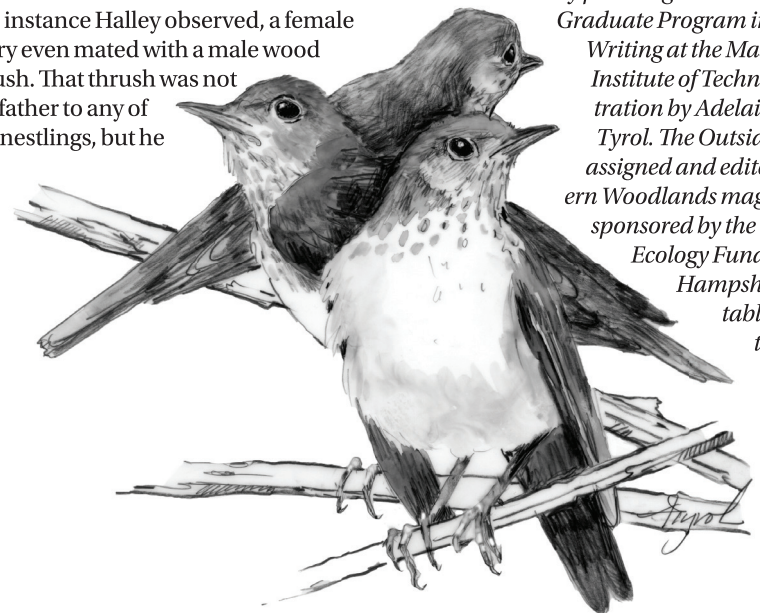
these nests are also guarded by the same males, creating what Halley calls a "cooperative nest defense cluster." The closely related females leave each other alone, while the males are able to more efficiently guard multiple nests in close proximity.

While this cooperative behavior is rare among migratory songbirds, it seems to be somewhat common in some other thrush species. Bicknell's thrush, a close relative of the veery that breeds in the

high-altitude forests in Vermont and New Hampshire, has a similar breeding system. The sedentary slaty-backed nightingale-thrush, which lives in Central and South America, takes cooperative parenting to the extreme. Researchers observed one nest being fed by six birds – four males and two females. Other relatives of the veery, including hermit thrushes, may very well practice a similar mating system. But, for now at least, these unique ways of life are as hidden by the dense forest understory as the birds themselves.

*William von Herff is a scientist-turned-science writer who writes about conservation, the environment, and natural history. He is currently pursuing his M.S. in the*

*Graduate Program in Science Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 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.*



## Data theft:

from page 7

Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the FBI.

When asked whether the Attorney General's Office issued a press release about the thousands of residents affected by the breach, Jandl said the office publishes on its website a copy of notice letters that companies provide customers when they experience data breaches. She said that included NationsBenefits' initial notification in April.

Jandl said the attorney

general's office receives 30 to 40 data breach notices a month, or five to 10 a week. Last year, she said, the largest single breach involved 50,000 Vermonters.

Officials earlier said the identity of the cyber attackers remained unknown and police are investigating.

Jandl said Vermonters with questions or concerns about identity theft can contact the office of the attorney general's consumer assistance program at 800-649-2424 or [ago.vermont.gov/cap](http://ago.vermont.gov/cap).

Meanwhile, NationsBenefits is offering all affected individuals 24 months of free identity protection. That includes credit monitoring, identity theft resolution and \$1 million in identity theft insurance.

NationsBenefits said it learned about the data breach at Fortra on Feb. 7, about a week after it occurred. In a statement, NationsBenefits said it has stopped using Fortra's software and is putting more security procedures in place.



# Dying to change

One of my college roommates called me up to tell me that he died recently. He's a bit of a jokester, so I laughed off his initial statement. But then I sensed an air of forlorn seriousness in his voice.

It turns out he wasn't kidding.

I've known "Phil" for 35 years, and if I were to pick one friend who could claw back from the clutches of death, it would be him. He's actually been tempting death for decades, so I've always considered him the most likely candidate to end up deceased within our college friend-group.

And yet, he continues to survive.

I met Phil in the late 1980s during the first couple days of college. He had the dorm room directly across from me, so I couldn't help but know him. He was a short, stocky guy with blond hair, good looks, and a magnetic personality.

One day he noticed I had a football in my room and asked if I wanted to toss it around. We proceeded to play catch for a good hour, chatting about our respective lives while challenging each other's athleticism. I found him to be sincere, funny, and immensely charming.

Phil was always up for a good time, but somehow still managed to get his work done. He honed this skill during our four years of college and built upon it in the years after graduation. This was an admirable trait when we were younger, but as the years passed, the impressiveness of his stamina faded significantly.

I knew Phil had a problem with alcohol after the first night we partied together. It was a genetic thing with him. When a certain amount of alcohol hit his system, he changed into a different human. I don't pretend to understand the brain chemistry of alcoholics, but in Phil's case, there was a physiological element to his addiction that co-opted him both physically and mentally.

We all noticed this transformation, comically referring to it as "Phil's Event Horizon." It was all fun and games back in college, but even then I knew Phil's propensity for excessive drinking was going to cause issues in his life. And it did.

After college, Phil got into sales and enjoyed great success. He traveled the world and spent many years living in Asia, profiting from his good looks, charm, and immense salesmanship. He was also known as someone who took great pleasure in

wining and dining his clients.

However, while sales can be a wonderful, rewarding profession, for an alcoholic, it can also be a constant threat to personal well-being.

Through the years, Phil had bouts of sobriety coupled with long stretches of unbridled partying. The sober moments were usually brought on because of incidents that involved disgruntled employers, exhausted personal relationships, or the law.

Unfortunately, none of Phil's wake-up incidents permanently altered his lifestyle. As such, he's grown into an older, worn-down, less impressive version of his once vivacious self.

Phil was at home recently and, while getting up to grab something from the kitchen, had a cardiac event likely brought on by excessive drinking. Luckily someone was present and called an ambulance. When the EMT's arrived, they shocked his heart back into shape and he survived.

I listened intently as he told me how helpless he feels with his inability to control his alcoholism. I gave him my usual insights about getting healthy and not trying to attempt sobriety alone, but I'm afraid it fell on deaf ears. I also told him how I hoped old age would bring us together for many more rounds of golf.

This week's feature, "Old," contemplates how we might feel about our lives if our timeline for living was massively accelerated. If the scenario of "Old" were true,

I'm confident my friend Phil would consider a different approach to his limited time on earth.

Directed by M. Night Shyamalan and released during the pandemic, "Old" follows the story of several guests at an exclusive tropical resort. The group are all on vacation for various reasons, but there's a common thread that finds them together on a remote beach one afternoon.

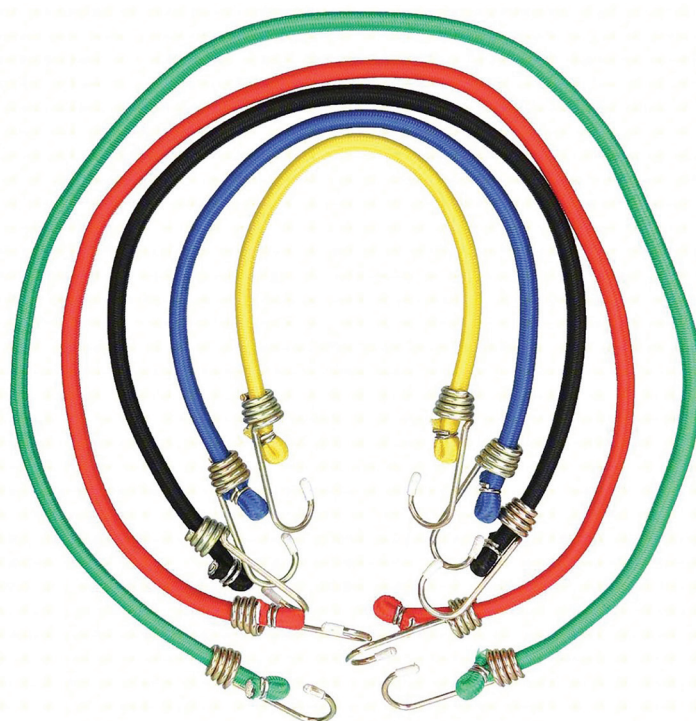
In typical Shyamalan fashion, "Old" not only tweaks your curiosity, but also stresses your sensibilities with an intriguing storyline that leaves the viewer helpless to understand where the plot is headed. Check this one out if you're a fan of Shyamalan's style. It's full of his traditional weirdness and thought-provoking story arcs, which is the main reason I love his unique filmmaking.

An eerie "B-" for "Old," now available for rental on Amazon Prime.

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



The Movie  
Diary  
By Dom Cioffi



## An ode to bungee cords

We skied in a wedge, poles wrapped around our waists with the basket ends looped into the straps. You had to suck your stomach in to make it work, and then the poles would settle onto your hips and your hands would be free to do all the work.

And so we slipped the ruts out and picked up the gates, one by one, gathering them in our arms until our little 12-year-old bodies felt ridiculously overwhelmed by the awkwardness of carrying a bunch of breakaways that were longer than our body and probably heavier than most of us. The gates, wrapped in an arm over a shoulder, would slide out in all kinds of random directions, making you feel like you were collecting big sticks for a fire rather than an organized race room.

But then, the bungees would come out and our world would become simple again. The big, grown up bungees with the hooks on the end. The elastic, in all kinds of beautiful colors later in life but in the beginning only a yellow black orange combo that said "construction." We felt so awesome. One of us would hold the gates in the climb while the other stretched the cord as far as it would go. One bungee was all it took to hold your whole world together.

I fell in love with bungee cords after that. What a super amazing stretchy thing that comes in all shapes and sizes and still holds your world together. Along with duct tape and zipties, do we really need anything else? Well, obviously ratchet straps but that's a whole other realm.

I have used bungees cords for everything from strapping a dry bag onto the back of the motorcycle to putting the tents together for the Block Party. I've got a bungee in my hiking backpack just in case the zippers pop or I need to gather a bunch of wood for

a fire (at a legal spot of course). It is perfect for toting a large collection of sticks around or for tying a slew of tiki torches together. Have you ever tried to carry a bunch of tiki torches? They should work like ski gates, but the tiki part is relatively way heavier than you would be anticipating.

My dad used bungee cords to tie the shovels together on his job sites, especially during the early excavation periods. He had more shovels than anyone I ever saw. It's probably where I fell in love with shoveling. Which reminds me that I need a new shovel. Mine is all beat up from trying to dig new garden beds in my pure rock soil lawn.

And bungees come in all shapes and sizes. Has anyone ever seen a bungee small enough to hold your pencils together?

Way more fun than just using a big purple asparagus rubber band. One of the tiny tiny bungees with the ball at the end of a loop rather than the ones with the hooks on either end.

The first stretchable cord was used in 500 A.D., up in Siberia where they used strips of caribou gut. Hopefully cleaned really well first. By 1936, English Glider pilots were using rubber elastic cords to launch their planes off the sides of mountains, earning the name Bungee Cords. I knew these had to have mountains tied into their history somewhere! Bungee cords even helped latch things down in space with big thick gloves — a perfect transition to trying to tie gates together with ski gloves on!

I am sure others of you have used bungee cords to jump off bridges or towers or anything else really. I like to keep my feet on the ground, but it's amazing to me how much the bungee has become a trusted part of our lives. Literally. People are willing to trust their entire existence to the faith that the bungee will catch them and pull them back from certain death.

What a beautiful thing, something so simple that can save lives and hold your world together. It's a beautiful thing, a way around having to tie knots and still get all the stuff done. Just remember to replace them when they get all stretched out.



Livin' the Dream  
By Merisa  
Sherman





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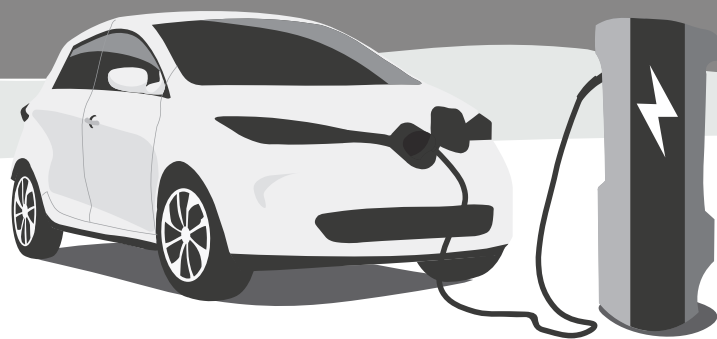
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Courtesy VIA

An architectural rendering of the proposed housing complex in West Rutland, prepared by Vermont Integrated Architecture (VIA) of Middlebury. The structure will contain 24 units, 19 of which will be reserved for tenants with incomes below 60% of Vermont's median income. Construction is slated to begin in early 2024.

## ← W. Rutland housing:

from page 1

for income by HTRC. To qualify for a restricted-income unit, a tenant cannot earn more than 60% of Vermont's median income.

The complex would also include indoor and outdoor community areas and a parking lot with 27 spaces.

The proposed building site is located on Main Street in West Rutland, just to the west of the Price Chopper shopping center. The site consists of three separate parcels (376, 398, and 416 Main Street) which are currently vacant or contain derelict/unused buildings. Together, the three lots total about an acre. At the moment, none of the parcels is owned by HTRC, although all are under option for purchase, pending successful acquisition of state and local permits this summer.

"We do work in communities that want us to be there," said Moore. "We're here because we're in the middle of a housing crisis. These properties are a gateway to West Rutland and something needs to be done with them. Once we do something on a vacant lot, it tends to spur other investments."

If HTRC obtains the necessary permits, Moore anticipates that construction plans would be put out for bids this winter and ground would be broken in early 2024. Construction is projected to take 10-12 months in total.

Pat Griffin, a civil engineer with Enman-Kesselring of Rutland, explained the physical considerations and limitations of the particular site, noting that its bowtie-like shape made it particularly challenging to place a building of sufficient size on the combined lot. Because of those constraints, a waiver will be needed from the town for a reduced setback from the street. The ground will also be raised 30" to ensure that the building will sit above the flood plain. There is a stormwater intake in front of the site on Main Street that empties into a gully on private property behind the site. Griffin assured the room that computer modeling had been done to determine that the site could withstand a 100-year flood event.

Griffin also pointed out that the location on a heavily traveled bend in the road made placement of the driveway tricky. The site is at the junction of Route 4A, Main Street,

and Route 133, with a large shopping center and gas station to the southeast. The engineers decided to place the driveway as far west on the site as possible, to avoid forcing residents to exit the complex into the heaviest traffic flow.

Jean Terwilliger and Nick Wood of VIA then presented the proposed design for the complex. VIA is also the firm that designed the upcoming renovation of the Brandon Free Public Library.

Though the architects said they sought inspiration in some of the Victorian-era buildings in the downtown area of West Rutland, the design they presented was spare and unornamented: a three-story gable-roofed structure with a three-story flat-roofed wing. The gabled element harks back to classic New England architecture, but for the most part the design is resolutely modern.

The gabled structure will contain the one-bedroom units while the flat-roofed wing will contain the two-bedroom apartments, storage and a common lounge. The gabled roof will also bear solar panels. In fact, the entire building will be constructed to meet or exceed energy standards, with an "energy efficient envelope," said Terwilliger.

Seemingly to the chagrin of the entire team of developers, the proposed design met with almost universal

disapproval in the room.

One attendee said flat-out that "it doesn't look good."

Another stated that "it doesn't mesh with the town."

The architects and Moore reassured attendees that the design was "still in progress" and that the landscaping would soften the severity of the architects' rendering.

Moore also reminded the room that construction costs have skyrocketed over the last several years. Materials and design elements that were once within reach are now out of budget. Even with a minimalist design, HTRC estimates the total cost of the project to be \$11.5 million, none of which will be borne by the taxpayers of West Rutland. Rather, the project will be funded through private financing and grants. HTRC will also pay property tax on the complex.

Goulette stated that the town assessor gave a preliminary

Grand List assessment of roughly \$900,000 for the finished development.

During the question and answer portion of the presentation, it became clear that most in attendance had not been won over. There were concerns about the presence of such a large building at that location, the impact on traffic, the extra burden on town water and sewer, the quality of potential tenants, and the creation of excess storm runoff by the paving of the parking lot.

The development team and town officers answered the questions with aplomb, as if they'd anticipated the pushback. State Representative Thomas Burditt was also in attendance and offered praise for HTRC and its properties: "I'm 110% behind this project. The Housing Trust is nothing but a class act."

"Although many residents may not have the same vision, the town has been working toward this," said Mary Cohen in a subsequent email.

Cohen was referring to the numerous steps that West Rutland has taken to facilitate the project, including changing the zoning laws and extending the Village Center to include the proposed building site, thereby allowing HTRC to sidestep the lengthy and expensive Act 250 review process.

HTRC maintains over 40 low-income rental properties throughout Rutland County, including three in West Rutland and four in Brandon. Unlike the proposal now under consideration, most of HTRC's properties are rehabbed structures or single-family homes that have been converted to multifamily.

"The Stanislaus School in West Rutland is a good example of our work," wrote Cohen, referring to a converted 1920s school in West Rutland. During the meeting, attendees praised HTRC for its meticulous upkeep of this particular property.

As the Covid-era hotel-housing programs come to an end on July 1, HTRC anticipates an increased need for housing.

"The market study for this project has indicated that there is an unmet need through 2023 of 3,069 units of affordable housing," wrote Cohen. "These 24 are a drop in the bucket of meeting that need but we are developing as fast as we can."

As the meeting concluded, it seemed that the town was prepared to issue the needed permits and that the project would move forward, though perhaps with a revised design that would meet with broader approval from town residents.



# Free food available to Vermont youth through the Summer Food Service Program

By Olivia Q. Pintair/VTDigger

Vermont youths age 18 and under will have access to free food again this summer through the Summer Food Service Program, a federally funded, state-administered program that began in 1968 and served hundreds of thousands of meals throughout the state last summer.

The Vermont Agency of Education, which announced the continuation of the program on Wednesday, said meals will be accessible to anyone under age 18, regardless of income. Certain sites will prioritize foster children and children who are members of households that receive 3SquaresVT, Reach Up benefits, or meet the Summer Food Service Program's income eligibility standards.

In addition, people over age 18 who have a documented disability will be eligible to receive meals through the program, officials said.

The education agency's announcement arrived at the end of a legislative session particularly focused on food access.

Funding for pandemic-era programs such as extra EBT SNAP benefits and Everyone Eats have dried up, leaving many Vermonters reeling beneath the weight of compounding economic crises. In response, many Vermonters have organized responses to food insecurity, with some advocating for legislation to guarantee meals for Vermont students while others

organize grassroots, non-market systems for distributing free food.

Announced on the same day that legislation mandating free school meals became law in Vermont, without Gov. Phil Scott's signature, the continuing Summer Food Service Program, is meant to make nutrition more accessible for youth and families. Last summer, it served 780,044 meals at over 276 sites across Vermont.

The summer program "increases equity and access around the state, making sure that all children can have a summer where they can relax, play, and be kids," said Lindsey Hedges, a policy communication specialist with the Vermont Agency of Education. "Child nutrition is also critical to how a student performs in the classroom. ... When students are nourished, the likelihood of summer learning loss decreases."

Meals offered by the program will continue to be served at sites around Vermont this year, including schools, parks, housing complexes and libraries. The locations can be found on an interactive map called the USDA Meals For Kids Site Finder ([fns.usda.gov/meals4kids](https://fns.usda.gov/meals4kids)) which will be updated with new sites weekly.

Families can also find information about open meal sites by calling 2-1-1, the United Way-run resource hotline, or through Hunger Free Vermont, which catalogs open sites by county online.



By Jamie Curley, child nutrition coordinator for the Vermont Agency of Education  
A site distributing free meals to youth in 2022 through the Summer Food Service Program.

According to the Agency of Education, the summer meals are served at three types of sites — "open sites," which are listed on the interactive map and are accessible to anyone 18 and under, and "closed-enrolled" and "summer camp sites," which cater to specific populations. Both open and closed-enrolled sites can offer up to two meals or snacks per day, while camp sites are able to provide three

meals or snacks daily, according to a press release.

"Access to nutritious foods is critical for child development, both during the school year and the summer months," said Heather Bouchey, the state's interim secretary of education, in a press release. "This is a fantastic program, and we want to make sure every community is aware of and has access to this resource."

## ← Motel program: from page 6

he's been wandering around downtown Montpelier and sleeping in a friend's car. Being outside either irritated an old injury or fractured something anew, but on Friday he reported being in more pain than he'd been in years.

"I'm in a lot — a lot — of pain, more pain that I've been in like four years. And I'm walking around and it's been hurting. So I don't know what to do," he said. "Like, I really don't know what to do. I'm not really, like, into begging people. I've just been trying to stay outside by myself."

Using federal Covid-19 aid that flooded the state during the pandemic, Vermont dramatically scaled up a pre-existing program to shelter nearly everyone experiencing homelessness in a hotel or motel. More than three years later, the federal money is gone — but homelessness remains. In fact, amid a housing crisis, it spiked nearly 19% between 2022 and 2023.

Back in March, when federal aid ran dry, lawmakers temporarily extended the program but decided to split the roughly 2,800 individuals staying in motels into two categories. Those who met new eligibility criteria — such as families with children, elderly people and those receiving federal disability benefits — could stay in motels until July 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year. Those who didn't would need to be out a month earlier, on June 1.

Both Republican Gov. Phil Scott and Democratic legislative leaders have, to varying extents, reversed themselves on the subject of the roughly 2,000 people that are scheduled for eviction July 1, promising to extend their stays. But they've held firm to the decision that the June 1 cohort, which numbers about 800 people, should remain ineligible for further shelter through the state's program.

That leaves people like Dorsey, who don't receive Social Security Disability Insurance — but who nevertheless have disabilities or medical conditions — relying on whatever

help local service providers can muster.

Advocates have been pushing for lawmakers to reconsider. Brenda Siegel, an activist and former Democratic gubernatorial candidate, last week released a compilation of data from a survey of 76 people set to leave in the June 1 cohort. Many have had major medical conditions, she reported, including grand mal seizures, a brain tumor, epilepsy, kidney disease, cancer, Crohn's disease, severe arthritis, endocarditis and hemophilia. One recently underwent an amputation, she said, and two had had a heart attack or stroke.

Service providers by and large say that people with such significant physical needs who don't receive federal disability benefits represent a minority of those who left hotels and motels on June 1. But they argue their needs are still acute. On Monday, Martin Hahn, executive director of the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness, sent a letter to lawmakers, urging them to include those who meet Vermont's definition of "disability," and those who are medically vulnerable, to remain housed.

"Many people with disabilities do not have (federal Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income) and you can't apply for that if you don't have an address," stated the letter, signed by several local service providers.

Indeed, an hour or so after speaking to a reporter, Dorsey met with the co-executive director of the Good Samaritan Haven, Rick DeAngelis, who concluded, after studying his injuries, that he had no option but to use the shelter's funds to pay for a motel.

"One of the hardest things about this work is that almost everything that we do leaves people out that shouldn't be left out," said Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro.

Lawmakers will reconvene in Montpelier on Tuesday for a special veto session, when they are set to take up legislation that would keep in place those who were scheduled to leave July 1 until alternate shelter can be found. Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, who has been involved in the legislation's development, told VTDigger on Monday afternoon that lawmakers did not intend to tweak eligibility criteria for now.

Advocates have also criticized the legislative deal that was announced in broad strokes last week for leaving out anyone who will fall into homelessness after July 1. While it would keep people in motels if they're already there, it would subject anyone who loses shelter starting next month to the pre-pandemic rules for the state's general assistance program.

A family with children, for example, would be eligible for only 28 days of shelter within a year, not counting the winter months. (Hahn's letter also made this point, and noted that more people are entering homelessness than are leaving it.)

Kornheiser said some legislators are interested in re-evaluating the motel program's rules when they come back for their next full session. But after this week's veto session, lawmakers won't be back in Montpelier until January. And in the interim, Kornheiser freely acknowledged many people will be left in the lurch.

"One of the hardest things about this work is that almost everything that we do leaves people out that shouldn't be left out," she said.



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## ← Reappraisals: from page 3

same period.”

The supply and demand situation is dire, she said. Hence, the drop in Hartland’s CLA.

The state sets individual towns’ education tax rate based on their CLAs and mandated reappraisal is triggered when the 15% difference is exceeded. Hartland has been notified.

Demand for professional appraisal services has gone through the roof — many towns have moved from elected to contract apprais-

ers, and, according to Ethan Weinstein in a Jan. 15 VTDigger article, many experienced appraisers are aging out of the game. Rising demand and shrinking supply mean towns have to compete for services, and may have long waits before actual reappraisal, “fighting over a dwindling pool of experienced appraisers,” as Weinstein put it.

Bradley told the Mountain Times Hartland lists are sending requests for proposals to appraisal firms, but she has been told the actual reap-

praisal may not be done until at least 2027 due to demand.

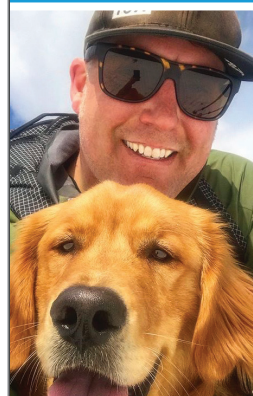
Although, according to Weinstein, the state has never levied penalties against a town for failing to complete reappraisals within mandated deadlines, each municipality is required to submit a plan for completion annually. A pending bill in the Legislature (H.480) would require the state to assume reappraisal responsibilities.

While this would alleviate pressure on local governments, it would do little to resolve the property and appraiser supply and demand problem.

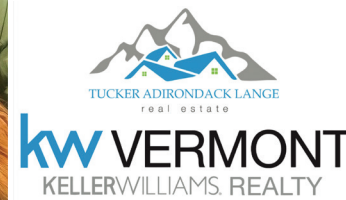
As for Hartland property owners’ education taxes, Weinstein wrote, “In theory, reappraisals don’t significantly impact the tax burden on homeowners despite widespread undervaluing of property.”

The aim of reappraisal is to achieve parity that all properties are evaluated on the same basis — the undervalued go up, and the overvalued go down. The real driver of education taxes is the statewide investment in education.

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## Clearly:

from page 9

And here's the thing: living in Vermont, it's been easy to fret over all the wildfires out in California, Arizona and New Mexico, but they're all in the drought stricken West, not in lush, rainy Vermont. Yet, if wildfires can ravage Nova Scotia and Quebec, they can — and likely will, in time — ravage Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Think about it. Think again: beloved Mount Abe ablaze, neighbors in Lincoln and Ripton threatened and being evacuated.

And here's another thing: A new analysis released late last month by Climate Central analyzed the 50-year shift toward more severe fire seasons.

"Southern California, Texas and New Mexico have experienced some of the greatest increases in fire weather days each year, with some areas now seeing around two more months of fire weather compared to a half-century ago," the report noted. It added: "Even small increases in fire weather in the East, which has nearly 28 million homes located in zones prone to burn, puts more people at risk."

And yet, there's nothing particularly special about wildfire smoke. Those days in Vermont felt like a hundred days I've spent in New Delhi, in Shanghai, in Beijing,

Around the world, 9 million deaths a year — one death in five — comes from breathing the combustion byproducts of fossil fuel.

in Ahmedabad. Many of those were much worse: I've stood on Connaught Place and not been able to see the giant Indian flag flapping in Delhi's Central Park, even though I knew it was a few hundred feet away at most.

That smoke doesn't come from forest fires. It comes mostly from burning fossil

fuels. But it's all combustion, and it all does the same thing to your lungs.

There are 4.5 million children in New Delhi, and the estimate is that half of them have irreversible lung damage from breathing the air.

Around the world, 9 million deaths a year

If the climate crisis is the great existential crisis on our earth, then smoke is the great daily crisis. Happily, they're both caused by the same thing: burning coal and gas and oil. And even more happily, we know how to end it.

— one death in five — comes from breathing the combustion byproducts of fossil fuel. About a third of all deaths in Asia come from breathing fossil fuel pollution.

If the climate crisis is the great existential crisis on our earth, then smoke is the great daily crisis. Happily, they're both caused by the same thing: burning coal and gas and oil. And even more happily, we know how to end it. We just stop burning stuff, and rely instead on the fact that there's a large ball of burning gas at a safe 93-million-mile distance. We get all the fire we could ever want, and none of the smoke. Call it "external combustion."

This is entirely doable — solar power is now the cheapest way to make energy on earth. If someone tells you they don't want to look at a solar panel, or that mining required for a wind turbine does environmental damage, it's fine to see their point. But everything is relative.

Right now, here in Vermont, is our chance to understand what it really feels like every day on a fossil-fueled planet, for the billions of people unlucky enough to really bear the brunt.

My eyes are stinging a bit from the smoke, but I've never seen more clearly. Everything is in perspective, even — especially — through the haze.



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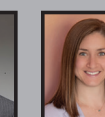
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