



CELEBRATE DADS **SUNDAY, JUNE 18**

RUTLAND CITY

FOR HOMELESS

WELCOMES HELPERS

Dozens of social service

providers will be at the

fairgrounds Wednesday

and Thursday to help

provide answers, op-

LUDLOW'S NEW INDEPENDENT

SCHOOL IS AT RISK School faces rocky road,

impending deadline to receive state approval.

tions for those in need.

Page 3

Page 2

Killington names Ramsey new town manager Chet Hagenbarth to become public works director overseeing TIF

By Polly Mikula

On Monday night, June 12, the Killington Select Board announced that current Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth would be stepping out of that role and into a new one as the public works director.

"We need to move someone over into this position and Chet is the right person," explained Selectman Jim Haff announcing the motion to create the new position. "[Chet] knows the roads, he oversaw the public safety building, and he's been working with us on TIF this whole time," Haff said of his qualifications.

While Monday's motion was the

first the public had heard of this administration shake-up, the board and Hagenbarth had been talking about the possibility in executive sessions for "about five months," Haff and Hagenbarth said.

The board also took action Monday night to offer the town manager position to a pre-selected candidate, but did not announce who the person was



Michael Ramsey

emergency Select Board meeting at 2:30 p.m. Michael Ramsey, 36, signed an agreement with the town to become its new town manager.

Ramsey is currently the town manager in Proctor. He gave his resignation to the

Proctor Select Board on Monday night, June 12. He will stay at the helm in Proctor for 60 days (per his contract) and start in Killington Aug. 14 - about two years after he first moved to Proctor for the job.

Hagenbarth will remain in the position as town manger until Ramsey starts, then will transition to director of public works. There will be no change in his salary or benefits. Ramsey will be compensated

\$98,000 plus benefits.

When Selectmen Steve Finneron asked for clarification about their different roles, Hagenbarth summarized: "I'll be the first point of contact for roads, building and anything TIF related."

Town manager \rightarrow 7

25 depart Killington Fire over dispute with chief

By Katy Savage

Months after a dozen Killington search and rescue members quit or were fired, claiming new Fire Chief Chris LaHart created a toxic work environment, several longtime firefighters have follow suit, citing similar issues. In total, 25 people have

left the department — at least three said they were fired. They include some of Killington's longest serving and most dedicated volunteers, who've responded to the bulk of the alarm calls. Together, they have about 300 years of Depart $\rightarrow 6$



Field day fun Killington Elementary School students enjoyed field games at the town rec center, Monday.

State recognizes Windsor Central for local food integration

Local school district had second highest local purchasing percentage of local food at 26%

The Agency of Education in partnership with The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets recognized five supervisory unions (SU/SDs) that have achieved the highest percentage levels of local purchasing through The Local Foods Incentive Grant program established in 2021. The efforts of schools, farms, community partners, and the state continue to create new and exciting partnerships that are boosting both the economy and food access across the state.

"It's really special to have a

program that improves students'

access to fresh, nutritious food

while also boosting the local

economy," said Bouchey.

In its first year, the grant program provided \$489,838.20 to 23 SU/SDs during the 2021-2022 school year to help increase the amount of local food purchased. Eligible schools received a grant equal to \$0.15 per meal to assist schools with purchasing and sourcing locally produced foods and agricultural products

"It's really special to have a program

that improves students' access to fresh, nutritious food while also boosting the local economy," said Interim Secretary of Education Heather Bouchey when the state announced the grantees, June 7. "Collaboration like this doesn't always happen. These five SU/SDs are setting an important example."

From maple syrup, to beef, to fresh vegetables, the program supported a variety of agricultural sectors and introduced students to foods that they may not have access to otherwise. The program not only provided fresh and healthy meals to students, but it also helped create a new market for many Vermont farmers.

"Providing healthy local food to our communities and students is important for many Local food $\rightarrow 4$

Baja Burrito to reopen in Killington

By Katy Savage

After suddenly closing last winter, Baja Burrito is coming back to Kilington.

Owner and chef Thomas Bartlett is reopening the restaurant June 21 at the former Taco X building at 2841 Killington Road.

"I've never been open in the summer so we're going to try to put some summer foods on (the menu)," Bartlett said.

Baja Burrito closed down last September. It had been part of the community since 2002 and Bartlett purchased the business about 10 years ago. The former space he leased — The Chalet Killington, at 2685 Killington Road -was sold to Killington Resort and converted to employee housing.

'I had to get my stuff out of there," Bartlett said. "The first couple months I was in a little bit of shock. That was mylivelihood." With nowhere else to

go, he filled his garage and basement with restaurant equipment.

"I'm so happy to get it out of there," he said.

Bartlett, who grew up in West Rutland, spent 16 years as a river guide in New York, Maine and Idaho before he came back to Vermont and bought a house about 20 years ago.

"Vermont's awesome. You don't know that until you go away," he said.

He's long worked in the restaurant industry. His father Luke Bartlett owned Luke's Place in West Rutland for 25 years. Bartlett came back to Vermont in the off season of river guiding and worked as a dishwasher and waiter at the diner.

Monday-Thursday. Page 19



and party, Saturday.



Prestigious youth golf

championship returns

to Killington next week,

In Ludlow, a new school faces an existential threat

By Peter D'Auria/VTDigger

One morning this winter at the Expeditionary School at Black River, 10th grader Zach Taylor was trying to solve a computer problem.

Ahead of an upcoming open house for parents at the Ludlow school, students in a physical science course were programming small beeping computers called Arduinos to perform simple functions. Taylor, a Mount Holly 10th grader, had instructed his Arduino to function as a thermometer. But the device had presented him with a challenge.

"What I'm trying to do right now is change it because right now it's in Celsius," Taylor said. "I'm trying to" — he paused as the device suddenly emitted a high screeching sound — "get it to Fahrenheit."

That class — a group of roughly a dozen students engaged in creative, self-directed projects — embodies the hallmarks of the Expeditionary School, an unusual, grades 7-12 independent program in Ludlow.

The roughly 15-student school, which operates in the now-shuttered Black River High School building, offers a unique program: Each student creates a "Personalized Learning Map" and can choose to take courses such as electronic music production, yoga or computer science. Since opening in 2020, the school has prized hands-on, self-directed learning and works closely with students' families; in some cases, students' relatives volunteer at the school in lieu of tuition.

But the new institution is in a difficult spot.

The school has spent the better part of two years in a, thus far, unsuccessful bid for state approval. Without that approval, the school cannot accept public tuition money, cutting it off from a key funding source.

Now, the school is staring down a new hurdle: a moratorium on all new private school approvals, effective July 1, written into the state Legislature's budget bill.

Gov. Phil Scott vetoed that bill last month. But if lawmakers succeed in overriding that veto — or if a new budget contains the same language — the moratorium could force the school to close its doors.

"That's a question that, as a board, we have to discuss," said Gary Blodgett, the chair

of the school's board of trustees. **'Full local control**

Like much of rural Vermont, Ludlow, a resort town in the shadow of Okemo Mountain, has faced years of slow declines in school enrollment and rising educational costs.

Following the passage of Act 46 in 2015, the state of Vermont offered incentives and penalties — to convince small rural school districts to merge with their neighbors. After Ludlow joined a new unified district with the neighboring town of Mount Holly, the public Black River High School shut its doors in 2020.

By that time, however, a group of community members had come up with a different plan: to open a private, or independent, school in the Black River High School building.

The idea was to create a school "whose independent status will allow full local control," its board of trustees wrote in a letter to the editor in April 2020 — one "whose vision and mission arise directly from our community, from its character and needs," where students would have "true freedom to learn based on their passions."

The Expeditionary School opened in the fall of 2020 with 15 students and one fulltime employee, the head of school. In July 2021, the school applied for state approval.

Administrators said they were told that the whole process — which includes a site visit, recommendation from the Agency of Education, review by a State Board of Education subcommittee and final decision from the state board itself — could take six to eight months.

Instead, agency staffers did not visit the school until March 2022, and a report summarizing that visit was not released until August, a delay education officials attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic.

That highly critical report outlined a series of problems: student documentation was missing, the school did not require "formal lesson plans," staff did not coordinate with students' home districts to provide special education, and the school lacked key policies around mandatory emergencies and school safety.

What's more, according to the report, the



The Expeditionary School at Black River is in the former Black River High School building.



Kendra Rickerby is the head of school at the Expeditionary School at Black River and the school's only full-time employee.

school had not been audited, and administrators' bid for a line of credit from a local bank had been rejected.

"The Independent School review team cannot recommend initial approval, at this time, for the Expeditionary School at Black River due to identified deficiencies in the school's program," the agency wrote. "The review team also questions whether ESBR has the financial capacity to remain viable."

'This approval system is flawed'

But, in a December response clearly laced with frustration, Expeditionary School leaders rebutted those claims. The school had corrected many of the deficiencies, but the Agency of Education was simply wrong about others, administrators said. State officials had not clearly communicated the approval requirements, were difficult to reach and often failed to reply to emails, Expeditionary School leaders said.

And the entire process — by that time, nearly a year and a half in — had dragged on much longer than the expected six to eight months.

"I believe this approval system is flawed," Blodgett, the school's board chair, wrote to the State Board of Education in December. "We are a beginning school, just in our third year, with lots to learn. Although we took issue with some of the visiting team's findings, we did learn from the report, which finally reached our hands, and have made many adjustments."

Ted Fisher, a spokesperson for the Agency of Education, said that Covid-19 had created a backlog in the independent school approval process.

"Both the Board and the Agency are working hard to address this backlog as quickly as possible and have made significant progress in recent months," Fisher said. "The AOE is executing the State Board's review process as it is articulated in state law and state board rule and working as expeditiously as possible to clear the backlog."

But from one perspective, it's clear why the situation would be frustrating. Amid the push to consolidate small school districts, pressure from the state's education agency ultimately drove Ludlow to close its public school. Now, that same educational bureaucracy seems to be standing in the way of the town's efforts to replace it with a sustainable private school.

In December, the state Board of Education ultimately voted to deny the Expeditionary School's bid for approval. The school submitted a new application in April.

By that time, however, the Vermont Legislature was mulling strict new requirements on independent schools. One key provision was written into the state's budget bill: a moratorium on all new independent school approvals, effective July 1.

If that language ultimately takes effect, it could leave the Expeditionary School with too little time to be approved.

A hard deadline

Expeditionary School administrators and parents say the school is an invaluable asset to its community and its students, many of whom have struggled in traditional education settings.

The Expeditionary School "saved our son, as a learner, but more so as a person," Becky Wynne, the parent of Expeditionary School students, wrote to Board members last month.

"ESBR has been able to provide my daughter with the support she has needed to push past her anxieties, to be more present and engaged with her learning and to grow in her sense of community," Christine Reid, another parent, wrote in a separate letter to the board.

But the school's approval still appears to be a long shot. It seems unlikely that the usual steps — a recommendation from Ludlow school $\rightarrow 10$

Rutland is gathering social service providers that help homeless people

By Tiffany Tan/VTDigger

Dozens of social service providers that can help homeless people are gathering at the fairgrounds in Rutland city this week as the state continues to wind down its pandemic-era emergency housing program.

Around 25 organizations have signed up to participate in the events Wednesday and Thursday, June 14-15,

organized by the Rutland city government, according to Adam Sancic, Rutland director of field services for the Vermont Agency of Human Services.

The participants include affordable housing providers such as Housing Trust of Rutland County and Rutland Housing Authority, Also present will be housing advocates such as BROC Community Ac-

tion, Habitat for Humanity of Rutland County and Homeless Prevention Center.

Other participants are food pantries, physical and mental health care providers, employment resource agencies, child care support centers and substance recovery groups. A wireless phone company is also on the list.

As of Monday, June 12, according to state data, nearly 200 households in Rutland County have lost their eligibility for emergency motel housing since the program began narrowing eligibility criteria on June 1 as federal funding wound down. There were 298 eligible households on Monday, down from 484 households on May 31.

It's unclear how many people have been affected by the drawdown so far. The Agency of Human Services' central office said the figure wasn't immediately available. The

city government is expecting hundreds of people to lose their state-sponsored motel housing this summer.

Rutland Mayor Mike Doenges said the city organized the two-day housing event to help people who are facing homelessness more easily find the resources they need, all in one place. This is part of the municipal govern-

Rutland Mayor Mike Doenges said the city organized the twoday housing event to help people who are facing homelessness more easily find the resources they need, all in one place.

ment's emergency housing transition plan, especially with the Rutland area having the most number of households enrolled in the pandemic-era emergency housing program.

"The bottom line is so that people can find the resources they need to get themselves to the next step," Doenges said. "The other piece of it, hon-

estly, is for them to understand what's not available," he said, adding that some housing voucher recipients cannot immediately find homes because affordable housing providers have a yearslong waiting list.

The Agency of Human Services' deputy commissioner, Miranda Gray, said other communities are holding meetings to discuss how to bring available resources to those who are facing homelessness. Gray said that, as of Monday, she wasn't aware of any other event similar to Rutland's housing-resource days

The Rutland housing-resource days will be held at the Vermont State Fairgrounds in Rutland from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 15.

The events are free and open to the public.

\$2.25M Hartland intersection reconfiguration begins

By Curt Peterson

Monday, June 12, will go down in Hartland history as a momentous occasion, as Nott's Excavating, winner of the project bid, started unloading a considerable armada of heavy equipment for reconfiguring the intersection of Quechee Road and state Routes 5 and 12. It took a decade to get to this point. The project is scheduled for completion by this September.

Hartland Three Corners, everyone agrees, will never be quite the same once actual digging begins near Mike's Store on 5/12 North. A controversial project from its beginning, some residents are still unsure how it ever happened, what it's all about, and how the finished project will appear and function.

As recently as Tuesday, June 13, one listserv poster thought reconfiguration meant a rotary, something that has never been considered.

Rita Seto, senior planner at Two **Rivers Ottauquechee Regional** Commission (TRORC), presented "A Project History" at the June 5 selectboard meeting, which was meant to dispel misinformation and conspiracy theories surrounding the project. Unfortunately, the informational meeting was sparsely attended.

The project has always been about safety, of course, with considerations for cost and aesthetics. Strong opin-



Hartland's long-disputed three corners intersection is under construction.

ions, both pro and con, are rooted in one or more of these issues.

TRORC has been instrumental in

making the project a reality, assisting grant capturing, arranging scoping studies and overseeing progress, while town selectmen have come and gone. Not one of the current selectmen was also serving in 2013 when the project was an idea, and VTrans awarded Hartland a Transportation Enhancement scoping grant.

A study researched what changes at the intersection would best enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety. A four-way configuration was deemed best.

A frequently cited near-tragic incident involving a toddler crossing the intersection and a large truck barreling around the blind curve on Route 5 brings chills. However, VTrans records show there has never been a recorded major accident at the site.

In 2015 the Select Board engaged engineering firm VHB to design the new configuration, resulting in an estimated construction cost of a little

Intersection $\rightarrow 10$



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

Sherburne UCC "Little White Church," Killington, VT

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MOUNTAIN TIMES

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

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Fair Haven Free Library encourages students to join the Good Citizen Challenge

The Fair Haven Free Library is taking part in this summer's Good Citizen Challenge. This challenge asks students to learn about their communities — and current events — and find ways to lend a hand.

When students complete the challenge, they have a chance to win a \$100 gift card to Phoenix Books and a free trip for two to Washington, D.C., from Milne Travel. All who finish the challenge will receive a Good Citizen sticker and patch, a pocket-size U.S. Constitution, and an invitation to a VIP reception at the Vermont Statehouse this fall.

The library that helps the most K-8 students finish the challenge and the library whose participants submit the highest quality work will each win a \$500 cash prize — funded by a grant from Vermont Humanities — to be used to promote civic-themed resources or programming. A great way to help support our local library!

During the challenge, participants will complete a horizontal, vertical or diagonal row of five activities on the card. Remember: The "free spot" in the center square is required when included in your row of choice.

Mark each completed box and snap a photo of each activity to show evidence of your work.

Upload a photo of your completed scorecard,

and evidence of your work, at Goodcitizenvt.com. Or mail the scorecard and evidence, along with your name and contact info, to: Seven Days/Kids VT, PO Box 1164, Burlington, VT 05402-1164, Attn: Good Citizen.

Deadline to enter is Monday, Sept. 4, 2023.

All participants who complete the Challenge by connecting five squares in a row will receive:

• A Good Citizen patch and sticker.

- A pocket U.S. Constitution, donated by Phoenix Books.
- An invitation to a VIP reception at the Vermont State House this fall.

The library, along with members of the historical society, town government, and local businesses and organizations are ready to help students meet the challenge.

For more information or to enter the challenge, visit: Goodcitizenvt.com or contact Mary Kay Miller at Fair Haven Free Library.

Local food:

from page 1

reasons," said Vermont Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts. "Vermont kids are getting a healthy local choice while supporting hard working Vermont farmers. We are grateful for our education partners that are supporting our local food system."

SU/SDs who purchase or grow at least 15% of the food they use locally are eligible for a second year of grants. The second year grants provide between \$0.15 to \$0.25 cents per lunch served depending on how much food the SU/SD purchases locally. The five SU/SDs with the highest local purchasing percentage who qualified for second year grant awards are:

Windham Northeast - 27% Windsor Central - 26%

- Mount Abraham 18%
- Central Vermont 16%
- Burlington 15%

Together these five schools received \$148,536.75 in grant funding and purchased \$462,734.39 worth of local foods with Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (WNESU) at the highest local purchasing percentage of 27%.

"The Local Foods Incentive Grant has totally changed the game for local food in schools said WNESU's School Nutrition Director, Harley Sterling. It has inspired so many more schools to begin developing a local purchasing plan to get on board with the farm to cafeteria movement. Everything from logistics and storage to recipes and kitchen equipment. The grant has sparked creativity and teamwork across the state, and this is just the beginning."

Nonprofit partners including NOFA-VT, Shelburne Farms, Green Mountain Farm Direct, Food Connects, and Hunger Free Vermont, among others, have acted as liaisons between the farm and school communities. They've worked to support Vermont's farm to school efforts while building connections with local farmers and the vendors that deliver their products.

The library that helps

the most K-8 students

finish the challenge

and the library whose

participants submit

the highest quality

work will each win a

\$500 cash prize.

These partnerships have resulted in "over 100 farms across the state that now sell to schools and early childhood programs" said Local Food Access & Farm to Institution Program Director at NOFA-VT and Co-Director of Vermont FEED Lauren Griswold, collectively, "schools spend \$20 million per year on food, so there's tremendous potential in localizing that spending."

Since the program was established in 2021 by the Vermont Legislature the grant has set in motion multi-level community partnerships that are addressing hunger, health, and the economy.

"Hunger Free Vermont joins with our State Agencies in celebrating these five school districts — and all Vermont schools — in their commitment to nourishing students well so they can learn well," said Executive Director Anore Horton. "The Local Foods Incentive Grant Program is helping to ensure that all students in Vermont can access healthy school meals, and that Vermont farmers can access schools as stable markets so our local agricultural economy can continue to nourish us all."

Chip Piper runs 135 miles, raises \$30K for charity

RANCE S

By John Flowers, Addison Independent

RIPTON — Salisbury's Chip Piper successfully completed the almost unimaginable feat of running 135 miles — five consecutive marathons in five days — in the Infinitus race at Ripton's Silver Towers camp, held May 23-27.

But most importantly, his effort yielded pledges totaling approximately \$30,000 that will be divided between two nonprofits that assist people recovering from substance use disorder: Middlebury's Turning Point Center of Addison County, and Jenna's House in Johnson

Piper first made a splash in his running-forrecovery efforts last year, when he completed an 88K Invictus race, also at Silver Towers, that raised \$20,000 for Turning Point Center. He decided to up the ante this year with a

> **Baja Burrito:** from page 1

"My dad would take a

month off and I would just

take over the restaurant for

convenient for his lifestyle.

the evening job and it allows

me to snowboard during the

day," he said. "It's a laid back

atmosphere, especially since

Bartlett is painting the

"The restaurant is always

Bartlett said the

restaurant hours are

him," he said.

I'm in charge."

"Vermont's awesome. You don't know that until you go away," Bartlett said.

Chip Piper

new restaurant, deep cleaning it and making it his own. The 85-seat space, with a 29seat bar will give him more than he had previously. He makes his own hot

sauces and he's bringing back

longer race and a bigger goal of \$50K. While he didn't hit the \$50K mark, his \$30,000 net will provide huge assistance to two nonprofits operating on fine margins.

Piper's efforts to help those with substance use disorder are linked to his late son, Michael, who lost his struggle with addiction in 2020.

Turning Point Executive Director Dannielle Wallace was among the crowd of people who went to Silver Towers to cheer Chip on during his

grueling run. She said Piper's pledge proceeds will help the center expand its hours. The organization is one of 12 peer recovery centers in Vermont that offer support for individuals and their families seeking recovery from substance use disorder and other addictions.

> his usual menu items, including margaritas, chicken wings, tacos, tamales, fajitas, flank steak, quesadillas and burritos. He hopes to have 10 employees in the winter. "It's a nicer spot. I think

we're going to be busier in the winter," he said.

The restaurant will be open Sunday through Thursday from 3-9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday from 3-10 p.m.



Baja Burrito is coming back to Killington on June 21.

East Thetford resident publishes debut novel

"The Funny Moon: A Novel" by East Thetford resident and Middlebury College alumnus Chris Lincoln is available July 11.

For fans of Elinor Lipman and Jennifer Weiner, "The Funny Moon" is a literary romp about the challenges of marriage, self-discovery, and personal fulfillment with a New Age twist.

Set in a small New England college town, the story features main character Claire, a massage therapist who can communicate with animals and talk to people on the Other Side. Her husband Wally is a burned out adman and wannabe novelist avoiding reality by obsessing on his golf game. After 25 years of marriage, she still loves him, but lately doesn't like him.

A whirlwind summer of facing their fears, flaws, and fantasies ensues.

Kirkus Reviews said: "A long-term relationship gone stale, a summer of searching, celebrity cameos, and a comic sensibility...A brisk, humorous story of a middle-aged couple in an unmoored marriage, stumbling toward safe harbor."

"I wrote the first draft of this book as a birthday gift for my wife, who encouraged me to revise and improve it," said author Chris Lincoln. "We had a lot of laughs together in the process," he added. "It's light-hearted but insightful. Fun and funny. An entertaining story with some poignant truths slipped into the humor."

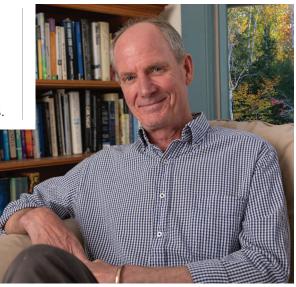
Originally from Wallingford, Connecticut, Chris Lincoln is a 1973 graduate of Hanover High School (New Hampshire), and a 1978 graduate of Middlebury College (Vermont). He

"A brisk, humorous story of a middle-aged couple in an unmoored marriage, stumbling toward safe harbor," wrote Kirkus Reviews.

also studied at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and is an award-winning copywriter and creative director who was recognized with a Clio, advertising's Oscar. He is the author of "Playing The Game: Inside Athletic Recruiting in the Ivy League" (Nomad Press 2004), and for the past 15 years has served as a college counselor for private clients.

A book launch event with Lincoln is scheduled for July 13 at 7 p.m. at the Norwich Bookstore in Norwich.

OBITUARY



Chris Lincoln

Submitted



The Rutland Area Robotics' ERC Team competed among 64 teams in Massachusetts June 3-4.

Rutland robotics team awarded Medal of Honor for collaboration at Mass event

The Rutland Area Robotics' FRC Team 2370- IBOTS, based at the Stafford Technical Center, traveled to a prestigious offseason event at Worcester Polytechnic Institute June 3-4, called BattleCry @ WPI '23. The event was attended by 64 teams from all over the Northeast, including some from as far away as Pennsylvania and Ohio. The competition was fierce, the team reported.

The Rutland squad, Team 2370 - IBOTS, finished their run for the WPI BattleCry Victors title in third place on a four-team alliance including: Team 1073 "The Force" from Hollis, New Hampshire; Team 2423 "The KwarQs" from Watertown, Massachusetts; and Team 467 "The Colonials" from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

Their Alliance competed against 15 other four-team alliances, and was stopped in double elimination just one victory short of making the finals.

One of the most thrilling matches they've ever played was a playoff match which featured the IBOTS maneuvering a disabled partner's robot onto a special scoring zone and then achieving balance with another partner on the teeter-totter-like charging station with only a single second remaining on the clock — for the win.

As notably as they performed on the field of competition, the IBOTS brought their greatest glory to Rutland Area Robotics during the awards ceremony, where the IBOTS Team 2370 members were announced by the event judges as the recipients of the top judged Team Award, The WPI BattleCry'23 Medal of Honor. That award is the highest accolade given to a team by the judges at the event. The IBOTS were chose from the field of 64 — a field nearly double the size of a regular season event. It was awarded in recognition of their cooperative spirit, their enthusiastic contributions to the cooperative-competitive robotics culture, their diligence in precision engineering design and fabrication, and their promotion of STE(A) M Education in their local community of Rutland County.

Aldona 'Dawn' Krantz, 94

She was an avid skier

for about 70 years.

She started skiing in

her teenage years and

went regularly to Pico

to read.

Aldona "Dawn" Pauline Krantz, age 94, passed away on June 3, 2023.

She was born the younger daughter on Nov. 20, 1928 in Newark, New Jersey to Joseph and Pauline Skema.

Krantz met her future husband, George "Ken" Krantz at the age of 15 at a NYF church-sponsored coffee house for youth. She graduated from Weequahic High School in 1946 and married George in 1949. They had three sons: Kenneth, Robert, and George Krantz, Kenneth lives with his wife Janet in Tinmouth, Vermont. Robert lives with his wife Diane in Farmington, Maine, and George lives in Killington, Vermont.

Aldona Krantz was predeceased by her husband, who passed away in 2000, along with her elder sister, Anne Schrader. She has five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Aldona Krantz was a talented lifelong artist. Highly prolific and precise in her many crafts, she worked mostly at night. She started drawing in high school and learned a range of creative pursuits including watercolor, oil paintings, silhouettes, Norwegian rosemaling, early American decorations, velvet theorem, quilting, and clothes tailoring. She most

enjoyed, excelled at, and was best known for her Norwegian rosemaling. She even gained national recognition for her work from The Vesterheim National Norwegian-American Museum in Decora, Iowa. She was also an accomplished gardener

until the age of 84. and avid antique collector who passionately sought bargains and interesting finds at garage, yard, and tag sales.

Her first language was Lithuanian. She learned English through her schooling and interactions with neighborhood kids. While she continued to speak Lithuanian with her parents and sister, she only spoke to her children and grandchildren in English.

Aldona Krantz and her husband George



Aldona "Dawn" Pauline Krantz

moved with their three sons from New Jersey to Vermont in August 1965. She was an avid skier for about 70 years. She started skiing in her teenage years and went regularly to Pico until the age of 84. To share her passion of ski-

ing, she advocated for the academic skiing program at Mill River Union High School, which her grandchildren attended. She was also an excellent cook, known for her potato and three-bean salads, baked ham, cherry cheesecake, apple pie, and Thanksgiving stuffing. She also loved

Aldona Krantz was always in motion; making, doing, and creating at all times. She was an outspoken and spirited person who will be greatly missed.

The Krantz family will be holding a service in memory of Aldona Krantz at 2 p.m. on June 24, 2023 at Aldous Funeral Home in Rutland. Anyone looking to honor her is welcome to join them.

from page 1

experience.

In interviews with more than a dozen people who worked under the chief, a consistent allegation was that he created a culture of fear and intimidation. They said the departure of the most trained emergency responders has left the town in a vulnerable state.

"The chief is a vindictive bully," said one person with decades of experience who declined to be identified for fear of retaliation. The person remains on the department, claiming there aren't enough qualified people to respond to calls.

"A lot of my friends in Killington need somebody to respond to their 911 calls," the person said. "I go in, I put my head down, I go to the truck and then I go."

There were 40 people on the roster in December 2022, just before LaHart took over in January. The roster included firefighters, emergency medical technicians and the search and rescue team.

There were 24 people on the roster at the end of May two were inactive due to injury or personal reasons, at least 10 were untrained or newly trained. The rescue side of the department was declassified from an advanced EMS department to a basic EMS since the town's four advanced EMTs — Steve Finer, Kristin Brodie, Cathy Cappetta and Denise Coriell— departed. Records show there are three basic EMTs left — not trained to administer IVs in an emergency or give medications.

Coriell, who had 15 years of experience, was one of three women who filed sexual harassment complaints against the chief, claiming, in part, he demoted women from leadership positions.

"None of us wanted to leave under these circumstances," Coriell said. "Our commitment to the town was great. It came to a point where we felt we were pretty much forced out."

Coriell was one of the 13 people who left the department in March after LaHart suddenly took Killington Search and Rescue (KSAR) offline. KSAR members at the time claimed LaHart's wife Leslie mistakenly introduced a new leader at a March meeting and demanded they listen and comply, which led to a blow up. Coriell said she was fired for standing her ground. LaHart maintains she was never let go. LaHart said KSAR members would not comply with simple paperwork requests to show they were properly trained.

Coriell and other emergency responders have since moved on from the department. They joined Rescue, Inc. in May and continue to respond to calls. But, Coriell is concerned about the recent departure of firefighters.

"They left a void of expertise, knowledge, experience — both firefighters and EMS," Coriell said. "A lot of these firefighters have put in 30 years plus and they have not been acknowledged by the town. It's a travesty. These people have given their lives to make sure the town is safe — nobody has acknowledged that. The town has given us no support."

All people interviewed said Leslie LaHart, who is not an employee, is part of the toxic culture. She comes to work with her husband everyday. She has access to a town computer and town records. She keeps a desk and manages town equipment.

"His wife is there daily which is a conflict to the station because she's a very outspoken person, she's always directing people," said Tom Rock, who quit at the end of May after tension with the chief reached a boiling point. Rock responded to 155 alarm calls in the last fiscal year and had 33 years of experience.

"It was very chaotic," Rock said.

Rock was hired as the town's first paid deputy chief— a position he only served for 2.5 weeks. At first, Rock was told he could have a flexible schedule to work around his business. Rock said that changed after his daughter, Ashley Rock, who is also on the fire department, filed a sexual discrimination complaint against LaHart, alleging the chief demoted her for no reason. Rock said his flexible work schedule was suddenly no longer flexible, forcing him to resign.

Rock, a fire warden, said LaHart then called the state to get his fire warden license revoked out of retaliation. LaHart told him the reason was because his business created a conflict of interest with his fire warden duties. "He is aggressive, like 'my way or the highway," Rock said. "I've had all sorts of altercations with him. If he doesn't like you, he finds a way to get rid of you."

Rock, who is in the process of joining another department, was part of the committee that hired LaHart. He admitted he thought LaHart's military background, with decades of management experience, would help the town.

"I thought he was a decent, genuine guy — good training," Rock said.

Rock's son in law, Josh Stevens, a captain, quit, while Rock's son, Tom Rock III said he was fired after six years.

Rock III said he was granted a military leave of absence in January 2020. He continued to serve on the department when

he was home from the military — about 30 days a year. "When I go home, I like to help out the community," Rock III said.

Last time Rock III was home in April, he found his gear was gone and his name was stripped from his locker at the department. Rock III thought the chief retaliated against him out of spite for issues with his father and sister.

"It was upsetting," Rock III said. "I asked the chief if I could respond. He blew me off."

The issues come at a time when the town is transitioning to an all volunteer fire department to a hybrid model, with some paid employees and some volunteers — a measure approved by voters in March 2022 at the request of the volunteer fire department. The hope was to get more people would respond to calls. But, everyone interviewed said LaHart, who is the town's first paid fire chief, has driven out the people who handled most of the call load. He's since replaced some of the experienced roster members with newly trained personnel.

"It's like having a high school baseball team go up against the New York Yankees," Rock said. "There's not a lot of skill there now to provide a great service."

Mark Foote, 30, who graduated from the Vermont Fire Academy last month and just obtained his EMS training last year, is now the deputy fire chief and head of EMS. Glenn Burres, 58, was just named the town's first paid part-time firefighter. Burres moved to Killington about 16 years ago after retiring as the deputy chief of a fire department in Newburgh, New York. He responded to just three alarm calls in Killington in fiscal year 2022, records show.

Despite the challenges, town leaders have steadfastly stood by the chief.

Select Board member Chris Karr, who owns multiple businesses in town, chalked it up to normal disagreements that come with new leadership.

"I think anytime there is going to be a change of leadership —whatever the business is, whatever department, some are met with resistance because it's done differently," Karr said. "This is a different situation than it was once. This is a town entity. Things have to be done in accordance with town policy."

Karr says he is still confident LaHart will make the department better.

"He has a great background," Karr said. "I have total faith in LaHart to rise to the occasion and fill his roster. It's unfortunate things have gone the way they've had. I think that he is going to prevail and do a great service to this town."

LaHart was most recently the battalion fire chief for Navy Region Mid-Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia. He was responsible for daily operations of six fire stations with nine supervisors.

LaHart said he was too busy to take a call on Monday, June 12 to discuss the recent changes. He did not respond to a subsequent email or a subsequent phone call.

In April, LaHart sent cease and desist letters to most of the people who left the department, including the Mountain Times, claiming "defamatory and false statements" have been made against him. He said there was a social media campaign against him, #chrislahartisabully and there was door-to-door petitioning "impeding the ability to complete the job I have been appointed." He requested a retraction and the removal of all relevant social media posts within 10 days, saving the claims have caused him emotional distress.

Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth declined to comment on the mass departure.

"It's a volunteer department," Hagenbarth said. "People

are free to come and go. Other than that, I have no comment."

Hagenbarth said the town was moving forward with the current roster.

"We're going to have a hybrid paid and volunteer fire department," Hagenbarth said. "It's going to be different. The hope is we're going to be able to respond to all the calls. We had a lot of people on the roster but not a lot of people who participated."

But, most of the people who've left held the highest roster spots.

Alan Naylor, a part-time winter resident who splits time in Maryland, quit the department after about 20 years of experience. He was "integral in knowing how to run the equipment and take care of the equipment," Coriell said. He responded to 114 calls in fiscal year 2022.

Ron Ottino, who had 32 years of experience, quit and retired. Ottino responded to 163 calls in 2022. Steve Finer, who had 40 years of experience, also quit and retired. He responded to 178 calls and was involved in all aspects of the department. Finer was an advanced EMT, a firefighter and search and rescue member.

"There's a huge respect issue with this guy," Finer said. "The amount of things that are wrong is mindbaffling."

Gary Roth, who was on the fire department for 18 years and chief for 10 years, was fired at the end of May.

"I received no notice — nothing that I did anything wrong," Roth said.

Roth said he was called into the chief's office one day. "The chief said, 'I'm getting rid of all the old guard, so you're not on the roster anymore," Roth said.

Roth had also applied to be the paid chief but continued to work under LaHart when he wasn't selected. Several people interviewed said there were obvious tensions between Roth and the new chief.

"I have a job, I work in health care," Roth said. "(Working on the fire department) is not something I have to do. It was something that I did for a long time that I enjoyed and I did it to help the town."

Roth said he and other volunteers felt disrespected.

"A lot of people have left — people that I spent a long time supporting and I valued their commitment to the town," Roth said. "They want to feel like they're valued and their sacrifice is noticed. A lot of people spent a lot of time away from their families for little to no compensation. That is not how you manage volunteers. If that's not the way they want to do things now, that would be one of the contributing factors to so many people not being on the department."

Bob Schlachter, who led the search and rescue team and had 20 years of experience, resigned at the end of May. He was the former fire chief in Rutland City and came to Killington in 2016. He responded to 95 calls in fiscal year 2022.

"Unfortunately, after the blowup KSAR, I just kind of lost my interest," Schlachter said. "From my perspective, it was just a no-win situation. Things started to deteriorate, I saw more and more people leaving — more people who were stalwarts of the department."

Schlachter admitted some of the changes LaHart is implementing are good. Schlachter said the department lacked needed rules and regulations and LaHart was trying to create more structure.

"He's striving to set up a much more formal structure in the department," Schlachter said. "Change upsets people sometimes. People have an opinion because they weren't being listened to. There was so much emotion. You have people who have been there for a long time and they put their heart and soul into it. And once you hear, 'OK, we're throwing everything out, doing this now,' it's emotional." Schlachter attributed part of the problem to the town's

lack of leadership.

"It's just sad that it's gotten off to a rocky start," Schlachter said. "I just wish at some point we could have hit the stop button and said, 'let's all sit around a table and discuss what the concerns are as a group and see if there's a path forward. It's so infuriating in a town the size of Killington that we lost members."

solar and sustainable energy projects in schools, libraries

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) and the Vermont Department of Public Service announced June 9 that \$1 million in federal funding will soon come to Vermont to establish sustainable energy projects at elementary, middle, and high schools across the state - as well as municipal buildings such as public libraries and town halls.

The funds were secured by Sanders through the Congressionally Directed Spending process through the U.S. Dept. of Energy, and will be administered by the Vermont Public Service Dept.

To my mind, the future of our planet and the future of our young people go hand in hand," said Sanders. "As we take on the existential threat of climate change for future generations, we must make sure we are also fighting for the students and young people growing up today, right now. These solar and sustainable energy projects in Vermont schools and public buildings are a critically important step toward building clean, affordable, and renewable energy systems in our communities. Projects like these are exactly what the Congressionally Directed Spending process is all about - bringing federal dollars into our state in a way that directly meets the needs of our local communities in innovative and sustainable ways."

June Tierney, commissioner of the Vermont Dept. of Public Service, said: "We are eager to work with Senator Sanders and the U.S. Department of Energy in bringing sustainable energy solutions to our towns and public schools, especially those that are struggling economically to afford clean energy solutions for their buildings."

The funding will deliver solar panels and other sustainable energy projects to at least 10 Vermont elementary, middle, and high schools, with an emphasis on schools with a high percentage of low income students. The solar arrays will not only generate electricity and reduce the schools' carbon footprint, but also help to lower their costs. Schools will also be able to use these clean energy projects for hands-on learning about the importance of sustainable energy. The funding will also be used to develop and build sustainable energy projects at municipal buildings, including town halls and public libraries.

Vermont has already seen success in bringing solar energy to schools. In 2010, 10 schools also were awarded \$50,000 in federal funding secured by Sanders to install solar. Altogether, these solar projects generate the equivalent of roughly one-third of the school's electrical needs.

Town manager: ... from page 1

Haff added: "There is simply too much work for any one person to do at this point."

Ramsey currently lives in Poultney with his partner of eight years, Brandy and their three cats. She works at Rutland Mental Health. Ramsey says they hope to move close to Killington by the winter, but acknowledged the challenging housing market.

Prior to moving to Vermont for the Proctor job in August 2021, Ramsey lived in Waynesboro, Virginia, a town of 22,000 people in the midst of the Blue Ridge Mountains. There Ramsey had been operations coordinator for Waynesboro where he oversaw a \$3 million annual budget for the Public Works Department.

Ramsey was raised in Amherst, Virginia, a small town of about 2,200 people where he attended high school with little expectation to attend college, according to a story in the Brandon Reporter when he was new to the area. He then joined the U.S. Navy and serve four years from 2008-2012 in Japan, after which he got his bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Randolph College in Lynch-

Sanders: \$1 million for Vt ski industry business increased **10% despite weather challenges**

Celebrating a successful winter season, supporters and friends of Vermont's ski industry joined the state's Alpine and crosscountry ski areas at Killington Resort on June 7-8 for the Vermont Ski Areas Association's 54th Annual Meeting.

Despite initial weather challenges in the first half of the season, Vermont's alpine ski areas reported 4.1 million skier visits-a 10% increase over the 2021-22 season and 3.6% above the 10-year average. A skier visit is defined as one person skiing or snowboarding for one day. Vermont gained additional market share, outpacing both the Northeast region's 3.8% growth and 6.6% growth of the industry nationally, which equated to a record 64.7 million visits across the U.S.

With this news, Vermont remains the top ski state in the east and the

> With a healthy snowpack and 100% open terrain across Vermont, March restored its reputation as the region's snowiest month.

fourth largest in the nation, with the state's ski areas averaging 117 operating days - 4 days above the 10-year average of 113, and an average seasonal snowfall of 167 inches - a 25-inch increase over last year, but still 20 inches below the 10-year average.

"Such strong results, particularly in the face of several challenging weather scenarios, is a testament to the industry's solid planning, aggressive capex investments in snowmaking, efficiency and sustainability, and hard work by ski area and resort operators and their teams to deliver the best Vermont experience for their guests every day. Thanks to expert snowmaking teams

operating some of the most powerful systems in the industry, Vermont really shines in a season like this one. and the resulting strong skier traffic is not only important for ski areas, but also for the many Vermont businesses and communities that rely on that traffic for their success," said Molly Mahar, president of Ski Vermont.

Despite mild weather in November, which presented snowmaking challenges, nine areas opened for Thanksgiving Weekend-the unofficial kickoff to the ski season. That same weekend Killington hosted women's World Cup racing, an event that boosted the local economy by an estimated \$6 million.

A large mid-December snowstorm helped double the amount of open terrain for the Christmas-New Year's holiday break, one of three key business

periods for the industry. While early January and early February brought extended stretches of mild temperatures, again limiting snowmaking operations, March flipped expectations by coming in like a lamb and leaving like a lion. Starting with similar

low-snowpack conditions as the 2022-23 season, March gifted skiers and riders with several massive snowstorms, blanketing several ski areas with over 36" and bringing the best conditions of the season. With a healthy snowpack and 100% open terrain across Vermont, March restored its reputation as the region's snowiest month.

Several areas extended their seasons, with Jay Peak and Sugarbush skiing into May and Killington again offering the longest season in the East with skiing through Memorial Day weekend to June 1.

Skiing in Vermont is an important economic driver in the state, particu-

opportunity of my life,"

said Ramsey."

I'm giddy!"

larly in rural areas where many ski areas are located. Ski Vermont's Fifth Grade Passport helps to get approximately 3,000 children on the slopes annually and proceeds from the program support Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports.

Vermont's 27 cross country ski areas still reported a statewide total of 402,394 skier days, despite several weeks of mild weather forcing many to curtail operations for up to two weeks. This was a moderate increase over the previous season. Equally positive is the continued engagement by new participants who picked up the sport during the pandemic and have stayed. A majority (56.1%) of those crosscountry skiers define themselves as "outdoor everything."

VSAA's Annual Meeting addressed a range of important topics, with presenters including Chauncy Johnson of the Snow Angel Foundation speaking about collision awareness and safety; Chief Don Stevens of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation discussing opportunities for collaboration and awareness with the Abenaki people; Commissioner Heather Pelham, Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing and Commissioner Josh Hanford, Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Development.

Friend of the Industry Awards were presented to Michael Snyder, former commissioner of the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and Bo Adams of MountainGuard.

Industry achievement awards were presented to Win Smith, former president and CEO of Sugarbush Resort, Bill Nupp president and COO of Stratton Mountain Resort and Dave Moulton, senior director of Mountain Operations at Mount Snow Resort.

A very special Founder's Award was presented to Ralph DesLauriers of Bolton Valley Resort.

burg, Va, and a master's degree in public administration from Ohio University. And somewhere along the way, he learned to play the banjo and love snow.

"The Navy helped straighten me out. My family came from coal county in West Virginia, so "This is the greatest

life wasn't always sunshine and roses growing up. I was raised hard and could have easily gone down the wrong path, but the military helped me focus energy toward more positive things like setting goals, getting an education, and exercising," he said.

"In Waynesboro's Public Works Department, I managed large capital improvement projects, oversaw a multi-million budget, and managed around 20 utility workers. When I wasn't doing that, I was operating backhoes, plowing roads, and working on my graduate degree," he told the Reporter.

"I've always known I wanted to be a public servant and one of my goals was to become a town manager. When I got

the Proctor job I was thrilled, and we've been able to accomplish a lot in the past two year," Ramsey explained. "But this is the greatest opportunity of my life," he said of being selected to lead Killington. "I'm giddy! I just can't wait to

really show you what we can do," he said Tuesday at the Sherburne Memorial Library after signing the agreement.

Hagenbarth, who's 62 and has been the town manager for five years, said he is glad the town is getting more help as the projects and demands those projects grow.

"I'll be glad to really get to focus in on the TIF and public works stuff. Right now there are like 15 different things that all demand all of my attention all the time. It's just too much, as Jim said ... I'm happy to be passing the town manager baton to Michael and be here to support all that we've put in place already."

"We have a really good team here," Hagenbarth said. "And that's a great place to start from."

GUEST EDITORIAL

Vt needs a system for child care and more houses for people to live in

DINION

By Dan Smith

Editor's note: Dan Smith is the president and CEO of the Vermont Community Foundation.

Since 1986, the Vermont Community Foundation has been a source of enduring philanthropy that supports the strength of Vermont communities. The ability to work over decades offers an important perspective on how conditions change over time.

Given that scope of work, the question we try to stay focused on is: What makes for strong communities today and in the years to come?

We are optimists at our core: Across Vermont, we see plenty of reasons to believe that progress is possible. The work we do with partners in every corner of the state inspires us to that view. Vermonters look out for one another, and they work together.

Our work in communities also informs our understanding of the critical needs facing Vermont — needs such as child care and housing. Alongside our fundholders and do-

In America, if you were born in 1945, you stood a 90% chance of doing better than your parents. If you were born after 1980, that chance hovers around 50%. That's not progress.

nors and in partnership with organizations across the state, we have used philanthropy to leverage impact alongside state, federal and private partners on these and other issues.

Where we can see agreement, trust and respect, we see the potential for progress.

We are also realists. In some important ways, Vermont is at risk of squandering the potential for progress. We have seen the consequences of a deeply systemic opportunity gap that chips away at the health of our communities. We see a rising tide of civic, economic and social disengagement.

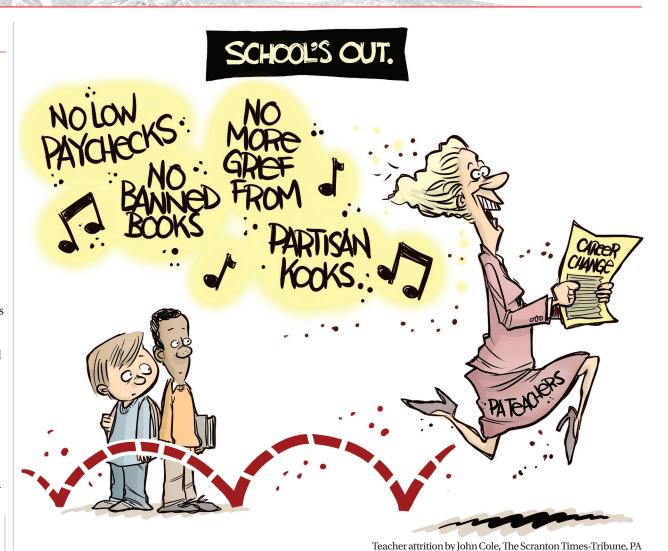
When lack of child care keeps someone out of the workforce, when the cost of housing and lack of options drives a family to leave the state, when education after high school is essentially a prerequisite for economic security but statistically correlated to whether or not your parents went to college, then we have neighbors experiencing community in very different ways. And our community is only as strong as our neighbors' experience.

In America, if you were born in 1945, you stood a 90% chance of doing better than your parents. If you were born after 1980, that chance hovers around 50%. That's not progress.

The future facing Vermont's children shouldn't be a tossup, but the fact that it is explains why so many younger Vermonters have lost faith and are cynical about their future and the reliability of our institutions.

The consideration for a strong community is not what it is today, but clarity about — and progress toward — what it needs to become tomorrow. Progress is its own indicator of vitality.

In a recent survey of Vermont Community Foundation grant recipients, we were startled by how many respondents highlighted increased levels of divisiveness and a decline in civil discourse. Many noted community tensions over race, socioeconomic background, new versus long-term residents, rural areas versus urban areas, young versus old, and/or new technology culture versus legacy traditions. Housing and child care \rightarrow 31



LETTERS

Blood donations fall short

Dear Editor,

The American Red Cross experienced a concerning shortfall in blood and platelet donations last month. The Red Cross collected over 26,000 fewer blood donations than needed in May to meet the needs of patients. The need for blood is constant, with someone needing a blood transfusion in the U.S. every two seconds. Platelet donors are especially needed at this time. The public can help ensure a strong blood supply this summer by making and keeping an appointment to give.

All who come to give in June will get a \$10 gift card to a merchant of their choice, and they'll also be automatically entered for a chance to win a backyard theater.

June 14 is World Blood Donor Day, a day meant to raise awareness of the need for a safe, diverse and stable blood supply and to recognize blood donors. This is the perfect time to give! *Jennifer Costa*

Regional Communications Director, Red Cross

Minimum wage boost needed

Dear Editor,

On March 29, Vermont senior U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., was grilling Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz on the illegal union-busting activities used by that corporation.

In order to embarrass our senior senator, Schultz shot back with the fact that Vermont has a paltry minimum wage of only \$13.18/hour. His company pays more.

We all know that an individual, never mind a family with children, can't make any headway on such a low wage in today's economy.

The Vermont Legislature should have raised the minimum wage to \$15/hour years ago to keep pace with the actual cost of living.

Now, in 2023, they could at least start there on the way toward a wage that would allow a family a living without depriving their children of the necessities of life in Vermont today.

Geoffrey Cobden, Weybridge

Direction of fire dept. is concerning

Dear Editor,

Killington Fire and Rescue was once a respectable agency made up of members that love the town they serve. Now it has gone from a group of people that are there to help the neighbors, to a boy's club forcing out anyone the current chief and his buddies do not align with. This proves evident just by walking through the gear room. It used to be based on rank and performance. Last time I walked through and saw names of people that never show up to calls or training, now sweeping in at the right time to get new gear and lockers. As for me, I am a member of the military, who took all the right steps to stay with the department. In 2020 I went before the chief and the department telling them I would be joining the U.S. Marine Corps and asked for a military leave of absence. I was granted the leave of absence after a unanimous vote by the department. Since then, I come home Fire $\rightarrow 10$

Correction:

In the article titled "Bear Mountain housing development in Killington receives Act 250 permit" published June 7, we wrote "the Act 250 commission has not yet approved the master plan for the entire three-phase project."

It has subsequently been brought to our attention that this characterization was incomplete and could be misleading. A more detailed reading of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law revealed that certain aspects of the Masterplan were affirmed. The excerpt below provides additional clarity to what Criteria were reviewed for the Masterplan and what criteria were not reviewed and will be subject to review and approval in subsequent phases.

"The Commission commenced their review of this Project pursuant to Act 250 Rule 21 Master Plan and Partial Review (adopted on February 25, 1998, and amended March 29, 2000). The objective of the Master Permit Policy and Procedure is to provide Correction \rightarrow 10

OP-ED

CAPITAL QUOTES

Former Vice President Mike Pence, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum joined the fight for the Republican presidential nomination on Wednesday, June 7.

"I believe anyone that puts themselves over the Constitution should never be president of the United States and anyone who asks someone else to put them over the Constitution should never be president of the United States again,"

said Mike Pence about Donald Trump.

1. 5-

"Mike Pence's greatest strength is that people underestimate him. They really do. I did. They think he's kind of a lightweight. And that man is the most focused, on-message candidate they're ever going to meet," said former Indiana Democratic gubernatorial

candidate John Gregg, who twice challenged Pence.

· · ·

"Turns out I was wrong. I couldn't make him a better candidate and I couldn't make him a better president, and he disappointed me,"

Chris Christie told CNN's Jake Tapper, speaking about Trump.

"We need a leader who understands the real work that Americans do every day — someone who's worked alongside our farmers or ranchers and our small-business owners. Someone who's held jobs where you shower at the end of the day, not at the beginning,"

said **Doug Burgum** during his announcement speech in Fargo, North Dakota.

VT Saves will have a big impact without a big price tag

By Vermont Treasurer Mike Pieciak

Saving for retirement should be easy, but tens of thousands of Vermont workers lack access to a workplace retirement plan. Many of these workers are not saving a penny for retirement, and this is a major threat to Vermont's economic future. That's why I am so excited my new retirement initiative, VT Saves (S.135), has been signed into law by Gov. Phil Scott after unanimously passing the Legislature.

VT Saves establishes a retirement savings plan for Vermonters who are not currently offered a retirement plan through their employer. It's designed to make saving for retirement easy and automatic, at no cost to employers and no ongoing cost to taxpayers.

The program will automatically enroll workers who do not have access to a retirement plan through their employer in a Roth IRA account. By automatically enrolling workers, we hope to promote participation in the program and make it easier for people to start saving. Contributions to the account will be deducted automatically from workers' paychecks, making it a hassle-free way to save and invest for retirement. Employees can set their own contribution rate, or use the program default, and can opt out of the program if they choose. Employees can also choose from a simple menu of investment options including low-fee target date funds that automatically rebalance over time.

Like many Americans, Vermonters are not saving enough for retirement. A recent study showed that over 40% of working-age Vermonters do not have access to a retirement plan through their employer. Nationwide, over 80% of private-sector workers making less than \$50,000 per year don't have access to a workplace retirement plan. These rates are even higher for Vermonters from marginalized communities. A recent AARP study found that, over time, programs like VT Saves will increase household wealth for BIPOC employees by roughly 100%, depending on the worker's age.

The federal government will soon be rolling out a revamped "savers credit" where lower income earners will be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 annually if they are saving in a qualified retirement account. VT Saves will position tens of thousands of Vermonters to secure this critical retirement money, and my office will be working hard to get the program up and running so as many Vermonters as possible can take advantage of this opportunity.

We look forward to partnering with AARP of Vermont, local chambers of commerce, and others to introduce the program to employers and workers across the state. We will also be exploring partnerships with other states that have already established similar programs to lower fees and overall program costs. If we see similar participation and savings rates as other states with similar programs, we expect Vermonters to have saved more than \$1 billion toward retirement over the first 10 years of the program. This will have a transformational impact on our state's financial well-being and will reduce Vermonters' dependence on taxpayer funded programs and social services.

Saving for retirement can be daunting, especially for individuals just starting their careers and particularly when other bills are competing for your take-home pay. VT Saves will help tens of thousands of Vermonters save for retirement and achieve financial security. I encourage all eligible Vermonters to participate when the program takes effect in July 2025.

Things we don't talk about: Being the anti-hero

By Faith Gong

Editor's note: Faith Gong has worked as an elementary school teacher, a freelance photographer, and a nonprofit director. She lives in Middlebury with her husband, five children, assorted chickens and ducks, one feisty cat, and one anxiety-prone labradoodle. In her "free time," she writes for her blog, The Pickle Patch.

I have an uneasy relationship in my head with singer/songwriter/cultural icon Taylor Swift. On the one hand, I appreciate her catchy tunes and sharply intelligent lyrics. After watching the 2020 Netflix documentary "Miss Americana" with my children, I was deeply impressed with Swift's creative process, and grateful for the thoughtful messages she conveyed about the dark side of fame and her struggles with body image.

On the other hand, I can't help but feel a little resentful that so much of Swift's *oeuvre* has become the soundtrack of my life — a soundtrack that I didn't choose, but that's been thrust upon me by my children. Taylor Swift's voice accompanies us everywhere: driving in the car, doing dishes, doing homework. I'm also less-than-thrilled that she seduced our whole family — including our pre-teen children — with her early, wholesome, country-to-pop crossover albums, and then released a trio of albums over the past three years in which one-third of the songs are marked "E" for "explicit lyrics." It's made for plenty of exciting, divefor-the-mute-button family car rides.

Still, on Taylor Swift's latest album, "Midnights," there's a song that's become a sort of anthem for me. When I first listened to "Anti-Hero," I recognized the chorus for how it beat in time with my own subconscious: "It's me, hi, I'm the problem, it's me."

This year, I started seeing a counselor. While my Puritan ancestors would never sign up for therapy — let alone admit to Anti-Hero \rightarrow 10

Fire: ______ from page 8

to Vermont when I am on leave from the military to be with friends and family and still will drop everything to respond to calls. This past time I came home and tried to do so, I went looking for my gear at the department store and it was not in my locker. I then looked around and it had been removed from the gear room and my name was erased from my locker. I have been removed from the department roster. I was never contacted by the chief with his intent to erase me from the department and pull all my gear. I find it shameful; the way things have been going and continue to go, from promising people positions to pulling rank of certain individuals in the department.

Tom Rock III, Killington

Anti-Hero: ... from page 9

from page 2

Agency of Education staff, review by a subcommittee, and then a decision from the Board of Education — could happen in time.

"The Agency is still in the process of reviewing the application and gathering additional information from ESBR," Fisher, the Agency of Education spokesperson, said in an email. "We hope to be able to provide a recommendation this month. It is premature to say if the Agency will recommend approval, and the decision to approve is ultimately the State Board's."

Even if the Agency does issue a recommendation in time, an approval would require 11th-hour action from the state Board of Education, which has ultimate authority over private school approvals.

"I just don't see the requisite things that need to happen happening before July 1," said Jennifer Samuelson, the chair of the state Board of Education, which has ultimate authority over private school approvals.

"I mean, I will consider anything that's ready for the board to consider it," she added. "But I haven't seen anything." **The last week**

This past week was the Expeditionary

School's last week of class, and students and teachers were busy with final projects and an end-of-the-year play. One student was expected to graduate on Saturday, the school's fourth ever.

Administrators said they did not know what would happen if the moratorium took effect before the Expeditionary School could be approved.

Then, amid the uncertainty, the head of school recently accepted another position elsewhere.

Since its inception, the school has relied mostly on donations and fundraisers to operate. On Town Meeting Day, voters approved an unusual ballot article to give \$75,000 in public "bridge funding" to the school. Ironically, trustees said, the school is receiving public money from the state of New Hampshire for a student's tuition even as it is ineligible for Vermont funds.

But it's not clear if the school can sustain itself through fundraising for another year.

The board "just works and works and works to try to raise the money to do this," Blodgett, the board chair, said. "And people have lives. They see the importance of this, but they have lives too."

it — I teach my children that therapy is smart, not shameful. Indeed, over half of our family has seen counselors at any given time over the past couple of years. I have an amazing spouse, dear friends, and a church community, but there's nothing quite like meeting regularly with someone whose job is to reflect your thought and behavior patterns back to you in all their dysfunctional glory.

I started therapy because I was starting to be haunted by this dysfunctional thought: Everybody would be better off if I weren't around. All I do is ruin things and create more stress for people.

It's me, hi, I'm the problem, it's me.

This thought pattern came to light when my counselor asked, "What are you most afraid of?"

How would you answer that question?

There are so many good options. Many might start with: Death. And death deserves some major respect in the fear pantheon. It subconsciously informs most of our behavior: We act out of the desire to stay alive. But death isn't what keeps me up at night.

I could've been very specific: I'm afraid that bad things will happen to my children. I imagine the damage that cruel events and people can inflict upon them, or the traumas that they might choose to inflict upon themselves. I'm afraid that I'm not doing enough, personally or professionally: that I'm a subpar spouse, friend, daughter, housekeeper, writer, teacher...human.

All those things probably ran through my head in the moments before I answered my therapist's question, but the answer — which surprised me — left my lips quickly:

"I'm afraid that I'm The Bad Thing, that I'm The Problem." Why am I telling you this? Why am I giving you a peek into my private therapy session — into my psyche?

I believe that the things we hide because they seem the most personal and specific, are often the very things that are the most universal. We cover up out of fear masquerading as privacy. I place a high value on privacy, and there are some things that I will never write about for public consumption. But when we stay silent in the name of privacy, often we're really coming from a place of shame: "I couldn't share this because it would be too much for other people. They'd feel overwhelmed, or worried about me, or they'd think I was weird and unhinged."

On the contrary, chances are that if we were to open up about those things — especially to kind, safe people — they would respond, "You too? I thought I was the only one!" One of the great lies we tell ourselves is that our innermost thoughts, anxieties, and questions will drive others away. We choose to stay safely isolated in our shame, confining our thoughts to our own mental cages, when bringing these things into the light is far more likely to help others and draw us together.

So I'm telling you that my greatest fear is of being the bad thing, of being the problem, because I'd wager that this might be your fear, too. Maybe not for everyone, maybe it's not your greatest fear, but I doubt I'm alone. We're rarely alone. Taylor Swift's "Anti-Hero" debuted in the top spot on Billboard's global and U.S. charts, earned over 17 million plays in its first 24 hours, and was Swift's longest-running number-one song. There are an awful lot of people out there singing, "It's me, hi, I'm the problem, it's me."

One month ago, I wrote a column about the particular challenges of my current life stage: a middle-aged parent of teenagers. I suggested that this season is even more challenging because of the odd silence that surrounds these topics, the things we don't talk about. Based on the number of comments I've received, the column resonated with people. (We are rarely alone.) So, since I made the first move, I'm going to keep going, writing through some areas of life and parenting where I feel particularly wobbly.

I'm telling you that my greatest fear is of being the bad thing because this is where I must begin. Middle age and parenting are hard, yes, and the silences around them are hard, but I'm feeling wobbly because my root system is based on a fear of inadequacy. When storms hit, the trees that tend to fall are the ones that are weak, sick, or have shallow roots. When I am faced with recalcitrant teens, decisions about where to focus my energy in work and life, or issues of my own mortality, what makes me wobble is my fear that it's all my fault, I'm causing other people stress, and I'm just too much.

Unfortunately, there isn't a quick fix: I will likely spend the rest of my life trying to be aware — to beware — of the voices in my head whispering that I'm the problem and calling those voices out as liars. (Most of the time they're liars; sometimes we really are the problem, and it's important to recognize that and make amends.) Likewise, I don't have any easy answers to the questions I'm going to address in upcoming columns; no answers, just my own experience and a lot more questions.

So if you want advice, this will not be the place to find it. But I'm not fighting against questions or doubt; I'm fighting against silence and shame. I'd love for you to join me. Perhaps, like Taylor Swift, we can transform our insecurities into a song. from page 3

more than \$500,000 using town funds.

In 2017 the state committed almost \$100,000 to pave a portion of Quechee Road as part of the project.

Two years later a bike ped grant for \$269,600 was awarded for funding sidewalk enhancement as part of the design.

The Select Board decided in 2020 to begin construction work 2021. An additional \$125,000 grant was received to cover unanticipated additional costs for sidewalk construction. Also that year, Hartland voters approved the intersection design, including burial of utilities for aesthetic reasons, and authorized a bond for \$1,062,000. The bond proceeds were in addition to grants received for the project.

But 2021 found stakeholders, including TRORC, struggling to coordinate five utilities regarding general construction and specifically, burying the utility lines.

Selectmen solicited bids for the project in 2022 at an state-produced estimated cost of \$929,433, but there was only one bid — for \$1,497,530 — which was rejected.

An independent cost estimate was arranged.

In 2023, the projected cost for the reconfiguration is \$1,248,853. Nott's Excavating was awarded the contract at about \$35,000 over the estimate.

Besides the cited poster's confusion about the traffic pattern, the listserv is peppered with suggestions for renaming the village center. One example: "Hartland's Folly."

Old Home Day fans need not worry — the intersection will be wide open for the parade and the crowds, according to the Select Board.

Correction:

from page 8 guidance and greater predictability to the Applicant and all parties in the review of complex and/or phased development projects. Pursuant to Rule 21, the Applicant may seek permission from the Commission to proceed with review under specific criteria in order to gain a greater degree of assurance that future phases of a Project may be approved on a proposed Project Tract. See Re Killington Ltd., #1R0835-EB, Memorandum of Decision at 5-8 (Vt. Envt'l Bd. Oct. 22, 1999)

"Commission can conduct a partial review of a master plan voluntarily submitted by applicant despite fact that applicants are not ready to commence construction on any aspect of the project." The master permit process and partial findings are therefore intended to provide a 'roadmap' in terms of preparation of final plans and the requirements to be met for the permitting process for future phases of the Project; this procedure allows for greater efficiency in the environmental review process. However, the Commission notes that the Master Permit Policy and Procedure does not assure approval for the

individual development components of a project; those individual development projects are subject to review in future individual permit application proceedings. In re SP Land Co., et. al. Act 250 Permit Amendment, Docket No. 257-11-08 Vtec, Decision on Cross-Motions for Summary Judgment and Dismissal at 9 (Vt. Envt'l Ct. Dec. 1, 2009), rev'd on other grounds, 2011 VT 104 (Sept. 22, 2010).

"In most instances, the initial review of a master plan application will focus on the project's scale, location, and impacts under the so-called "natural resource" criteria of the Act, including but not limited to, Criteria 1(A), 1(D), 1(E), 1(G), 8, 8(A), 9(B), 9(C), 9(D) and 9(E). As stated in the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order 1R0322-15...

"Master Permit Policy and Procedure, it is generally not possible for a Commission to make final findings of fact and conclusions of law for a phased Project under certain criteria, including Criteria 5, 6, 7, 8, 9(A), 9(K), and 10, until a final decision is issued for a particular phase or for the entire project based upon the review of a complete application."

WORD PLAY
$\$ 'Sun & Sand' Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

C	М	Α	R	Ι	Ν	Е	В	В	Κ	S	Ν	U	С	Ν	Ι	Ε	W	F	L
C	В	0	Ν	М	Ζ	Χ	D	Ρ	R	F	В	Μ	Α	0	F	С	D	Ν	U
H	0	В	Е	Α	С	Н	Т	U	Α	W	Е	В	Ε	Υ	В	Κ	W	0	Ν
Ν	Κ	F	С	Μ	Υ	U	0	L	Ν	Ζ	F	R	S	F	Α	0	U	Ι	D
T	Υ	U	U	Μ	R	S	D	Е	В	F	С	Е	L	0	Ζ	Ν	0	Т	Е
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B	Ν	Υ	С	D	Κ	L	С	D	Ν	S	Κ	L	U	Α	F	Ζ	L	Χ	Т
I	Α	Κ	G	Ι	Н	Κ	Е	Ζ	Α	F	Μ	Α	0	Υ	Μ	Ζ	Т	Α	0
В	S	G	L	Н	Н	Е	Κ	L	Α	W	D	R	Α	0	В	Α	S	L	W
Α	Ν	Н	В	Т	W	Ι	G	U	U	U	Ζ	R	Ζ	S	Н	Н	Α	Е	0
S	G	W	Т	Α	В	Ν	Α	Т	R	Е	Т	Н	G	U	Α	L	С	R	Μ
K	S	Υ	Ε	Х	U	S	Х	G	U	Т	Μ	F	Χ	0	Υ	Т	D	D	Χ
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T	Ι	R	R	0	Ι	Ι	R	Ι	Ρ	Т	Ι	D	Е	В	Μ	0	Α	Ι	Υ
R	0	D	Μ	U	Н	0	С	Е	Α	Ν	Ν	U	S	Χ	Υ	D	S	Ζ	L
B	0	L	I	S	R	G	Α	L	Т	Ι	W	Ε	Α	F	Ε	Α	Ε	G	Υ
E	С	I	Α	Υ	С	0	Α	S	Т	Α	L	0	Ι	L	R	Ε	W	Е	Ρ
K	G	R	D	Μ	Α	F	U	Н	0	Μ	S	Χ	L	Н	R	S	U	U	Ν
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BASKET BEACH BOARDWALK BREEZY

CROSSWORD

BRIGHT

FOAM

COASTAL

CRASHING

LAUGHTER MARINE OCEAN RELAXATION

SEAWEED SUNGLASSES SANDCASTLE SURFING SWIMMING

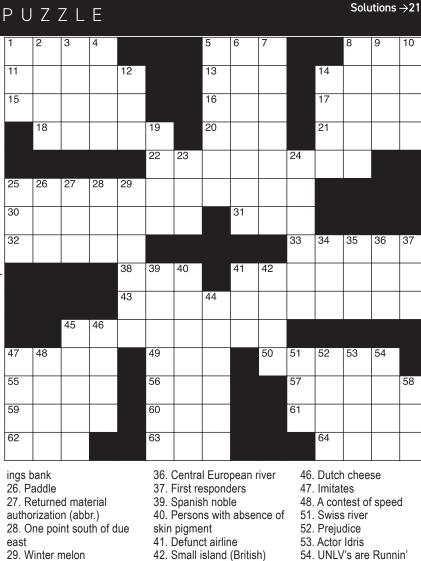
RIPTIDE

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SWIMSUIT TAN UMBRELLA UNDERTOW

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44. The extent of something

45. Capital of Bangladesh

from beginning to end

58. Criticize

SUDOKU

Solutions \rightarrow 21

How to Play

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am a rapper and actor born in California on June 15, 1969. I performed at parties hosted by Dr. Dre while in high school. I am ranked as one of MTV's greatest MCs of all time for my work in a legendary rap group.

adu) asi Iree Cube

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WEDNESDAY

Adult Pickleball

Adult Pickleball 9-11 a.m. 47 Mechanic St., Castleton. (Former Castleton Village School gym) Registration for this 6-week session is \$20. With 2 courts available, we're limited to a 20-person capacity. This is a fun, casual environment to learn the sport that has taken the world by storm. We ask that only adults attend this program, since we are unable to offer additional child supervision at this time. For more info visit https://www. castletonvermont.org/recreation/events/44656.

Pre-K Storytime at Billings Farm & Museum: 9:30-11 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road. Cost is \$12/child or \$10/member child. Young ones from near and far are invited to the 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.

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, a certified teacher, hosts. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org

Give Blood

11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Springfield Elks, 49 Park St., White River Junction. Local blood supplies are running low while the need for blood is constant, with someone needing a blood transfusion in the U.S. every 2 seconds. Platelet donors are especially needed at this time. In thanks for taking time to help, all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma June 1-30 will receive a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of their choice. Those who come to give throughout June will also be automatically entered for a chance to win a backyard theater package. Details for both offers can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/June. To make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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.

Slate Valley Trails Group 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.

Adult Pottery Workshop - Homemade Household 5:30 p.m. The Mint, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. \$100-\$125. This is a beginner friendly class, instruction will be provided every step of the way. We will be hand building during the first three sessions and glazing during the last session. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

"Church Bells to Train Whistles: Rutland & the Ripleys, 1837-1958," an illustrated talk by Julia

Purdy. 6 p.m. The Proctor Free Library, 4 Main St.at the Marble Bridge. Free. This is a story of Center Rutland's rise from a small mill village to a renowned industrial hub, told through one family, the Ripleys, whose story parallels the sweeping narrative of their era in U.S. history, preceding and following the Civil War. Catch a glimpse into their family life as well as their presence on the national stage. Stories give us a sense of historical continuity and of our own place in history... and the story of the Ripleys of Center Rutland is no different. Illustrated with historic photographs and maps. For more info contact the Proctor Free Library at proctorvermont.com/contact-us.

Name that Fish Stew! Cooking Class 6:30-9:30 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

Jazz Cafe Series: New Kanon Jazz Trio

7-8:30 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Suggested 7-8:30 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultiney. Suggested \$10 donation. This talented trio of musicians will feature popular jazz repertoire and original tunes composed by Gary Schmidt. Professional bassist and educator Ron White is well versed in jazz, rock, classical and American roots music contributing to the trio's mellow tone. Nick Aloi brings his unique swinging style, developed over the last 50 years of playing on international stages and locally throughout the New England area. Gary Schmidt, a versatile pianist and composer who has concertized throughout the U.S. leads the group on the piano with clarity, adeptness and finesse. Their set list will include the music of Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Bud Powell, Leonard Bernstein, Oscar Peterson, Gary Schmidt and others. For more info visit stone-valleyarts.loxi.io.

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 Fore more inforwarder com/randingk or call used and loved one. For more info visit rutlandrec.com/godnick or call Jack Crowther at 802-775-1182 or e-mail Gus Bloch, song circle leader, at gusbloch@gmail.com.



Audubon West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk 7 a.m. Marsh boardwalk kiosk on Marble St. Free. Join our friendly and

knowledgeable birders on our monthly marsh walk in this Audubon Important Bird Area, No experience necessary. Go the entire 3.7 mile loop or go halfway. All are welcome. For more info visit birding@ rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

Storytime at Rutland Free Library: 'Bunnies' 10 a.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Storytime promotes early literacy and socialization skills in a fun setting. Fox Room. Geared towards ages 2-5. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org

Killington Rec Pool opens 11 a.m. Johnson Rec Pool, 2782 River Road, Killington. Killington residents & second homeowners: Free, Non-Residents: \$4 Adults and \$2 Kids 12 and under. The Johnson Recreation Pool will officially open on Thursday, June 15. Hours of operation on June 15-18 will be from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Starting Monday, June 19, the pool will close to the public at 5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday. It will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday. Adult swim is everyday from 11 a.m.-noon. For season price passes and more info visit killingtonvt.myrec.com.

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 or call 802-775-0356.

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.

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.

Kids and Adults Ballroom Classes with Patti Panebianco

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

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 weekly 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.



Brandon Farmers' Market 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Central Park, Conant Square, Brandon. Free. The Brandon Farmers' Market started over 40 years ago to serve the Brandon and the surrounding communities by providing a non-commercial positive atmosphere for Brandon area consumer to purphase quality locally made produce consumers to purchase quality locally made produce, goods, and crafts, while also providing an outlet for local farmers and crafts people to sell their wares. For more info visit brandonfarmersmarketvt.com/about.

WoodSpryte Early Learning Adventures 9:30-10:30 a.m. Green Mountain Community School's, Whitney Hall/ The Buttery, 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney. Cost: \$12/class. In May and throughout the summer, WoodSpryte Arts classes will be focused primarily around WoodSpryte Garden, our little garden bed in front of the Stone Valley Arts building. We'll learn about worms and other soil critters as related to the stories and songs. Bring your young sprouts to join us on the SVA lawn Fridays Ages 2-8. For info call 802-235-2209, email woodSprytearts@vermontel.net, or find us on Facebook at tinyurl. com/stonevallevartswoodSpryte. com/stonevalleyartswoodspryte.

Friends Book Sale

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. In lieu of fixed prices, donations are gratefully accepted for the items you choose. Come explore the library basement to visit the Cellar Seller's collection of books, cd's puzzles, audiobooks, rare and antique books, and other lucky finds. Sponsored by the Friends of Rutland Free Library, the proceeds from our twice-monthly booksales support library collections and activities. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org

Adult Artery Weekly Friday Workshop 10 a.m.-noon. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost depends on supplies needed, \$5-\$20. Join us every Friday 10am-Noon. Adult group for connection and inspiration. A time and place to create with others. Painting in all mediums welcome. For more info visit chafforatement or the second se chaffeeartcenter.org.

All About the Arts 11 a.m.-noon on Fridays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St. in Rutland. Free for ages 3-5. Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more! Adult must accompany children under age 4. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

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. Runs June 16-25. For more info visit barnarts.org.

Youth 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. For more info visit: stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com. stonevalleyarts.org.

Chaffee Art Center 'Animals in Art' exhibit opening reception

5-7 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Donations appreciated. Stop by and enjoy a glass of wine while you explore the different animal themed galleries featuring work by Chaffee artist members such as: "Don't Feed the Art" gallery (all types of animals and/or endangered) and "A Pet Project" (pets of every kind). For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

Calendar \rightarrow 13

13TH ANNUAL VERMONT ADAPTIME CHARINY G#ANTASV(6)=

SATURDAY 6 A.M.



Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 12

Front Porch Concert Series: VA-ET-VIENT

6-7:15 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Price to be announced. Vermont's Addison County group Va-et-vient ('Come & Go') celebrates the many colors found in music from several French cultures. These musiciennes will take you through the centuries from France to Québec and New Orleans with lively dance numbers, touching love songs, kickin' Cajun and Créole tunes, and rollicking Québecois favorites. From our neighbors to the north, they bring back traditional tunes learned from Québecois elders (and youngsters!), them throughout New England and Québec si enders (and youngsters), reweave them into their own arrangements, and have been spreading them throughout New England and Québec since 2001. The group includes Carol Reed from Leicester (voice, guitar, & mandolin), Suzanne Germain from Lincoln (voice and percussion), and Lausanne Allen from South Starksboro (voice, fiddles, flute, penny whistles, harmonica, & mandolins). For more info visit stone-valley-arts.loxi.io.

Juan Nieves & Legado's Orguestra

7 p.m. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Cost \$20. Juan Nieves & Legado's Orquestra is a refreshing musical ensemble thanks to its Latin-American influences. With themes written by the great classics of the salsa like Rubén Blades, José Nogueras, and Tite Curet Alonso, and also featuring new songs arranged by their leader and Puerto Rican cuatro player Juan Nieves and its charismatic composer, arranger, singer & storyteller Rafa Moreno. For more info visit artistreevt.org/concerts.

Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre presents 'The Subject Was Roses'

7:30 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall Theatre at 35 Marble St. Tickets are \$20. The play won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1965. It tells the story of a young veteran who returns to his parents' apartment in the Bronx and finds himself caught up in their marital conflicts. The play explores themes of family, love, war, and disillusionment. For more information email us at actorsrepvt.org@gmail.com

Anthony Rodia: 'Totally Relatable Tour' 8 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Tickets: \$30-\$40 + tax/fees. Anthony has appeared on Elvis Duran and the Morning Show, FOX's Good Day New York, and Elizabeth & Elisa on News 12, he quietly claimed the throne of "King of off the boat comedy." Rodia is currently selling out comedy clubs and theaters across the country on his "Road Rage Tour." For more info visit paramountvt.org.



13th annual Vermont Adaptive Charity Challenge 6 a.m. Skyship Base area, 7428 US-4, Killington Ski Resort. The Vermont Adaptive Charity Challenge is an annual event to enjoy the beauty of Vermont through cycling and mountain biking all while raising funds for the state's largest nonprofit organization committed to providing sports and recreation to people with disabilities. For more info visit killington.com or charityride.vermontadaptive.org/charitychallenge.

Summer operations at Okemo opening day

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Okemo Mountain Resort. Prices vary. Enjoy the adventure zone, bunjee tramp, the Timeber Ripper Mountain coaster, mini golf, bike park and so much more. For more info visit okemo.com.

Vermont Farmers' Market

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Depot Park at Evelyn Street, downtown, Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, and the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. The farmers' market brings together as many as 60 vendors. With a seasonal variety of produce, local grass-fed meat, eggs, artisan cheeses, freshly baked breads, jellies and jams, maple products, honey, CBD products, delicious hot foods, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

S'more Summer Songs with Miss Linda! (Baby/ Toddler Rock)

10-10:45 a.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Our classic Baby and Toddler Rock on a Saturday morning! A fun music and pre-literacy program for kids 0-24 months! For more info visit: rutlandfree.org

Celebrating Abenaki Art, Heritage, and Culture Art Show

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.

Mac & Cheese Cook-Off & To-Go Mac

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Trinity Church, 85 West St., Rutland. Cost \$5-\$10. We invite the public to experience this "s'Mac down" competition for the best Mac & Cheese in Rutland. Local cooks will bring their champion recipes cooked and ready for patrons to taste. Samples will be available for purchase at \$5 for 3 samples with additional samples available for purchase and vote while supplies last. Proceeds benefit Companions in Wholeness. For more info visit rutlandcityrotary.org/ event/mac---cheese-cook-off---to-go-mac-fundraiser.

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, not with the fermer Putthand Beitrand aphaene 445. For mere infer time, including the former Rutland Railroad caboose #45. For more info visit: rutlandrailway.org.

Pete Landis Contemporary Art Gallery Grand

Opening 5 p.m. Free. Bridgewater Mill, US RT 4, Bridgewater. New art gallery opening with refreshments served and a DJ. Work by Landis' and other artists will be on display. For a closer look at Landis' work and for more info visit cargocollective.com/PeteKL

Mountainside Mutts Fun and Agility Foundations Course

5:45 p.m. 654 US Route 4, Rutland. Mountainside Mutts is offering a 4 week course with a focus centered on helping your four-legged friend to keep physically fit and agile while also stimulating their mind and strengthening the bond between you. For more info visit mountainsidemutts.com.

Glow Pickleball

GIOW PICKIEDAII 6-8 p.m. 47 Mechanic St., Castleton. (Former Castleton Village School gym) Registration for this 6-week session is \$20. Enjoy Adult Rec glow in the dark pickleball. This is a fun, casual environment to learn the sport that has taken the world by storm. It's pickleball in the evening with a fun spin - glow in the dark game time! All skill levels are welcome, whether this is your first time playing or far from it! We ask that only adults attend this program, since we are unable to offer additional child supervision at this time. For more info visit https://www. castletonyermont.org/recreation/events/44656 castletonvermont.org/recreation/events/44656.

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. Runs June 16-25. For more info visit barnarts.org.

"Whatever Happened to Baby Jane," in the Heald Auditorium.

7 p.m. Heald Auditorium at Ludlow Town Hall. Free. Donations appreciated. The film features the starring legends of Hollywood, famous for their rivalry and dislike of one another, Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, in a psychological horror film. For more info visit fola.us.

Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre Presents 'The

7:30 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall Theatre at 35 Marble St. Tickets are \$20. The play wonthe Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1965. It tells the story of a young veteran who returns to his parents' apartment in the Bronx and finds himself caught up in their marital conflicts. The play explores themes of family, love, war, and disillusionment. For more information email us at actorsrepvt.org@gmail.com

SUNDAY FATHER'S DAY 6/18

Vins — Free Admission for Dads

10 a.m.-5 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way. Quechee. Free admission for dads. Visit the VINS Nature Center and experience a live animal program, view our exciting exhibits, take a walk on the Forest Canopy Walk, and enjoy the nature trails. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy the day! For more info visit: events@vinsweb.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.

Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre presents 'The Subject Was Roses'

2 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall Theatre at 35 Marble Street. Tickets are \$20 The play wonthe Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1965. It tells the story of a young veteran who returns to his parents' apartment in the Bronx and finds himself caught up in their marital conflicts. The play explores themes of family, love, war, and disillusionment. For more information email us at actorsrepvt.org@gmail.com

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Strawberry Festival 2-4 p.m. Middletown Springs Historical Society, 10 Park Ave., Middletown Springs. Free. The 48th annual strawberry festival offers a classic summer treat that includes a craft fair, live music, a new exhibit about childhood (1850-1920), and a children's program with historic play activities. Delicious delights will be served including strawberry shortcake made with fresh Vermont berries, homemade biscuits, vanilla ice cream and whipped cream, with a choice of iced tea, lemonade, or hot coffee. Berries will also be available for sale by the quart. For more info visit mshsvt.org.

Historic Baseball Game for Father's Day 2 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free to \$17. There will be a friendly, action-packed game of historic base ball (yes, it used to be two words!) at 2 p.m. Following rules from 1860, the game will be played on a field beyond the pastures with wood shaving baselines, canvas bases filled with straw, along with a metal pitcher's plate and home plate. Players will use ash bat reproductions and follow the tradition of playing barehanded. Visitors of reproductions and follow the tradition of playing barehanded. Visitors of all ages can join the team or grab some ice cream from the Farmhouse Scoop Shop and cheer from the bleachers for one of the original American pastimes. billingsfarm.org/events/sheep-shearing-herding.

2023 Hockey Skating Clinic with Jacki Smith (Ages 10U/12U Session)

3:30-4:30 p.m. Mondays, 6/19 – 7/24. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Cost is \$150. Session 1 – Ages 10U/12U. 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 guiet will allow you to do anything with a stick and puck. For more info visit unionarena.org/summer-camps

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. Runs June 16-25. For more info visit barnarts org.

Yoga in the Canopy 4-5:15 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way. Queche. Cost: general public \$26; VINS members \$22. Registration requireed as space is limited. Welcome to a yoga class like you've never experienced before. Ascend into the treetops on the VINS Forest Canopy Walk and immerse yourself in the beauty of the summer foliage. Expect a slow-flow class that will incorporate sup calutation foliage. Expect a slow-flow class that will incorporate sun salutations, standing poses, balance poses, and brief meditation. All levels of experience are welcome. For more info visit: events@vinsweb.org.

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



National Junior Golf tournament returns to Killington

8 a.m. shotgun start. 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.

Vermont Mountain Bike Association Day at Killington

10 a.m.-6 p.m. VMBA tent at mountain bike park base, Killington. Free. During the day, there will be group rides with VMBA ambassadors and timed runs down lower Rabbit Hole (12 p.m. - 2 p.m.). Then, to cap off the day, we will have an after-party (4-6 pm) with Zero Gravity at the Snowshed Umbrella Bar and award raffle prizes (tickets for which will be sold at the VMBA tent all day). For more info visit killington.com.

Subject Was Roses'

14 · CALENDAR



from page 13

Baby and Toddler 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. ora.

Give Blood

11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Brandon American Legion, 550 Franklin Street. Local blood supplies are running low while the need for blood is constant, with someone needing a blood transfusion in the U.S. every two seconds. Platelet donors are especially needed at this time. In thanks for taking time to help, all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma June 1-30 will receive a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of their choice. Those who come to give throughout June will also be automatically entered for a chance to win a backyard theater package. Details for both offers can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/June. To make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Bingo

1:15 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., in Rutland. Cost varies. Come play bingo at the Godnick Center in Rutland on Mondays at 1:15 p.m. This is a drop-in activity. For more info visit rutlandrec.com/godnick.

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 ell We will work and the particle backwards. 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. he 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.



National junior golf tournament returns to Killington

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 form June 20-22. For more info visit ajga.org/tournaments/2023/ golf-performance-center-killington-junior-golf-championship.

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, interspersed with songs, finger puppet plays, free play, and more. It is geared for children ages birth to 20 months and will run for about 20 minutes. 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.

Pre-K Field Trip

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Expedition Kids with Amanda. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org

Give Blood 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., West Rutland Town Hall, 35 Marble St. Local blood supplies are running low while the need for blood is constant, with someone needing a blood transfusion in the U.S. every two seconds. Platelet donors are especially needed at this time. In thanks for taking time to help, all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma June 1-30 will receive a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of their choice. Those who come to give throughout June will also be automatically entered for a chance to win a backyard theater package. Details for both offers can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/June____ To make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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 Weekly Women's Mountain Bike **Group Rides**

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

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. BYOB and eat what you make BYOB and eat what you make.

KILLINGTON PICO KILLINGTON Wine Festival JULY 21-22, 2023 ESTATE TASTING GALA FRIDAY JULY 21 · 6-8p at the Killington Peak WINE TRAIL FRIDAY JULY 21 at Participating Local Businesses **GRAND TASTING** SATURDAY JULY 22 • Noon - 4p at the Brand New K1 Lodge 回我為 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT www.KILLINGTONWINEFESTIVAL.com

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A Psychological Thriller!!! "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane"



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BRIDGEWATER CORNERS 3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

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

6 p.m. Rivershed - Chris Pallutto

LONDONDERRY 7 p.m. New American Grill – Open Mic Night hosted by DJ Jazzy Joe

LUDLOW 7 p.m. Off the Rails – Liz Reedy

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

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

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

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

WOODSTOCK

7:30 p.m. Town Hall Theatre -Barbershop Harmony Society Concert

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

6 p.m. Castleton Pizza Place &

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Kenny Mehler

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

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games -

6 p.m. Calcuttas – A Band Called

8 p.m. The Clear River Tavern – Mando Vinyl All Strung Out

6 p.m. The Poultney Pub -

QUECHEE 6 p.m. Public House Pub – John Lackard Blues

RANDOLPH 7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Rebecca Turmel Band with Matt & Beth of Of Conscious Mind

SHREWSBURY 5 p.m. Meeting House – Faux Paws



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

BRIDGEWATER 8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with headliner Chris Griggs and featured act Will Purpura

6 p.m. Liquid Art - Tee Boneicus

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – King Arthur

LUDLOW 5 p.m. Main and Mountain -Sammv B 7 p.m Off the Rails - Live Music

PLYMOUTH 2 p.m. Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site - Grace Coolidge Musicale: Student Edition

12 p.m. Skveship Base Area -13th Annual Vermont Adaptive Charity Challenge Festival with music by DJ Dave and Jamie's Junk Show feat. The Deep Banana Blackout Horns

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

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Live Music

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain -Sammy B 6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

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

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games - Nick Bredice & Zach Yakaitis

LUDLOW 6 p.m. Calcuttas - Red Daisy Revival

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails - Aaron Audet Band

PROCTORSVILLE 4 p.m. Outer Limits Brewing -Jim Yeager

QUECHEE 6 p.m. Public House Pub – Jacob Green

RUTLAND 9 a.m. Center Street - Rutland County Pride Festival

5 p.m. Paramount Theatre -Rutland Youth Pride Prom with music by DJ Dave

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



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

BRIDGEWATER **CORNERS** 3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Ben Kogan

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

KILLINGTON 12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Liz Reedy

Open Mic hosted by Indigenous Entertainment 5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit

5 p.m. Still on the Mountain -

Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Rivershed - Trivia Night

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

2 p.m. Town Hall Theatre - Upper Valley Community Band Concert



KILLINGTON 6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Rob Pagnano

LUDLOW 6 p.m. Off the Rails - Sammy B

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

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



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 6:30 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic .Jam

PITTSFORD 6 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm - Tunesday Concert with Lara Cwass Band

POULTNEY 7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Open Bluegrass Jam

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

RUTI AND 8:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Acoustic Open Mic hosted by

Josh LaFave

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Annual Vermont Adaptive Charity Challenge held Saturday at Skyeship

Saturday, June 17—KILLINGTON—The 13th annual Vermont Adaptive Charity Challenge, presented by Killington Resort will be held at the Skyeship Base Area this Saturday.

The Vermont Adaptive Charity Challenge is an annual event to enjoy the beauty of Vermont through cycling, mountain biking, paddling, and hiking, all while raising funds for the state's largest nonprofit organization committed to providing sports and recreation to people with disabilities. There will be many activities including hikes, canoe/kayak, gravel rides and multiple road bike ride loop through the towns of Killington, Pittsfield, Bethel, Barnard, Woodstock, Ludlow, Bridgewater, and Plymouth.

The monies raised from this event support the adaptive programs and athletes of Vermont Adaptive year-round. It is also used toward scholarships – Vermont Adaptive never turns anyone away based on their ability to pay.

For more information visit charityride.vermontadaptive.org.

16. LIVINGADE





Riders and hikers will gather to support Vermont Adaptive in the Charity Challenge to be held on Saturday in Killington.

Submitted

48th annual strawberry festival offers a classic summer treat in Middletown Springs

Sunday, June 18—MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS—The 48th annual Strawberry Festival offers a classic summer treat at the Middletown Springs Historical Society from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday.

The festival includes a craft fair, live music, a new exhibit about historical childhood (1850-1920), and a children's program with historic play activities.

Strawberry lovers are invited to the Historical Society building on the Green in Middletown Springs for delicious strawberry shortcake made with fresh Vermont berries, homemade biscuits, vanilla ice cream and whipped cream, with a choice of iced tea, lemonade, or hot coffee. Berries will also be available for sale by the quart.

Local artists and craftspeople will display and sell their work, including maple products, jewelry, photography, knitted items, honey and beeswax products. There will be live music during the event, and a Vermont Country Store gift basket of Vermont products will be raffled off.

The festival marks the opening of a new exhibit in the Historical Society's museum.

Childhood in Middletown Springs, 1850-1920, will feature children's toys, amusements, books, furniture, clothing, photographs, diaries and written accounts of childhood memories from the museum collection. A special program for children attending the festival will feature historic children's play activities. Teddy bears are invited! Bring yours along. Admission to the museum and the children's program are free.

For more information, visit: mshsvt.org.



This Sunday, the Middletown Springs Historical Society Strawberry Festival will include a craft fair, live music, a new historical exhibit about childhood (1850-1920), and a children's program with historic play activities.

Submitted

Local artist Pete Landis to open new contemporary art gallery in Bridgewater Mill

Grand opening held Saturday

Saturday, June 17—BRIDGEWATER—Woodstock artist Pete Landis is opening a new contemporary art gallery in the Bridgewater Mill Mall.

Landis grew up in Hartland, went to Woodstock High School and then moved to New York City to receive his masters of industrial design degree from Pratt Institute in 2013 and his bachelor of architecture degree from Cornell University in 2006.

Landis' work, inspired by portraiture, classic still life, and product photography (with magazine pages being one of many physical objects that are arranged and photographed)

will be on display at the grand opening of his new studio which will operate under the pseudonym, Pietro Landi Gallery. The opening will be held this Saturday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wine and Cheese will be offered throughout with a DI set to entertain from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. In addition to Landis'

offered throughout with a DJ set to entertain from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. In addition to Landis' work, the gallery will feature works by Shepard Fairey, Banksy, WK Interact, Doze Green, The London Police, Nicola Verlato and more.

 $For a \, closer \, look \, at \, Land is' \, work, visit: cargo collective.com/PeteKL$



Workd by Pete Landis and other artist will be on display at Landis new gallery Pietro Landi Gallery grand opening this Saturday.

Barn Arts production of 'Arcadia' debuts this weekend

Friday-Sunday, June 16-18—BARNARD—BarnArts production of "Arcadia" will debut this weekend at the old Feast & Field location (1544 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard). Performances are Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. this weekend and next (June 16-18 and 23-25). Written by Tom Stoppard, directed by Christopher Peirce, and produced outdoors Barn Arts.

Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia" explores the nature of history, ambition, and love alongside a mind-bending experience of real-time quantum mechanics.

"Arcadia" is an award winning play beloved by theater majors, science nerds and anyone who likes to ponder life, the universe and everything. The story spans centuries, bringing forth a feast of deep themes, including the power of time, science, romance, truth, and the (in)accuracy of academic research.

Two complex tableausx of characters occupy the same pastoral English setting but in two eras: the early 19th Century and the present day. Events converge and timelines cross in this critically acclaimed play, Winner of the 1995 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play and the 1994 Olivier Award for Best Play.

Performances will be held outdoors at old Feast & Field location across from Fable Farm Orchard on Royalton Turnpike in Barnard. Follow signs to the area and allow 5-10 minutes to walk from parking to performance location. Drop off and accessible parking available.

The ADA site is located on flat lawn a small distance from accessible parking. An accessible portable toilet will be near the accessible parking area.

As theis is an outdoor performance, shows will be canceled in case of rain and tickets will be good at any other performance of "Arcadia."

BarnArts will sell non-alcoholic drinks and snacks. Picnicking is welcome.

Chairs will be set up at the stage, but participants are also welcome to bring their own or a blanket to sit on. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students. For more information visit: www.barnarts.org or call: 802-234-1645.

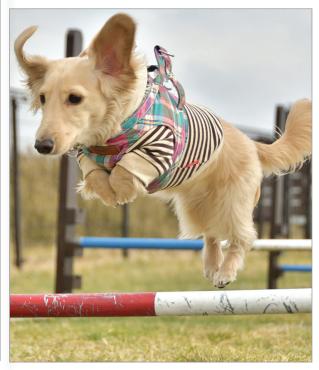


Captain Brice, Nate Clifford of Woodstock, has a passionate discussion with his sister Lady Croom, Killian White of Bethel, while Noakes, Larry Fuller of Grantham, NH and Chater, Nate Beyer of Morrisville, look on.

Mountainside Mutts offers fun and agility foundations course

Saturday, June 17—RUTLAND—Mountainside Mutts is offering a 4 week course with a focus on helping your four-legged friend to keep physically fit and agile while also stimulating its mind and strengthening the bond between you. The course starts this Saturday. Offered in a short class format led by Diane Sullivan and assisted by Als Allan, the course is perfect for students looking to have some summer fun with their pup but will also provide a solid base for future competition if desired. Dogs must have had some prior training and know basic commands.

Proof of vaccinations (distemper, parvovirus, DHPP & rabies) are be required before attendance. The course cost \$160. For more information email als@mountainsidemutts. com or call 508-761-1229.



Summer youth hockey camps held at Union Arena

WOODSTOCK—With summer heating up, a great way to cool off is at Union Arena in Woodstock where a number of youth hockey camps and clinics will be held. Each clinic will focus on different techniques aiming to enhance skaters and players abilities in focused areas.

- Some of the clinics include:
- Hockey skating clinic with Jacki Smith: Jacki Smith will hold her hockey skating clinic, focusing on skating techniques, keeping your upper body quiet, and more skills to enable the player to do anything with a stick and puck.
- Figure skating clinic: Centered on techniques to help keep skating skills sharp enough to hit the ice ready to continue into next season.
- Summer hockey league: Skaters will 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.
- Sunday hockey clinic with Jon Chamberlin: This is an opportunity for players to 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.
- Greg Carter European Hockey Camps: For the most on-ice instruction and the best results using the Carter Method, skaters will build on each day's skills and are challenged to reach their full potential as the hockey camp progresses.
- Ben Lovejoy Hockey School: With the focus of teaching young boys and girls hockey skills they will need to know, to play at the next level.
- Skaters edge w/ Dave Reece: This skating instruction focuses on player development, stick handling, positional play and small area scrimmages. Designed for players who want five days of individual development in a small, competitive group setting. Fewer skaters allows for greater improvement with more reps per drill versus waiting in line.
 For more information visit: woodstockyouthhockey.org.





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GRACIE'S GRILL IS NOW OPEN

AJGA junior golf championship returns to Killington, June 19-22

Monday-Thursday, June 19-22—KILLINGTON—The American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) returns to Killington for the 12th annual Golf Performance Center Killington Junior Golf Championship. Green Mountain National Golf Course (GMNGC) will host the 54-hole tournament mid-week starting Monday, June 19 throught Thursday, June 22, with 132 boys and girls (ages 12-19) competing.

Last year, Leonardo Vieira of San Leandro, California, emerged victorious, with a tournament score of 214, one over par. Sarah Shao of Glen Brook, New Jersey won the Girls' Division in 2022 with a tournament score of 210, three under par. Locally, Lucas Politano of Brandon, Vermont, finished fifth.

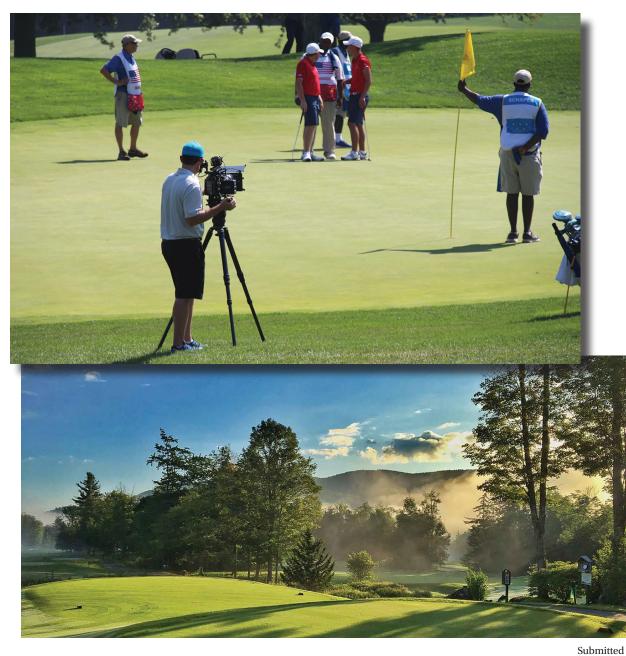
An AJGA Qualifier for entry to the tournament will take place at GMNGC on Monday, June 19. The event will be an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

First- and second-round tee times on Tuesday, June 20 and Wednesday, June 21 will be from 7 a.m.-8:50 a.m. and 11:40 a.m.-1:30 p.m. off Nos. 1 and 10 tees. Following the second round on Wednesday, June 21, the tournament fields will be cut to a minimum of 50% of each field (boys and girls). Final-round tee times on Thursday, June 22 are projected for 7 a.m.-9 a.m. with the awards ceremony taking place after the conclusion of final-round play at approximately 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 22.

Green Mountain National Golf Course is located at 476 Barrows Towne Road in Killington. Guests are welcome to attend and spectate. Admission is free.

The American Junior Golf Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the overall growth and development of young men and women who aspire to earn college golf scholarships through competitive junior golf. The AJGA provides valuable exposure for college golf scholarships and has an annual junior membership (boys and girls, ages 12-19) of more than 7,300 members from 50 states and 60 foreign countries. Through initiatives like the Achieving Competitive Excellence (ACE) Grant, a financial assistance program, and Leadership Links, a service-oriented platform that teaches juniors charitable-giving skills, the AJGA fosters the growth of golf's next generation.

AJGA alumni have risen to the top of amateur, collegiate and professional golf. Former AJGA juniors have compiled more than 900 victories on the PGA and LPGA tours. AJGA alumni include Rickie Fowler, Sergio Garcia, Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson, Patrick Reed, Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas, Tiger Woods, Paula Creamer, Ariya Jutanugarn, Cristie Kerr, Stacy Lewis, Brittany Lincicome, Anna Nordqvist, Inbee Park and Lexi Thompson.



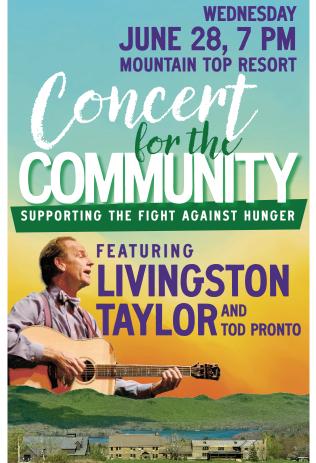
The future golf pros of America, will represent the AmericanJunior Golf Association as they gather at Green Mountain National Golf Course fi in Killington for a 3-day event running Monday-Thursday.



Special requests are always welcome!

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

20



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How to grow vegetables and herbs in containers

By Jodi Larison

Container gardening is a good option if you have limited space or want to be able to alter your environment by moving pots around. You will have fewer plant diseases and weeds and less physical stress as containers can be placed at a height requiring less bending.

Before deciding to start a container vegetable or herb garden, assess your growing conditions. Most veggies and herbs require a minimum of six hours per day of direct sunlight, but many salad greens may be fine with a minimum of four hours of direct sunlight daily.

When choosing containers, be creative or practical. For example, you can cut the top off a plastic gallon milk jug or purchase a stylish pot of the same size.

Another thing to consider when choosing containers is the material. They may be made out of clay or terracotta that's glazed or unglazed, metal, plastic or wood. You also can plant in grow bags. All have advantages and disadvantages.

For example, clay may be more attractive, but plastic is lighter, making the pots easier to move. Plastic also has better water retention.

Any containers used for planting must have good drainage. Avoid anything that once held something toxic. When reusing any container, always sanitize it first with a mix of 10% bleach and 90% water.

When deciding what to plant, choose vegetables and herbs that you and your family like. Consider a theme garden. A pizza garden might include tomato, oregano and basil plants, while a salad garden could have lettuce, arugula, chervil and endive.

After determining what to grow, research the plants' requirements. Choose plant varieties labeled bush, patio, dwarf or compact as well as disease-resistant cultivars developed for containers.

Next, determine the size of container needed. For example, a single tomato plant will require a five-gallon pot while basil, which grows well with tomatoes, only needs a soil depth of eight inches. I prefer to select a container based on the size of the full-grown plant rather than having to re-pot.

Before planting, determine the last and first freeze dates for your specific U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zone. This information can be found at garden.org.nga/zipzone. Through this link, you also will find recommended timing for planting specific vegetables. You can plant in containers at the same time you would plant in-ground.

To plant, line the base of the pot with coffee filters, newspaper or paper towels to prevent soil loss. Drill holes for drainage first, if needed.

Fill the container with potting mix to 1/2- to 1-inch below the top. Finish by soaking the potting mix with water.

Use a potting mix labeled for container gardening. Read the label as so many have added nutrients while others are formulated for better water retention. You will need to replace your potting mix every growing season.

As to watering, the rule of thumb is not to let the soil dry out. It is best to water in the morning and near the base of the plant, applying water until it drains out the bottom. Plants in containers may require daily and possibly even twice daily watering, but do not overwater.

For nutrition, use a water-soluble fertilizer such as 10-20-10. Be sure to follow all label directions carefully.

At the end of the outdoor growing season, consider moving your herb containers inside as it might be possible to maintain them year-round. I have done this with rosemary. This works best if you have a sunny south-facing window.



Many vegetables and herbs can be grown successfully in containers, if planted in the proper size container and requirements for water, sunlight and other growing conditions are met.

How to invite pollinators to your garden

By Andrea Knepper

Many home-grown fruits and vegetables require pol-

lination to develop fruit and seeds. Approximately 75% of all food crops grown in the United States depend on bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators. However, pollinator populations worldwide are decreasing due to habitat loss, disease and environmental contaminants.

We can all support pollinators by creating hospitable areas in our home gardens. Beyond choosing pollinatorfriendly plants, add features to your garden that will encourage pollinators to visit and stay. A welcoming pollinator space benefits both the pollinators and your garden.



By Nick Rivers/Pixabay A garden with a variety of pollinator-friendly native plants will provide a good source of nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinators.

A diverse selection of native plants is the backbone of a hospitable pollinator garden. When choosing plants, look for a variety of colors and flower shapes. Group a few of each type together. This helps pollinators find what they are looking for and forage efficiently.

Ideally, you will have flowers blooming throughout the season. Consider this when making selections.

For help, check out the "Vermont Pollinator Habitat Plant Palette" on the Gardening Resources page of the University of Vermont Extension Community Horticulture website go.uvm.edu/garden-resources). Click on "Pollinators." This resource lists plants by flower color, bloom time and the pollinators that each attracts.

Pollinators also need a water source. This can be as simple as a shallow pan with water. Add stones or marbles for them to land on while drinking. Change the water every few days to avoid pests laying eggs.

At the end of the gardening season, leave some plant material on the ground for nesting sites. Leaf litter, piles of sticks and uncut grass are desirable overwintering locations. When cutting back dead plants, cut to a few inches above the ground. The hollow stalks provide winter shelter.

Some pollinators may enjoy a more formal nesting site. Bee boxes, bat boxes and bug hotels add visual interest to the garden and provide shelter and nesting space for

pollinators. Many can be constructed easily from found materials and require little maintenance.

Instead of using pesticides and chemical fertilizers in your lawn and garden, try to manage pests naturally. This is more time-consuming, but pollinators and your soil will benefit greatly.

Prevention is the key here. Planning for crop rotation, companion planting, paying attention to insect life cycles and using barriers are all tools that can be used successfully to avoid the need for pesticides and chemical fertilizers. These strategies are known as Integrated Pest

PUZZLES—from page 11



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22 · PETS

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 and fill out an application or call 802-885-3997 for more information.

This pet is available for adoption at **Springfield Humane Society** 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, VT• (802) 885-3997 ***Open by appointment only.** spfldhumane.org



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

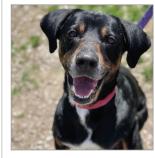




Rutland County Humane Society



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?



Licorice—2-year-old. Spayed female. Retriever mix. Black. This gem is quickly becoming a staff favorite.



Ghost—1-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. white. Although Ghost is deaf, he gives loving head butts and butterfly kisses.



MeMe-1-year-old.

shorthair. Brown tiger.

MeMe is shy at first, but

her playful and silly side

shines right through.

Spayed female. Domestic

GUERNSEY

7-month-old. Neutered male. Lab mix. Tan and white. This cutie still needs to work through chewing, house training.

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

Marijuana can be harmful to your pets

The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like pet owners to be aware of the risks of marijuana use. While marijuana may produce pleasurable effects in people, for pets, the substance can be dangerous and even lethal. Though marijuana use is not new, its use for recreational purposes is more recent, and the increased accessibility to the drug has led to an increase in accidental exposure in pets. THC, the chemical that gives marijuana its high, is toxic to pets and can cause vomiting, mild incontinence, incoordination, depression, sleepiness or excitability, low blood pressure, low body temperature and seizures. Death is rare, but a few cases have been reported. Edibles are of particular concern, as they often contain other ingredients that can also be problematic, such as chocolate or artificial sweeteners.



Alaska—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Black and white. This sweetheart loves other cats and the attention of people.



Edith—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Brown tabby. Edith is a little more reserved so she may be happy being the only child.



Vitan—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Tabby. Vitan loves affection, playing with string toys and would prefer a quiet home.



Sky—3-month-old. male. American Shelter dog. Light brindle with white. This gem is looking for an active family to grow up with.



Koda—6-year-old. Spayed female. Retriever mix. Tan. Koda's a gentle girl who is great with kids. She gentle knows "Sit", "Shake" and "Down".

HOROSCOPES · 23

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Aries March 21 - April 20

The sky may seem a little heavy this week, but for you, this could actually be a good thing. If life is feeling heavy, then take that as your cue to have some more fun. In fact, the topic of fun, joy and happiness is heavily featured now in and the next few months. Love and romance are too! So, if you need permission to sprinkle a little sugar on your life now, consider it granted! Say yes to joy!

April 21 - May 20

What you really want out of your home and professional life will come into focus this week. In fact, your family life is going to be a part of the picture for a while. So, start getting honest with yourself about what you're really happy with and what you're not. You can always choose to bury your head in the sand, but that certainly won't be in your best interest. Facing things is the only way things change.



Just because you're under a fair bit of pressure professionally doesn't mean you have to throw the baby out with the bath water. Your day-to-day life and your routines and rituals still have to hold meaning and purpose too. Finding some joy in the little things is paramount to giving life meaning. After all, it's the sum of all the little things that really makes up your life. Do more of what refuels your soul.



Your cash is going to be under the cosmic spotlight for some time. What you share with others will be too. While money is the obvious issue, there may also be an underlying sense of what you value shifting and changing – especially the value you put on yourself. If you've sold yourself short financially, emotionally or both, then it's time to admit it and turn things around. What began eight years ago may be a part of the picture.



Leo

You truly are entering an "all about you" phase! This doesn't have to be what you think it means, but at a deep level, you're changing and this might mean updating or upgrading yourself, your style and your attitude. This is about taking your power back, especially if someone or something has taken it away, quite possibly in a professional setting. If you've put up and shut up for too long, then consider your options.



Most of this week's action happens in the corner of your horoscope. That said, this can still be a time where you face your fears when it comes to being the worker, or the reliable one to get the job done. Mercury, your patron plane, moves into your career zone. This brief visit can help you line up opportunities that may take several months before they come into fruition. For now, it's about the power of deciding.



It's within your social circles, groups and communities where you really shine. However, you may realize that things are changing as your planet, Venus, visits for an extended period. Reassessing some of your social connections is likely as you revaluate what the true meaning of friendship means to you. Chapters that opened eight years ago begin to draw to a close as new ones open. This week, be mindful of power dynamics as things may not be what they seem.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

It's your time to shine in a professional or major life direction situation. Sweet Venus joins your patron planet, Mars, which suggests an air of collaboration or support for you. For some Scorpios this may be welcomed, while for others, suspicion will be difficult to completely avoid. No matter what happens, vulnerability or feeling exposed is unavoidable. Sometimes you have to put at risk something you value in order to know whether someone is trustworthy or not. There's no easy way out.

February 21 - March 20

You've got the chance to do a massive life update and overhaul. Your time and how you spend it. Your body and how you value it. What you do and how it's valued by others – emotionally and financially – are all on the table. Heavy stuff, that's for sure, but necessary nonetheless. The more you make choices that are right for you, the more everything will be right. Clear is kind, and kind to yourself is what you have to be.



Sagittarius

What are your goals and dreams for the future? Chances are, those items on your bucket list are going to be a cause for reflection and reevaluation. Maybe the mustsee destinations don't hold the same value they once did. Perhaps you're changing spiritually too. Whatever is happening, embrace it, change it and embrace it again. It's ok to not want what you once did. As you reconnect with your desires, things will fall into place.



Your debt, joint resources and investment zzone is emphasized. Be it with a partner, or the bank, it will be in your best interest to put yourself back into a position of power. Before you can do that, you have to figure out what you earn, owe and spend. Whether you're joining forces, looking to split or just want a better deal, make a date with your numbers so you know what you're working with and what you need to do henceforth.



It's probably clear to you that you're not who you used to be. You're in a lengthy process of profound change. While it's not sunshine and roses all the time, it is in your best interest. As you change, so do the people around you. You may even start to question what you see in some people and wonder if you still want what you once did. This may be scary to be sure, but to avoid not asking yourself this question is even scarier.



Have a big (or small) event coming up? Let us know!

Email: events@mountaintimes.info

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24- COLUMNS

Another demon to slay

Life very rarely takes on a linear direction. In fact, I'd argue that time when it does, it's unnatural. It defies the natural rhythm of things.

For too long, we've been told that the journey of humanity is a journey from the cave to the stars. Maybe this is true. I don't claim to know either way, but one thing I can be certain of is that the journey isn't linear. Life often is about taking a step forward and then another two steps back. The astrology of the moment underlines this thanks to Pluto returning to the sign

Rain: A Haiku

of Capricorn, where the distant planet will

Catalogue By Cassandra Tyndall

remain until January 2024. On a personal level, this is likely to carry

a "not this old chestnut" feeling. Just when you feel a glimmer of hope or of progress, all of a sudden, you realize there is another demon to slay, another battle to fight or another unnamed feeling to wrestle with.

That said, this isn't your first rodeo either. You've traveled this world before. You've seen all the sights and you're familiar with

Give yourself a little credit for that because you're stronger

Rain how beautiful, Stunning falling from the sky, Raining down on us. What is a Haiku? A haiku is a type of poem in which there are three rows. The first row has five syllables, the second row has seven Poetry Is and the third and last row has five syllables just like the Power first. **Bv** Bree Fun facts: The haiku originated in Japan. A haiku is Sarandrea normally a poem about nature.

Friends and acquaintances

In a column written back in May by fellow Mountain Times columnist, Dom Cioffi, he told about the various friends throughout his life. That got me thinking about the friends I have made over the years. Some remain in my life but most do not.

The word "friend" is used rather loosely by many of us. I think my late relative, Loyola, was correct about the terminology. She frequently reminded me that most of us have many more "acquaintances" than we have "friends."

I decided to see what the dictionary had to say on that subject. It said an "acquaintance" is someone you may see frequently but are not close to. There is little familiarity with that person.

I think Loyola was onto something! When you are a kid, the word "friend" is totally appropriate when you are referring



Back By Mary Ellen Shaw

to those who are your daily playmates. You often know them as well as

you know yourself. Growing up in a neighborhood with about a dozen kids my own age meant having a lot of friends! Back in the 50s when you weren't in school you went outdoors to play with your friends and didn't come in until you were called to a meal. You spent hours together and got

to know each other well. During the elementary school years you begin to distinguish

between friends and acquain-

tances. You know everyone in your class but you know little about them and their home lives. When seeking friends at school you look for those who have interests similar to your own. You spend time after school with them. You are in each other's homes and get to know their parents and siblings. Being an only child I was fascinated by all that went Looking Back \rightarrow 28 Summer Lights: It's Firefly Season!

The Outside

Story

By Laurie D.

Morrissey

Here come real stars to fill the upper skies, And here on earth come emulating flies, That though they never equal stars in size, (And they were never really stars at heart Achieve at times a very star-like start...

-Robert Frost, "Fireflies in the Garden" It happens on a warm June evening: in the darkening field near my house, I notice a brief flicker of light. Then another. And another. It's the opening act of firefly season - a nightly light show, courtesy of a family of 1/2-inch-long insects. As fleeting as it is spectacular, firefly season lasts only a few weeks, during which the newly emerged adults mate and lay eggs.

The sight of fireflies (also known as lightning bugs) invokes memories of childhood summers, when I chased the flashes with my brother, occasionally catching a few in a jar for closer inspection. These luminescent insects are easy to like. They brighten our summer evenings - and they don't bite, sting, crawl up our legs, or nibble our lettuce.

Despite their common name, fireflies are not flies. They're winged beetles in the Lampyrida family. There are roughly 2,000 firefly species worldwide, and about 170 in North America, including some 20 species that live in northern New England. Another surprise is that not all fireflies flash through the night; some species are active in the daytime and only glow in their larval stage, out of our sight.

Sara Lewis, a Tufts University evolutionary ecologist and self-professed firefly junkie, says fireflies are

a beautiful example of the creative improvisation of evolution. "Beneath their gentle façade, fireflies' lives are surprisingly dramatic," Lewis writes. "They're full of spurned advances, expensive nuptial gifts, chemical weapons, elaborate subterfuge, and death by exsanguination!" (That's a fancy word for blood loss; some females prey on males of a different genus, ingesting their blood to steal some of their defensive steroids.)

Lewis has published hundreds of research papers about fireflies and is the author of 'Silent Sparks: The Wondrous World of Fireflies." Her TED talk, "The Loves and Lives of Fireflies," has more than a million views.

Fireflies spend their larval stage, which can last from one to three years, underground feasting on earthworms, snails, and soft-bodied insects. They then pupate - also underground - for about two weeks, and emerge in early summer as adult beetles. An adult firefly lives only a few weeks, during which it carries out what Lewis calls a "courtship conversation" of precisely controlled flashes.

A firefly has two pairs of wings: one for flying, and another shell-like set to protect its flight wings and soft body. Its head is covered by a flattened shield. It keeps its chemistry set - the source of the seemingly magical production of light - on the underside of its abdomen.

When a firefly flashes, it transforms chemical energy into light. This bioluminescence likely evolved to signal toxicity to potential predators. Over millions of years, these lights have developed into a communication tool powered by a chemical reaction between luciferase (an enzyme) and luciferins (molecules that produce light). Each firefly species has its own flash pattern.

When a female waiting in the grass sees an appealing flash from a male, she aims her lantern in that direction and responds with her own flashes. During mating, the pair spends all night together, Lewis explains, and the male delivers sperm as well as a nutrient-filled package - called a "nuptial gift" — that is essential to provisioning the eggs. Lewis and her colleagues think that longer flashes are associated with larger nuptial gifts, and thus superior nutrition for eggs. Females select their mates accordingly. Two to three weeks after mating, the female lays her fertilized eggs in moist soil. In late summer, larvae emerge and will overwinter in the soil.

It's hard to say exactly how many firefly species live in the Northeast. The University of New Hampshire's insect col-

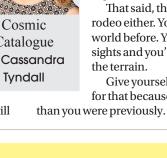
lection contains 18, and Vermont has 13 confirmed species. Determining ranges for specific species can be difficult, partly because these change in response to human pressures such alterations of the landscape. Relatively few scientists study fireflies, and there is only a short period when field work can occur.

> Sadly, firefly watching is becoming increasingly rare. Populations are declining due to habitat loss, light pollution,

and the use of chemical pesticides. To increase the chances of spotting these flashing insects, biologists recommend turning off outdoor lights, leaving unmown areas, and avoiding pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

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







I wish I may, I wish I might often lead to unintended consequences,

When I was a child, I was always contemplating what I might do if I had one (or several) wishes bestowed upon me. My desires for these wishes

changed over time, but they all had a thread of consistency about achieving some level of renown in the disciplines I was interested in.

For the longest time, I wished I could be onstage as a musical performer, playing in front of thousands of people. I also went through a phase where I wanted to be a famous athlete, possibly playing basketball on a national stage. And there was the period where I dreamed about writ-

ing the great American novel. Unfortunately,

none of these wishes panned out. But ironi-

cally, I do perform songs in front of two or three people on occasion, I did coach middle school basketball to moderate success, and I have been writing this weekly column for nearly 30 years.

Maybe wishes do come true? We just have to change our perspectives about them.

Of course, I'm not the only one who has daydreamed about having a wish come true. I'm sure everyone reading this column has concocted a fantasy or two at some point in their lives.

The concept of wishes (and in particular, three wishes) is a recurring theme in literature, folklore, and mythology, often associated with magical beings and supernatural powers. The idea of being granted three wishes has been deeply rooted in the human imagination for centuries. While the specifics and origins of the concept may vary across different cultures, the underlying theme of wishes and their consequences remains a consistent archetype.

One of the earliest known examples of the three wishes motif can be traced back to ancient Mesopotamian mythology. The epic of Gilgamesh (written around 2,000 B.C.) includes a tale where the protagonist, Gilgamesh, encounters the goddess Siduri, who offers him three wishes as a reward for his journey. This early instance establishes the pattern of a limited number of wishes as a reward or gift.

In Arabian folklore, the concept of three wishes gained prominence through the collection of tales known as "One Thousand and One Nights." These stories, compiled over many centuries, feature a variety of characters, including the legendary figure of Aladdin. In the story of Aladdin, the young protagonist discovers a magic lamp inhabited by a powerful genie who grants him three wishes. However, Aladdin's wishes



The Movie Diary By Dom Cioffi

Maybe wishes do come true? We just have to change our perspectives about them.

"The Fisherman and His Wife" recounts the tale of a fisherman who catches a magical fish that grants wishes. Similarly, the French fairy tale "Puss in Boots" features a clever cat who helps his master obtain wealth and power through three wishes. In both of these stories, the characters' desires for more wishes ultimately result in their downfall, teaching a moral

sponsibility in making wishes.

The motif of three wishes

Brothers Grimm's famous story

also appears in European

folklore and fairy tales. The

lesson about greed and the dangers of unchecked ambition. The concept of

three wishes has also made its way into modern literature and popular culture. One notable example is the story of "The Monkey's Paw" by W.W. Jacobs, published in 1902. In this chilling tale, a family acquires a cursed monkey's paw that grants three wishes, but comes with dire consequences for each wish made.

Overall, the concept of three wishes in literature reflects humanity's fascination with the supernatural, the allure of wishes and desires, and the moral lessons associated with the consequences of unlimited power. Whether cautionary or whimsical, the themes have endured across cultures and generations, captivating audiences with its timeless appeal.

In this week's feature, "Three Thousand Years of Longing," we are once again introduced to a unique story involving the

invocation of wishes and the unintended consequences they may promote. Starring Tilda Swinton as a bookish scholar and Idris Elba as a fabled genie, "Three Thousand Years of Longing" contemplates one woman's immersion into fantasy in order to deal with reality.

This one snuck under the radar late last year without much acclaim, but it's actually an involved film with some intriguing story dynamics. Of course, its strength is also its weakness in that the film does teeter on confusion occasionally.

Check this one out if you love classical tales wrapped in a modern landscape. It's also a beautifully crafted film from a visual standpoint, which certainly helped the viewer stay involved.

A mystical "B-" for "Three Thousand Years of Longing," now available for streaming on Amazon Prime.

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



Betty Loop Trail on the Base Camp Trails System in Killington is in prime condition.

Back in the saddle again

"When you are afraid, do the thing you are afraid of and soon you will lose your fear

of it," Norman Vincent Peale (author of The Power of Positive Thinking) famously said. Around in circle my feet

go, through the phases of the pedal stroke. I pull the pedal backward and upward, my sticky shoes gripping

the dangerous little pegs that stick out of my new purple pedals. This part of the stroke reminds me of the moonwalk, the flat bottom smearing across the floor as the heel slowly lifts up until the pedal finally joins my whole foot at the top.

Livin' the Dream

By Merisa

Sherman

For a moment, I can feel my skis underneath me as I skin up the mountain. The pull backwards as the skin engages in the snow and I pull my body upward. I am missing one of my hamstring muscles (or at least part of it) from an ACL repair and I imagine I can feel the gap as I pull my right foot backward.

The next part of the stroke is easy. Stand on your pedals and push down. And I mean push, all the way through your gluten and into your quads. It's the downhill part of the



My legs are fine, but the rest of my body is so stiff it is amazing that I can maneuver my bike through any of the rocks at all. I can hear Obi Wan's voice intermingled with Lambonics, as I chant over and over to myself, "Let Go, Luke. Just let the bike roll." I can hear myself chanting out loud for loose arms, just like I would have while rowing or paddling, but I cannot trust myself or bike enough to make that happen. Even when I thought I was loose, the video proof showed a traumatized girl holding on to her purple grips for dear life.

Well... at least my arms are getting iacked!

I have moments, moments when I feel like the bike and I are doing something together. Moments where I forget that I am biking and just let my legs flow underneath me like they were on Superstar less than two weeks ago. Seriously? Less than two weeks ago we were riding the lift and I felt like I was flying. And now, every time I start to feel myself fly, I squeeze the brakes so hard that I can feel my upper body move just too far over the handlebars for comfort.

I cannot seem to let myself move from the middle of the tire and onto my edges. Living the dream $\rightarrow 27$





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Living the Dream:

from page 25

"Tip it to rip it." I can hear the phrase in my head but I can't seem to get there. "Tilt the bike and not your body," I repeat to myself as I come into the berm, and every fabric of my being seizes up and I fight the lean. Leaning means falling and that is something my body never wantsto do again.

Except this time, this trail, has the most beautiful berms I have ever felt in my life. The trail literally grabbed my bike from me and tilted it, pulling it over and across the trail without any effort on my part. I am not really sure what happened, but it felt right, it felt good. I was on my edges and for a moment, I was skiing down the bike trail with my eyes wide open

in surprise. It's was glorious, my bike demanding trust as it swung me around the turn without any direction from me. I couldn't fight the tilt, the trail just put me there.

And so I kept going, trusting my bike more and more with each turn and even letting the bike go just a bit on the traverses. I could feel my

I could feel my old self coming back, the one that would choose the A line and that moment of levitation as you soared over a rock before coming back to earth. The one where the bike feels more like an extension of yourself rather than a metal horse with which you keep fighting.

old self coming back, the one that would choose the A line and that moment of levitation as you soared over a rock before coming back to earth. The one where the bike feels more like an extension of yourself rather than a metal horse with which you keep fighting.

It is happening. Not in big steps, but in moments, tiny little moments, where I feel glimpses of the biker that I was before snapping my arm in half. And so I keep doing the thing that I am afraid and little by little, I will find comfort in the rhythm of the motions, in the flow of the bike as it weaves through the rocks and breeze on my face as I fly through the forests. With every ride, my body is remembering the fun and playfulness that is biking. And I am. too.

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





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Looking Back: from page 24

on in my friend Barbara's house. She has four siblings and everyone had their own responsibilities. I got to know the whole family and am still friends with all of them today.

Making high school friends happens gradually after meeting multiple

During the

elementary school

years you begin

to distinguish

between friends and

acquaintances.

students all at once who are entirely new to you. They come from different schools and it takes awhile to sort out those whose interests are similar to your own. Eventually you become part of their lives outside the classroom

and make some great memories with them. These friends are harder to keep in your life as you lose daily contact with them after graduation. Some of them move away and the connection to them is broken. Our high school class is particularly close and fortunately many friendships remain.

College friends can be the most difficult to keep in our lives. Students from different states merge into dorms and classes. You live with them, eat with them and socialize with them. Friendships happen rather quickly since you are with them 24/7. But they seem to end just as quickly as we all move on to wherever our careers take us. For me the four students I was friends with back in the 60s remained in my life until the death of two of them several years ago. As we age, travel is less appealing so the contact with my remaining friends tends to be mostly by email.

> Let's not forget "work friends!" Since we spend about 40 hours a week with co-workers we usually get to know a lot about them. It may take awhile for the "acquaintance status" to become the "friend status" but it happens. I still see friends from the various places I have worked. We get together for lunch or coffee and catch up on where life is taking us.

The category of "special friend" is reserved for those who come into our lives in a non-traditional way. My friend, Betty, who now lives in Utah fits into that category. She was a former student and we had had no contact for over 40 years. We reconnected through a mutual friend and over the past 12 years we have gotten to know one another well enough to transition from "acquaintance" to "friend." We look forward to getting together when she is in Vermont each summer.

I feel fortunate to have friends in all of the above categories and look forward to seeing each one of them whenever an opportunity presents itself.



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How to deal with frost damage in vegetables and landscape plants

Most Vermont gardeners realize warm-season vegetable crops like peppers, corn, tomatoes, basil and cucumbers aren't safe in the garden until May 31. Luckily, this saved a lot of vegetables from the frost and freeze damage we had on May 18 around the state.

If you did have some warm-season crops planted, they are likely to have been killed and will need to be replanted. But even some of the more cold-tolerant crops in the garden may at this point weeks later, now be showing signs of damage due to the cold snap.

There have been a fair amount of reports of dieback of tips in onions and cold damage on brassica crops. Since the roots are well insulated by the soil, these plants will not die even though the damaged leaves may drop and even die.

Just watch the new growth of the plant. As long as it is emerging green and healthy, the plant should recover just fine and provide you with a good harvest later in the season.

There has been a lot of media coverage of the devastating losses to our apple and grape crops around the state. Data is currently being compiled now to assess the impact and breadth of the damage.

Although less economically important, Vermont's ornamental trees also were impacted by the low tem-

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Frost or even cold snaps can damage plants, but not all die.

peratures. Typically, the new succulent growth of trees and shrubs are more vulnerable to the lower temperatures, so you may see blackening of leaves and dieback in branch tips as well as wilting in the new growth of conifers.

Effects are very hit and miss throughout the state and sites. There has been reported

damage on birches and chestnuts, yet the crabapples, maples and oaks are fine in the same area. It just depends on the species of tree involved, the stage of growth and the microclimate.

Submitted

The good news is most, if damaged early enough in the season, will produce new buds and grow just fine.



<image>

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Builders and architects plead for oversight on energy codes

Legislative committee listened, delay implementation until July 2024

By Alden Wicker and Emma Cotton/VTDigger

In May, a group of builders and architects took a somewhat unusual step: They asked Vermont lawmakers and state government officials to increase regulation and oversight of their own industry.

Requirements created by a new proposed building energy code, they argued, could become dangerous for homeowners and tenants unless contractors and builders have more training and oversight while they attempt to meet the standards.

On Thursday, June 8, the state's Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, or LCAR, appeared to heed the builders' concerns. Members voted to move forward with a new residential building energy standard, but they delayed its effective date by a year — to July 2024.

Meanwhile, lawmakers who serve on the committee said they plan to introduce a bill next session that would design a new state program to enforce the building energy code and educate builders who have not had the training they need to comply with it.

As it stands, the building energy code in Vermont which regulates residential construction to ensure that buildings use energy efficiently and to help meet climate change goals — is seldom enforced.

"Every other state has a full agency dedicated to amending the code, adopting a code, certifying contractors, training contractors, inspecting contractors and certifying," Jason Webster, president and co-owner of Huntington Homes, told lawmakers in May. "Since 1997, the Vermont Legislature has not given Vermonters or Vermont builders that agency. It's just given us the wish that we want energy efficiency."

The lack of oversight and certification requirements for builders has led to buildings that structurally fail, builders told lawmakers last month. For example, improper use of spray foam insulation has caused building structures to rot, causing devastation for homeowners.

Vermont's building energy code is updated every three years to comply with the International Energy Conservation Code. While builders say the lack of oversight has already led to home failures, the new proposed changes mark "the first amendment where the technical requirements of the code are going beyond basic building practices," Webster said.

The proposed changes would require more robust insulation in basements, tighter air sealing, efficient and balanced ventilation systems. They would also include new standards for homes to have the capacity to charge electric vehicles.

"I think it's really, really dangerous to be requiring an installation strategy that we haven't been trained on, and there's nobody there looking at us to make sure we're doing it the right way," Webster said.

In Vermont, the Dept. of Public Service designs changes to the building energy code, which are then approved by LCAR — a panel of state representatives and senators charged with evaluating rules put forward by the executive branch. Then, according to Sen. Chris Bray, D-Addison, who serves on LCAR, the Department of Public Safety checks certain components that could pose safety concerns, like a home's HVAC system and its plumbing and wiring but doesn't enforce compliance with the energy code.

"We have this odd situation where the people who publish the code don't enforce the code, and so we need a home for the reinforcement and education pieces," Bray said.

During Thursday's meeting, Bray said the committee didn't have a good reason to delay voting on the building energy code. The Dept. of Public Service had drafted a reasonable rule, he said, and the enforcement issue stood outside of the rulemaking process.

With that in mind, he proposed that the committee confirm the rule but delay its implementation until July 2024 to give the Legislature time to create a state entity that would improve compliance with the code. The committee voted in favor of his motion, 6-1-1.

In an interview, Bray said he can't say for sure what a new



The six witnesses asked a legislative rules committee to delay updates meant to help Vermont reach its climate goals, contending that they could be disastrous without additional training and enforcement.

state entity would look like, but that it could include two to three staff members who would coordinate a new system.

He pointed to a piece of the omnibus housing bill, S.100, which Gov. Phil Scott recently signed, that creates a working group to study the issue of building energy code compliance. Its report is due in December, in time to inform lawmakers' decisions next session.

"It's like a three-legged stool," he said. "You need the builders, you need the administration and you need the Legislature all working together to get this done. Today in that meeting, I heard a clear articulation from all sides that we need to get all three legs of the stool shored up and working."

Bray said that in the past the Scott administration hadn't readily agreed to regulating the building industry but that the pleas from builders themselves may help change the governor's mind.

Jim Bradley, a project developer with Hayward Design Build who also performs building audits, said he's pleased that lawmakers appear ready to move toward a system with increased oversight.

Bradley works as an energy auditor for Efficiency Vermont and often investigates building failures. He estimated that he's been called to evaluate around 20 homes in the last year that have failed due to improper building practices. "And I'm one person," he said.

He imagines a system in which some builders or contractors receive extra training and certification through a program called HERS, the Home Energy Rating Score, and then help to inspect and certify projects.

Regardless of what happens next year, Bradley counted the outcome of Thursday's meeting as a win.

"I think it's a big win for consumers in Vermont," he said. "I think it's a big win for our building industry. It's a big win for our planet."

Sandy Vitzthum, a Montpelier architect and representative of the American Institute of Architects, has been active throughout the process and said she, too, counts the committee's decision as a significant step forward, but she's cautious in her optimism.

"It depends heavily, also, on the Scott administration supporting it, too," she said. "There's a lot of 'ifs' in this, but we're hopeful, because it's a really significant problem. "(Massachusetts) has a full agency that is tasked with adopting and amending codes," said Webster, whose business builds homes across New England. "Massachusetts has near 100% compliance on their target energy scores. They actually inspect, they actually certify, they actually train their builders to do it.

As part of a law passed in 2020, Vermont is operating under a deadline to reduce climate emissions by ambitious targets in 2025, 2030 and 2050 or risk litigation. Only the transportation sector produces more emissions than those created by Vermonters heating homes and other buildings.

But without a government authority to oversee implementation, witnesses testified, many builders will ignore the stricter energy code and Vermont will fail to meet its climate goals.

Meanwhile, well-meaning contractors with no training or education in building science who try to follow the stricter energy code will likely create dangerous conditions for Vermont homeowners, including rot, mold and other air quality and structural problems, builders testified in May.

Several builders and architects shared horror stories of clients becoming disabled by mold sickness or discovering damage requiring almost \$100,000 in remediation and repair traced back to mistakes in weatherization and construction. Currently, a Vermont homeowner's only recourse upon finding failures and mold is expensive and years-long litigation.

"(The energy code) offers no consumer protection right now," said Jim Bradley, founder of the building science consultancy Authenticated Building Performance Diagnostics in Cambridge. "When that is left in the lap of the client, where they have to go fix things, remediate things. It's a waste of our resources, which are in finite supply, and a waste of our builders, which are in finite supply."

"I am the last person to recommend we need more enforcement by the government," Collin Frisbie, vice president of Sterling Homes, testified. "It's a health and safety issue. Will builders be fine? Yes, we will still make money. Will Vermonters be better off? No."

"We have been begging the state for 20 years to fix this problem," Vitzhum said. "We need to put our foot down, because it gets more serious with every update in the code. This is an untenable situation."

Housing and child care: . from page 8

Making progress on these tensions is a necessity for Vermont communities. We can't expect different engagement without demonstrating the ability to improve. Fortunately, Vermonters agree on a few things.

Over the last five years, Let's Grow Kids (part of the Vermont Community Foundation) has led a campaign with more than 35,0000 Vermont supporters committed to the achievement of a universal system for child care in Vermont.

Separately, 32% of respondents to the Green Mountain State Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center in March 2023, identify the high cost of housing

as the most important problem facing the state. No other issue got more than 9%.

The Vermont Council on Rural Development outlined core insights from 20 years of community engagement and thousands of conversations into 10 elements of the Vermont Proposition. Specifically included among those elements are child care and housing.

And yet, even where consensus exists, it often feels like we are looking backward, solving the problems of a decade ago and not making headway.

Why? This is an important question, and not just because we need child care and homes. The casualty of a lack of progress is not just tied to the impacts of a specific problem; it also feeds the broader narrative of disengagement and cynicism. Increasingly, I hear people of all stripes and all walks of life saying, "Don't bother."

This year, for the first time, the Vermont Community Foundation has carved out a portion of its community impact budget to focus specifically on democracy and civic innovation. Our work to close the opportunity gap and to build strong communities fundamentally relies on increasing the level of faith in what the future holds. The longer our institutions leave problems like housing and child care unaddressed, the harder that faith is to come by.

> Our sense is that Vermont's progress is halting at best or, as in the case of Let's Grow Kids and the campaign for child care, requires herculean effort.

We do not yet know where our work in this sphere will lead — and, of course, it isn't up to one organization to define the path forward. Our intention is to create space for Vermonters to wrestle honestly with questions about civic structure, service, engage-

ment, and the ways Vermont might advance on common ground instead of falling back on worn-out conflicts.

Greater faith in the future flows from renewed capacity to solve the problems reflected in shared experience.

What will that take? No state gets where it needs to gosolely by doing what it has alwaysdone. In many ways, we seem toshoehorn 21st-century goals into19th- and 20th-century approachesand wonder why progress is hard tocome by.

We can respect our past without staying trapped by it — indeed, a lot may depend on our ability to do so. Civic decline doesn't solely flow

from hyper-polarization. It also emerges in stable states where progress stalls so thoroughly that it leaves the future murkier than the past. It emerges when people stop working together.

In the weeks ahead, there is an opportunity for state

leaders to build faith as we stare down the gauntlet of a veto session. Such deep disagreement represents a retreat on both sides to trenches that look all too much like what we see elsewhere.

It is also a set of disagreements out of alignment with the consensus that exists in the state at large: We need a system for child care and we need to build more houses for people to live in.

In a column outlining the value of a compromise on the debt ceiling, the political strategist Mark Penn wrote recently in the Wall Street Journal that a compromise "would be a win for the country, giving people hope that their political system can fix problems." Absent a deal, the opposite is true.

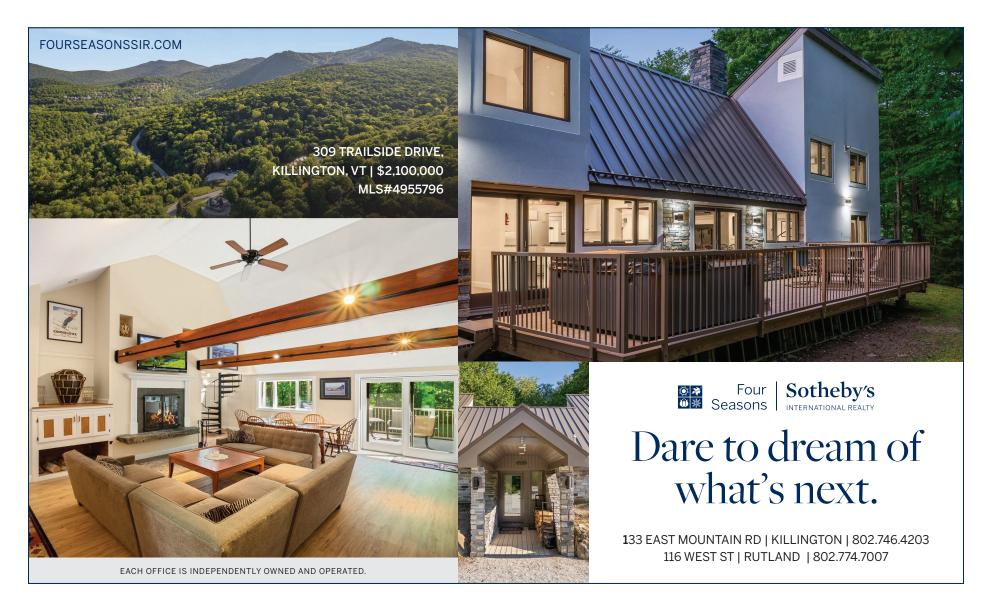
Vermont faces the same thing. Progress begets faith in the future. Vermonters are clear in their support for advancing a systemic solution to child care.

The commitment is costly, but the benefits are real. Yet, those benefits will be tempered if we don't also make a similar commitment to revising and updating Act 250 as sought and proposed by the governor and

We can respect our past without staying trapped by it — indeed, a lot may depend on our ability to do so. endorsed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and others, making the jurisdictional changes to it and other policies that open the door to building more homes for the families who need child care to stay in the workforce, a place to live and own and sink roots in our communities. Finding the common ground in a

deal like this is the kind of leadership Vermont needs if we want to start rekindling our faith in the future and the sense of community that comes from progress shared by all.

For more information on how to get involved and support progress visit: VermontCF.org.



Greater faith in the future flows from renewed capacity to solve the problems reflected in shared experience.



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