

INDEPENDENCE DAY, **JULY 4**

Parades, fireworks and activities abound for the July 4 holiday.



By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

WONDERFEET **EXPANDED**

Now in its new location at the former Green Mountain Power **Energy Innovation** Center on Merchants' Row in Rutland, Wonderfeet Kids Museum, encompasses 8,000 square feet with interactive exhibits.



SLEEP WOODSTOCK HAS NEW OWNERS

The motel on Route 4 in West Woodstock has been purchased by experienced vacation rental owners, Cliff Johnson and Billy O'Sullivan.

KSAR moves from fire dept to police dept

By Katy Savage

In an attempt to move on from turmoil, Killington's search and rescue team (KSAR) will fall under the purview of the police department going forward, moving away from the fire department.

Killington Police Chief Whit Montgomery will become the new head of search and rescue. He plans to name a volunteer KSAR director in the coming weeks.

The Select Board voted unanimously Monday, June 26, to make the change after about 25 people, including 13 former KSAR members and a dozen firefighters, left the department over disagreements with Fire Chief Chris LaHart, who resigned effective June 20 after five-plus

The former KSAR volunteers now serve the town under Brattleboro-based Rescue, Inc. while Killington is forming its own search and rescue team.

Montgomery pledged to move on from the hostility.

"It's not about us, it's not about ego," Montgomery said at the meeting. "It's doing what's best for our community as well as citizens that live here.

"When a person is lost or injured in the back country they don't really care who's com-

ing, they just want to know that someone will be there, that someone can rescue them. The outside world doesn't care about what's going on within the department internally."

Montgomery doesn't yet know when the new KSAR team will be able to respond to calls. He said he has seven volunteers who are certified in first aid and wilderness EMT. He spoke with Vermont State Police Lt. Anthony French and other agencies.

"They realize we're all up and coming again," Montgomery said.

Despite efforts to move on, contention remains between town officials and the former KSAR group. The old KSAR team has repeatedly asked for rescue equipment, including helmets, snowshoes, ropes, litters and stretchers, from the town.

Dave Coppock, a former KSAR member who joined Rescue, Inc, recently sent an email to town officials, offering a deal —their gear for July 4 celebration equipment.

"If you want to use Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.'s gear for the Fourth of July, you'll have to give us back some of our gear," Coppock wrote in the email, according to Town Manager

Coppock, who was at the meeting, further reiterated his request.

"All we're asking is that we get the gear that we had formerly so we can continue doing our job as well as possible," Coppock said. "We feel we deserve to get as much as we need to do our

Select Board members said at the meeting they won't take the deal becuase they have a tent for July 4. And, most of the equipment won't be returned to the old KSAR group.

'We're not being held hostage over something, we're moving on," Select Board member Jim

Former KSAR members also asked the town to not form a rescue team given Rescue, Inc. is already serving the area.

"We are respected statewide," Coppock said. "It seems redundant to have more than one



By Jeb Wallace-Brodeur, courtesy Killington Resort Motocross rider Doug Henry visited Killington June 17 for the Vermont Adaptive Charity Challenge. Henry is an adaptive rider and well known in the racing world.

Motocross legend Doug Henry visited Killington for the Vermont Adaptive **Charity Challenge**

By Brooke Geery

Vermont Adaptive's mission, which is to make sports such as biking and skiing possible for athletes who've suffered lifechanging injuries or were born with disabilities, takes a strong community and a lot of money to sustain. Each year, the organization holds the VT Adaptive Charity Challenge with a goal to raise \$300,000, an event which culminates with a festival in the Skyeship Base Area at Killington Resort. Athletes - both adaptive and not - participate in different activities throughout the day, all to raise money to support the program.

This year, Motocross legend and adaptive star Doug Henry

Killington Board sets flat municipal tax rate for FY24

"It's not about us, it's not

about ego," Montgomery

said at the meeting. "It's

doing what's best for our

community as well as

citizens that live here."

By Curt Peterson

The Killington Select Board approved the FY2024 municipal tax rate Monday night, at \$.5444, a very slight increase over the current year FY2023 rate of \$.5436, according to Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth.

To calculate your property's municipal tax, multiply \$0.5444 times every \$100 of property value on the grand list. For example if your house values at \$400,000 divide by 100 then multiply by \$0.5444 and you'll pay \$2,177.60 in municipal taxes for FY24 - up \$3.20 over last year.

The municipal tax rate is set by the portion of the approved FY2024 budget to be raised by property taxes (\$4,367,100) divided by the taxable Killington grand list, which equals 1% of the total of all property value in the town (\$8,022,474).

Last year the grand list was valued at \$7,980,431.49. The \$42,000 increase in grand list value represents \$4.2 million in real value created since last year (new building, renovations, etc.).

If the budget goes up year-over-

year but the grand list remains steady, the tax rate will rise proportionately. If the grand list increase and the budget stays the same, then municipal taxes decrease. Creation of the municipal budget is one of the more transparent operations of a town's governing body, yet relatively few property owners attend the public work sessions and meetings where the budget is discussed.

This is true in just about every town. The Vermont state education tax

comprises the majority of a property owner's total tax bill, and the town's CLA plays an important role in that calculation. As a rule, local education rates are not announced to the local authorities until the end of June and tax bill are sent out by July 15. The Mountain Times will report the education tax rate as soon as it is

At this point, Killington property owners only know the municipal tax rate - less than 20% of their total tax obligation.

Vt to receive \$229 million from the feds for broadband buildout

Delegates weigh in on impact to the state

On Monday, June 26, President Joe Biden announced that Vermont will receive \$229 million to expand access to broadband in the state. The funds are part of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, which will provide \$42.45 billion nationwide for planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs across the country.

"Ensuring access to broadband is incredibly important to our work to revitalize communities in every corner of Vermont. This significant funding boost builds on the historic investments and

progress we've made over the last three years, which is very good news," said Governor Phil Scott. "I appreciate the continued support from President Biden and Congress for broadband as a vital infrastructure investment."

'This country once made a historic effort to bring electricity to rural America," said Sen. Bernie Sanders. "Today we must make every effort to do the same for broadband. In the year 2023, highspeed internet must be treated as the new electricity - a fundamental and essential public utility for every member of the community

no matter their income or geography. I look forward to seeing this historic investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which we passed in the Senate in August 2021, bring quality broadband to hard-to-reach pockets of Vermont that have gone without internet for too long."

"We have a real opportunity to transform rural America, in large part thanks to the Biden Administration's commitment to rural broadband. This essential service - which is key to running a successful small business, connecting with family, and getting medical

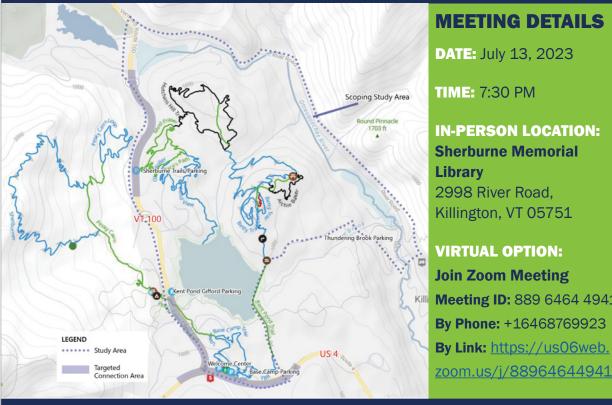
care in small towns - is also key to revitalizing our rural communities. We cannot be left behind in the digital transformation, and this funding will ensure that isn't the case," said Sen. Peter Welch. "It was an honor to champion this critical program in the bipartisan infrastructure law last Congress, and it's a great joy to see these resources - nearly \$230 million now come home to Vermont. I will continue to fight for the expeditious build out of broadband here in Vermont and across America to get folks in rural communities connected."

"We can't connect our communities to the jobs, education, health care, and other resources they need without equitable access to broadband," said Congresswoman Becca Balint. "I'm grateful to the Biden Administration's historic investment to ensure every corner of Vermont is connected to affordable, reliable broadband."

"The VCBB is extremely grateful for Vermont's allocation. We'd like to thank President Biden and Vermont's Congressional Delegation for these federal dollars. This

Broadband \rightarrow 7

KILLINGTON CONNECTING TRAILS SCOPING STUDY



IN-PERSON LOCATION:

Meeting ID: 889 6464 4941

LOCAL CONCERNS MEETING

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

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



KSAR:

from page 1

search and rescue team serving the town and region. It's just $going \, to \, be \, confusing \, and \, unnecessary \, and \, expensive. \, You \,$ already have a resource here now - us."

Murray McGrath, one of the original KSAR members, who joined Rescue, Inc. said in a phone call that some feel they were mistreated by town officials and likely won't return to KSAR.

"We're going to stay (with Rescue, Inc.) because they welcomed us," McGrath said.

Killington Search and Rescue was originally created in 2012 to find skiers lost in the backcountry.

Montgomery said KSAR falling under the police department "makes for a better flow.

"It streamlines the response time," Montgomery said. "The majority of times, we take the initial phone call."

Montgomery said forming a new KSAR team will allow the town to be independent of an outside entity.

"I think the town $itself\,can't\,be\,100\%$ dependent and rely on outside help," Montgomery said in a phone call. "It has to be self dependent

"This town has a fire department and EMS, and we have people ready to make the calls," Haff said. "Calls are being taken care of."

and rely on its own resources. Two is better than one."

Montgomery said he was willing to work with other agencies, including Rescue, Inc., if needed.

"Just because KSAR's back up and running, doesn't mean we're not going to reach out to our partners to provide the same type of service when needed," he said. "We've got the local resources. If we need backup, we'll call Rescue, Inc. We've got very skilled members of that program and very good members in our program. It's a benefit to everyone."

KSAR responds to about 15 calls a year — most of which involve searching for lost skiers and hikers in the winter.

Montgomery said the group will focus on backcountry search and rescues going forward. High angle rescues, a service formerly offered by KSAR to assist rock climbers, won't be performed in the near future, Montgomery said.

Meanwhile, the fire department currently has 21 active members and seven probationary members, according to the Select Board.

Paul Ginther, who is currently the director of emergency services in Barre, was named the town's new fire chief, a role he's starting July 10. Mark Fiore and Paul Stiles, the highest ranking volunteers, are leading the fire department until then.

"This town has a fire department and EMS, and we have people ready to make the calls," Haff said. "Calls are being taken care of."

Sleep Woodstock has new owners

By Katy Savage

Sleep Woodstock has a new owner after 10 years. Owner Patrick Fultz sold the motel to business partners Cliff Johnson and Billy O'Sullivan on June 15.

"We sold it in a day, which is crazy," Fultz said.

Fultz and his wife, Leslie Browne, are moving to a condo in Mendon while they figure out where they want to retire.

The 12-room motel on Route 4 in West Woodstock is one the most affordable housing options in Woodstock.

Fultz and Browne bought it on a whim. They came from the area from Manhattan 10 years ago searching for a weekend house. They started searching at 8 a.m., looked at 11 houses in one day and made three offers — all of which fell through.

"We kept driving past the motel," Fultz said.

Sleep Woodstock had been closed for a year at that point, but both Fultz and Browne liked the idea of earning revenue in their retirement.

Fultz was a marketing executive while Browne worked for a law firm. Browne continued to commute to Manhattan for the first five years of ownership, where she was an office manager, head of human resources and paralegal.

They renovated just about every part of Sleep Woodstock, including all the bathrooms, the owner's quarters and the office.

"Every year we took on different projects," Fultz said. They outfitted the 1960s motel with retro refrigerators.

"It's nothing like what it was when we bought it," Fultz said. "Our place is fun. We got the building to where it was and where it could be. We wanted to get our Friday and Saturday nights back."

Fultz still owns a restaurant beside the building, which is leased by Mountain Creamery for the next four years. Fultz also stepped down from his role as a member of the Woodstock Economic Development Commission (EDC) since he's no longer a Woodstock resident, though he will still serve on the EDC's marketing committee.

The new owners, Johnson and O'Sullivan, own about 100 inns and vacation properties in a dozen states, including Maine, Hawaii, Oregon and Utah, Colorado, Arizona.

"We have a formula on how we like to do things," O'Sullivan said.

Johnson, a Woodstock resident, and O'Sullivan met about five years ago as friendly competitors. O'Sullivan was an executive at Property Management, Inc. while Johnson was the co-founder of Vacasa until he became the vice president of sales at Realtor.com.

They started buying short-term vacation rentals together before transitioning to inns during the pandemic.

"We both didn't like the direction that the AirBnb was going — blowing up blocks and changing towns in ways that were not great for the community," O'Sullivan said.

They move around to the different properties and live there to get them up and running.

"The first thing we do when we move in is we remove the front desk," O'Sullivan said, explaining the front desk area at Sleep Woodstock has been converted to a common



By Elliott Johnson

Billy O'Sullivan, left, and Cliff Johnson are the new owners of Sleep Woodstock.

space with soda and peanuts. Eventually they plan to add a coffee bar, provided by Woodstock-based Abracadabra Coffee, as well as beer for guests at night.

They'll keep the name, Sleep Woodstock and add amenities, like a sauna, and a fire pit in the front yard.

O'Sullivan moved into the owner's quarters with his wife for the time being. Eventually, stop living there and convert the living space — a three bedroom, $2\,1/2$ bedroom house in the middle of the building to a six-person vacation rental with a full kitchen.

They'll have a local general manager, maintenance and housekeeping team with a self check-in process.

"We're trying to provide more and really good jobs," O'Sullivan said.

O'Sullivan, who spent one afternoon doing the house-keeping himself, calls himself a "wanderlust."

"I feel guilty about living anywhere," O'Sullivan said. He moved to Woodstock with his wife with just his backpack, a t-shirt and running shoes.

"That's what I need," he said.

 ${\bf Sleep\,Woodstock\,is\,their\,first\,location\,with\,year\,round\,tourism.}$

"It's a dream scenario because Patrick and Leslie are such rockstars," O'Sullivan said. "It's hard to step in here and genuinely hard to fill their big shoes. That's the fun part and the daunting part."

Proctor resident charged with possession of child sexual abuse material

The Attorney General's Office announced June 22 that Michael Dubois, 35, of Proctor was arraigned today on seven felony counts of possession of child sexual abuse material. The charges brought against Dubois are the result of a criminal investigation, including the execution of search warrants into Dubois' residence and online data accounts, conducted by the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (VT-ICAC), which

included personnel from the Attorney General's Office, Manchester Police Department, Vermont State Police, and Homeland Security Investigations.

The investigation was initiated when VT-ICAC received multiple CyberTipline Reports from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that files of suspected child sexual abuse material were uploaded onto a Google platform. Based upon

the criminal investigation of these tips, Mr. Dubois was identified as the suspect. Law enforcement officers seized multiple electronic devices when they executed their search warrant, and law enforcement will be conducting further examinations of those seized devices to search for evidence of the possession of additional files of child sexual abuse material.

Dubois pleaded not guilty at his Possession \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

Table of contents

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Local news	2
State news	6
Opinion	8
Puzzles	.13
Calendar	.14
Arts, Dining, Entertainment	.18
Pets	.24
Horoscopes	.25
Columns	.25
Service directory	.28
Classifieds	.29
Real estate	.30

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Wonderfeet Kids Museum: A family haven, built by generous Vermonters, for visitors and residents alike

As most adults know, even a small contingent of cantankerous kiddoes stuck at home can wreak havoc: turning lamps into projectiles, beds into trampolines, and all species of house pets into scaredy-cats.

For that kind of mayhem, grownups need to muster up some major magic. They need a solid action plan, one that keeps even the most boisterous bambinos safe and sound, as well as entertained. If that plan can also engross them in art, science, and other educational activities, all the better.

About a decade ago, a group of gifted grownups - led by Rutland businessman Paul Gallo and educator Myra Peffer — devised just such a plan. From several discussions of ingenious ideas for boosting the region's economy,

emerged initial concepts for what would become Vermont's first museum for kiddie clients — the Wonderfeet Kids Museum.

An indefatigable community advocate, Gallo is the quiet embodiment of what leadership scholars call a "servant leader." He routinely contacts donors and other supporters at all hours. Peffer, Wonderfeet's official founder, is a softspoken dynamo whose 25 years as an educator includes guiding a zoo, a science center, and an avian education center. Together, they convinced hundreds of other educators, as well as artisans, marketers and generous donors, to join their crusade.

In its new location in the former Green Mountain Power

Energy Innovation Center on Rutland's Merchants' Row, Wonderfeet Kids Museum, which became an official 501c3 nonprofit in 2013, now encompasses 8.000 square feet of interactive exhibits. All were conceived by lead designer Yoshi Akiyami to engage, enchant and educate children ranging in age from infants to tweens. A retired Disney Imagineer, Akiyama relocated to Vermont in 1996, after a career that included designing for Walt

Disney World Florida, EPCOT, and Tokyo Disneyland.

During my recent visit to the museum, filled on that sunny day with parents and children, both Akiyama and Gallo greeted me, along with executive director Danielle Monroe. It was Monroe who toured me through the space to demonstrate first-hand the alchemy that occurs there.





For the **Greater Good** By Liz DiMarco Weinmann





By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

The train is a popular choice for kids at Wonderfeet to "conduct" while reading signs and exploring on a journey of imagination.

"Wonderfeet has a significant focus on fostering a unique learning and growth opportunity for both adults and children," said Monroe. "Rather than relying on passive activity, Wonderfeet engages them in collaborative experiences to play and learn."

> Monroe's connection with Wonderfeet began 10 years ago when her children were very young. With her background in sales, plus an effervescent personality that could cheer even the crankiest curmudgeon, Monroe was a natural to lead Wonderfeet. She joined its board of directors in 2018 and became executive director in 2019.

There is so much to see, touch, hear, make, and play with at Wonderfeet, but the following are just a

Wonderfeet Kids Museum... now

encompasses 8,000 square feet

of interactive exhibits. All were

conceived by lead designer Yoshi

Akiyami to engage, enchant and

educate children ranging in age

from infants to tweens.

Throughout the museum there are exhibits that kids can "drive," ride, or climb. Among them, a cheerily painted Casella trash truck (including movable steering wheel, loud horn, and a GPS screen), plus a John Deere tractor, and a train. A giant cow sculpture holds court in front of a mural

depicting the Vermont State Fairgrounds (but no boarding the bovine!).

There's also a replica of the Rutland Farmers' Market; a kid-sized diner with food facsimiles reflecting the region's diverse population; and a campsite with equipment that looks rugged but is cuddly and comfy.

Wonderfeet's largest crafts room is equipped with plenty of paint, paper, clay, glitter and other materials for boosting creativity. Dubbed "The Junior Mint," its lacquered wood tables — splinter-resistant as well as beautiful — were crafted by adult artisans at The Mint, Rutland's Makerspace.

According to Monroe and Paul Gallo, most of the exhibits at Wonderfeet have been designed and/or constructed by Vermonters, including one craftsman who worked the entire night to complete an exhibit in time for Wonderfeet's May re-opening in the new location.

Upstairs, there are rooms (for rent) to celebrate birthdays and other milestones. Its primary colors and cozy seating arrangements could encourage even the most intrepid introverts to socialize.

Wonderfeet's paid staff includes about a dozen professionals; all are first aid-trained, including CPR. Over the past decade, Wonderfeet has built partnerships with other nonprofits as well, including most of the area's schools,

Wonderfeet → 10



By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

ORITIIARY

James 'JD' Daniels, 75

James Daniels passed away peacefully in his sleep at Mass General Hospital on June 13. He was born in Staten Island, New York and grew up on the Jersey Shore with his eight siblings.

JD moved to the Killington area in 1972 and worked in many restaurants including The Wobbly II, Charity's and the Back Behind Saloon. He moved to the Lake George area in the late '80s where he continued his career in the food and beverage industry and eventually settled in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. where he enjoyed his love of cooking and working in the garden alongside his



James 'JD' Daniels

long time partner Kathleen Shields.

He was predeceased by his parents, son Jason, sister Patricia, brother Robert and sister Kathryn. He is survived by his sisters Marie, LIllian, Barbara, Elizabeth, brother William, sons Sean and Eric and grandson Trevor.

Center for Cartoon Studies founders receive Bookstock literary inspiration award

Vermont's Center for Cartoon Studies (CCS), and co-founders Michelle Ollie and James Sturm received this year's Literary Inspiration Award at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 24 in a presentation at Town Hall Theatre in Woodstock.

CCS MFA student Annabel Driussi, a comic artist, science illustrator and Bookstock 2023 workshop instructor will accept the award on behalf of the honorees. In bestowing the award, Bookstock honors people or organizations for contributing to Vermont's literary prosperity and storytelling traditions.

"The Center for Cartoon Studies is a vital part of Vermont's treasured culture of storytelling and the arts," said Peter Rousmaniere, chair of Bookstock's board of directors. "CCS is the only college-level training program of its kind in the United States. It is a truly unique institution that we're proud to honor."

"CCS is the only college-level training program of its kind in the United States. It is a truly unique institution that we're proud to honor," said Rousmaniere.

Nominated by Liza Bernard, programming

& marketing librarian at The Norman Williams Public Library in Woodstock, who said she chose co-founders Michelle Ollie and James Sturm along with The Center for Cartoon Studies because, "They created an influential organization that now has a certified MFA program. They have educated readers, supported writers and artists, and brought creative energy to the region."

The award design features a drawing by famed Argentine cartoonist and Eisner Award winner Ricardo Siri, better known as Liniers, who was a CCS fellow in 2016-2017. The drawing on the award is of one the center's beautiful campus structures, the historic Post Office building located in the village of White River Junction. Past winners include Dede Cummings, writer, poet, book-designer, and publisher of Green Writer's Press, Renee Reiner and Michael DeSanto, founders of Phoenix Books. Reiner will present the award.

"To be recognized in 2022 for our efforts was a tremendous honor, and surely a highlight of our career. So, to be able to stand here and pass the Bookstock Literary Inspiration Award forward is the epitome of creating community," she said.



PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PROPOSED READOPTION OF KILLINGTON TOWN PLAN

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

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

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

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

Statement of Purpose:

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

Geographic Area Affected:

The Town Plan covers the entire Town of Killington.

List of Section Headings:

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

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

Dated at Killington, Vermont this 26th day of June 2023. *Jennifer Iannantuoni*, Planning Commission Chair, Town of Killington, Vermont

State makes \$900K available for rec, human services, economic dev't projects

The Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) is seeking applicants for this year's Building Communities Grants program. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available for construction and capital improvements to support and strengthen Vermont towns and regions. All grants require a one-to-one match and must demonstrate community support. The deadline for applications is Sept. 10, 2023, and grants will be awarded in October.

"This program continues to play an important role in helping towns and villages complete projects that really make a difference by addressing a long-standing need, filling a gap in services, or revitalizing buildings and community centers," said Gov. Phil Scott. "That's why I've supported this program from its inception when I was in the Senate, and I encourage communities to look at how this program can help you continue making progress."

The grants are awarded to non-profit organizations, regional economic development organizations, and municipalities. The facilities grant categories include human services, education, recreation, and regional economic development.

"A Building Communities Grant is often the final push that helps a worthy project with broad community support come to life," said BGS Commissioner Jennifer M.V. Fitch, P.E. "We have seen lasting change in the communities we've touched, and many non-profits, municipalities, and regional economic development organizations have come to rely on this resource over the years. If you have a project that's just short of the finish line, this is the grant you've been looking for."

Examples from the list of 2022

recipients help to illustrate the range of projects that are eligible.

Human Services Facilities: Projects included insulation, heating upgrades, and electrical work for the Lunenburg, Gilman and Concord Senior Citizens,

Inc.; fit-up and renovation for United Way of Lamoille County's new office in downtown Morrisville; fit-up of up a trailer as a mobile clinic for Kimball

Wellness Association; kitchen improvements at the Springfield Family Center; replacement of the inefficient boiler and water heater at the Burlington Dismas House; building an ADA accessible bathroom at Little Rivers Health Care in Bradford; and replacing the roof at the Greensboro Nursing Homes.

Educational Facilities: Projects included window restoration for the Starksboro Village Meetinghouse; a fire escape at the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center in Brattleboro; renovations to a fire safety system for Southeastern Vermont Community Action in Westminster; insulation of the walls and attic at the Peacham Children's Center; and installation of a new ADA complaint ramp for the Town of Alburgh.

Recreational Facilities: Projects included accessibility upgrades to the playground at Richmond Elementary School; refurbishment of the outdoor hockey rink for the City of Newport; replacement of the beach dock for the Town of Pittsford Recreation Department; construction of a pavilion for the Town of Marshfield; accessibility improvements at the pool for the Town of Vernon Recreation Department; and resurfacing of tennis courts at Bombardier Park East for the Town of

Milton Recreation Department.

Regional Economic Development: Projects to purchase an ETHOS X 2.0 Microwave Terpene Extraction System for cannabis and hemp for Satori Vermont in Middlebury; block foundation

"A Building Communities Grant is often the final push that helps a worthy project with broad community support come to life," said Fitch.

> repairs and window replacements for Munching Meeple, LLC in Bennington; installation of an irrigation system and to purchase the drip irrigation supplies for the Tipsy Hop Farm in Danville; extended 3-phase power at their facility for Green Mountain Welding in Swanton; installation of additional bathrooms for the childcare center for Misty Acres Childcare Center in Castleton; equipment purchase for their bottling line for Caledonia Spirits, Inc. in Montpelier; purchase and installation of a freezer for Food Connects in Brattleboro; purchase of two annealing ovens for their glass blowing facility for Simon Pearce in Windsor; and for replacement of their flooring for Tuckerbox.

Although the award of the grants is competitive, the application process has been designed to be simple and straightforward. Grant applicants will be awarded funding as determined by a special committee comprised of Vermonters, legislative branch members, and executive branch administrative staff appointed by the Governor. Details and applications are available on the Department of Buildings and General Services website: bgs.vermont.gov/commissioner/building-communities-grants.

All Brains Belong receives grant from Vt Dept of Health to address health inequity for neurodivergent Vermonters

All Brains Belong, a leading organization dedicated to supporting neurodivergent individuals, is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a significant grant from the Vermont Dept. of Health. The grant allows All Brains Belong to expand its capacity and enhance its services, aiming to address health inequity for neurodivergent Vermonters.

The grant provided by the Dept. of Health recognizes the invaluable work being done by All Brains Belong in supporting neurodivergent individuals, who often face unique challenges in accessing healthcare and mental health services.

At least 1 in 5 people think, learn and/or communicate differently than the so-called "typical" brain. Some people have diagnoses such as autism, ADHD or others – but many do not. Autistic adults have an average life expectancy of 36-54 years, with premature cardiovascular disease and suicide as leading causes. Autistic adults have 2.5-4 times the rates of unemployment. Eighty percent of autistic adults experience social isolation and difficulty accessing medical care. All Brains Belong has been at the forefront of addressing these disparities.

In partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation, this grant from the Department of Health is part of multi-million dollar Covid-19 funding to the state from

the Center for Disease Control to address persistent health disparities. Neurodivergent people

At least 1 in 5 people think, learn and/or communicate differently than the socalled "typical" brain.

have higher rates of complications from Covid-19, including long Covid.

"One size fits all' does not work for all," said Mel Houser, founder and executive director of All Brains Belong. "Neurodivergent Vermonters are all too often struggling to have their needs met by the defaults of society — in healthcare, education, employment, and society at large."

Houser says that this grant allows All Brains Belong to more than double the amount of Vermonters being served by the organization.

For information, visit allbrainsbelong.org.

Rutland area medical community awards seven 2023 scholarships

Members of the Rutland Area Medical Community recently awarded seven \$2,500 scholarships to local students pursuing a career in healthcare. The scholarship program has been made possible through the generosity of Rutland area physicians, retired physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners.

The Rutland Area Medical Community scholarship is intended to stimulate the region's best and brightest students, encouraging them to continue their education in the field of healthcare. The scholarship awards are aimed at creating opportunities that empower

recipients to achieve excellence in education.

Eligible candidates include high school seniors, local college students or Rutland area medical community employees who are working toward furthering their goal of a career in healthcare.

In 2023, the volunteer scholarship review

committee awarded seven scholarships based on the outstanding applications received.

This year's recipients include graduating high school seniors, Lauren Costales, Mount St. Joseph, who will attend Endicott College; Emma Johnson, Mill River Union High

Scolarships → 12





Courtesy RRMC

One day

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the legislature's return last week was that the session was just one day in duration.

Legislators were told to reserve June 20-22 if they were called back to take up

any vetoes by the Governor, following the May 12 adjournment for the regular session. Some hinted that the special session could go even longer than the planned three days leading up to June 20.



By Rep. Jim Harrison

When all was said and done.

the full Legislature was at the State House for just one day (Tuesday, June 20) and adjourned around 5:30 p.m.

Five vetoed bills were pushed through by overriding gubernatorial vetoes and two were sent back to committee as they lacked the votes for an override. A total of seven bills had been vetoed by Scott since May 12. The eighth veto was on S.5 (Clean Heat) and that was overridden before the regular session adjourned.

Additionally, another bill was amended, H.171, to continue the motel voucher program through next March. The extension only applies to those currently receiving motel housing and establishes new guide-

lines for a transition to the end of the program with existing funding in the budget.

For a bit of theater, former Democratic candidate for Gov. Brenda Siegel, was at the State House on Tuesday along with protestors objecting to any restrictions on the motel program going forward. The protestors managed to delay the start of the House session by shouting over Speaker Krowinski until they were escorted out by the Sargent at Arms.

Also completed last week was H.158, which expands the bottle deposit system to water, wine and most drinks and juices. This legislation could potentially become the ninth veto of the session due to Scott's concern over its impact on increasing recycling costs. If that were to happen, the legislature could attempt an override next January.

Recap of the vetoes the legislature overrode and enacted into law:

- H.494, the FY24 State Budget –
 Scott raised concern about the 13%
 overall increase in spending and
 the 20% increase in motor vehicle
 fees.
- H.217, expansion of childcare assistance Scott objected to the new payroll tax on employers and employees of approximately \$100 million annually beginning July 2024. The Governor's plan increased childcare support without new taxes and would have put Ver-

- mont tied for the top among states in assistance. Lawmakers and the advocacy group, Let's Grow Kids, wanted to go much further and needed a new tax to do so.
- H.305, Office of Professional Regulation The Governor objected to the \$7 million increase in various professional and trade license fees. Lawmakers and the Secretary of State's office believed increases were necessary to keep up with the costs of maintaining licensure programs.
- H.386, Brattleboro charter allowing 16-year-olds to vote in local elections and hold local offices.
 The Governor prefers statewide standards to who can vote and expressed concern over allowing 16-year-olds the ability to sign contracts for the town if they serve on the Select Board.
- H.509, Burlington charter allowing non-citizen residents to vote in local elections. Scott prefers statewide standards for voting qualifications.

Two bills apparently did not have enough votes in the Senate to override the

With the past three months coming in below state revenue forecasts (though it remains above for the fiscal year to date), there will be a great deal of interest in the July 31 revenue update from the state economists.

Governor's vetoes and were sent back to their respective committees for consideration next session. One was S.39, the legislative pay and benefit increase and the other was S.6, which added new restrictions to law enforcement interrogations for persons under 22.

With the past three months coming in below state revenue forecasts (though it remains above for the fiscal year to date), there will be a great deal of interest in the July 31 revenue update from the state economists.

The full legislature will return to the State House Jan. 3, 2024, unless there is a recommendation from the special House committee looking into impeachment proceedings for either the Franklin County States Attorney or Franklin County Sheriff. If impeachment articles are recommended for either elected official, the House could be called back by the Speaker.

Thank you for your continued interest in my legislative updates. Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!

And thank you to all who assisted with last week's American Junior Golf Association tournament at Green Mountain National. We had over 80 volunteers filling 158 various positions throughout the four day event.

Rep. Jim Harrison is the statehouse representative for Mendon, Killington, Chittenden and Pittsfield. He can be reached at JHarrison@leg. state.vt.us or harrisonforvermont.com.



By John Hall/VTF&W

Starting July 1, VT Fish & Wildlife is asking people who see wild turkey broods during the month to provide information about their sightings via a survey on the department's website.

Vt turkey brood survey starts July 1

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is seeking the public's help with monitoring wild turkeys.

Since 2007, the department has run an annual online survey in August for reporting turkey broods. Beginning in 2021, the survey was expanded to include the month of July. The use of "citizen scientists" in this way facilitates the department's ability to collect important turkey population and productivity data from all corners of the state.

If you see a flock of turkeys in Vermont during July and August, the department asks you to go to the turkey brood survey on its website vtfishandwildlife.com and report your observations, including where and when you observed the turkeys with the number of adult and young turkeys you observed. The value of the data collected improves when more people participate.

"Information gathered from this survey helps us monitor long-term trends in the productivity of Vermont's wild turkey population," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife's turkey biologist Chris Bernier. "It also

and August, the department asks you to go to the turkey brood survey on its website vtfishandwildlife.com and report your observations, including where and when helps us assess the impacts of spring weather on the survival of poults and adult turkeys which is an important consideration in the management of turkeys."

"We monitor and manage wild turkey numbers annually in order to maintain a healthy, abundant and sustainable population of these iconic and ecologically significant birds throughout the state," added Bernier.

"Please help us scientifically manage the turkey population by reporting your Vermont turkey sightings during July and August."



Broadband:

from page 2

is a huge step toward our goal of getting all Vermonters connected to broadband," said Vermont Community Broadband Board Executive Director Christine Hallquist.

"These federal funds will expand educational opportunities, grow our economy, and improve access to healthcare services for all

access to healthcare services for all Vermonters, regardless of where they live. This investment also ensures Vermont's competitiveness as a prime relocation destination in the era of remote work. This is a significant milestone in Vermont's ongoing efforts to bridge the digital divide and grow our economy," said Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak.

"This infusion of federal dollars for broadband investment in Vermont is "These federal funds will expand educational opportunities, grow our economy, and improve access to healthcare services for all Vermonters, regardless of where they live," said Pieciak.

historic in scale and monumental in what it promises for the future prosperity of our state" said Public Service Department Commissioner June Tierney. "This is the kind of beneficial transformation that is possible when clear-sighted executive and legislative leadership combine to help government help the people by empowering the tireless volunteers of Vermont's communications union districts and the communities they represent. Today's announced investment will pay dividends in Vermont for generations to come, thanks to the productive engagement of our tireless CUD volunteers, the partnership of the incumbent providers, and the steadfast leadership of the Vermont Community Broadband Board. Universal broadband service for all Vermonters is the goal, and the funding announced today is a huge step forward in getting us there."

Work is underway on the five-year plan to put Vermont's BEAD allocation to work for all Vermonters. The plan will be available for public comment next month, according to a press release from Vermont Dept. of Public Service.

GUEST EDITORIAL

New law gives **Vermonters** a chance to build a conservation vision

By Drew McConville

Editor's note: Drew McConville, a resident of Montpelier. He is a senior fellow with the Center for American Progress, and a former official at the White House Council of Environmental Quality under President Obama.

Vermonters who value outdoor access, healthy forests and clean water recently celebrated the enactment of a new law establishing ambitious, long-term goals for protecting land in the state. But as laudable as this step is, the important and hard work starts now.

H.126, the Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act, sets targets of conserving 30% of land in the state by 2030 and 50% by 2050. It also sets the stage for Vermont to chart an intentional and inclusive pathway for protecting treasured natural areas, while meeting housing needs, enabling

smart growth, supporting sustainable farms and forests, and preserving the character of our state.

As someone who has worked for 20 years on national conservation policy and was drawn to Vermont for the healthy, outdoor experiences it ofThe "30×30" idea isn't just an accounting exercise. It's intended to be an urgent call to action that brings everyone together to conserve nature.

fers our family, I'm excited to see the state stepping up. This measure positions the state to lead in a national and global effort to combat the loss of nature and biodiversity, which has accelerated in tandem with the climate crisis.

Globally, scientists estimate that one million species are now threatened by extinction, while the United States is losing the equivalent of a football field of natural area every 30 seconds. To address this crisis, President Biden established a national goal of conserving 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030 and launched an America the Beautiful initiative that has unlocked new conservation funding, established new protected areas, and focused resources on providing equitable

Meeting just over the border in Montreal, world leaders from 196 nations agreed last December to a historic biodiversity framework establishing a similar "30×30" goal for global land and ocean conservation. And, along with Vermont, states like California, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico and New York have also set new conservation goals.

Despite some early progress, what comes next to achieve these goals remains murky. In Vermont, the new law creates an exciting opportunity to secure the natural legacy of the Green Mountain State while setting a model that could guide other parts of the country. But success will require a sustained commitment by state and community leaders that prioritizes inclusion and collaboration, centers meaningful progress over narrow accounting, and delivers concrete, tangible results.

It all starts with building a vision that incorporates the many perspectives Vermonters bring to the table. The law directs the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to develop a plan for achieving the state's conservation goals that draws on public input. For this ambitious plan to succeed, state leaders and nonprofit partners will need to deeply invest in a process that involves all voices and generates a plan everyone can see themselves in.

 $30x30 \rightarrow 12$



Pandora Opens AI Box by R.J. Matson, CQ Roll Call

LETTERS

Everybody can be good, kind, caring and giving

Dear Editor,

In my letter to the Brattleborow Reformer on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009, with the headline, "Homelessness is a sign of a society that's failing," I wrote, "We spend a lot of time preaching about the importance of good deeds and gratitude, and not enough time making any tangible change. It's really simple. If we don't take care of each other, we are the problem."

In a recent letter, May 31, 2023, titled, "It is who we are," four churches from the community congregations tell us that their faith informs them, "they know life's ultimate meaning is welcoming and caring for our neighbor. If it's true their traditions of faith challenge them to do so," what took so long?

The writers of the May 31 letter now declare, "As congregations of faith, we pledge to set a tone of radical welcome for our unsheltered neighbors." However, it's been 14 years since I wrote that, and their pledge of radical welcoming now sounds as hollow as the biblical commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Welcoming \rightarrow 10

Blood needed

Dear Editor,

The Pete Giancola Gift-of-LIfe Mini Marathon Blood Drive is fast approaching — but appointments are not filling fast at all. At this point last year, we had twice as many appointments as we have right now

> Last year, we had twice as many appointments.

for the July 11 drive, which will be held at the Rutland Elks Club and the Franklin Event Center at Howe Scale. Can you help?

Please consider giving this life-saving gift in honor of Rutland resident Pete Giancola, whose life was extended by 10 years thanks to donors like you. Donating is simple and virtually painless, and appointments are available for either location by calling 800-RED-CROSS or visiting redcrossblood.org.

While supplies last, donors will receive a free pen from Green Mountain Power, a dry bag from the Red Cross, and a book about Vermont's working forests.

Steve Costello, Rutland

Unhousing the unhoused

Dear Editor.

The unhousing—eviction—of people in the motel voucher program is continuing as planned by the governor and legislature. Approximately 760 households are being evicted this month. Some of the 1.100 households scheduled to be booted out on July 1 have apparently been given a temporary reprieve.

I cannot believe the insensitivity and ignorance of the governor and the Legislature. The secretary of the Agency of Human

> 760 households are being evicted this month.

Services cavalierly said the residents being evicted would "self-resolve" their situations.

The recent book "Homelessness is a Housing Problem" demonstrates the close association between regional homelessness rates and the region's rent prices and vacancy rates. Vermont vacancy rates are extremely low and rents have recently increased dramatically. Vermont is,

Unhoused \rightarrow 10

Where's the skatepark?

Dear Editor.

For over 20 years, kids and kids at heart enjoyed having a destination skatepark in Rutland. Formerly known as Zero Gravity and more recently Flipside, the thousands of square feet of ever-changing ramps and rails gave people something to do, and a safe place to go each summer. Of course, it was not without its drawbacks.

The wood ramps needed regular repair and since it was housed inside Giorgetti Park, it had to be disassembled each winter in time for hockey. Because of its indoor location, the park needed to be staffed when open and cost money to use.

These reasons made it seem reasonable when during Covid, the Rutland Recreation Department decided to give away all the ramps in favor of breaking ground on a state-of-the-art concrete park as soon as a location was established and funding was secured. They said they had no doubt Covid grant money would foot most of the bill.

Well, the pandemic is over, the ramps are gone, and Rutland is still without a skatepark. Meanwhile,

Skatepark → 10



CAPITAL QUOTES

Authorities have said the Titanic-touring submersible called Titan that went missing on Sunday, June 18 suffered an implosion that killed all five people on board. The tail cone and other debris from the Titan were found about 1,600 feet from the bow of the Titanic, the North Atlantic Ocean, the U.S. Coast Guard announced Thursday, June 22. Those killed were Stockton Rush, the CEO of OceanGate, the vessel's operator; British businessman Hamish Harding; French diver Paul-Henri Nargeolet; and Pakistani-born businessman Shahzada Dawood and his son, Suleman.

"In the 21st Century, there shouldn't be any risks. We've managed to make it through 60 years, from 1960 until today, 63 years without a fatality... So, you know, one of the saddest aspects of this is how preventable it really was,"

said **James Cameron**, the director of the "Titanic" movie, who has done more than 30 dives.

"Any expert who weighs in on this, including Mr Cameron, will also admit that they were not there for the design of the sub, for the engineering of the sub, the building of the sub and certainly not for the rigorous test programme that the sub went through,"

said **Guillermo Sohnlein** a former employee of OceanGate.

"The current 'experimental' approach adopted by OceanGate... could result in negative outcomes (from minor to catastrophic),"

said a letter sent to OceanGate by the

Marine Technology Society (MTS) in March
2018, according to the New York Times.

"We've been making these for decades. We know how to make these. It's just a matter of following the rules,"

said **William Kohnen**, the president of Hydrospace Group, Inc.

Full speed ahead on PCB testing, but where's the money?

By Rep. Peter Conlon

Editor's note: State House Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, chair of the House Education Committee.

The recent news that Vermont's Attorney General has filed suit against Monsanto for its sale of PCB-containing materials is an important step to hopefully recoup what is on track to be tens of millions of dollars — perhaps hundreds of millions — to fund the Scott administration's PCB school testing and remediation program.

Unfortunately, it will be a long and arduous journey through the court system with no guarantees. Meanwhile, the administration's first-in-the-nation testing and remediation program has no long-term funding plan, and it is going to cost a lot.

The Agency of Natural Resources, which oversees the testing, has already said it needs twice the money and double the time — at least — just to perform the testing. The cost and timing of actually removing PCBs from schools looms like an incredibly expensive and disruptive dark cloud with no plan from the administration to pay for it. None.

The PCB testing program is only 50-odd schools into a list of over 300, and at least 14 have come up with levels of airborne PCBs exceeding Vermont's lowest-in-the-nation safe levels. Extrapolate that out for the remaining schools, and this has the potential to be one costly program.

Here are a couple of examples.

In Newport, North Country Union High School has over 100 rooms with airborne PCB levels that exceed what Vermont officials consider safe. This will need to be addressed — think millions of dollars — probably well before the school board can put forth an expected renovation plan for a building that is well past its useful date.

In Chester, Green Mountain Union High School's third floor has shown levels that Vermont health officials say require immediate closure and costly remediation, ASAP.

And those are just two of 14 schools affected at this early stage of the testing. To be clear, the safe levels put in place by the administration are a fraction of the levels put forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. No other state has set safe levels as low as Vermont, and no other state has required testing of all schools.

While this commentary is about money and logistics, the testing program has now told these affected school communities that they have airborne carcinogens where they send their children — and really, what parent feels good about sending their kids to school after hearing that, regardless of complex explanations of nanogram levels? This program is sowing a great fear with no reassurance that such fears may be unfounded.

In 2023, the Vermont House voted overwhelmingly for a bill to pause this testing program and take a more thoughtful look at how it could be better coordinated with a high priority for so many Vermont school districts: long-deferred renovations and building replacement with state assistance.

Under the current terms of the PCB testing, when PCBs above the Vermont safe levels are found, it must be addressed immediately. This can throw any long-term construction plans into chaos or simply force a school district to put millions of

As the cost of the administration's testing program grows, it should not be funded by property taxpayers.

Those dollars are to support budgets, and every dollar this initiative costs is added to the tax rate.

dollars of PCB remediation into a building it may replace or substantially renovate a few years down the road.

Despite the strong House support, the bill ran into a wall in the Senate, a wall strongly reinforced by the Scott administration. The commissioner of Health and the secretaries of the Agencies of Education and of Natural Resources were clear that the administration opposed pausing the testing in any way. Full speed ahead.

Yet, to date, no one in the Scott administration has suggested how to pay for all of this.

Property tax dollars set aside in 2022 by the Legislature — about \$30 million are unlikely to cover the remediation just needed to date. Half that money alone is needed for Burlington High School's PCB fiasco. And this mandate should not fall on the shoulders of public school districts. They did not ask for this.

It should be noted that this program aims to test all schools — public and private — and pay for all remediation. This means that if issues are found at a private school, it could receive 100% funding from the taxpayers of Vermont.

For now, the money set aside for remediation comes from the Education Fund, the purpose of which is to fund public school budgets as approved by voters. As the cost of the administration's testing program grows, it should not be funded by property taxpayers. Those dollars are to support budgets, and every dollar this initiative costs is added to the tax rate.

The Scott administration must provide a road map as to how this program should be funded. It must provide the Legislature with a clear idea of the total cost of doing all this. If we take what we know so far, it could be hundreds of millions of dollars.

As chair of the House Education Committee, I know my colleagues and I look forward to hearing from the governor — who has made his opposition to raising any taxes clear — just how the PCB testing and remediation program, which his administration so strongly supports, will be paid for.



It looks good on paper, but it has never been reality. Then again, since "faith" is based solely on beliefs, dogma and intra-spiritual apprehensions and superstitions rather than proof, there's nothing substantive about faith either.

The true reality is that for the past 15,000 years following the emergence of walledin agriculture and human settlements, property ownership and later, the "corporate voice," drove a permanent wedge between the haves and have nots. Over 12,000 years later, the Christian faith has not only failed to alleviate the poor, but the religion also amplified poverty and dangerous divisions to this very day. In an 1803 letter objecting to the use of government land for churches, James Madison wrote, "The purpose of separation of church and state is to keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe with blood for

centuries."

There is no historical foundation that supports belief in faith as a tangible means to effectively advocate for or solve state issues before the greater diversified secular communities.

It's entirely misleading and simply not true that belief in faith is what makes us loving, caring, and welcoming people. In fact, more often than not, beliefs in faith are daily being fought over and one of the most divisive and dangerous aspects of human behavior.

What we do know is that "everybody" can be good, kind, caring, giving, loving, peaceful people without make-believe religion and faith. In fact, those attributes are innately human throughout 200,000 years of our evolution. We could not have survived this long as a species without those humane traits. That is who we really are.

> Vidda Crochetta, Brattleboro



essentially, in a housing crisis.

The book identifies the three primary characteristics of the unhoused as poverty, disability, and addiction. Yet state Senator Bobby Starr said that those housed in the program, who are able to work need to get a job. I know for a fact that many already have jobs, yet cannot afford rents even if an apartment becomes available. Starr implied that those capable of work but not working are leeches.

That lack of understanding of the larger issue and who comprise the ranks of the unhoused illustrates the real obstacle to solving the problem: those in government do not have the lived experience needed to understand the problem. The unhoused are simply invisible to many legislators.

If only that problem could "self-resolve."

Charlie Murphy, Bennington



Manchester has expanded its facility and is drawing attention from around New England. Ludlow is in the process of rebuilding its long-standing park with a new one, scheduled to open in August. And Middlebury just built a brand new one. These are smaller towns than Rutland, but clearly ones that are more forwardthinking and interested in the health, happiness and general well-being of their youth.

The Rutland Rec Department, meanwhile, has made no discernible progress on the Rutland park and my personal attempts to help fundraise and plan this project have gone unanswered.

When I catch someone in public and ask, "Where's the skatepark?" I always receive the same answer.

"It's on the list."

For a city that has enacted an entire marketing campaign around being a hub for outdoor recreation, it is not just disappointing, but embarrassing that the powers that be show no interest

rip around these concrete marvels. Visit any town or city with a quality skatepark and you'll see it receiving constant use, while the surrounding ball fields and green spaces sit empty 90%

A skatepark is an asset to any community... It is not just for skateboarders but bikes, in-line skates and scooters, too. Even RC car enthusiasts...

in fulfilling their promises to build a concrete park.

A skatepark is an asset to any community. It is part playground, part training facility, part social club and most importantly, fun for all ages. It is not just for skateboarders but bikes, in-line skates and scooters, too. Even RC car enthusiasts have been know to take a

of the time.

I hope this letter serves as a reminder to the Rec. Department and helps prioritize this oh-so important project for the good of the entire community.

If anyone else would like to help, let's make this happen!

Brooke Geery, Rutland

Wonderfeet: from page 4

daycares, and camps.

To be sure, as enthralling as Wonderfeet's many attractions are for families, it is an outstanding nonprofit enterprise and a significant economic asset by anyone's definition. Its growth reflects the power inherent in constructive community engagement and authentic social capital, values that esteemed political scientist Robert Putnam, author of the landmark book, Bowling Alone, has been proselytizing for more than two decades.

Wonderfeet's leaders, especially Paul Gallo, who remains the organization's most persistent pied piper, possess the kind of intellectual firepower and influence that generates consistent capacitybuilding support, especially from donors. Some newer nonprofits may claim they foster connection in difficult times but Wonderfeet has been nurturing engagement and delivering quantifiable benefits across all socio-economic groups since its inception. And, with an estimated 20,000 visits a year, it is forging those connections well beyond the Killington-Rutland region.

As Monroe and I were ending our meeting, I asked her to summarize what she, as a mom, feels is the magic that parents and other caregivers cherish about Wonderfeet.

Without hesitating, she replied, "When parents or other caregivers come to Wonderfeet, even if it's just for an hour, they don't have chores or a to-do list, they aren't replying to emails. They get to focus entirely on playing with and connecting with their child," Monroe emphasized.

"That's why kids want to keep coming back," she added. "Not because of the amazing exhibits we've built, but because we've built an environment where they are the boss. They are the center of the experience and they have their parents' love and attention. That's the magic, that's always been the magic."

For more information, visit: WonderfeetKidsMuseum.org or call 802-282-2678.

Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal and owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, L3C, based in Rutland, serving charitable and educational institutions: lizdimarcoweinmann.com.



took time off from maintaining his 80-acre farm and moto track in Torrington, Connecticut to join the festivities himself.

Henry is notable not just for his career of motocross accolades including AMA Championship titles, but for more comebacks than should be humanly possible. After battling back from a broken back that should have ended his career between 1995-1997, he'd continue to win titles and make waves by dominating on a four-stroke Yamaha he would popularize. Even two simultaneously broken arms couldn't stop him. With a storied motocross career in the books, Henry set his sights on Supermoto $and\,Snow mobile\,racing, winning\,X\,Games$ medals in the process, but tragedy would strike in 2007 when a Supermoto crash left him paralyzed from the waist down.

While this would be a career-ending injury for most, Henry has continued to ride both moto and mountain bikes using special adaptive equipment and is now a notable ambassador for adaptive sports.

He first visited The Beast in 2018 to participate in the adaptive race at the Fox US Open, which is how he became aware of Vermont Adaptive. As his life has evolved, he's found himself more and more involved in fundraising and helping other athletes battling injury and paralysis.

"I've been involved in a lot of fundraisers for riders who get injured in motocross or just in general for trauma in the motorcycle industry amongst families and friends," he says. "I do five charity events a year. It's something I like doing, so getting into the fundraising side of things is something I'll probably lean more towards in the next few years."

Though inclement weather tried to put a damper on the 2023 Vermont Adaptive Charity Challenge, Henry was still excited to participate in the 20-mile road ride on

Saturday, June 17.

"It's great being able to go on the road and ride without worrying about cars hitting me," he says. "I don't ride bicycles on the road, I ride bike paths, so it was nice to come here on a group ride in a group setting and be a little bit safer."

He said events such as this one are important in so many ways.

"You kind of get to meet people and create a web of connections," he says. "When people get injured and they're looking for stuff to do, Vermont Adaptive is a great organization and so many people are benefitting from what they're doing. I'm one of them."

After the ride, Henry was happy to relax at the Killington Grand Hotel, which he noted for its accessibility and beautiful view, and recharge before bringing his bucket bike out on the trails Sunday.

In the 16 years since his injury, Henry has become adept at doing almost everything with his upper body. He explained how downhill mountain biking is possible despite not being able to walk.

"I have two spotters that help. I'll wheel over and transfer myself on to the lift. I have two stronger people on each side and my bike goes ahead and hopefully it's waiting at the station. When I get to the top, I just kinda put my arms around them, each person grabs a leg and puts me right in the bike, clip in and I'm ready to go."

Henry is obviously not someone to let a challenge slow his roll, and even though the forecast wasn't looking ideal, he was excited to rip on some new trails.

"I love Blue Magic, I had a great time on that last time I was here," he says. "I sort of ended up on Goat Skull for the bottom half and I loved it! I don't know how it is from the first half, but I'm looking forward to it. Hopefully the weather cooperates—as long as the visibility is ok, I'll be good."

Possession:

from page 3

arraignment in the Vermont Superior Court, Rutland Criminal Division. The Court, Judge Cortland Corsones presiding, ordered Mr. Dubois to abide by certain conditions of release which restrict Dubois' access to minors, the internet, and devices capable of accessing the internet during the pendency of this case.

VT-ICAC investigates cases of child sexual exploitation occurring over the internet, including the production and online distribution of child sexual abuse materials. VT-ICAC also provides forensic examination services.

technical assistance, law enforcement training, and public education and outreach.

The Attorney General's Office emphasizes that individuals charged with a crime are legally presumed innocent until their guilt is proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

AJGA crowns Xu and Wang champions

The girls' division champion was Kristina Xu of Claremont, California who scored an even-par 213. It was her first AJGA victory.

"I definitely did not expect to win, but I'm just glad I got it done. Hopefully I'll carry this same momentum into the next tournament," Xu told the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) after winning the tournament.

Notable accomplishments at the Killington event included:

- No. 156 in the Rolex AJGA Rankings
- Carded five birdies in final round
- Won the low final round award (68)

The runner-up in the girls division was Emily Luo of Danville, California who scored 2-over-par 215. It was her eighth top-10 finish since 2022.

Notable accomplishments at the Killington event included:

· Carded eight birdies

The boys' division champion was Benjamin Wang of San Ramon, California who scored 5-under-par 208. It was also his first AJGA victory.

Notable accomplishments at the Killington event included:

- Carded 11 birdies
- Bogey-free second round
- Recorded the lowest overall tournament score since 2019

The runner-up in the boys division was Isaiah Ibit of Ontario, Canada who scored 3-over-par 216. It was his best finish in an AJGA event.

Notable accomplishments at the Killington event included:

- Won the low final round award (69)
- Jumped from T22 to second place
 For more information follow #Killington I

For more information follow #KillingtonJr or visit ajga.org.





Courtesy AIGA

Kristina Xu (left) and Benjamin Wang (right) won the annual American Junior Golf Association tournament at Green Mountain National in Killington last week.



By Jim Harrison

The top finishers gather together after the tournament holding their vase awards on the green.





Courtesy AJGA

Emily Luo (left) and Isaiah Ibit (right) were the runners up in the AJGA tournament.





30x30:

from page 8

That doesn't just mean scientists and conservation experts. It means farmers and foresters, hunters and mountain bikers. It means Abenaki, people of color and other historically marginalized groups, as well as municipal leaders, housing developers, small business owners, and many others.

Sustaining an effective statewide effort will also require working collectively to achieve a

broad vision for Vermont rather than getting hung up on narrow definitions of what "counts" toward the targets. After all, the "30×30" idea isn't just an accounting exercise. It's intended to be an urgent call to action that brings everyone together to conserve nature.

Thankfully, Vermont's new law embraces that idea. It recognizes that we need action on all fronts — more "forever wild" lands, more support for working forests, and more access to nature for all - as well as sustainable growth and healthy farmland outside of those natural areas.

Of course, the new law will fail if it produces only a lengthy plan that sits on a shelf. Tangible, meaningful action should be the guiding mantra, and leaders would be wise to identify early victories that can build momentum.

A slew of new federal grant opportunities,

including Inflation Reduction Act funding, gives Vermont that chance if state officials and partners pounce on them. Meanwhile, willing business leaders should step up, and philanthropic giving and nonprofit commitment should match the scale of this statewide commitment.

Finally, realizing the potential for a green, healthy Vermont will require looking beyond state borders. From Lake Champlain to the Connecticut River, our watersheds depend on our neighbors' choices. Likewise, our wildlife doesn't stop at state lines. Vermont leaders already know $they \, can\, accomplish\, more\, together\, with\, our\, Northeastern\, partners\, and\, should\, make\, regional$ collaboration a cornerstone of the state's plan.

If Vermont can get it right, this law could generate a legacy of action that everyone sees $themselves \ in. \ It \ could \ help \ preserve \ more \ of \ the \ places \ we \ love \ for \ our \ grand children. \ It \ could$ also provide cleaner water, bolster our climate change efforts, make outdoor access more equitable, and secure the economic benefits of nature our state depends on.

In the process, we might even set a model that other places can follow too. That's an exciting prospect.



By Robin Alberti

Top riders crowned at MAXXIS Eastern States Cup

This past weekend, June 24-25, Killington Resort hosted the MAXXIS Eastern States Cup — an East Coast downhill and enduro mountain bike championship series. Amatures and professionals competed in a number of different age categories — some for cash prizes. Congratulations to local Ashley Stearns who won the female pro division! Pictured above are the top pro male finishers Sunday, June 25.



Scholarships: ...

from page 6

School, who will attend Vt State University at Castleton; and Cadence Muth, Otter Valley Union High School, who will also attend Vt State University's Vt Technical College. Other 2023 recipients include Garrett Davine of Rutland (Towson University) and Leo Therrien of Proctor (Vt State University); and

RRMC employees, William Bogertman (University of South Alabama); and Summer Bennett McPhetres (Vt Technical College).

In its seventh year, the scholarship program received an overwhelming response from a wide variety of qualified candidates across the region once again this

year. "We had an outstanding pool of applicants once again this year," said Dr. Stanley Shapiro, co-Chair of the Rutland Area Medical Community Scholarship Committee. "Each application brought a great deal of pride to every member on the committee."

For more info, visit: RRMC. org/ways-to-give/fundraising.



SALES FOR JULY 2023

Items on sale July 1-31, 2023



FIREBALL

CINNAMON WHISKY

750ML

\$12⁹⁹

JACK DANIEL'S

OLD #7 BLACK

Visit 802spirits. com for locations and details.

Not responsible for typographical errors









TITO'S HANDMADE



VODKA 1.75L SALE PRICE





SMIRNOFF



BARR HILL

\$13⁹⁹

BARR HILL GIN

750ML

\$32⁹⁹

BURNETT'S

VODKA

1.75L





Vermont's new law

...recognizes that we need

action on all fronts -

more "forever wild" lands,

more support for working

forests, and more access

to nature for all - as well

as sustainable growth and

healthy farmland outside

of those natural areas.

CAPTAIN MORGAN SPICED RUM GLASS 750ML









CASAMIGOS ANCO TEQUILA 750ML

\$**52**⁹⁹



SUPERIOR RUM 750ML

BACARDI

SVEDKA

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1.75L

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1.75L SALE PRICE \$42⁹⁹



\$15⁹⁹ SAVE \$3.00

JIM BEAM BOURBON 750ML

This ad is paid for by Vt. Liquor Brokers or individual companies.

Solutions \rightarrow 21

WORDPLAY **SUDOKU** 'Star Spangled' word search. Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

Α S E K C 0 R G R B B P F L N C D P М В U G D E L G N Α P S Y U D U L Ρ 0 М Y Ι T Α Ε S S S S В G 0 P R C K N G D K W F C 0 F Y U S P S 0 Ι R R Т L A P F T F T A R K 0 Ν Α W М Т Y Т G Т N N S C T F Ι Ε P S G S F Y W R T М A G N L Ι S В Ε G K 0 Ι В D Ε C D U K Α Н K A N U Н U T D R E Ε C 0 N Ε M R U Ι T R K W 0 Α U Ι S D N Ε R D W P L Н Н W 0 W L L Ι N Ι C Ε U E E 0 S P C R G Y 0 D 0 S Α F D R P T R P T D R C T T Н R L W N В E T E Ι Ε Ε I S S C Ε М 0 U R D U R Y K S S F Ε D G Y A L L E Α N Ν K N U W E Y L E P R L M Н S C Ι G D D G E F U R 0 K U М Ι Y S T Н Ι F Α Ε L Н Ε G K М Y Н G В R K E W S S E N Ν G T T S 0 C E Ι Α Ν G Ι D В U G G 0 C C Ι R E Y Ε N W Α М Α P F A U W Α S S М Ε C Α S М U F R L R Ν S Ε Т F 0 М L L W W Т E U В W U G 0 Y Α S Н В Ι F R В G Α N D D Y U R В W L

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		9	6		8		2	5
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5	1		2					
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							9	
					4			8
						7		3
	7		5	6				9
Level: Advanced								

How to Play

Each block is divided by its own matrix of nine cells. The rule for solv-

ing 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.

3

AMERICA BACKYARD BURGER

CELEBRATE

DESSERT FLAG **FOURTH** FRANKFURTER

GATHERING GRILLING GUESTS HOLIDAY

ICE CREAM INDEPENDENCE LEMONADE

ROCKETS SKY SPANGLED STAR

SUMMER SUNSHINE UNITED WARM

Solutions →21

PUZZLE CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS 1. Small Eurasian deer

4. Irish county 10. A major division of geological time 11. Broadway

actor Lane Canadian province

14. It causes fainting (abbr.) 15. Two

16. A notable one is blue

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Rings 23. Sullies

24. Occurs

26. Publicity

27. Near 28. Tools of a

trade 30. Offer in good faith

31. "American

Idol" network 34. Garments

36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Retired NFL DC Dean

39. Hot meal 40. A type of gin

41. Percussion instrument

42. A \$10 bill 48. About ground

50. Medicine man 51. Seedless raisin

52. National capital of Albania 53. Appendage 54. OJ trial judge 55. By the way 56. Bicycle parts

58. Barbie's friend 59. In a way, stretched

60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN 1. Make up for 2. American sonabird 3. Pav

4. International organization 5. Engravers 6. Declared as fact

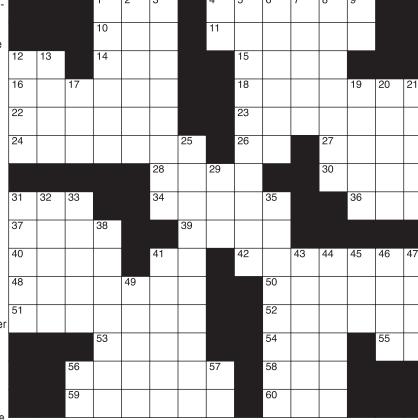
7. Criminal 8. Jewelry 9. Hospital worker (abbr.) 12. Nonsense

(slang) 13. Town in Galilee

17. Value 19. Another name 20. Sheep in sec- 31. Recesses ond year before

shearing 21. Town in Surrey, England 25. Appropriate during a time of

vear 29. Creative output



32. District in N. Germany

33. Rider of Rohan

35. The official emblem of the German Third Reich 38. One who puts down roots

41. Scribe

43. Painted a bright color 44. Tycoons

45. Actress Thurman 46. Walking accessory

47. Crest of a hill 49. Member of a North

American people 56. Type of computer 57. U.S. State (abbr.)



Guess Who?

I am a comic actor born in Philadelphia on July 6, 1979. I worked as a shoe salesman after attending community college. I later won several amateur comedy contests around New England. I've starred in many hit films and I had an album go five-times platinum in June of 2012.

Answer: Kevin Hart

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 HEATING - Boilers, Furnaces,

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Smart Home

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- Tank monitoring
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WEDNESDAY

Adult Pickleball

9-11 a.m. 47 Mechanic St., Castleton gym. Registration for this 6-week session is \$20. With 2 courts available, we're limited to a 20-person capacity. Enjoy Adult Rec pickup pickleball at the former Castleton Village School gym! 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 inforwirth these contents are the supervision of the supervision at this time. For more info visit https://www.castletonvermont.org/ recreation/events/44656.

Junior Farmer Camp Session 2
9 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$300-\$350. Junior Farmer Camp is as hands-on as it gets. Campers will get up close and personal with the farm's cows, horses, chickens, and sheep while learning the work that goes into the food we eat. In addition to daily farm chores and activities, we will explore a different farming topics like dairy, gardening, tractors, and draft animals. Other fun camp activities include: For more info visit billingsfarm.org.

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 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:

Early Literacy Playgroup10 a.m.-noon. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. A fun playgroup for your 2-5 year old. For more info visit:

Bike Bum Race Series
2-5 p.m. Middle-Lower Rabbit Hole, Killington Ski Resort. Included in league and lift price. Sign up to ride solo, or form a team of up to five people. Teams may be made up of any combination of age categories. Teams require a minimum of three people in order to sorre points. Racers will be placed in divisions by age and will have one timed run each week. All races will be held on beginner/intermediate trails ensuring fun for all bikers. For more info visit killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar/kmbc-bike-bum-race2?season=summer.

Graphic Novel Book Club for Kids

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

Summer Concert Series: Michele Fay Band

6 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$10. Bring a chair and pack a picnic and enjoy live music on the hillside. NO PETS ALLOWED. Service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome. The Michele Fay Band features original and Americana music that brings forth a comfortable groove of folk, swing, and bluegrass-influenced songs. For more info visit artistreevt.org/artistree-events.

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.

Jazz Cafe Series: New Kanon Jazz Trio
7 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Donation \$10.
SVA invites you to come out for an evening with high-toned live jazz music, bar snacks and homemade desserts, BYOB. For more info visit stonevalleyarts.org.

Community Benefit Features Livingston Taylor and Tod Pronto

7 p.m. Mountain Top Resort, 195 Mountain Top Road, Chittenden. Prices vary. A group of community volunteers is hosting a benefit concert featuring the legendary Livingston Taylor to along with Vermont native Tod Pronto. 100% of net proceeds to be donated to the Rutland Community Cupboard, BROC, the Pittsford Food Shelf and other causes. For more info visit mountaintopinn.com/event/concert-for-the-community.

THURSDAY

Junior Farmer Camp Session 29 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$300-\$350. Junior Farmer Camp is as hands-on as it gets. Campers will get up close and personal with the farm's cows, horses, chickens, and sheep while learning the work that goes into the food we eat. In addition to daily farm chores and activities, we will explore a different farming topics like dairy, gardening, tractors, and draft animals. Other fun camp activities include: For more info visit billingsfarm.org.

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

Toddler Storytime10:30-11:30 a.m. Norman Williams Public Library 10 The Green, Woodstock. Join us to read a few books on a theme of the week! Enjoy stories, socializing, and often a project tied into the theme. For young children ages 20 months - 3 1/2 years. Info@normanwilliams.org.

Ukelele GroupNoon–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: eartcenter.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 weekly yoga in the Fox Room. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

Michelob Ultra Golf League
5 p.m. Killington Golf Course. League and Membership costs. The format is a 9-hole scramble tournament on the front 9. Sign ups are available as a team or as an individual. Handicaps will be considered and reviewed to ensure fair play. Each week, prizing will go to the 1st and 2nd place teams by score, as well as proximity to the pin & long drive winners, whose generous prizes will come from local shops & restaurants. For more info visit killington.com/things-to-do/events/ events-calendar/kmb

Kids and Adults Ballroom Classes

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

Feast and Field Summer Concerts Presents Chachitas Now!

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm Fermentory, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$25. Direct royalton furripite, Barnard. \$5-\$25. Direct from Buenos Aires, with swooping hooks and party grooves, Argentina's identity-inclusive LGBTQIA+ cumbia band celebrates differences and reclaims the love song for all. Mixing in tango, folk motifs, and electronics, the 7-piece Cachitas Now! moves from hyperpop anthems to swirling ballads. For more info visit feast-and-field.com.

Slate Valley Trails Analog x SVT gravel rides

6 p.m. Analog Cycles, 188 Main St #1, Poultney. See membership inclusion for details. Join SVT for our weekly summer group MTB rides. For more info visit slatevalleytrails.

Fair Haven Concerts in the Park: Beatles Tribute

Band, Studio Two

7 p.m. Fair Haven Park. Free. Now in their 11th year performing, Studio Two is a headlining Beatles tribute band, featuring Berklee College of Music Alums who focus on the early years (1962 - 1966). For more info visit poultneyareachamber.com/organizer/ fair-haven-concerts-in-the-park.

FRIDAY

Junior Farmer Camp Session 2
9 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$300-\$350. Junior Farmer Camp is as hands-on as it gets. Campers will get up close and personal with the farm's cows, horses, chickens, and sheep while learning the work that goes into the food we eat. In addition to daily farm chores and activities, we will explore a different farming topics like dairy, gardening, tractors, and draft animals. Other fun camp activities include: For more info visit billingsfarm.org.

Audubon Bird Walk at Lefferts Pond

7 a.m. Lefferts Pond on Wildcat Road, Chittenden. Free. This will be a 1.6-mile bird walk open to all. Should see warblers and other interesting birds. Park in the upper lot. Contact us at birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org for more info.

Brandon Farmers' Market

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Central Park, Brandon. Free. The Brandon Farmers' Market started over 40 years ago to serve the Brandon and surrounding communities by providing a non-commercial positive atmosphere for Brandon area consumers to purchase quality locally made produce, goods, and crafts. For more info visit brandonfarmersmarketvt.com/about.

WoodSpryte Early Learning Adventures 9:30-10:30 a.m. Green Mountain Community School, Whitney Hall/ The Buttery, 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney. \$12/class. WoodSpryte Arts The Buttery, 1 Brennan Circle, Politiney. \$12/class. Woodspryte Arts classes will focus primarily around WoodSpryte Garden. Our stories and activities will be guided by what we are planting, what creatures are visiting, what is growing, what we are tasting and/or preparing... all through stories, songs, hands-on gardening activities, as well as the arts and cooking projects. Ages 2-8. For info call 802-235-2209, email woodsprytearts@vermontel.net, or find us on Facebook at tinyurl.com/ stonevalleyartswoodspryte.

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

Shrewsbury Meeting House Concert Series:

Satyrdagg

5 p.m. Shrewsbury Meeting House at 88 Lottery Road in Shrewsbury. Free. There is lots of room to spread out, dance, and enjoy the company of others. This week's performer is Satyrdagg. For more info visit Shrewsbury Meeting House Concert Series on Facebook. The Jackson Gore Summer Concert Series: Studio II, Beatles Tribute 6 p.m. Jackson Gore, Okemo Ski Resort Free. oin us on the lawn at the Jackson Gore Courtyard for family friendly live music on Friday nights for summer 2023! Food and beverage will be offered at the venue. For more info visit okemo com more info visit okemo.com.





Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 12

That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class
6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$80. Award-winning
Chef Ted will then lead a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class.
Come have a fun cooking party workshop! We'll greet you with a warm
welcome at our mountain top retreat which, wherever you look, has
views and picturesque vignettes. Award-winning Chef Ted will then lead
a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class. We'll use mostly organic and regional ingredients that herald mainly from nearby Vermont farms. Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / info@odysseyeventsvt.com

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. Grades 7-12. To reserve a spot visit: stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com. For more info visit: stonevalleyarts or stonevalleyarts.org.



Brandon Independance Day Celebration 9 a.m. All over the town of Brandon there will be a procession, bands in the parks, the Heritage train giving rides up Park Street and two auction sites where you can take home winnings on the same day. Additionally, there will be a beer garden, our world-famous Little Debbie Swiss Cake Roll Eating Contest, an evening street dance and fireworks at dusk that can be seen from up to a mile away. For more information and times,

Tales to Tails: Kids Reading to Dogs 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Join some of our favorite Therapy Dogs in the Children's Room to practice your reading! Perfect for beginning readers, there is no better audience to practice on! For more info visit rutlandfree.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/ tales-to-tails-kids-reading-to-dogs-18.

Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts Art and Craft Festival

10 a.m.-4 p.m., 611 Vermont 103, Ludlow. A variety of artisans will be offering their work. In addition to fine arts, we will be offering pottery, jewelry, home decor, handmade wooden spoons, stained glass, and ceramics. For more info vist fletcherfarm. org/about-us/craft-festivals.

Vermont Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Depot Park, Evelyn Street, downtown Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, and the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. The 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, jellie's and jams, maple products, honey, CBD products, delicious hot foods, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

Make & Take Kids Class

10:30 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

Rutland Railroad Museum & Model Club

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

The Soufflé Also Rises and Apple-Tart Cooking

12-noon. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$80. Learn how to make our un-classic fallen soufflé. First, we handle the classic combo of Vermont dairy and eggs in an unclassic "fallen" soufflé. Then with apples from local orchards, you'll learn to make a light and delicious apple tart with Vermont maple cream. If it's sugaring season we may even walk to our neighbor's shack to see some of the processes. For more info, call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / info@ odysseyeventsvt.com

Independence Day Celebrations
3 p.m. Poultney Elementary School 96 School Circle. Free. Games, food trucks, performances, and fireworks starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Poultney Elementary School! Mark your calendars for an annual event not to be missed! Poultney's July 4th celebration will kick-off in the afternoon of Saturday, July 1st with games, food trucks, performances and fireworks. For more info poultneyareachamber.com/events.

Cooler in the Mountains Concert Series:

Soulshine Revival 3-5:30 p.m. Snowshed Lodge Base area,

Killington Ski Resort. Free. For more info visit killington.com.

Independence Day Sprint Car Spectacular &

Fireworks 6 p.m. Devil's Bow Speedway in West Haven. Prices vary. Devil's Bowl presents its Independence Day sprint car spectacular The event will be jampacked with racing as the SCoNE Sprint Cars return, all six weekly divisions will complete, and the wild-andwackv Enduro Series will crank up the excitement. For more info visit

devilsbowlspeedwayvt.

Summer Hockey League at Union

Arena

Various sessions beginning at 3:30 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$225-\$250. Skaters have an opportunity to be on the ice and participate in drills, learning important skills and parts of the game from Steven Townley, local Woodstock alum and state champion, now playing D-1 collegiate hockey for Dartmouth's "Big Green" men's ice hockey team. For more information men's ice hockey team. For more info visit unionarena. org/summer-camps.

Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson

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

Music in the Mountains Chamber Music Series 7 p.m. Pico Base Lodge: 73 Alpine Drive, Mendon \$30. Each summer professional musicians gather at Killington play chamber music and to teach students. Performances by the faculty and invited guest artists have made the festival a mainstay of summer culture in the region. For more info visit killington.com.

Pond Hill Ranch Rodeo

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

Kinhaven Concert Series 7:30 p.m. Kinhaven Music School, 354 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston. 7:30 p.m. Kinnaven Music School, 334 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston. Free. Faculty Concert Series are held on Saturday evenings in the concert hall. Parents, alumni & friends are invited beforehand at 6:30 pm outside the concert hall for an informal gathering offering beverages and light refreshments. For more info visit kinhaven.org/

The Soufflé Also Rises and Apple-Tart Cooking

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

JACKSON GORE SUMMER CONCERT SÉR RIBUTE BAN

FRIDAY @ 6 P.M.

Fireworks in Ludlow

6:30 p.m. 77 Okemo Ridge Road, Ludlow. Free. Celebrate Independence Day weekend with fireworks on Okemo at dusk. Join us in the Okemo Base Area for fireworks, food, music & fun! Squeels on Wheels & others selling food beginning at 6:30 pm. Georges Back Pocket performs at 7 pm. For more info visit yourplaceinvermont.com.

The Soufflé Also Rises and Apple-Tart Cooking

12-noon. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$80. Learn how to make our un-classic fallen soufflé. Learn the art of cooking with local ingredients. For more info, call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / info@odysseyeventsvt.com

Sunday Hockey Clinic with Jon Chamberlin

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

Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson

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

That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$80. Award-winning Chef Ted will then lead a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class. Award-winning Chef Ted will lead a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class. We'll use mostly organic and regional ingredients that herald mainly from nearby Vermont farms. Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / info@odysseyeventsvt.com



Calendar:

from page 13

MONDAY

Kids Ukulele & Singing Summer Camp 9 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. \$140.00 Have fun playing the ukulele and singing! Performance on the last day of camp (July 8). Bring your own ukulele or reserve one ahead from the Chaffee instrument lending library. Ages 6-12. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

Babies and Toddlers Rock

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

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. Info:rutlandrec.com/godnick.

Chronicles of Yarnia

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

Sewcial Studies

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

Hockey Skating Clinic with Jacki Smith
3:30 p.m. Session 1, 4:40 p.m. Session 2: Union Arena, 80 Amsden
Way, Woodstock. \$150. This clinic focuses on skating forwards and
backwards, and using your inside and outside edges to help skaters
get more comfortable using them all. We will work on stride position,
balance, transitions, and edge control. Having total control over your edges while keeping your upper body quiet will allow you to do anything with a stick and puck. For more info visit unionarena.org/ summer-camps.

Summer Smash 5 p.m. Vermont State Fairground, 175 S. Main St., Rutland. \$12-\$140. July 4th celebration. Fireworks follow demo derby at 9:45pm. For more info visit paramountvt.org/event/summer-smash.

Vermont Symphony Orchestra Concert and Fireworks

5:30 p.m. Grafton Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Road, Grafton. Free-\$35. The Vermont Symphony Orchestra's popular statewide summer concert tour is back with a lineup of American favorites celebrating the most anticipated time of year in Vermont. For mor einfo visit yourplaceinvermont.com/event/vso-concert-fireworks.

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

Music on Monday 6 p.m. Pingree Park, 36 Pingree Park Lane, Londonderry. Free. Come enjoy Music Mondays at Pingree Park in Londonderry. This is a free event, so bring a blanket or chair and a picnic to enjoy with your family. Pack-in/ Pack-out! No alcohol on Town Property please. Sponsored by the Town of Londonderry. (Rain location is the Old Town Hall, 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry, VT). For more info visit yourplaceinvermont.com/ event/pingree-park-music-mondays.

Circus Smirkus: A Midsummer Night's

Circus

6:30 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, Rutland. \$10 and up. Circus Smirkus brings magic and mayhem, love and chaos to the big top with an acrobatic adaptation of Shakespeare's comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." A cast of 30 talented youth get entangled in the dream-like woods where sprites sport about in the trees and fairies fly through the air. For more info visit smirkus.org.

HOCKEY SKATING GLINIC ITH JACKI SMITH

MONDAY

TUESDAY

Town of Killington Independence Day Celebration 9 a.m. Various locations. Free. There will be a parade, a firemen's

BBQ, games, fireworks and more. This event is sponsored by the Killington Fire Department, Killington Parks and Recreation, and the Killington Transfer Station. Please check the Killington Rec website for any updates regarding this event. For more info visit killington.com

Independence Day Parade
10 a.m. Green Mountain Community School 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney
Free. Parade with events to follow at the Bhakta Griswold Campus. Poultney's July 4th celebration will kick-off in the afternoon of Saturday, July 1 with games, food trucks, performances and fireworks For more info visit poultneyareachamber.com/

Fourth of July at Billings Farm & Museum

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free-\$17. Free. Horsedrawn wagon rides, historic lawn games, and crafts for the kids. Word enthusiasts can try their vocabulary in both youth and adult spelling bees (with a 19th century vernacular twist). There will be a friendly, action-packed game of historic baseball. Visitors of all ages can ioin the team or cheer from the bleachers for one of the original American pastimes. For more info visit billingsfarm.org.

Celebrating Calvin Coolidge and The Nation's July 4th Birthday.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. The President Calvii Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Route 100A Plymouth Notch will celebrate a double birthday, Coolidge's and the nation's. A color guard will accompany the ceremonial march to lay the presidential wreath at Coolidge's grave at noon, which all may join. Speeches and tours through the authentic buildings of Coolidge's time will round out the day.

Stories on a String10-10:30 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

Children's Indoor Storytime 10:30-11:30 a.m. Community Meeting Room, Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. 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.

Chess Club

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

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

Slate Valley Trails weekly Women's Mountain Bike

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





MUSIC Scene

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

CHITTENDEN

7 p.m. Mountain Top Inn – Concert for the Community with Livingston Taylor and Special Guest Tod Pronto

LUDLOW

7 p.m. Off the Rails – Rick Clogsdon

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Kim Wilcox

RUTLAND

5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Ryan

7 p.m. Main Street Park – Phil Henry & The Newsfeed

WOODSTOCK

5:30 p.m. Mon Vert Café- Last Wednesdays: Local Art & Music

THURS

BARNARD

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm - Feast & Field with Cachitas Now!

BETHEL

7 p.m. Babes Bar - Trivia

BOMOSEEN

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

BRIDGEWATER

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

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

KILLINGTON

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

6 p.m. Rivershed - Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. The Foundry - Ryan Fuller

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

7 p.m. Off the Rails - Breanna

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

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Artistree – Open Mic Night

7 p.m. Grange Theatre - God of

SOUTH ROYALTON

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



BOMOSEEN

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

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

CHESTER

6:30 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT -Moon Hollow

7 p.m. Country Girl Diner - Milo Z

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Mike Brown

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain -

6 p.m. The Foundry - Liz Reedy

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

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games - MB

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Calcuttas - Sammy B

6 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard Summer Music Series with Studio Two

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails - Red Hat Band

POULTNEY

6 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Aaron Audet

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub -Resolution Band

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Grange Theatre - God of Carnage

7:30 p.m. Saskadena Six - VSO Summer Festival with special guest Ray Vega



BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club Comedy Night

KILLINGTON

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

3 p.m. Snowshed Lodge Base Area – Cooler in the Mountains Concert Series with Soulshine

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington -Mike Brown

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – George Nostrand

7 p.m. Pico Base Lodge -Killington Music Festival: An Enchanted Evening

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Extra Stout

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Live Music

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Calcuttas - Liz Reedy

8:30 p.m. Off the Bails - Bear Mountain Bovs

POULTNEY

6 p.m. The Poultney Pub -Krishna Guthrie

PROCTORSVILLE

4 p.m. Outer Limits Brewing – Jim Yeager

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub - Jon

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Grange Theatre – God of Carnage

STOCKBRIDGE

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

BRIDGEWATER **CORNERS**

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Ben

BOMOSEEN

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

KILLINGTON

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Acoustic Ruckus

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

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

5 p.m. The Foundry - Summit Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Liquid Art - Tee Boneicus

6 p.m. Rivershed - Trivia Night 8 p.m. Jax Food & Games - King Arthur

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Calcuttas - Chris Pallutto

6:30 p.m. Okemo's Sitting Bull Lounge (Outside) George's Back

7 p.m. Off the Rails - Nick Bredice

PITTSFIELD

7 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Bow Thayer

RUTLAND

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

WOODSTOCK

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

MON

KILLINGTON

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

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Off the Rails - Sammy B

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

RUTLAND

3 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds – Summer Smash: Demolition Derby, Vendor Market and

WOODSTOCK

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

BRANDON

2 p.m. Town Green Park - 4th of July Celebration with Aaron

KILLINGTON 10 a.m. River Road/Johnson Rec Center – 4th of July Celebration

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

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

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



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Town of Killington to hold annual Fourth of July celebration

Tuesday, July 4—KILLINGTON—Killington Parks and Recreation will host the annual July 4th celebration with festiviities beginning at 9 a.m.

The Friends of the Library book sale begins the day and it ends with the fireworks show at 9 p.m. There will be family-friendly activities scheduled throughout the day.

Schedule:

- 9 a.m.: Friends of the Library book Sale at the Sherburne Memorial Library
- 10 a.m.: 4th of July parade. Residents, visitors, and businesses are all welcome to participate in the parade. Children 12 years or younger can bring their patriotically decorated bike and ride in the parade. Businesses can register a float. Organizations, businesses, and groups can also walk in the parade. Please note that registration is required through KillingtonRec.com by July 2. Judges will be on hand to determine the best float in these categories: Best Use of Theme and Best in Show.
- 11 a.m.: Johnson Recreation Center opens for public swim. DJ Evan Foley will provide the music for the afternoon.
- 11:30 a.m.: Killington Town and Killington Fire and Rescue BBQ under the Johnson

Recreation Pavilion. Picnic meal includes: burgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers. Those who wish to donate side dishes can arrange dropping off donations at the Killington Resort Hospitality Campus on Weathervane Road by emailing recdirector@killingtontown.com. Donations may also be dropped off the morning of the event.

- 1:30 p.m.: Kids field games at the soccer field. No registration required.
- 3:30 p.m.: Belly flop contest
- 7 p.m.: Live music by Summit Pond Quartet
- 9 p.m.: Fireworks show

Volunteers are needed for parade support, food service, set up and break down. Please sign up to volunteer at KillingtonRec.com under the Fourth of July program.

Parking: Due to potential traffic flow issues, parking will be confined to one side of River Road. Carpooling is encouraged.

Rain Date: If inclement weather occurs, please check KillingtonRec.com for more updates.



Regional Independence Day & Fireworks Schedule

Woodstock

Revel in patriotic events throughout Woodstock. From traditional fireworks and barbecues to historic activities and games. Fireworks begin July 4, at 6 p.m. at Billings Park and surrounding area.

Rutland

Fireworks will start at dusk at Northwood Park July 2 from 8:30-10 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, July 9.

Ludlow

Fireworks start at dusk on Sunday, July 2 at Okemo in Ludlow. The fireworks are sponsored by the Town of Ludlow, Magis Talc and William Raveis VT Properties)

Plymouth

On Saturday, July 4, the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation will celebrate the birth of the nation as well as its thirtieth president, Calvin Coolidge. Coolidge is the only U.S. president born on Independence Day, and July 4 has been commemorated at his birthplace in Plymouth Notch for many decades. Honor Coolidge and elevate your Fourth by attending a day of special celebrations at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site (3780 Route 100A, Plymouth, Vermont).

Activities begin at 10 a.m. when the Coolidge Foundation partners with United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) to host an official naturalization ceremony. Twenty immigrants hailing from thirteen different countries will become U.S. citizens during this ceremony. Judge J. Garvan Murtha will preside. The public is highly encouraged to attend.

The public is invited to then gather at the Plymouth Notch village green at 12:00 p.m. when a delegation of the Vermont National Guard, including Adjutant General Steven Cray, will lead a march to the Plymouth Notch Cemetery. There, a wreath from the White House will be placed at the President's gravesite in a brief ceremony with members of the Coolidge family in attendance. President Coolidge's great-granddaughter Jennifer Sayles Harville will sing the National Anthem, taps will be played, and members of the Coolidge family will read selections from speeches of President Coolidge.

At 1:30 p.m. in Plymouth's Union Christian Church, famed Coolidge actor Jim Cooke will offer his final performance of "Calvin Coolidge: More than Two Words." Mr. Cooke first performed this solo act thirty years ago on July 4 in Plymouth. The president's son, John Coolidge, was in the audience that day and remarked, "The actor did very well with his impersonation." After thirty years and many more rave reviews, Mr. Cooke is retiring the act this Fourth of July. Arrive early to enjoy Mr. Cooke impersonating President Coolidge one last time.

At 2:30 p.m., the Coolidge Foundation will lead a full-length, group reading of the Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge. This is an annual tradition, and the public is encouraged to join the reading. The reading will take place in the Union Christian Church.

Other July 4 activities include a chicken barbecue at the site's restaurant, The Wilder House, cheese making and sampling at the Plymouth Artisan Cheese Factory, and horse-drawn wagon rides with Plymouth resident Fred DePaul. In addition, Fiber Arts in Vermont will showcase textiles in the Wilder Barn and the Plymouth Historical Society will present an exhibit in the One Room Schoolhouse.

The public can tour 12 buildings at the Coolidge Site, which is owned and operated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. A National Historic Landmark, Plymouth Notch is

considered one of the best-preserved presidential sites in the country. At the Museum & Education Center, visitors can explore the award-winning permanent exhibit, More Than Two Words: The Life and Legacy of Calvin Coolidge. This season's temporary exhibit, Grace Coolidge: A Glass of Fashion, displays several gowns worn by First Lady Grace Coolidge.

For further information about July 4 programs, or other special events, contact the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation, 802-672-3389, or visit the Foundation online at: Coolidge-Foundation.org.

Schedule:

- 10 a.m.: Naturalization Ceremony
- Noon.: Procession to the Plymouth Cemetery, led by the Vermont National Guard
- 12:10 p.m.: Cemetery Service at the grave of President Calvin Coolidge
- 1 p.m.: Chicken barbeque at the Wilder House Restaurant
- 1:30 p.m.: Jim Cooke's final performance of "Calvin Coolidge: More than Two Words"
- 2:30 p.m.: Group reading of The Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge
- All day: Horse-drawn wagon rides with Fred DePaul, Cheese-making and sampling at the Plymouth Artisan Cheese Factory, Tours of the Historic Site, and special exhibits by Fiber Arts in Vermont and the Plymouth Historical Society
- Poultney

Poultney's July 4 celebration will kick-off in the afternoon of Saturday, July 1 with

games, food trucks, performances and fireworks at the elementary school, and continue on Tuesday, July 4 with the Poultney Parade and events on the Bhakta Griswold campus. This parade has to be the longest in the state! It stretches all the way from the East Poultney Green to the elementary school grounds. Independence Day celebrations start at Poultney Elementary School Saturday, July 1 at 3 p.m. The parade starts Tuesday, July 4 at 10 a.m. with events to follow at the Bhakta Griswold Campus.

Brandon

• Events will be held all day on July 1, with a silent auction and 50/50 raffle. The winner will be drawn at 6:30 p.m. at the Street Dance. Here is the schedule of events:
• 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Silent Auction, Congregational Church's Fellowship Hall across from Central Park (closed during parade)

- 9 a.m. 3 p.m.: Free train rides; start at Brandon Inn (not during parade)
- 10 a.m.: Parade starts on Park St., through downtown, ends at Conant Square
- 11 a.m. 1 p.m.: Runnin' Wild Jazz Band led by Gene Childers, Central Park Gazebo
- 11 a.m. 3 p.m.: Free family games, face painting, trampoline. Behind Brandon Inn PLUS Spider Bounce Ride & Mechanical Bull (fee)
- Noon: Little Debbie Swiss Roll eating contest, behind Brandon Inn
- Noon 7 p.m.: Beer Garden in Green Park, across from Red Clover Ale
- 1 p.m.: Duck Race over Neshobe Falls they go in behind Brandon Inn and good viewing is at Kennedy Park
- 3-5 p.m.: Aaron Audet Band at Green Park
- 6:30 Dusk: Street Dance with Jam Man Entertainment in front of Bar Harbor Bank
- Dusk: Fireworks Downtown Brandon Visible from within a mile of downtown

Park at American Legion - Route 7, South, Short Walk or Shuttle Bus: 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Free Socks

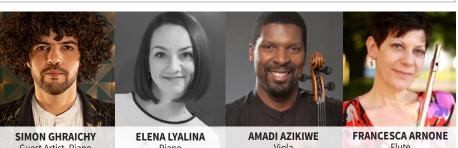
Purchase any Hike Outdoor shoe <u>between July 1st - 9th</u> and get a free pair of Farm To Feet Socks (up to \$25 value).



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PARKING: Due to potential traffic flow issues, parking will be confined to one side of

River Road. Carpooling is encouraged.



How to grow shade-loving perennials

By Deborah J. Benoit

What do you do when there's more shade and shadow than sunshine in your garden? While your plant selections will likely differ from those chosen for a sunny spot, there are still plenty of beautiful, flowering plants from which to

When selecting plants for a shady spot, first determine how much light it receives. Even beds that are primarily in full sun can contain areas that are part sun/part shade when larger plants shade smaller ones.

"Full sun" means the area receives at least 6 hours of direct sunlight a day. A "part sun/part shade" garden will receive between 3 and 6 hours of sun. On the other hand, an area in "full shade" receives little or no direct sunlight (less than 3 hours) each day. The tags on perennial plants will indicate the amount of light that plant prefers.

Hosta (Hosta) just might be the most-familiar shadeloving plant. Its round, mounding form is popular in home landscapes. Sizes range from less than a foot in diameter ("Blue Mouse Ears") to over 5 feet in diameter and 3 feet high ("Sum and Substance").

Hostas are available with plain or striped foliage in various shades of green, with white to lavender flowers $blooming \, in \, summer. \, During \, spring, \, emerging \, leaf \, shoots$ are edible (they taste like asparagus).

Unfortunately, hosta leaves are a favorite of deer throughout the growing season. Hostas are hardy in U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zones 3-9. If you're not sure of your zone, see planthardiness.ars.usda.

Like hostas, coral bells (Heuchera) are easy to grow. The scalloped leaves come in shades of green, amber, peach, red and purple. Heuchera will add color to a shady area even when the flowers aren't in bloom.

Delicate, bell-shaped flowers appear in late spring to mid-summer on stems rising above the leaves. Heuchera are hardy in Zones 4-9 and grow best when they receive at least 4 to 6 hours of direct sun, making them a good choice for a part sun/part shade location.

Bleeding Heart (Dicentra), which does well in Zones 3-9, will grow in part to full shade. This spring-blooming perennial is a favorite of hummingbirds with its red, heart-shaped flowers suspended from an arching stem. Some varieties have neon green or fern-like foliage. Once it flowers, the plant will die back, returning the following spring.

If you like interesting-shaped flowers or want to discourage deer, astilbe (Astilbe), Zones 3-8, may be the plant for

you. Feathery plumes in shades of pink, red, lavender and white rise above fern-like foliage. Growing between 12 to 48 inches tall and 18 to 30 inches wide, astilbe does well in part to full shade.

Ferns are a great choice for shaded areas. While ferns don't produce flowers, their delicate fringe of foliage adds a peaceful, woodland feel to the garden. Depending on the variety, ferns are hardy in Zones 2-8.

Consider the ostrich fern (Matteuccia struthiopteris), a native to the woodlands of Vermont. It grows 2 to 3 feet tall and 3 to 6 feet wide. As an added bonus, you can harvest fiddleheads in the spring from the ostrich fern (but not other varieties).

For a more colorful alternative, there's the Japanese painted fern (Athyrium niponicum). Its silver-colored fronds will grow to about 18 inches tall and wide.

If you like delicate foliage, check out Jacob's ladder (Polemonium caeruleum). Hardy in Zones 4-8, it grows in partial to full shade. Its blue or white bell-shaped flowers attract pollinators, and some varieties have variegated foliage. It will reach between 1 to 3 feet high and 1 to 2 feet in diameter.

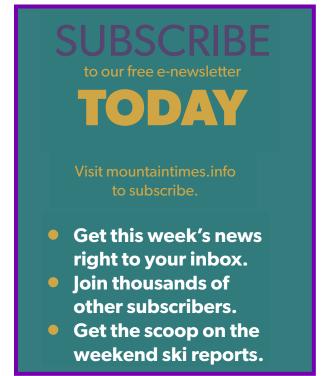
These and many more perennials grow well in areas without bright sunlight. There's really no need to avoid the shade when planning your garden.



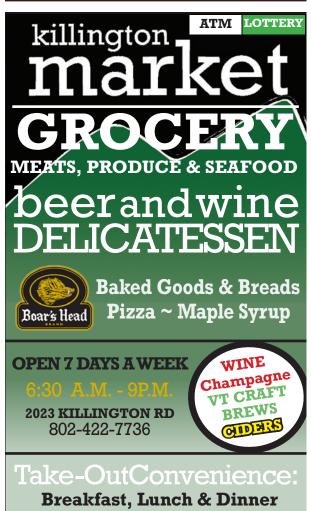
Submitted

A perennial garden come in a variety of colors and can do well in the shadier areas of your garden.

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LaFountain Scores Big Before Rain at Devil's Bowl Speedway

Five features to be made up throughout summer schedule

Adam LaFountain was the only winner on a washout day at Devil's Bowl Speedway on Sunday, June 25. The event, presented by Fair Haven/Poultney Auto Supply, was postponed by rain on Saturday night, and again punctuated by a major pop-up rainstorm on Sunday, postponing five of six feature races.

LaFountain was happy to get his work done earlier in the event, taking not only his first win of the season, but also the extra-cash purse worth \$300 for the support-level Hoosier Daddy Racing Novice Sportsman division. Eric Shaw started third in the 25-lap race but jumped into the lead on the opening lap. Two quick caution periods came on laps 3 and 4, during which Randy Edson grabbed the top spot.

Starksboro, Vt.'s LaFountain started fifth on the 17-car field and was able to take over after the second restart, then held on for two more restarts on lap 6. One final caution flag waved on lap 14, but the restart did not slow LaFountain down and he drove off for the third win of his career. Josh "Boomer" Patterson had a solid drive from eighth position to finish as the runner-up, and Robert Gauthier finished third. Championship point leader Tyler Travis finished fourth and Edson rounded out the top five.

Ed Bell took sixth ahead of Aaron Clark. Raelin Dunham, a regular in the Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint division, finished eighth in her first start in a Modified-type car, driving as a substitute for Bobbi Hults. Mike Clark and Allen Hewitt completed the top 10 finishers. Qualifying heats were won by LaFountain, Bell, and Edson.

The headline Sunoco Sportsman Modified division had its 30-lap feature race rained out, though qualifying heats were completed with Walt Hammond Jr., Walter J. Hammond, and Evan Roberts winning. In the O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman division, Benson, Vt.'s Katrina Bean scored an extra \$100 by winning the JTL Auto Sales Dash for Cash, while heat wins went to Steve Miller, Alex Layn, and rookie William Lussier Jr.

The Mini Stock division saw Adam Mahoney, Jakobee Alger, and Brian Blake win heats, with youngsters Gage Provencher and Logan Denis taking the Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint qualifiers. The brand-new 9th State Cannabis Crown Vic division was also on hand, but its race was also rained out.

Devil's Bowl Speedway will announce the makeup information for the Sportsman, Limited Sportsman, 500cc Mini Sprint, and Mini Stock classes soon.

Central Vermont's biggest and loudest Independence Day celebration will be at Devil's Bowl Speedway on Saturday, July 1 at 6:00 p.m. In addition to a massive fireworks display, the headline Sunoco Sportsman Modified division will have its annual "Firecracker" race for 44 laps and \$2,000 to win. All other weekly classes will be on the program except for the Crown Vics, and the wild-and-crazy Enduro Series is also in action.

Grandstand general admission is \$20 for adults and free for children aged 12 and under. Infield drive-in parking is \$25 for adults and free for kids.



Submitted

Combatting cedar apple rust disease

By Ann Hazelrigg

With our recent rainy weather, you may have noticed bright orange orbs with gelatinous tendrils on our native eastern red cedar and ornamental cedars (Juniperus spp.). These are the galls of the cedar apple rust disease pathogen, Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae Schwein.

This unique fungus disease requires two hosts within a couple of miles of each other to complete its lifecycle, a juniper species and an apple, crabapple, serviceberry, hawthorn or quince host. The pathogen overwinters on the evergreen host as a 1- to 2-inch knotty brown gall or swelling.

When the weather warms in May and conditions are rainy, orange gelatinous "spore horns" are produced. The gall functions as a fruiting body, releasing spores that are carried on wind currents to the alternate host. These fruiting bodies can dry down between rains and then become active again five to seven times following rainy weather through May and June.

When the fungus infects the alternate host, it causes a leaf spot that initially appears on the foliage as small yellow spots. These gradually enlarge and turn bright yellow-orange, often with a dark orange border.

The leaf spot stage on apples and crabapples can impact the health and vigor of the apple host and has probably contributed to some of the early defoliation we have noted in the past few years. On the leaf undersides another kind of fruiting body is apparent, releasing spores in summer that are carried back to the juniper host completing the lifecycle.

Although this disease rarely kills either host, you should try to avoid growing susceptible junipers near crabapples and apples. When planting new apples or crabapples, select rust-resistant cultivars.

Even if the fruits on your apple trees show symptoms of the disease, the apples are safe to eat. However, you may want to remove the blemished area first.

Pruning apples and crabapples yearly to open them up to air and light can reduce leaf wetness and reduce infection. Removing dormant galls from junipers before the orange-colored spore tendrils are formed in the spring can also help to reduce the amount of disease. Fungicide control for the disease is not practical or necessary.



By James Chatfield, Ohio State University/bugwood.org

The foliage of apple trees and other alternate hosts for the cedar apple rust fungus will have leaf spots that initially appear as small yellow spots that gradually get bigger and turn bright yellow-orange, often with a dark orange border.

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PIPER & PETEY

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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
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& Thurs. 12-7 p.m. · lucymac.org

Catamount Pet Supply Company, inc.

296 U.S. Route 4 East Rutland Town, VT 05701 | 802-773-7642



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MON. - FRI. 10am - 6:30pm & SAT. 10am - 5pm

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Rutland County Humane Society



Fonzie—9-Month-Old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Fonzie is full of puppy kisses and a goofy personality!



Crinkle—1-year-old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Crinkle is a happygo-lucky boy who loves everyone he meets.



She-Ra—1.5-year-old. Spayed female. Mixed breed. She-Ra is very smart and picks up on things very quickly.



Wink—1-year-old. Male. Mixed breed. Wink will do anything to make you laugh.



Scallion—1 ½-year-old. Female. Mixed breed. Black brindle. Scallion has a heart of gold and is easy company and also walks great on the leash.



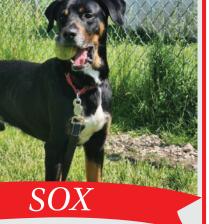
Sophie—1-year-old-Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Brown tiger. Sophie will welcome you with affection and a soft purr!



Edith—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Brown tabby. Edithneeds a lot of affection so she may be perfectly happy being the only child.



Shir Kahn—1-year-old. Neutered Male. Domestic shorthair. Orange. Shir Kahn loves hanging out on the "catio", enjoying the warm sun.



Sox—5-year-old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Black and tan. Sox is an exuberant pup will happily greet you with a wiggly butt!

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

Rockets Red Glare – July 4 Tips from the Rutland County Humane Society

With the 4th of July comes picnics, parades and fireworks. The 5th of July usually brings more stray animals than usual to the shelter. The noise and flash of fireworks scares even pets that are used to being outside. Since fireworks are becoming more common the best advice we have is to keep your pet indoors. For many pets, the most natural reaction to a scare is to run. If, despite your best efforts, your dog or cat gets free and runs, you want to have good ID on the pet. Microchips work best because collars and tags can get pulled off. Make sure you have informed the microchip company of any changes to your contact information. Call the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) at 483.6700 to let us know your pet is missing. Please be assured, even if your pet is brought in after hours by law enforcement, they are in a safe, comfortable place until you can retrieve them. Even if we don't answer the phone, we are staffed seven days a week. Wishing you and your pets a safe fourth of July.



Vitan—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Tabby. Vitan loves the affection of her people and would prefer a quiet home.



Rusty—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Orange and white. Rusty is a sweet, outgoing, affectionate cat who gets along with anyone!



Molly—5-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Black with white. Molly is very friendly and loves to play!



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Taurus

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

t can be easy to get stuck in a rut

Land become familiar with the

things that you do on the daily. Every

now and then though, you get to shine

a light into a particular corner of your

life and think, "Do I really want to be doing this?" For the next month,

you'll get to explore new ways of do-

ing little things. It doesn't sound like

much, but you'd be surprised how

little things add up. Change is as good



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



Sagittarius

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



Capricorn

Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

per 21 - January 20

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



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



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



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



Pisces

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



as a holiday.

Gemini

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



Cancer

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



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

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Cassandra has studied astrology for about 20 years. She is an international teacher of astrology who has been published all over the globe.

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Something worth saying yes to

Cosmic

Catalogue

By Cassandra

I'm sure you can all relate to the experi-

ence of driving in your car, where your thoughts are a thousand miles away and far from the present moment. Then something sudden or unexpected happens on the road — someone hits the brakes in front of you, or maybe you didn't see the lights turn green and the person behind you toots their horn, giving you the combination of a mild shock and a boost of adrenaline. Maybe you have had a near miss?

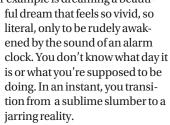
Tyndall In these kinds of circumstances, a split second can turn a situation into either a near miss or a

catastrophic life event.

Another example is dreaming a beauti-

This is the feel of this week and whatever happens as a result, you'll gain a new sense of your personal limitations. As you define your responsibilities and obligations, you'll open yourself

to something worth saying yes to.



Spawning sunfish, satellites, and sneakers

The Outside

Story

By Doug Facey

If a territorial male

ventures too close to

the nest of another.

however, the

defending fish flares

his fins and chases

the intruder away.

In the shallow margins of many lakes and ponds in June and July, you may spot male sunfish guarding their nests. The sunfishes (family Centrarchidae) comprise many well-known species

- including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, rock bass, and black crappie but the most visible nest guarders in early summer are the pumpkinseed, bluegill, and redbreast sunfish. These "sunnies" provide a good introduction to fishing - or simply fish watching.

Pumpkinseeds have wavy bluish-green lines on the head and the rounded lobe on the back of the gill cover (operculum) is black with a bright red or orange margin.

Bluegills have a dark, rounded operculum lobe, but it has no red or orange margin; bluegills also often have pairs of dark, vertical markings on the body, and a dark blotch near the back of the fin along their back.

Redbreasts have noticeably longer dark operculum lobes than those of both pumpkinseeds and bluegills.

During the spawning season, the bellies of large territorial males of all three species are brightly colored; pumpkinseeds and redbreasts are typically yelloworange, whereas bluegills tend to be a deeper reddish-copper. This coloration

— along with their aggressive behavior $toward\,other\,males\,--\,announces\,their$ status as dominant males.

As the shallow waters of lakes and ponds warm to about 55 degrees,

territorial male sunfish create nests by plucking away vegetation with their mouths and fanning their tails and fins to clear away silt, leaving a circular nest about 12 inches in diameter and 2 to 6 inches deep.

Males may establish nests near one another, sometimes in large colonies. If a territorial male ventures too close to the nest of another, how-

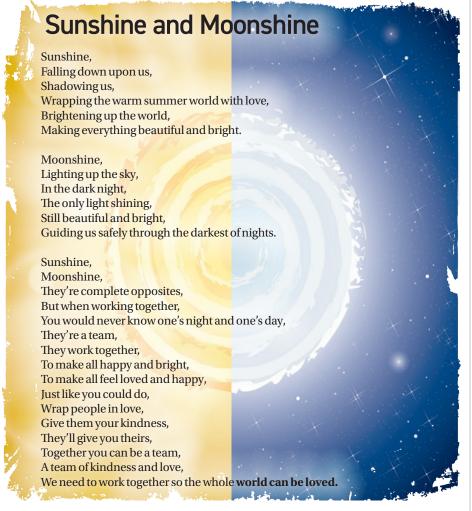
> ever, the defending fish flares his fins and chases the intruder

Bluegills are the most studied of our local sunfishes, and the other species seem to act similarly. Females are attracted to areas with many territorial males defending nests and often arrive in a school, which initiates

courtship behavior by the males.

To spawn, a female and territorial male position themselves alongside one another and swim in tight circles. About every 30 seconds, the female dips down, rolls to her side, and releases 10 to 30 eggs while the male releases sperm. This occurs multiple times before the male drives

Outside story \rightarrow 31



How is your garden growing?

How is your garden growing? As garden-

ers we never seem to be satisfied with the way our flowers and veggies look. I think we are too hard on ourselves!

Mother Nature as well as critters alter our plans and give us results that don't always make us happy. But most of what we plant will be just fine.



Looking Back By Mary Ellen Shaw

 $I\,am\,looking\,forward\,to\,enjoying\,the$ contents of our veggie garden. I like watching the seeds I have sown mature into beets, beans, carrots, zucchini and tomatoes. They will all be eaten fresh and some will be frozen to enjoy during the winter.

I always start tomato seeds and some flower seeds on window shelves in mid-April. They do well there basking in natural sunlight. By mid-May they can go outside to "harden off" before going into the ground. With the cold and rainy weather this year they didn't go outside until May 23. But they quickly made up for lost time in the warm and sunny days that followed. June finally feels like summer!

Some of my flower seedlings needed a little extra TLC before going into the gardens so I put them in a raised box with a wire cover held down by bricks. Some Looking Back → 30



By Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

Sitting on top of the world

The Movie

Diary

By Dom Cioffi

I was digging through some attic containers a few months ago when
I came across a small black box
with a familiar imprint on the
outside I knew I recognized

outside. I knew I recognized the design, but my memory couldn't place it. I opened up the box and pulled out some packaging before my eyes latched onto the product inside.

Inside the box was a brand new Blackberry Bold cellphone, circa 2008-2009. The device still had the cellophane over the screen and all the accompanying paperwork.

I brought the box down to my wife and inquired where it came from. Her sparse memory suggested that she had ordered the phone for work and then switched positions soon after. When she began her new position, they assigned her an Apple iPhone.

I vaguely remember this time-period because she put up quite a stink about having to use an Apple device, after years of bashing my love of the company and its products.

Early on in our relationship, my wife was pure anti-Apple while I was a die-hard fanboy. It made sense; she came of age in the utility industry, which was PC-based, while I came up on the creative side of publishing and, therefore, was fully ensconced in the Mac domain.

When cellphones were just taking hold in business environments, my wife's company provided her with a Blackberry, which she became very attached to (in fact, proponents like her lovingly referred to it as "Crackberry" due to it's addictive nature). I remember being jealous that she had such a technologically advanced product while I was stuck using a base Verizon flip-phone, which had no camera and no email.

She was especially attached to her Blackberry's keypad and thought the idea of phone with a touch-screen was

ridiculous. She said she
needed the tactile sensation of
the keyboard in order to feel like she
was typing. There was no way she could
adjust to a display with a "fake" keyboard.

BLACKBERR1

Lots of people thought the same thing. They were all wrong.

I was one of those people that bought into whatever Steve Jobs told me. When he said a keypad was a waste of space and that touch-screens were the future, I believed him.

I waited patiently to buy my first iPhone, even though I thought it was way overpriced. The fact was, I had to have one given my history with the company. Every product I had ever used from Apple was better than the last (granted, I never owned a Newton).

When I finally got my first iPhone, I

wasn't disappointed. Right out of the box (which was incredible in its own right), the Apple iPhone was not only a beautiful example of product design, but also the most functional computer device I had ever used. I knew immediately that the world was about to change.

And it did.

My wife slowly bought into her iPhone and eventually got to the point where she admittedly loved it. I still have to function as her personal Apple IT department when it comes

to tweaking her iPhone's settings, but it's a small price to pay so I don't have to listen to her complaints.

I told my wife that I was going put the Blackberry I found onto eBay, convinced that it was a valuable item with historical significance. She rebuffed the idea, saying that it had sentimental value for her and that when she retired, she might consider using it again. I told her that was probably technologically impossible.

Out of curiosity, I went online and looked up what an original, brand new Blackberry Bold was worth. I was disappointed to discover that it was probably worth less than the cost to ship it, so I walked it back up to the attic and tucked it away.

Coincidentally, this week's feature, "Blackberry," tells the story of the humbled Canadian company that thrust cellphones out of the shadows and into the fore-

front of the business world in the early 2000s.

Most people recognize that Blackberry had a dramatic rise to fame and equally dramatic fall from grace as their once-ubiquitous cellphones fell prey to the massive disruption caused by the release of Apple's iPhone. But most people don't know what went on behind the scenes. "Blackberry" attempts to draw the curtain back to expose the inner workings of the tech company that was, at one point, one of the most valuable $companies in the world. \, The \, main \,$ players are all referenced and the

players are all referenced and the basic story is told, but my research after watching the film showed there was a lot more at play.

Nevertheless, "Blackberry" is an interesting watch as it shed light on a cautionary tale about what not do to when you're sitting top of the world.

Check this one out if you ever owned (or wanted to own) a Blackberry phone – the nostalgia alone makes it worth watching.

A wistful "B" for "Blackberry," now available to rent on Amazon Prime Video.

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

Put on the red, white and blue and be part of the community

The Declaration... itself tells

us to be revolutionary, to

constantly strive to improve

the social contract and to

pursue happiness. And

so we must march in the

Independence Day Parade

to refresh these ideals...

The red, white and blue ribbons flutter behind the young girl as she skips along the parade route. Her hair glistens in the sunshine and she laughs with joy. She holds a thin stick, not quite a baton, with wrapping paper ribbon attached with a bow,

glue and curled with a big black handled scissor from mom's special drawer. She's dressed in the same colors, cute little white shorts that her mom thought were a good idea at the beginning and

way too much



Livin' the Dream By Merisa Sherman

is rapidly second guessing herself with a mental note to get blue shorts for next year.

But the little girl is unaware of the colors, the meaning behind them and anything else except that her dad is off from work for the day, there will be games full of laughter, a BBQ picnic with cornbread and then fireworks and even maybe those silly red, white and blue turbo pops. It's a day for celebration and family and almost a silliness in that freedom.

She has yet to read the works of John Locke, Thomas Hobbes and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, but someday she will discover the political philosophy of the social contract to which the founding fathers drew their ideas. She might not yet understand terms like sacred honor, inalienable rights and consent of the governed, but she is learning

through example the meaning of those phrases over the course of her lifetime. Even at her young age, she can see the difference between injustice and love.

For today is the Fourth of July, and the little girl is in awe as everyone comes together. The parade celebrates not only

our independence from King George III but also the factions of society coming together in a unified march. A demonstration of unification and recognition, both of our commitment to the cause of liberty and to each other, just as our forefathers did with the signing of the Declaration of Independence and perhaps opening the eyes of the world and community to the rights of man and the blessing and security of self-government.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in his final public letter in 1826: "The general spread of the light of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth, that the mass of mankind has been born with saddles on their backs nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them."

He wrote his hope that we would annually return to this day to "forever refresh

our recollections of these rights and an undiminished devotion to them."

To celebrate a day based not on religion or race, on ethnicity or gender, age or pride, but a day where anyone can put

on the red, white and blue and be part of the community. A day where there are no cliques or cults, but where everyone helps and participates. Potluck dishes come out from nowhere and fill the tables with deliciousness, the grills are manned by a variety of folks you might be surprised to see working together and the parade, well, the parade is open to all.

Let us not say that our freedom is perfect nor let us argue that ours is the most righteous, for the declaration speaks of the pursuit of happiness not the existence of it. The Declaration acknowledges that government is ever changing and that the rights of the people may, at times, be infringed upon by said government. And, when in the course of human events, a government no longer adheres to the social contract, it must be reminded of such.

Let us take care to note the historical context of a document that refers only to land owning, heterosexual white men and names Native Americans as merciless Indian Savages. But let us also remember that the words of this document encouraged those marginalized groups to stand

up and declare their independence: White Women, African Americans, Native Americans, Irish Americans, Jewish Americans, Japanese Americans, and most recently Arab and LGBTQ Americans. While we cannot change a document written on parchment

paper in 1776, we can heed the words. To work toward a world where all are created equal and given inalienable rights by the creator of nature.

The document itself tells us to be revolutionary, to constantly strive to improve the social contract and to pursue happiness. And so we must march in the Independence Day Parade to refresh these ideals, to further advance the agreement between us all, to make a nation state that will work toward both the safety and happiness of its people and to pledge together our sacred honor for the betterment of all mankind.

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

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the female away and attempts to attract other females.

Females also visit nests of other males to spawn, and territorial males may occasionally visit a neighboring nest to fertilize some eggs before returning to guard their own nest. Spawning lasts several hours, after which a male ceases courtship displays and focuses on guarding the nest. A territorial male may accumulate up to 30,000 eggs from multiple females in his nest during a

single day of spawning.

Territorial males become sexually mature around 7 years of age, when they are large enough to become dominant. Some males become mature at a younger $age-and\,smaller\,size$ - and rely on alternate strategies to reproduce.

In early-maturing males, growth slows, because much of their energy is directed to sperm production; therefore, these fish do not become territorial males.

Some small, mature male bluegills and redbreasts remain near nest sites as "satellite" males, resembling less-colorful females and therefore not attracting the aggression of the territorial males. When a territorial male begins spawning with a female, a "satellite" male may enter the nest, position himself next to the spawning pair, fertilize some eggs, and then leave. He will likely repeat this behavior multiple times, possibly at several nests. Other small, mature bluegill and pumpkinseed males act as "sneakers" - maintaining a safe distance from a nest, but rapidly swimming past a mating pair while releasing sperm,

thus fertilizing some eggs. (Sneaker and satellite behavior also occurs in some other fish species, including salmon.)

The fertilized eggs settle to the bottom of the nest, and the territorial male guards them, aggressively chasing off potential rivals or predators. He maintains the nest by fanning his fins to keep it clear of silt and to provide enough oxygen for the developing eggs. Eggs hatch in 2 to 5 days, and the territorial male guards the nest

pawning lasts several hours, after which a male ceases courtship displays and focuses on quarding the nest. A territorial male may accumulate up to 30,000 eggs from multiple females in his nest during a single day of spawning.

> Genetic analyses confirm that the eggs in a sunfish nest often come from multiple females, and that only 85-90% of the eggs were fertilized by the male guarding that nest — indicating the satellite and sneaker tactics are effective. Adult sunfish may spawn several times during the summer, providing ample opportunity for fishwatchers to observe these colorful fish guarding their nests.

until the young disperse 5 to 10 days later.

Doug Facey is an emeritus professor of biology at Saint Michael's College and lives in Burlington, Vermont. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

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Looking back:

critter, most likely a squirrel, managed to get inside the box and left me with only eight out of 24 statice plants. The box was in a state of disarray!

I also sow some flower seeds directly into my gardens. By the time my various perennials have gone by I have high hopes that the seeds will have matured into flowers displaying colorful zinnias, nasturtiums, cosmos and calendulas. Of course, my friend, the squirrel, may have other plans for those young plants. As the flowers mature they could provide a tasty snack for that pesky critter.

Let's face it...gardens are a lot of work. But if you like "playing in the dirt" it's a labor of love. I am always amazed that a seed which is no bigger than a freckle can produce tomatoes, kale and carrots. Zucchini seeds, which are larger than the seeds just mentioned, can produce "zukes" that turn into the size of "baseball bats" when nobody is look-

but it's a heck of a lot faster to do!

Enjoy your gardens even if they are not perfect! Cut some flowers to enjoy in a

Let's face it...gardens are a lot of work. But if you like "playing in the dirt" it's a labor of love.

ing! I puree them and put them in freezer bags to use for bread in the winter.

By now weeds are probably competing with whatever we are growing. Pulling them out is not the most fun task we can undertake but I find it relaxing and totally mindless. Nothing wrong with that!

Many of my flowers need to be deadheaded at this time of year in order to keep blooming. That is about as exciting as pulling weeds

vase and bring your garden into the house.

If you have "too much of a good thing" when your veggies ripen all at once, check out the best method for freezing that particular veggie. You will be glad that you did when the snow is flying and you are enjoying them in a soup or casserole.

Bulb catalogues have started to arrive. If you are looking for something different that can't be found at a local garden center it's best to order early. They won't be shipped until planting time and you won't be disappointed when you learn that an item is out of stock. It may seem like you are rushing summer along but in this case you need to if you want colorful flowers next spring. And who doesn't want those after a long, cold winter? I don't know about you but I am not looking forward to that.

I know that skiers can't wait for winter to arrive once again but this "senior" is looking forward to as many garden days as I can get before the flakes fly once







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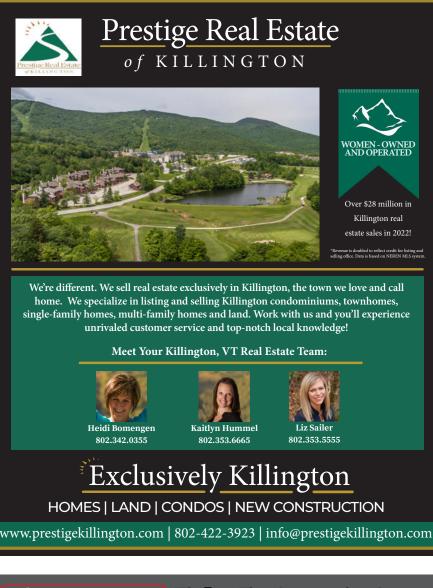


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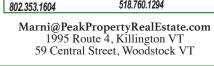
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