



RUTLAND FARMER'S MARKET RETURNS OUTSIDE, SATURDAY

The Rutland Farmers Market is returning to its outdoor location at Depot Park on Saturday, May 20. The market runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Wednesdays June 7- Oct. 25 from 1-5 p.m.

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FAMED CARTOONIST COMES TO WOODSTOCK

Tillie Walden, recently named the fifth cartoonist laureate of Vermont will appear at the Norman Williams Public Library in Woodstock on May 20. Walden, a graduate of — and currently a professor at — the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction, won the Eisner Award for best reality-based work for her graphic novel memoir *Spinning* at the age of 22 in 2018.

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AFFORDABLE HEAT BILL TO BECOMES LAW DESPITE GOV'S VETO

The affordable heat bill will become law after the House overrode Gov. Scott's veto. In a 107-42 vote Thursday, May 11, the House ensured the Legislature's controversial climate bill will become law.

Page 7

RFL plans \$1.7 million renovation

By Polly Mikula

The Rutland Free Library (RFL) has reinvestigated renovation plans to make the library (in its current location) more user-friendly, accessible and meet modern needs. And it hopes to get \$500,000 — about a third of the total project cost — from the state through Federal ARPA funds set aside for libraries.

RFL recently submitted a needs assessment to the state Department of Libraries (VTLIB) as a first step toward securing a major grant for renovations to the city-owned building at 10 Court Street. VTLIB is expecting \$26.5 million in ARPA funds to be distributed for library building projects around the state. As a large public library, by Vermont standards, RFL is eligible for a share of \$16.4 million of

RFL → 9



By Paul Holmes

The early bird gets the worm

Sunday morning, May 14, a few minutes before 8 a.m. Superstar was well-groomed on the skier's right. By afternoon, the smooth highway had morphed into a sea of bumps.

New owners take over Belmont General Store

By Katy Savage

After closing down in November 2022, the Belmont General Store in Mount Holly is reopening this summer with new owners.

Alissa Tilly, 28, bought the store, which dates back to the 1840s, two weeks ago.

"We want to start small and then start adding on," she said.

Tilly grew up in Connecticut but she and her family are no strangers to the area.

Tilly's brother, Dan Tilly, 33, has become a well-established entrepreneur. He left his job in the banking industry in London at the start of the pandemic and launched Mount Holly Beer in 2020. He now lives across the street from the Belmont General Store and sells his beer in more than 140 locations in Vermont and 65 locations in Connecticut.

This summer, Dan plans to open Mount Holly Cider in a small building near his sister's general store. "I'm super excited about it, it's kind of a bummer (the store's) been closed," Dan said. Dan is collaborating with different orchards in Vermont and will start selling two ciders — a dry cider and a rose cider — this fall. The cider will be cooled and aged at least six months.

"It really elevates the apple part of the cider," Dan said, explaining most commercial cider is

aged two weeks.

Until then, he's hosting a beer garden and summer party at Off the Rails in Ludlow over Memorial Day weekend, where he's launching a new beer — SUPERTUBOS — a 4.7% hazy IPA, inspired by a surf trip to Portugal. The family is also announcing the reopening of the Belmont General Store that weekend.

"My kids are very enthusiastic about Belmont and want it to keep it like it is and be part of making it better also," Tilly's father David Tilly said.

The Tilly family started coming to Vermont on weekends about 30 years ago, when David built a cabin in Belmont. They had no electricity, so they pumped water from a well and used candles.

The Finnish family said Belmont reminds them of Finland.

"It's an authentic village," David

said. "It doesn't have truck traffic driving through it."

The store has become a family project. David, a builder, is working on renovations. The historic building was once a carriage house, post office and wagon wheel repair shop.

"We're going to make the barn look like a barn again," David said. "I'm going to try to help make the building pretty again."

David is making the building solar paneled and

he's working with Efficiency Vermont to update fixtures and appliances.

Tilly is moving from Connecticut into one of the two upstairs apartments at the store and plans to open Memorial Day weekend with breakfast and

Belmont General Store → 6



Submitted

The Tilly family is making a name for themselves in Mount Holly.

Mac's to reopen with new owner

By Katy Savage

After community members sounded off concerns about losing their only grocery store in Rochester, Mac's Market has a new owner and is slated to reopen this month.

John Sikandar is taking over the store on May 19 and plans to open it under its new name — Village Grocery — on May 24.

Sikander and his family, who own four Mobil convenience stores in New York state, bought Mac's just as Rochester residents rallied to find a solution to losing their grocery store. More than 100 residents attended community discussions about the future of the building.

Sikandar heard the store was for sale and watched a Zoom recording of the discussions to understand

Mac's → 7

Scott announces \$5.6 million to 193 Vermont households to fix failed wells or septic systems

Governor Phil Scott and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced May 3 that \$5.6 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding helped 193 low- to moderate-income Vermont households repair or replace failed or inadequate on-site water or wastewater systems like wells, springs, septic systems, and leach fields in 2022.

"These investments demonstrate our commitment to ensuring all Vermonters have access to safe and clean water," said Governor Scott. "My team continues to prioritize supporting water infrastructure ARPA projects in all corners of the state."

The 2022 allocation of the Healthy Homes On-Site funding will help approximately 633 Vermonters – including 146

seniors and 156 children – gain access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

"Since April 2022, we have seen massive public interest from Vermonters in need," said DEC Commissioner John Beling. "It has become abundantly clear that this type of funding is critical for Vermonters who have been hit particularly hard by the Covid-19 pandemic."

To date, they have received approximately 1,200 applications and anticipate even more in the coming months and years. Given limited funding, the ANR Healthy Homes Initiative selected award-ees based on severity of system failure, environmental impact, household income, and household demographics.

Water funding → 12

West Rutland receives \$172,000 to improve sidewalks

West Rutland was one of seven municipalities that received a downtown transportation fund grant.

West Rutland received \$172,091 to improve sidewalks. Gov. Phil Scott and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) announced awards of over \$1 million in downtown transportation fund grants in designated downtowns and eligible designated village centers on May 4. Since 1999, DHCD has supported investment in public infrastructure through the downtown transportation fund. The program has helped update streetscaping, parking, rail, and bus facilities, bicycle and pedestrian safety, park enhancements, utilities, street lighting, and wayfinding signage.

"The recent revitalization work in St. Johnsbury, St. Albans, and Waterbury through Downtown transportation fund grants has shown that increased public

investment in downtowns attracts private investment, strengthens local economies, and improves the quality of life for residents and visitors alike," said Scott. "Efforts like this are critical components of our work to grow the economy throughout Vermont."

The downtown transportation fund is a financing tool that helps municipalities pay for transportation-related capital improvements within or serving a designated downtown or village center. Since its inception in 1999, the program has invested over \$14 million to support 158 projects in 35 different communities leveraging over \$57 million in additional funding.

"Transportation infrastructure improvements can have profound positive effects on communities and the quality of life of individual Vermonters by offering more alternatives and enabling more active lifestyles," said Agency of Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn.



Submitted

Several municipalities including West Rutland to receive grant funding to improve sidewalks.



TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

The Town of Killington Vermont Development Review Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 24, CHAPTER 117, V.S.A. AND THE TOWN OF KILLINGTON ZONING REGULATIONS, THE KILLINGTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 18, AT THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, 800 KILLINGTON ROAD IN KILLINGTON, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WILL BE TO ALLOW INTERESTED PARTIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING:

Application 23-020 by the Ridgetop Landowners Association and Killington/Pico Resort partners, LLC for Planned Unit Development Renewal. The purpose of the hearing is to extend the term (duration) of the PUD approval set forth in the Environmental Court's Altered Judgment Order, dated August 8, 2019, Docket No. 60-5-17 Vtec. The project is located on Tax Map 29, parcels 107A-1 through 107A-9 and 107B.

FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN OFFICES BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. WRITTEN STATEMENTS OR MATERIAL ARE REQUESTED TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE TOWN OFFICES AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING FOR REVIEW BY ALL PARTIES.

PARTICIPATION IN THE HEARING BY ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS IS A PREREQUISITE TO THE RIGHT TO TAKE ANY SUBSEQUENT APPEAL.

Development Review Board
Town of Killington
April 20, 2023

State officials issue caution of forest fires in wake of dry weather

Vermont is currently experiencing high and very high fire danger due to drier than normal weather conditions. The Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) is reminding the public to exercise caution and follow all state laws and local ordinances regarding open burning. The National Weather Service has issued Special Weather Statements for elevated fire weather

and additional Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings are anticipated.

Open burning requires a permit from your town forest fire warden, and Vermonters should always check with their town forest fire warden before burning. When conditions are dry, town fire wardens can institute a burn ban in their respective town. Find your town forest fire warden.

Most areas in Vermont have been 1" below normal rainfall for the last two weeks, with the last measurable rain on May 3. The weather forecast over the next few weeks does not indicate any signs of relief, with little to no precipitation forecasted.

The dry conditions call for extra attention when open burning—particularly with campfires—to reduce the risk of wildland fires.

Killington selects first bids for municipal water infrastructure

By Polly Mikula

On Thursday, May 11, bids for the first phases of the municipal water project in Killington were revealed and selected. Two contracts were up for bid: Contract 1-3A, estimated at \$20.2 million, which includes transmission line from the wells to the high service pump station on Route 4 and up across East Mountain Road to the water storage tank. Contract 3B, estimated at \$3.4 million, includes the water main from the water storage tank, down to the bottom of Snowshed to service the proposed Six Peak Village.

Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers, which is overseeing this portion of the projects on behalf of the town of Killington, set the project scope and estimates.

Casella came in with the lowest bid for Contract 1-3A at \$18,244,850. There were six bids in total, the highest of which was \$26,217,200.

Kubricky came in with the lowest bid for Contract 3B at \$2,294,720. There were four bids, the highest of which was \$2,612,103.

"The number of bids we received was really great," said Timothy Knapp, project engineer at Dufresne Group. "The construction climate can be a little unpredictable now. So it was really good to see that number of bidders and the bid prices."

In addition to the main contract, three add alternatives were solicited for the Contract 1-3A portion — these are items that the projects needs, but the town temporarily separated to be budget conscious. The first was for a third well with connection, which Casella bid at \$161,000 (it was estimated at \$80,000). The second was for two more turbine pumps at the pump station on Route 4, which Casella bid at \$900,000 (estimated \$1,000,000). The third was for underground power lines to the Wellhouse, which Casella bid at \$75,000 (estimated \$75,000).

Contingencies in Casella's bid tacked

on \$1,080,000 (estimated \$2,480,000).

Engineering elements including final design: \$283,000, Amendment #1 (source development): \$241,000, Construction Phase: \$1,300,000 all came in equal between bid and estimate. For Admin, Legal, Fiscal Casella bid \$434,000 (estimated 495,000).

The total — including the add alternatives, contingencies, engineering and admin — bid from Casella was \$21,675,571 (estimated \$24,755,000).

Because the total was less than budgeted, the town will move forward with all three alternatives.

There were no add alternatives for Contract 3B.

The Dufresne Group will now vet Casella and Kubricky as the "apparent low bidders on both projects," Knapp explained. "We will do a full review on the bids received. Then we will issue what's called a fifth tab, that's just the

"It was really good to see that number of bidders and the bid prices," said Timothy Knapp.

tabulation of all the bids broken down by the individual items. We check the math and make sure everything's okay. And then the next step is to do a qualifications review on the lowest bidders... once we've done our review, we'll provide the town with a 'Recommendation To Award' letter."

It takes one to two weeks on averages for Dufresne Group to complete the review and get the town the 'Recommendation To Award' letter, Knapp said. After, the Vermont Bond Bank needs to approve it through its State Revolving Funds (SRF) program.

"They need to basically concur with the 'Recommendation To Award' to the contractor and that sometimes takes a little bit of time," Knapp explained. "Once the town has that in hand and they're good to go, they can go ahead

and sign the contract. All in all — from bid to signing — it's usually around two months," he summarized.

"It's up to the contractor how they approach things but once we get to signing a contract we also sign what's called a 'Notice To Proceed' that identifies basically the start of the contract calendar," Knapp said. "In the contract, the contractor has a certain number of 'contract days' to complete the project," he explained.

As construction progresses, Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers "will also be doing construction administration and oversight," said Knapp. "I'll be the construction manager for different groups during the contract time, and we'll also have resident project representative on site throughout construction there... if something comes up, we are that interface between the two [contractor and town]."

While the timeline is still hard to pin down precisely, work should begin later this summer and fall, continue in earnest through the construction season of 2024 (with the tank site completed that year, a contract requirement) and finish by 2025.

Most of the work will be hidden, Knapp said. The wells are pretty deep in the woods off the flats of Route 4 (behind the Mountain Times building). The pump house further along Route 4 to the east will be visible. Some work will also be visible where the transmission line crosses East Mountain Road to the storage tanks (which are hidden in the woods). The transmission line from the tanks to the village down the ski slope (Contract 3B) will be visible during the construction phase.

Future contracts will bring the waterline down Killington Road. "We will be starting the design on Contract 4 shortly that begins to bring it down Killington Road... that's about 7,000 feet of water main," Knapp said.

NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS?
WE DON'T THINK SO.
WHAT'S THE WORD
ON THE STREET?

Tell us about it!
Email editor@mountaintimes.info

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Rutland cracks down on water, sewer payment delinquencies

Staff report

Rutland City may shut off water and sewer for residents who aren't paying their bills for the first time in more than 10 years.

Rutland City Treasurer Mary Markowski told the Board of Aldermen Monday, May 15 that such a move is unprecedented in her tenure.

"Collection is difficult but

there are consequences to not paying," she said.

The last time the city shut off water was around 2009, Markowski said in a later phone interview.

Collection for both water and sewer and tax bills has been an ongoing issue. There are around 400 delinquent homeowners, totaling about \$458,000 owed to the

city. Markowski said.

Markowski recently sent out 25 letters notifying people that water will be shut off at the end of the month if they don't come up with a payment agreement.

The 25 homeowners account for 40% of the total owed to the city. The highest amount owed from a singular resident is about \$17,000,

Markowski said.

Markowski explained for those in multi-family homes at risk of losing water, the city would work with the homeowner and tenants on shut offs.

"There are specific rules on shut offs," she said. "If you got a notice, we want to see you. We want to talk to you."

Spring skiing at Killington brings camaraderie

By Victoria Gaither

While much of the world has moved on from winter activities, that's not true at Killington Ski Resort. For an entire group of people, ski season is just starting.

"Spring skiing at Killington brings out the different, unusual, and downright weird, but in a good way," said Dawn Baker visiting from Massachusetts.

Like many skiing and riding on weekends at the Beast, Baker knows something other ski lovers leave behind after the cold of winter is over spring happiness.

There is something special about skiing and riding when the weather is warm, the sun shining, and sitting on the deck at the Roaring Brook umbrella bar and Michelob Ultra deck, watching people dressed in theme costumes like the Organic Ski Bunny, Kelly Anthony.

Anthony, from New Jersey, explained what spring skiing means to her, "Killington in the spring is the place to be, and it is so much fun; you have good vibes, good energy, and diehard skiers and riders who will not let the season go."

Anthony dresses up like a bunny rabbit with bunny ears glued to her helmet, a white bunny suit she puts together with a happy attitude to match as she bounces along greeting people who recognize her on the mountain.

Taking pictures at the top of Superstar with Queen of the Catskills, Julie McGuire, a famous face during spring ski season on the mountain.

McGuire, a high school English teacher in New York City Public Schools, is one year away from making history by climbing and skiing down the mountains in the Catskills. On a recent spring day, you can see her laughing with her ski family and feeling the magic of spring skiing at Killington.

McGuire, who says she's usually an introvert, but that all changes when winter is over, and spring arrives.

"This is literally the only time of year that I feel energized by human interaction," she said.

To look at pictures of McGuire with the brightest smile and who can't keep still because she is always ready to hit the slopes, comes to Killington just for the bumps and learning.

"I have so much to learn, especially

backcountry skiing and skiing bumps," she said. "If I had a near-death experience and God said I can send you back with any gift, it would be to ski the zip line down these moguls."

The common denominator for most skiers and riders is human connection and warm weather, but to Dawn Baker's point, everyone is different and unique on the mountain.

For example, tele skier Matty Marks looks like he is dancing down Superstar. It's hard to miss him; think rollerblading but on tele skis.

"The outfits that everyone has on, especially when it gets warmer, this scene is the best place, the happiest place. I feel so welcome here," he said, adding that locals have embraced him and what he has to offer as a telemark skier.

His videos are popular on social media, with music anyone can sing along to and giving you a feeling you can do anything.

You don't need a costume or unique ski power to feel uplifting during Spring ski season; friends Rob Painter, Marisa Egerstrom and David Sergeant from Massachusetts converge on Killington for spring skiing.

Egerstrom admits the spring slush is hard to adapt to, and it wasn't her thing, but she can deal with that because of spending time with her friends.

"There is nothing as precious as making your life line up with your buddies' lives and somehow squeeze out another day of skiing in May under the sun at Killington."

Sergeant said, "Today was a beautiful day at Killington, great snow, great people; it doesn't get any better."

Painter, rounding out the trio, said of his friends and day, "I love these guys, and they keep me around, so we all meet at Killington for the last season."

A season of happiness that is slowly fading with the snow on Superstar.



Camaraderie on display as Killington's spring ski season continues.



Submitted



Submitted

The rescue gear of firefighter and Deputy Chief of Killington Fire and Rescue, James Joseph Fiore are displayed on the front of a firetruck in tribute to his 23 years service.

OBITUARY

James Joseph Fiore, 72

James Joseph Fiore of Killington born Nov. 1, 1950 in Everett, Massachusetts passed away peacefully with his family by his side on May 6, 2023.

He was predeceased by his parents Janette and Gerald Fiore of Everett, Massachusetts and his brother Gerald Fiore of Reading. He is survived by his brother Michael and his wife Lisa.

Jimmy was devoted to his community as deputy chief of Killington Fire and Rescue for the past 23 years and was a devoted firefighter. He was highly regarded.

Loving husband of Mary Fiore for 45 years, devoted father of Jay Fiore and his wife Alyssa of Peabody, Massachusetts, Alison

and her husband Simon Laroche of Melbourne, Australia, Mark and fiancée Rachel Yrsha of Weston.

He was the most loving "grampy" of his three grandchildren, Sofie, Chloe and James.

He was a graduate of Everett High School class of 1968 and went on to the National Guard after graduation.

After completing his service he began his career as a bartender at many establishments in the Boston area including JC Hillary's (now Abe & Louies) in Boston.

He and Mary were avid skiers which prompted them to move their family to Killington in 1988. He worked at the Grist Mill Restaurant

for 27 years until 2015 when he went to work at Casey's Caboose where he retired in 2021. His home was always open to everyone during the holidays, especially Christmas Eve where he hosted the greatest Italian feasts.

He enjoyed skiing, golfing, cooking and gardening. He took great pride in his home and family. He also loved his Boston sports teams.

He loved going to his vacation home in Florida and walking the beach in Delray. Contributions in James' memory to the Killington Fire and Rescue Service, 2706 River Road, Killington, VT, 05751 would be sincerely appreciated. Parking with attendants on duty.

Killington Resort receives 2023 NSAA Safety Award

Killington Resort received the 2023 NSAA Award for Best Collision Avoidance Program. The awards were distributed as part of NSAA's 2023 National Convention & Trade-show on May 10 in Savannah, Georgia.

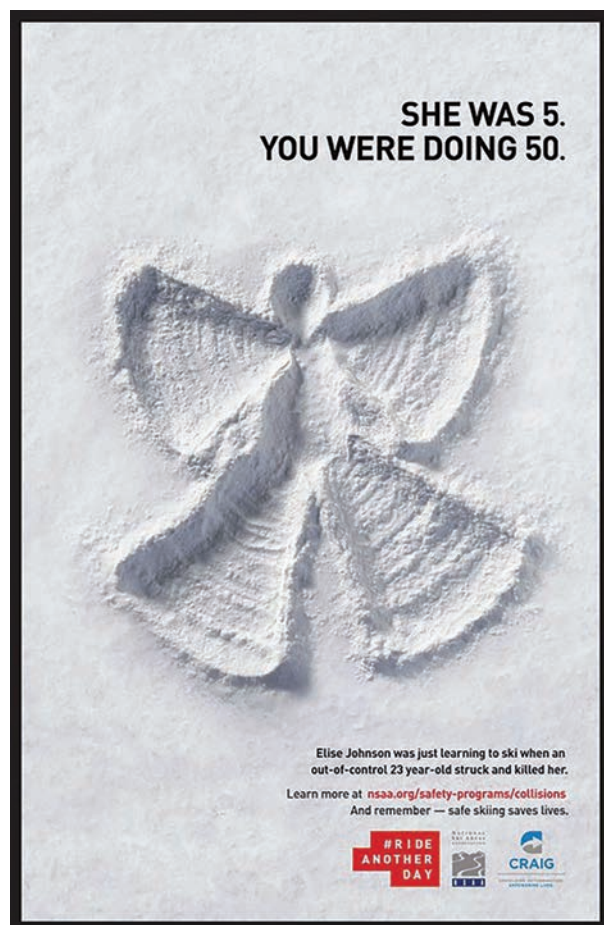
"We are thrilled to receive this award, as guest safety is paramount to our success at Killington and Pico," President Mike Solimano said. "We have had the pleasure of working with the Snow Angel foundation on their #RideAnotherDay campaign for several seasons now and are thrilled to help promote their message year after year. The Johnsons' personal story really helps drive home the importance of safe skiing and riding."

Killington and Pico Resorts previously won the collision safety award in 2019 and was a finalist in 2022 for the Best Guest Safety Program. During the 2022/23 season, Killington & Pico continued to focus on collision prevention programs with visible efforts surrounding the #RideAnotherDay campaign including a live event with the Johnson family that, along with the Play Forever Fridays donation based on lift ticket sales, which raised \$9,500.

The resorts also added new lift tower signs designed to complement the three tenets of the campaign (Be Ready, Stay Alert, Plan Ahead), hosted several on-hill #RideAnotherDay events with Ski Patrol and worked the campaign's audio messages into lift load PAs.

"It feels great to be recognized and I'm very pleased that after four years, the #RideAnotherDay campaign has become infused with our on-hill culture," said Killington and Pico Risk and Insurance Manager John Duke. "Work in this area is by definition ongoing and we will not be resting on our laurels. We look forward to continuing to improve our on-hill culture as it relates to the shared responsibility we have to each other while skiing and riding."

"Guest safety is paramount to our success at Killington and Pico," Solimano said.



Courtesy NSAA

Killington Resort received the NSAA safety award.

Hartland intersection reconfiguration moves swiftly

By Curt Peterson

Actual work on the controversial reconfiguration of the Three Corners intersection in Hartland should begin in early June, according to Rita Seto, senior planner and manager of the Transportation Planning Program at Two Rivers Ottauquechee River Commission (TRORC). Seto presented a project progress report to the selectboard on May 15.

In the works and public conversation since 2014, the project will be completed by Notts Excavating of White River, whose winning bid was \$1,283,889.50. The contract calls for completion by Oct. 15, but Seto said Notts estimates their work will be done by late August or early September.

Currently, Seto said, the ground-breaking date is contingent on when Notts's traffic control plan is approved by VTrans. The plan includes design and implementation of traffic routing and controls such as signage, flag persons and barrels.

Work will be only done between 7

a.m. and 5 p.m., and weekdays only.

School buses and first responder vehicles will be accommodated as needed. The plan doesn't include designated detours, and shortcuts, such as Martinsville Road, will be actively discouraged, including signs saying "No Through Traffic".

Selectboard chair Phil Hobbie confirmed at no time will passage through the intersection be totally cut off - controlled single lane access will be utilized.

Seto said 10 minutes is the target maximum wait drivers might experience.

All the utility companies - Green Mountain Power, Comcast, First Light and VTel - have met with VTrans and Notts' and coordinated the burying of their lines.

There may be a time when the Route 5 bend is closed for equipment storage, but that is not a certainty.

Importantly, Notts' will make sure the project and equipment don't interfere

with parades and spectators during Old Home Day on July 4.

Everett Hammond, a Springfield public works engineer, will act for the town as overseer of the project, and use the town manager's office as his headquarters. Seto said Hammond will make sure contract specifications are met, and keep TRORC and the town informed about progress on a regular basis. She will provide acting Town Manager Martin Dole with weekly reports of expenses and progress and meet with the Select Board as required.

Hammond will meet personally with adjoining property owners to answer questions and share information about the project, accompanied by Dole.

Because of the Memorial Day holiday, the next Select Board meeting will be June 5. The first portion of that meeting will be a public information update regarding the project. The Select Board will advertise the event and warn the public to encourage attendance.

Salvage yard trial has mixed results

By Curt Peterson

Eighty-year old Hartland businessman David Cowdry represented himself May 4 at the Windsor County Courthouse in Woodstock, facing two attorneys and a couple of environmental enforcement professionals from the state.

At issue is Cowdry's property on Route 12 in Hartland that the state says must be cleared of inoperable vehicles or "junk cars" and their related scrap and parts. According to Cowdry, the vehicles are inventory for his business, using parts of the problem vehicles to assemble affordable transportation "for people who don't have the money to buy newer cars." He's been operating this way since 1964.

This trial before Windsor County Judge Charles Walsh was the culmination of wrangling since 2019.

Cowdry, whose son Alan owns and operates Dave's Skunk Hollow Auto Sales and Repairs on his father's property, stores more than 100 inoperable vehicles. State law dictates any property that has more than three junk cars must have a salvage yard permit, which first requires town approval.

When Cowdry presented a site plan to the Hartland selectboard for approval, they inspected the property and provided a list of site plan changes necessary for their agreement. Cowdry claims he discontinued his application for permit because "having a salvage yard operation wouldn't be fair to his neighbors." He subsequently applied for a used car dealer's license, which he incorrectly thought would solve his problem. The property was regarded to provide an outdoor "showroom" for about 20 roadworthy-appearing vehicles, and Cowdry began clearing some units from the back of his property.

The state says the used car permit doesn't solve the problem, and Cowdry owes a \$750 fee for each year since 2019 that he should have had a salvage yard permit, plus \$9,000 in fines for violation of state orders to clean up the site.

They are particularly concerned about vehicle fluids - oil, brake and transmission fluids, etc. - that they feel present a time-bomb of environmental problems.

The state's half-hour testimony and presentation of evidence completed, Judge Walsh went "off the record" and asked Cowdry when he could clear the property of the "junk cars." Cowdry said he could do it by the end of the summer, but Walsh, who said he has personally surveyed the site, suggested a more realistic deadline might be "when the first snow flies," and proposed two parties confer in private and reach "an agreement neither liked, but both could live with," adding failure to do so would probably result in an unfavorable decision for Cowdry.

Cowdry reported the agreement still calls for him to pay the fines, and he has till November 1 to complete the clean-up, which involves hauling vehicles one at a time to a licensed scrap dealer.

His plan, he said, includes presenting a new site plan to the Select Board delineating a 10,000 square-foot area to which he will confine inventory. If he can get Select Board approval he will apply for a salvage yard permit from the state.

On May 10 Cowdry's efforts to comply with the agreement were evident, and he said he is arranging a meeting with acting Town Manager Martin Dole to review his site plan proposal.



By Curt Peterson

David Cowdry, 80, answers questions from Judge Charles Walsh.



New owners and their extended family hope to help revitalize the community with new energy, renovations and feedback.

Belmont General Store: from page 1

essential items before expanding throughout the summer. “She wanted to invest in Belmont,” David said. “She didn’t want it to fall into disrepair. She wanted it to be a highlight.” Alissa wants to cater to locals and visitors while bringing back some of her favorite childhood memories of the store, like maple creemees. She’ll also sell local products, including coffee from Little Seed Coffee Roasters of Middlebury and Grandma Miller’s Pies and Pastries in Londonderry. Meanwhile, her fiancé, Michael Chronert, a triathlon competitor, wants to bring a biking venue to Belmont. “Vermont’s such a special place to go cycling

because the shoulders are really big,” Tilly said. The store will cater to cyclists looking for a place to stop. “You’re always trying to find a cute place for a sandwich or something along our route,” Tilly said. Tilly is trying her hand at beekeeping to sell her own honey at the store. The store will also have an artists’ loft featuring community artists, including Tilly’s younger sister, Annica Tilly. Tilly is currently soliciting feedback from the community through a suggestion box. “I want to get a sense of what everyone appreciated about the store and what everyone wants,” she said. “It’s just the cutest town ever.”



John Russell appointed new board chair of VEPC

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) and the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) announced May 8 John Russell would be the new chair of the Vermont Economic Progress Council.

John Russell was first appointed to the VEPC Board by Governor Phil Scott in April 2019. Russell represents Rutland County on the board and is president of Russell Construction Services, Vermont’s oldest general contractor.

Born and raised in Vermont, Russell graduated from the University of Vermont in 1989 with a bacehlor's degree in civil engineering. Prior to joining the family business, Russell served as an officer in the U.S. Marines Corps. He has previously served as the board president for the Rutland Economic Development Corporation and the Associated General Contractors of Vermont.



Submitted
John Russell

“I am honored and excited the governor has chosen me for such an important post. The programs the council administers are important for job creation and the future of Vermont,” said Russell.

VEPC serves as the approval and authorization body for Vermont’s only economic development incentive, the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive (VEGI) program. Under this program, VEPC has authorized incentives for businesses such as BETA Technologies, OnLogic, KAD Models & Prototyping, Plumrose USA, and most recently, Rhino Foods.

Since VEGI was created in 2007, \$33.8 million in incentives have been paid to qualifying companies who have invested \$1.05 billion in new capital infrastructure and added nearly 9,000 new jobs in Vermont.

VEPC also serves as the approval and authorization body for the state’s Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program, including the June 30, 2022 authorization of the Killington TIF District. Though the Vermont TIF program has undergone many statutory changes, it has been available and successful since 1998. Ten TIF districts are currently active and approved to build or improve public infrastructure valued at over \$336 million, which is anticipated to spur private development and increase grand lists to a taxable value of over \$1 billion.

The VEPC board is currently made up of 11 council members, nine of which are appointed by the governor, all of which are located throughout different regions of the state and bring significant experience in financials, real estate, business, construction and several other key areas that bring a wealth of knowledge to the board.

Legislature adjourns

Senate overrides governor's veto of affordable heat bill

The Senate adjourned our 2023 Legislative session at 8:23 p.m. Friday evening May 12, three hours earlier than the House, which needed

to act on the last bills the Senate had messaged. With an impressive number of new legislators re-energizing the Legislature, we accomplished a great deal in our brief four and a half months. We

realized many of our top priorities passing important bills addressing our housing crisis (S.100), childcare (H.217/S.56), workforce (in the FY24 budget and H.452), reducing climate change (S.5) and protecting Vermonter's health and safety (lots of bills). And, in the last week of the session, we successfully overrode the governor's veto of S.5, the affordable heat act, our signature climate change mitigation bill. Simply, this bill puts in place the planning process to help us affordably transition off expensive and polluting fossil fuels and onto cleaner renewable energy systems.

In the last few weeks of the session many bills made their passage toward the governor's desk to be signed (or not) into law. Here is a sampling of what we passed: An update to the 50-year-old bottle bill (H.158) which expands the types of redeemable bottles and enables the creation of more redemption centers; an elections bill which creates the opportunity for Vermont to adopt ranked choice voting (H.429) first as an option for towns and later for statewide elections; measures to increase firearm safety in an effort to help prevent suicide and domestic violence (H.230); bills (S.37



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

and H. 89) which further protect reproductive liberty for Vermont providers and out of state patients; a household hazardous waste bill (H.67) which helps divert more toxic products from further contaminating our environment and entering our landfills; a universal school meals bill (H.165) which reduces stigma and improves academic performance by guaranteeing two meals a day for all students; a bill which creates VT Saves (S.135) a program which will help more Vermonters save for the future; and of course, the big bill (H.494) the FY24 budget.

One of the last pieces of business that the Legislature conducts is the passage of the budget. Every appropriated line in the FY 24 budget and revenue bills tells a story about some aspect of Vermont which impacts us in different and important ways. How we raise and spend our taxpayer money articulates what the Legislature values and has prioritized for the people of Vermont - from supportive housing to paving to mental health.

I am not only proud of what we accomplished but how we accomplished it. The Vermont Legislature works well together. The vast majority of our decisions are made unanimously. When we disagree, we tend to not be disagreeable. We are a big tent with 180 legislators - each with strong opinions, representing a wide range of life experiences and expertise. No one forgets why we are there — to improve the lives of Vermont and Vermonters. We debate, we compromise and move forward to make progress for Vermonters. Our Legislature is a model for how democracy, at its best, functions.

Sen. Clarkson can be reached by email: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or, now that the Legislature has adjourned, by phone at home: 802-457-4627. To get more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: legislature.vermont.gov.

Reflections on the session

On my way home from Montpelier after the close of the regular session of the 2023 Vermont Legislature I listened to some Simon & Garfunkel music. As they sang "Bridge over Troubled Water" I couldn't help but think the title could also sum up some of my thoughts about the session.

Don't get me wrong, there were a lot of positive accomplishments by the legislature this session. Necessary increases in Medicaid reimbursements for health care providers, including our ambulance services, were included in the budget. A major housing bill was approved. Expansion of childcare assistance passed on the last day after House and Senate leaders reached an agreement.

The speaker touted new shield laws for providers performing legal reproductive services in Vermont on patients that come from other states. Others point to the passage of universal school meals as a major accomplishment.

However, the cautious and fiscally responsible side of me prompted me to vote against the state budget, legislative pay raises and the childcare bill.

The budget's general fund spending was up 13.3% over last year, which is not even close to being sustainable, even once removing the one-time spending. And it included a \$21 million (20%) increase in virtually all motor vehicle related fees (licenses, registrations, permit fees).

I began this year's session fully expecting to support increased support for childcare. Many families know the challenges of finding affordable care. And while Vermont already does better in terms of support than many states, most agree we need to do better. But how much better is an open question. The governor proposed an increase of over \$50 million a year in subsidies to families in his budget proposal without new taxes. Advocates for childcare wanted much more. The result was a new payroll tax on employers and employees, that will cost \$4.2 million for the tax dept. to set up and over \$2 million annually thereafter. The new tax is expected to raise \$82 million annually.

Beginning in 2024, the state will reimburse childcare providers at a rate that is 35% higher, which should enable them to raise wages significantly. The childcare advocacy group, Let's Grow Kids, was very appreciative of the bill, which includes expansion of subsidies to a family of four making up \$172,000 annually, but their CEO indicated more investments still need to happen.

And for the record, I am not against Motherhood and Apple Pie, in voting against the childcare bill, especially as we celebrate Mother's Day. I just don't support new taxes so that we can be No. 1 in the country in terms of subsidies.

The budget bill was approved in the House by a 90-53 margin, which is not enough of a margin to override an expected gubernatorial veto. The bill was opposed by Republicans who thought the spending was too high and 17 Democrats and Progressives that thought the spending was not high enough, particularly as it applied to the motel voucher program. If the veto is sustained, leaders will have to decide whether to further increase spending to gain votes on the left or reduce spending to satisfy the governor in a new budget bill.

The first veto by Scott this year, was overridden by the legislature this past week with the Clean Heat bill, S.5. Time will tell if that will be the beginning of a trend with expected vetoes in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the House gave approval to a legislative compensation bill that would double legislators' pay when fully implemented and make members eligible to receive state health insurance on a 112-34

vote. Being the trouble-maker I can be sometimes, I offered four different amendments to make some modifications to the bill. Challenging a committee's work is not always well received. I batted one for four and ended up voting "no" on the bill. One of the amendments that was defeated would have limited legislative expense reimbursements to actual expenses, not a daily per diem amount, when the pay raise takes effect. If two lawmakers share a hotel room, they shouldn't each receive the full daily per diem reimbursement (\$134), even though their actual costs are cut in half. It is about transparency for me, regarding what is total compensation.

But indicative of how members can put aside differences and get along, the Chair of the committee that advanced the pay bill, Rep. Mike McCarthy, D-St. Albans, signaled me out on the House floor a day later with praise on a different issue. I worked with his committee on some dispatch language that is included in one of my sections in the budget. And here I thought that presenting four amendments on the pay bill might have worn out my welcome.

My updates will be less frequent now that the regular session has ended. But as we will return for a veto session on June 20, I will try to provide information as warranted. Thank you for your interest in these reports and for giving me the opportunity to represent the towns of Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, and Pittsfield at the State House.

Rep. Jim Harrison is the Statehouse representative. He can be reached at JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us or harrisonforvermont.com.

Mac's: from page 1

what Rochester residents needed.

"It seemed like it was something that was important to the town," Sikander said. "Hopefully we can make a store that works for everybody."

The owners of Mac's Market, which has locations in Stowe, Essex Junction and Woodstock, announced in March that it would close the Rochester location on May 19, leaving residents in Rochester to drive at least 25 miles to the nearest grocery store.

"I think it's exactly what the community needed," said Monica Collins, one of the leaders of the community discussions. "It's great that he's not from a big franchise. I think that's

something the community appreciates."

Although the grocery store issue was seemingly quickly resolved, Collins wants to continue the momentum surrounding addressing food security in the community and create an offering that doesn't compete with the new store.

"I think there was a lot of energy that was wonderful to hear in the meeting," she said. "Hopefully we can come up with some other food project."

Residents at the meetings suggested forming a community garden or a food pantry, expanding the farmer's market or forming a coop.

"There are all sorts of ideas that were thrown out,"

she said.

The Mac's Market building was listed for sale for \$550,000. Details of Sikander's purchase price were not available as of May 15.

To aid the transition, a group of volunteers came out of the meetings to set up a network where people can help each other get groceries.

This will be Sikander's first time owning a grocery store. He plans to retain all the current employees and he'll place an emphasis on cleanliness, local products and good selection.

"We're going to try to work at a selection and try to get a wide range of stuff, from organic stuff to inexpensive stuff to everything in the middle," he said.

Democratic supermajority engaged in 11th hour battles before end of legislative session

By Sarah Mearhoff/VTDigger

With their approval of an \$8.5 billion budget and the fall of the gavel Friday, May 12, at 8:23 p.m. and 11:31 p.m. respectively, the Vermont Senate and House adjourned for the final day of the 2023 legislative session.

In January, state lawmakers kicked off their first fully in-person legislative session since the Covid-19 pandemic sent them home in 2020. With a new biennium came a fresh crop of lawmakers; altered political dynamics between the House, Senate and Governor's Office; a historic Democratic supermajority in both chambers; and a litany of major policy decisions — some solidified only after intense debate.

Roughly one-third of this year's legislators were newly elected as of November, marking historic turnover. Along with a new class of lawmakers came a new set of priorities.

In his adjournment speech, Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden Central, offered his shortlist of the year's top priorities: patching up the state's beleaguered child care system, working to ease its chronic housing shortage, taking steps to lower carbon emissions and tackling the issue of gun violence.

His tone celebratory in the chamber Friday night, Baruth said he felt the Senate checked every box.

"We stretched to the maximum in all four of those areas," he said following the final fall of the gavel. "We have never passed as much gun safety legislation in one year. In terms of childcare, it was a historic expansion, to the tune of \$125 million a year. Housing, we made more changes, and more productive changes, to the development rules, regulations, and Act 250 than I think has been done in many, many years."

And referring to the Legislature's successful vote to override Republican Gov. Phil Scott's veto of the Affordable Heat Act, Baruth said, "In terms of climate, we held our 20 votes in the Senate and we had over 100 in the House, and we overrode the governor during the normal session."

"So, it's hard for me to imagine how we would have done much more," he concluded.

In her own adjournment speech later Friday, House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, pointed to what she considered another major accomplishment of the 2023 session: lawmakers' passage, and the governor's signature of, two landmark reproductive "shield laws" protecting access to abortion and gender-affirming care within state lines.

"Last year, our nation witnessed the overturning of Roe v. Wade, erasing 50 years of precedent," Krowinski said. "As some states decided to become more hostile to reproductive and gender-affirming care, we have stood firmly in defense of these rights, and passed additional legislation this session to protect Vermonters and those seeking care in our state and those providers to make sure that they have no harm. We want to ensure that we continue to be a beacon of hope when it comes to autonomy and the freedom to make our own health care decisions."

Despite comparable political party breakdowns in the respective chambers, new Senate leadership brought new working dynamics between the upper chamber and the House, which shaped the Statehouse policy priorities. Baruth, while not new to the Senate, was new to his role as the chamber's top dog, replacing now-U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt.

In the final days of the session, tensions rose between the two bodies. They agreed on a child care package and a price tag, but disagreed vehemently on a funding mechanism. The impasse broke just days before the session concluded, and the Senate's wishes prevailed.

And while the House named paid family leave as a top



By Natalie Williams/VTDigger

State Sens. Alison Clarkson (left), Becca White (center) and Dick McCormack (right) hug after adjournment at the Statehouse in Montpelier on Friday, May 12.

priority, the Senate was lukewarm on the idea from the start. Ultimately, the initiative faltered.

Asked to describe his working relationship with Krowinski on Friday night, Baruth said it has "gotten better" as the legislative session progressed.

"Toward the end of the session, things get tight, and you're each working for your side," he said. "I think of it like lawyers. You're representing your client, your position, and you mix it up in the courtroom. But that doesn't mean you're not friends overall. That's how I view us: as friends who, in the end game, need to each defend our chambers' values."

Also shaping the tone and tenor of the 2023 legislative session was the Legislature's relationship with Gov. Scott, a Republican. Democratic lawmakers in November secured a historic, veto-proof supermajority in both the House and Senate. With the numbers on their side, Democratic leaders

were emboldened to take on legislative priorities they knew the governor would find unfavorable.

Scott hinted at those dynamics in his own adjournment speech Friday night, saying that government "should work" with good faith negotiation between disagreeing parties — "or, as appears to be the case this year, agree to

disagree in some areas."

He also harkened back to November's election, reminding lawmakers that, in addition to installing a Democratic supermajority, Vermonters reelected him by his widest margins to date.

"Every single one of your towns elected me and you, because they want balance," Scott said. "They wanted sustainable solutions at a price they can afford. And it's not as though we disagree on the goals — it's the how, and the pace at which we get there. That's where there's division."

The political sparring — particularly between the Scott

administration and the House — reached a fever pitch as the Legislature put a bow on S.5, the Affordable Heat Act. By far the most hotly debated and consequential piece of climate legislation of the year, Scott attempted to strike it down with his veto pen in the final weeks of the session, citing concerns that the bill could eventually increase the cost of home heating fuel on everyday Vermonters. Scott's veto was ultimately overridden by a comfortable margin in the House, and a tight vote in the Senate.

An annual tradition, the two branches of government also disagreed sharply on the state's so-called Big Bill, or annual budget. Having already hinted at an impending gubernatorial veto, Scott on Friday scolded legislators for raising additional taxes and fees on Vermonters at a time when "we've got to make Vermont more affordable."

"With high inflation and the looming economic storm clouds on the horizon, Vermonters are nervous, and already overburdened," Scott said. "To be clear, taking money out of one pocket to put into the other — that's not making anything more affordable. Right now, it appears this is an area where we may disagree."

Disagreement over the budget this year was not limited to Scott and legislators. In the final weeks, tensions mounted, particularly within the House, on top budgeters' decision to cease Vermont's emergency housing program, by which people experiencing homelessness are sheltered in hotels and motels paid for by the state. Budgeters, as well as Scott's administration, reasoned that the program was always meant to be temporary, and one-time federal dollars that poured into the state to pay for the program in recent years had dried up. Once the program ceases, this summer, thousands of Vermonters, including hundreds of children, are expected to be evicted from their emergency shelter.

In a last-minute organizing effort to get across their moral objections to ending the program, House Progressives and a significant number of Democrats broke from their caucus, joining Republicans in voting "no" on the state budget. The final vote count Friday night was 90-53 — notably, not a veto-proof majority, should it hold steady come June's scheduled veto session.

Vermont Habitat Stamp raises \$450,000 for conservation in FY 2022

The Vermont Habitat Stamp raised \$221,337 in 2022 and leveraged a \$228,567 federal match, totaling just under \$450,000 for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's land conservation and habitat improvement efforts, according to a news release from the Agency of Natural Resources May 2.

"This is our second strongest year for the Habitat Stamp since the program was established in 2015," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Lands and Habitat Program Manager John Austin. "The growing support for habitat conservation and enhancement reflected in healthy Habitat Stamp sales over the past eight years is encouraging."

The Vermont Habitat Stamp is designed to allow anyone who cares about conservation to help improve habitat for species as diverse as pollinators, songbirds, migratory fish, and large mammals. Habitat Stamp funds go towards both land acquisitions adding to the department's more than 130,000 acres of Wildlife Management Area (WMA) properties, and implementing habitat improvement projects across the state.



Courtesy VTF&W

With a donation of \$15 or more the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept. will send you a 4"x5" Habitat Stamp sticker in the mail.

In 2022, the department spent \$168,532 from the Habitat Stamp Fund. These dollars contributed to removing dams to increase stream connectivity for brook trout, controlling the spread of invasive plants that diminish the quality of shelter and forage for native insects and birds, and expanding the Otter Creek WMA in Wallingford.

The Habitat Stamp was inspired by Vermont Migratory Waterfowl Stamp and Federal Duck Stamp programs, which raise funds for wetland conservation from waterfowl hunters who are required to display a stamp along with their license. The Habitat Stamp is a way for conservationists who do not typically purchase a hunting, fishing, or trapping license to contribute to the state's habitat conservation efforts.

"Although we can be proud of the Habitat Stamp Fund's accomplishments this year, there is still room to grow," said Austin. "We especially invite Vermonters who do not contribute to conservation by buying a hunting, fishing, or trapping license to consider buying a habitat stamp. It is one of the most direct ways to funnel your dollars to supporting biodiversity in our state."



RFL:

from page 1

that money (a separate \$10 million grant is reserved for libraries in smaller towns and more rural areas). VTLIB has indicated to RFL that it will be happy to consider proposals in the \$250K-\$500K range.

On Monday, May 15, the Rutland Free Library (RFL) formally asked the City of Rutland Board of Aldermen to pay \$18,000 for initial planning costs: \$13,000 for architectural and \$5,000 engineering.

"We have engaged with two local companies – NBF Architects and Engineering Services of Vermont – to provide the necessary architectural plans, scope of work, and budget estimates," wrote RFL Director Randal Smathers in a news release Monday. "A city contribution will help show broad-based community support for the application when we do get to the approval stage for the grant in August."

The Aldermen referred the request to the Finance Committee.

"It is what I expected," Smathers told the Mountain Times. "I had actually started the request at the Finance Committee level, and they advised me just to take it to the board last night, as a first step."

The library has carefully set aside money for many years for such future capital needs and currently has "just under a million and a half dollars invested fairly cautiously in the stock market," Smathers said. "We have always targeted that money for a capital campaign to work on this building... while we would need to keep some of that as operating capital for emergencies, we're looking at a starting point of spending between \$1 million and \$1.2 million out of that fund. Plus any donations we could get from a capital campaign, so \$1.7 (million) is a pretty fair place to start as an estimate for how much we'll be spending overall," Randal said, noting: "Inflation has eaten substantially into this — \$1.5 million is not going to go as far as it would have four or five years ago when we're talking about this for the first time... we're really going to have to get creative with every dollar."

An important key to receiving the federal funds is improving broadband access to electronic records, particularly medical

records, during another pandemic or similar emergency.

"The main one is they want to see improved access to computerized records — specifically medical records," Smathers explained. "They identified a problem that libraries can help with, which is to access to their medical records which other health care and government offices may be shut down — all the government offices were for a big chunk of the pandemic."

ADA compliance is another key component.

The new proposal essentially turns the building around, putting the main — and fully ADA compliant — entrance at the

"You know, I'm into my 11th year now. And I've been working on building renovations more or less non stop since I got here," Smathers noted. "We've had a series of kind of stops and starts on this."

east end of the building (facing Killington), and turning the original 1868 structure (current main entrance) into a dedicated children's library.

"There is 30 inches of good Vermont granite between the 1868 block and the renovated part with two doorways. So as far as a sound barrier, it's just such a natural idea," Smathers said.

That portion of the building also leads up to the Fox Room, which hosts community events. "Honestly about 80% - 90% of our events that use the Fox Room are kids events anyway," he said.

"We've also looked at how to solve some other basic problems like the baby changing restroom is in the opposite end of the building from the children's area, just a whole a whole number of things," Smathers added. "In fact, we had identified seven things that we wanted to fix architecturally, just to make it a better library."

Those plans and additional ideas from the public will be presented soon, Smathers noted.

"My very next step is to try to put together an ad hoc committee, outside of

our board members — interested committee members, people with some experience... to just start trying to talk through what's possible ... I've got a board meeting coming up tomorrow night, when I will be reaching out to the board asking for their suggestions — who they know that might be interested or excited about this opportunity," he told the Mountain Times, Tuesday, May 16.

"A really important step in designing a public building is making something the public wants," he added.

Renovation stops and starts

It's been 35 years since any substantive work has been done on the library building.

"Looking back to 1988... things have just changed so much," Smathers said.

"You know, I'm into my 11th year now. And I've been working on building renovations more or less non stop since I got here," he noted. "We've had a series of kind of stops and starts on this. Like a decade ago, we had been looking

at renovating this building and the bill came in at \$7.4 to \$11.5 million — that was to do a complete top to bottom renovation — but that was way too much money. And so we kind of backed off and we were working with NBF on coming up with a much more modest renovation that would have cost about \$1.5 million."

Then the CSJ thing popped up and we put all our energy into that. But as a fallback, I never stopped thinking 'okay, if we do wind up saying here, what do we do?'

"And then in the conversations around moving to CSJ, we heard from a huge number of people that just don't like our current building. In asking for feedback on CSJ, we got feedback on this building... what we heard very clearly was a bunch of people wanted us to stay in downtown, because they view us as a landmark. Then another bunch of people (that were most of our users) have really specific complaints about this building," he explained. "The most common one I get is it's the single most noisy library anybody's ever been in. And I think that's probably accurate. We take the kids off into the Fox Room, and we get them all excited in their

program and then the program ends and they come downstairs, but they're really excited and they're making noise because they're kids and they're having fun in their learning. And that's fabulous. But there's no separation between the kids area and where somebody's sitting trying to work on seriously at a computer or in a quiet study space."

Smathers hopes the new renovation will receive the support it needs to get started. First with a positive recommendation from the Finance committee and subsequent approval from the board of Aldermen; then approval of the grant.

The project is in the early design phase, but the federal funds will require a completed proposal by Aug. 31 of this year, (with a preliminary completed project date of Dec. 31, 2026) so the library is also going full speed ahead.

Unlike other renovation plans over the past decade, this time Smathers is confident a plan will move forward. "It's just a matter of getting the funding and getting the city approval," he said. "We'll do something, that's my promise. We will do something within the next five years."



Submitted

Rutland Free Library, at the intersection of Center Street and Court Street in downtown Rutland, will undergo extensive renovations within the next few years according to RFL Director Smathers. It is currently seeking funding locally and from state/federal grants.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Bill spells out accountability, sets Vt. on path to success

By Rep. Gabrielle Stebbins & Sen. Rebecca White

Despite overwhelming Senate and House support and the addition of a “check-back” mechanism per his request, Governor Scott vetoed S.5, the Affordable Heat Act.

Recently, in just over a year, the price of fuel oil rose by \$2 per gallon, and for the first time in Vermont’s official tracking history, the thermal sector, which includes residential, commercial, and industrial fuel use, produced the highest amount of climate pollution of any sector tracked in Vermont’s official greenhouse gas inventory.

The reality is: for both people and the planet, business as usual doesn’t work. Unpredictable and volatile fossil-fuel prices have been and will continue to negatively impact Vermonters until a better path is forged. S.5 offers that path.

Clean heat alternatives like heat pumps, weatherization, and advanced wood heating are cheaper and more sustainable. According to an expert independent analysis, by 2030, the clean heat services that could result from the Affordable Heat Act are estimated to reduce the overall heating costs of Vermonters by \$2 billion, or an average of \$7,500 per household that install clean heat alternatives.

Beyond the tremendous economic benefits, when it comes to climate action, the Agency of Natural Resources projects that a business-as-usual trajectory will bring Vermont only halfway to the 2025 legal obligations and a little more than one third of the way to the 2030 legal obligations. Without additional policy action, as recommended by the Vermont Climate Council and embodied in S.5, it will be impossible to meet the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. In fact, the Affordable Heat Act is the single largest pollution reduction strategy recommended by the Vermont Climate Council.

At the Governor’s request, the Legislature inserted a “check-back” provision before the new, needed program outlined in S.5 could ever be implemented. The bill requires the Public Utility Commission to spend the next two years undertaking an economic analysis, stakeholder engagement and “writing the rules” to regulate the program. In January 2025, the studies and proposed rules will return to the Legislature for review. A bill will then be introduced and discussed based on the new information provided at that time. The program cannot begin without support from the House, Senate, and Governor in 2025.

Should the bill advance to law, the new program will:

- Engage more Vermonters — with a core focus on serving low- to moderate-income Vermonters — to choose to make the switch to clean heat, saving money on their fuel bills over time,
- Assist fuel dealers during a time of rapid industry change, and
- Help Vermont meet the carbon pollution requirements of 2030 and 2050.

“There has been a tremendous amount of misinformation about this policy, which develops a clean heat credit program — but does not implement it. The bill very clearly states that the PUC cannot file final proposed rules ‘until specific authorization is enacted by the General Assembly,’” said Representative Gabrielle Stebbins. “This misrepresentation is a deep disservice to Vermonters. Not only is it scaring them; it runs counter to what voters expect and want from their elected officials.”

“The Affordable Heat Act is an essential step forward to plan for and fully understand what it will take, what it will cost and how Vermonters can benefit from more local, cleaner, and more affordable heat,” said Senator Rebecca White. “It is the Climate Solutions Caucus leadership’s hope and expectation — as the two recent and decisive House and Senate votes have demonstrated — that the majority of policy makers will continue to support taking the next hard, important step forward toward a more equitable, affordable, cleaner heat future.”



Wile E. McCarthy Chases Debt Ceiling Deal by R.J. Matson, CQ Roll Call

LETTERS

The underlying issue with S.5: The means whereby

Dear Editor,

Only three years after red-tagging above ground heating oil tanks for replacement to the tune of \$1,800-\$2,400, S.5, called the Clean Heat Act or the Affordable Heat Act, is adding another heating-related headache to Vermont households and buildings that requires the removal of heating oil tanks altogether.

S.5 states right up front the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil heating fuels, in a way that “minimizes costs to consumers and “recognizes that affordable heating is essential for Vermonters. It shall minimize adverse impacts to customers with low income and moderate income and those households with the highest energy burdens.” The overall goal is to meet the Legislature’s mandated renewable energy Clean Heat Standard in increments by 2025, 2030, and 2050, as determined by the Paris Climate Accords of 2015, which then Governor Peter Shumlin signed on behalf of Vermont. Fossil-based heating fuel is pegged as comprising 72% of Vermont’s “thermal energy use.”

S.5 → 10

Elections have consequences

Dear Editor,

The Vermont legislative session for 2023 has come to an end. There is no good news for those few Vermonters that might expect their elected representatives to respect our hard earned tax dollars. The Democrat supermajority has passed an \$8.5 billion dollar budget, the largest in the history of the state. Windsor County state senators, Alison Clarkson (D), Becca White (D) and Dick McCormack (D) have sponsored and helped pass Senate Bill 5 which will raise your price of propane and oil an additional minimum of 70 cents per gallon, up to \$4 per gallon. The stated intention of this bill is to curb global climate change. The results of the implementation of this law will do no such thing. It will increase the size of our state government, potentially crash the electrical grid, freeze Vermonters out of their homes and fatten the wallets of the so-called “green” corporate lobbyists who now run things in Montpelier. In this same session these three Windsor County state senators, along with the majority of members in their party, have voted to give

Elections → 10

SCOTUS needs ethics reform

Dear Editor,

The Supreme Court has a serious ethics problem, and the latest revelations about Clarence Thomas should be alarming to every American.

For 20 years, Thomas has accepted high-end, luxury, all-expense-paid vacations around the world from Republican megadonor Harlan Crow. And he never disclosed any of it to the public. What’s more, he also sold three properties to the billionaire and never reported it on his financial disclosures. The vacations are blatantly unethical, and not reporting the real estate sales is potentially illegal.

Supreme Court decisions impact every facet of American life. Because of this, justices must be held to the highest ethical standards. When Americans see news like this about Clarence Thomas — or any

other justice — the court demonstrates that it cannot hold itself accountable and it doesn’t take its responsibilities seriously.

A court with no legitimacy only hurts the

American people.

It’s time for Congress to pass a Supreme Court code of ethics to bring legitimacy back to the court.

**Gary Smith,
Bristol**

WRITE TO US.

The Mountain Times encourages readers to contribute to our community paper by writing letters to the editor. The opinions expressed here are not endorsed nor are the facts verified by the Mountain Times. We ask submissions to be 300 words or less.

Email letters to editor@mountaintimes.info



CAPITAL QUOTES

Vermont's 2023 Legislative year ended on Friday, May 12.

"Every single one of your towns elected me and you, because they want balance. They wanted sustainable solutions at a price they can afford. And it's not as though we disagree on the goals — it's the how, and the pace at which we get there. That's where there's division,"

said Gov. **Phil Scott**.

"Toward the end of the session, things get tight, and you're each working for your side," he said. "I think of it like lawyers. You're representing your client, your position, and you mix it up in the courtroom. But that doesn't mean you're not friends overall. That's how I view us: as friends who, in the end game, need to each defend our chambers' values,"

said Senate President Pro Tempore **Phil Baruth**, D/P-Chittenden Central of his relationship with House Speaker Jill Krowinski.

"Last year, our nation witnessed the overturning of Roe v. Wade, erasing 50 years of precedent," Krowinski said. "As some states decided to become more hostile to reproductive and gender-affirming care, we have stood firmly in defense of these rights, and passed additional legislation this session to protect Vermonters and those seeking care in our state and those providers to make sure that they have no harm. We want to ensure that we continue to be a beacon of hope when it comes to autonomy and the freedom to make our own health care decisions,"

said House Speaker **Jill Krowinski**, D-Burlington, in an interview with VTDigger.

"Our Legislature is a model for how Democracy, at its best, functions,"

said Sen. **Alison Clarkson**.

Climate bill doesn't make legislature accountable

By Gov. Phil Scott

Editor's note: On May 4, Gov. Phil Scott returned without signature and vetoed S.5 and sent the following letter to the General Assembly.

As governor, I believe we must make Vermont more affordable by helping Vermonters keep more of what they earn, while we simultaneously make transformative, strategic investments in important areas like community revitalization, climate action, housing, childcare, clean water, and broadband.

I also believe government transparency is essential to maintaining faith and trust in our democracy. When we pass laws, we must clearly communicate both the burdens and the benefits to Vermonters. From my perspective, S.5 conflicts with these principles, and I cannot support it.

It's important to note despite significant concerns with the policy, I would not veto a bill that directs the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to design a potential clean heat standard — provided it's returned to the Legislature, in bill form with all the details, and debated, amended, and voted on with the transparency Vermonters deserve.

The so-called "check back" in S.5 does not achieve my simple request. Instead, the "check back" language in the bill is confusing, easily misconstrued, and contradictory to multiple portions of the bill.

As I have repeatedly stated publicly, this veto could have been avoided had the Legislature eliminated the confusion and spelled out, in plain language, that the proposed plan would return to the Legislature to be considered for codification and voted on in bill form.

Again, I continue to fully support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As the Legislature is well-aware, more than any previous governor, I have proposed, supported, and invested hundreds of millions of dollars to reduce emissions in the transportation and thermal sectors. I'm also committed to following through on the work outlined in our thermal sector action plan.

Here's the bottom line: The risk to Vermonters and our economy throughout the state is too great; the confusion around the language and the unknowns are too numerous; and we are making real and measurable progress reducing emissions with a more thoughtful, strategic approach that is already in motion.

For these reasons I cannot allow this bill to go into law. It's my sincere hope that members of the Legislature will have the courage to put their constituents ahead of party politics and sustain this veto.

Scott's adjournment address highlights differences

Editor's note: This is a transcript of closing remarks Gov. Phil Scott delivered to the Senate on May 12.

When I addressed you at the start of the session, I said — thanks to billions in federal aid, and the fiscal discipline we'd practiced for three years leading up to the pandemic — we were in good financial shape and could build our FY24 budget with hundreds of millions in state surplus.

I asked you to work with me, to seize the moment to change the trajectory of our state, and specifically for communities that have been left behind for far too long.

To me, that meant following through on what we started two years ago: focusing on the fundamentals, using these historic, one time stimulus funds to revitalize our county economic centers and the communities that surround them. Investing in basic

infrastructure like housing, broadband, roads and bridges, climate resiliency, and the water, sewer and stormwater systems needed for both clean water and economic growth. At the same time, we proposed ideas to address our workforce challenges, including making historic investments in childcare, tax relief for Vermonters who need it most, strengthening downtowns, and workforce training and recruitment with a renewed focus on Career Technical Education. Because this is how I think we make Vermont better: By helping families and communities get ahead.

And you supported a number of these initiatives.

That includes investments to welcome more refugees, who then contribute to our workforce and communities; and grants to make it easier for smaller, long-forgotten towns and villages to access federal funds.

We expanded important health services to more regions and more Vermonters, including dental care, mental health, and substance use treatment and prevention.

And while I truly believe we must do more on Act 250 in order to solve our housing crisis, we did take some steps toward smart regulatory reforms to build more housing, which we desperately need in many areas of the state.

But in January, I also talked about how important it was to consider the impact — and the cost — of every decision we make on the families and places that need our help most.

Because the fact is, for too many years our regional economic centers like Springfield, Bellows Falls, Bennington, St. Johnsbury, Rutland, Newport, and my hometown of Barre, have been asked to shoulder higher costs and more man-

Scott → 10

← **S.5:**
from page 8

Proponents of S.5 continue to try to drown out opposing arguments, by saturating media with the two main talking points: desirability and affordability. The Vermont Natural Resources Council asserts on its website that “S. 5 is a policy designed to ease the transition to clean energy by helping ensure that every Vermonter can access cleaner, more affordable heat...”

Who could argue with that? Who would not want it, all things being equal?

But all things are not equal. The upfront out-of-pocket cost to Vermonters looks to many like a gamble that may or may not pay off as promised, and possibly not within a lifetime for many.

Legislature.vermont.gov offers the bill (disingenuously renamed the Affordable Heat Act) as introduced, as “An act relating to affordably meeting the mandated greenhouse gas reductions for the thermal sector through electrification, decarbonization, efficiency, and weatherization measures.”

The act outlines a sweeping arrangement to induce (read: social engineering) every user of any heating appliance to “transition” to electricity (read: generated by wind, sun, water) in the interests of saving the planet sometime in the indeterminate future. The argument is

that of an investor: by paying now, we will get paid back later ... but much later, and not in dollars.

It’s like buying lunch for a friend, who then disappears and is never heard from again. And as we all know, there is no free lunch.

The fine print is full of technical climate jargon, redirecting less informed readers to the all-important “affordability” claim. The Public Utility Commission will evaluate the level of credits available to low- and moderate-income households who participate in other social welfare programs.

In general, the cost of transition from fossil to renewable fuels would be covered by means of “a system of tradeable clean heat credits earned from the delivery of clean heat measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.... An obligated party may obtain the required amount of clean heat credits through delivery of eligible clean heat measures, through contracts for delivery of eligible clean heat measures, through the market purchase of clean heat credits, or through delivery ... by a designated statewide default delivery agent.”

Let’s unpack the jargon. “Clean heat measure” means a system that is not fossil fuel-based. Examples are weatherization, cold-climate heat pumps, build-ing thermal systems, solar or

controlled electric hot water heaters, sustainably sourced biofuels, and advanced wood heating systems, renewable natural gas or green hydrogen, installed at homeowner expense. The Commission will review and update requirements

every 10 years, so each device must last at least 10 years. Their ability to lower the owner’s energy bill is determined by the Technical Advisory Group.

“Clean heat credit” means the amount of greenhouse gas reduction achieved through “clean heat measures.”

“Obligated party” means the provider that currently delivers natural gas or “other fuels” to customers.

“Default delivery agent” means “the entity designated by the [Public Utility] Commission to provide services that generate clean heat measures” – in other words, forced compliance.

“Decarbonization” means keeping as much carbon emission out of the atmosphere as possible.

Clearly, there must be a disincentive to burning fossil fuels. S.5’s “clean heat credits” are the cookies that

make this worthwhile for investors, and boost the alternative energy industry. To qualify for a clean heat credit under S.5, the energy provider must show that they reduced carbon emissions by an amount set annually by the Public Util-

The upfront out-of-pocket cost to Vermonters looks to many like a gamble that may or may not pay off as promised.

ity Commission. And to do that, entire heating systems must be replaced.

Casey Cota, president and owner of Cota & Cota in Brattleboro, since 1995, said the biggest problem with S.5 is “diving headfirst into it without understanding the costs.”

How is the value of the credit determined? That is figured annually based on the equivalent of carbon dioxide emissions that are “avoided” due to use of the particular clean heat measure. Each dealer must register annually with the state and must report gallons sold in the state of Vermont.

“They want to know every single gallon you sold,” Cota said, even though the state already receives the sales tax records. “If you sold 90,000 gallons last year, and you sold 100,000 gallons the year before, you will prove that you have sold less of your

product than the year before.” The irony is, he points out, that there are other reasons for a drop in sales: a warm winter, lost customers, fuel prices.

Dealers who already sell and service heat pumps, for example, have the advantage. Smaller dealers would not be able to invest in new products due to cost, lack of familiarity with the product, and a shortage of qualified employees. Even though they may have been servicing many households for decades, they may go out of business, Cota said.

Clean heat credits have a current value of 70 cents per gallon. Credits can be issued and resold through a credit exchange.

“It’s redistribution of money from one entity to another entity,” Cota said. “If I didn’t sell heat pumps, I would have to buy credits from electricians who do install heat pumps to offset the 70 cents, because if I did not, I would owe the 70 cents to the Public Utility Commission. You are going to pay your competition to put you out of business.”

The credit is paid to the state of Vermont, which to Cota’s mind constitutes a tax. The payment passes from dealer to the state to the renewable energy program and results in rate increases to the dealer’s customers. Cota sees another irony: while incentivizing

people to use less fossil fuels and helping to implement the program faster, the credits also fund rebates “for something that is going to cost you \$20,000-\$30,000.”

If a dealer (“obligated party”) either sells its credits or fails to meet the annual requirement, the Commission reserves the right to appoint a “default delivery agent,” which will be a “single statewide entity capable of providing a variety of clean heat measures and contracted for a multiyear period through a competitive procurement process.”

Cota said S.5 shows a lack of insight. Heat pumps struggle below 20 F. In mobile homes, the heat ducts run under the unit along with the water lines, which will freeze and burst, ruining the subfloor and potentially the home.

When power goes out anywhere, without a wood-burning unit or a fuel-based generator, there is no heat.

Many households have backup generators for life support in the home.

Casey Cota’s grandparents started Cota & Cota in Brattleboro in 1941. “The million-dollar question is, we are changing wants to meet our needs,” he said. “From his perspective, it doesn’t make sense to set the way we live back 100 years.

Julia Purdy, Rutland

← **Elections:**
from page 8

themselves generous pay and benefit increases. The benefit compensation is far beyond what most Vermonters can ever hope to afford. They voted themselves an

estimated 50,000 increase each in benefits alone.

If the 2023 session is any indication the supermajority will do even more damage to those of us struggling

to stay in our homes and take care of our families. Elections have consequences.

Stu Lindberg, Cavendish

← **Scott:**
from page 9

dates, with fewer people.

From my perspective, in order to revitalize communities and welcome more workers across the state, we’ve got to make Vermont more affordable. With high inflation and the looming economic storm clouds on the horizon, Vermonters are nervous and already stretched too thin.

And to be clear, if we’re taking money out of one pocket to put it into the other, that’s not making anything more affordable.

Right now, it appears this is an area where we disagree.

Every single one of your towns elected me and you, because they wanted bal-

ance, and they want sustainable solutions at a price they can afford.

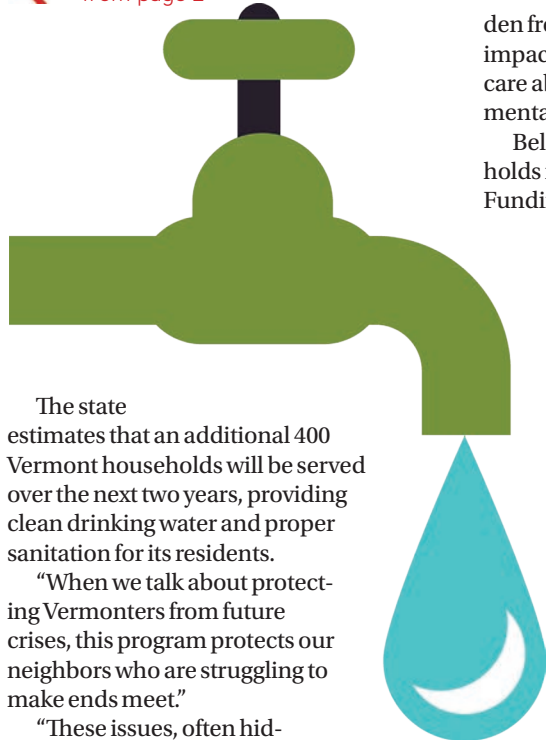
And it’s not as though we disagree on the goals. It’s the how and the pace in which we get there where there is disagreement.

I know this isn’t what the majority of you want to hear, but I believe we’ll have another opportunity to give them that balance next month.

But it’s going to take both of us to make that happen.

Thank you again for respecting the process, and I hope you get to enjoy our beautiful state over the next few weeks.

← **Water funding:**
from page 2



The state estimates that an additional 400 Vermont households will be served over the next two years, providing clean drinking water and proper sanitation for its residents.

“When we talk about protecting Vermonters from future crises, this program protects our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet.”

“These issues, often hid-

den from plain view in our communities, impact the environment and the people we care about,” said DEC Director of Environmental Compliance Adam Miller. “

Below is a list of the number of households receiving Healthy Homes On-Site Funding by county:

- Addison: 13
- Bennington: 9
- Caledonia: 15
- Chittenden: 13
- Essex: 8
- Franklin: 18
- Grand Isle: 3
- Lamoille: 7
- Orange: 16
- Orleans: 23
- Rutland: 13
- Washington: 16
- Windham: 18
- Windsor: 21
- **Total: 193**

WORDPLAY

'SKIN CARE INGREDIENTS' Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

SUDOKU

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

ACIDS	COLLAGEN	GLYCERIN	HYDROQUINONE	LOTION	SALICYLIC
ALPHA-HYDROXY	COPPER PEPTIDE	GLYCOLIC	KOJIC	LUBRICANT	SUNSCREEN
BALM	DIMETHICONE	HYALURONIC	LACTIC	NIACINAMIDE	WATER
BETA HYDROXY	ELASTIN	HYDRATION	L-ASCORBIC	RETINOL	

How to Play

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

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

Level: Advanced

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →21

CLUES ACROSS

1. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
4. Chinese philosophical principle
7. Branch
8. Jewish spiritual leader
10. Slang for requests
12. “So Human An Animal” author
13. Rocker Billy
14. British Air Aces
16. Type of tree
17. “Tough Little Boys” singer Gary
19. State attorneys
20. Goddess of fertility
21. Localities
25. Beloved singer Charles
26. Clue
27. Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface
29. Helsinki neighborhood
30. Farm resident
31. Ocean
32. Where ball-players work
39. Unable to

- hear
41. Cool!
42. Cape Verde capital
43. One point north of due east
44. Kilo yard (abbr.)
45. Middle Eastern nation
46. It yields Manila hemp
48. People operate it (abbr.)
49. Regenerate
50. Not healthy
51. Chinese sword
52. Mild expression of surprise

CLUES DOWN
1. Unit of angle
2. Headgear to control a horse
3. Clots
4. Follows sigma
5. A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns
6. Greek units of weight
8. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
9. Systems, doctrines, theories
11. Stony waste matter

1	2	3						4	5	6		
7							8					9
10				11				12				
13							14	15			16	
17				18			19				20	
21					22	23				24		
				25				26				
		27	28				29					
		30				31						
			32			33			34	35	36	37
39	40				41				42			
43				44					45			
46			47						48			
49										50		
	51									52		

14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
15. Hostile to others
18. U.S. State
19. Not wet
20. Something one thinks up
22. Where beer is made
23. Clumsy person
24. Belonging to us
27. Canadian flyers
28. Greek goddess of the dawn
29. Snakelike fish
31. Unhappy
32. Fruit
33. Not good
34. Zero degrees Celsius
35. Goo Goo Dolls’ hit
36. Crawls into the head (folklore)
37. Legally responsible
38. Move in a playful way
39. Regarded with deep affection
40. Partner to flowed
44. Native American tribe
47. Head honcho

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in New York on May 20, 1981. I began taking piano lessons at age 4. My style has been called catchy, light pop with lyrics that share hard truths about life. I have been compared to Alanis Morissette.

Answer: Rachel Platten

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WEDNESDAY

5/17

Early Literacy Playgroup

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

Graphic Novel Book Club for Kids

3-4 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. 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.

Community Art Night

4-7 p.m. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow. Free. Make your own visionboard. Pizza for everyone. Art supplies provided. Hosted by Black River Area Community Coalition. For more info visit braccvt.org.

Zentangle Workshops

4-5:30 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Starter kits will be available (for a \$5 suggested fee). Jenny Dembinski's Zentangle classes teach a method of drawing that is easy to learn and relaxing. Drawing a combination of dots, lines, and curves called "tangles" on small pieces of paper called "tiles" is unplanned and free-flowing so you can focus on each stroke. For more info visit: adrian@normanwilliams.org.

Introduction to Clay: Planters

5:30-7:30 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. MINT member fee \$75; non-members \$100. This is a beginner friendly class, Tiffany and Caitlin will provide instruction and support every step of the way. This project will use slab building, coils, and pinch pot techniques. We will also go over tools and texture. We encourage you to be as creative and adventurous as possible. Ages 16+. Three Wednesdays in May: 3, 10, & 17. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

An Evening of Poetry with Marjorie Ryerson: 'The Views from Mount Hunger'

6:30-8:30 p.m. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St., Rutland. This event is free and open to all, but advance registration is appreciated. Please join us at Phoenix Books Rutland for an evening of poetry with Marjorie Ryerson as we celebrate the release of her recently-released book, "The Views from Mount Hunger." For more info visit phoenixbooks.biz/events.

THURSDAY

5/18

Audubon West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk

7 a.m. Meet at the marsh boardwalk kiosk on Marble St. Free. Join our friendly and knowledgeable birders on our monthly marsh walk in this Audubon Important Bird Area. No experience necessary. Go the entire 3.7 mile loop or go halfway. All are welcome. For more info visit birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

Storytime at Rutland Free Library

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, free and open to all. Fox room, Geared towards ages 2-5. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org

Toddler Storytime

10:30-11:30 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 Group

12-1 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Meet on Thursdays as musician Steven Wilson leads attendees through specific sheet music. All levels welcome. This is not a class, but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together. Must pre-register: chaffeeartcenter.square.site or call 802-775-0356.

Drive-up-pick-up Meals

12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$3.50 donation ages 65+, \$6 fee under age 65. Reservations required. Godnick Center, in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, is providing drive-up pick-up meals on Mondays and Thursdays at noon at the Godnick Center. To order, call 802-773-1853 during business hours.

Circle of Parents

3 p.m. Virtual. Free. Support group meets weekly online on Thursdays from 3-4:30 p.m. For more info visit: pcavt.org.

NAMI Connection Peer Support Group

3 p.m. Virtual. Free. Struggling with managing your mental health? NAMI Connection Peer Support Group can help. This is a free, 90-minute recovery support group for people living with a mental health condition. For more info visit: namivt.org/support-groups/peer-support.

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.

Circle of Parents for Grandparents

4 p.m. Virtual. Free. Meets weekly online. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info visit: pcavt.org.

Yoga with Kellie

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

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

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

Stained Glass Honeycomb Suncatcher

6-8 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. Cost for members: \$135; Non-members \$160. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

Watercolor Class with Dale Bills

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

FRIDAY

5/19

Kent Pond Bird Walk

7 a.m. Kent Pond, Vt Route 100 N, Killington. Free. Park along Thundering Brook Road between Mountain Meadows Lodge and Kent Pond. This will be a 3-mile bird walk open to all. Should see loons, warblers and other interesting birds. For more info contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

WoodSpryte Early Learning Adventures

9:30-10:30 a.m. Green Mountain Community School's, Whitney Hall/ The Buttery, 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney. In May and throughout the summer, WoodSpryte Arts classes will be focused primarily around WoodSpryte Garden, our little garden bed in front of the Stone Valley Arts building. As we prepare our bed, we'll learn about worms and other soil critters! During the weeks of late spring and through the summer, 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. Bring your young sprouts to join us on the SVA lawn Fridays 9:30-10:30 a.m. Ages 2-8. \$12/class. For info call 802-235-2209, email woodsprytearts@vermontel.net, or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076233993672> for weekly updates.

Book Group

4:15-5:15 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. 3rd Wednesday of each month, RSVP required, we are excited to be partnering with Phoenix Books on Center St., Rutland. (Book group member gets 20% off our monthly books.) In this week's group we will discuss "How To Do the Work" by Dr. Nicole LePera. For more info visit: chaffeeartcenter.org.

Figure Drawing with Live Model

5-7 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. 4 weeks \$60 or \$20 per class, Must RSVP. 3rd Wednesday of each month. Enjoy and learn figure drawing with a real-life model at The Chaffee Art Center. Bring own supplies. For more info visit: chaffeeartcenter.org.

That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$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. BYOB and eat what you make. Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / info@odysseyeventsvt.com

Rutland Youth Theatre presents: 'Into The Woods JR'

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Price: adults: \$15 + tax/fees; children under 18/seniors over 65: \$10 + tax/fees. Be careful what you wish for, as Stephen Sondheim's and James Lapine's cockeyed fairytale comes to life in this adaptation of their groundbreaking, Tony Award-winning musical. "Into the Woods JR." features all of your favorite characters — Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk) and the Witch — in this lyrically rich retelling of classic Brothers Grimm fables. For more info visit paramountvt.org.

SATURDAY

5/20

Intro to Mosaics - Gazing Balls

9 a.m.-12 p.m. The Mint, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Members \$75; non-members \$90. We will be creating gazing balls or garden ornaments using bowling balls as our substrate. Students will learn how to prepare their substrate, learn about appropriate adhesives, design a pattern and cut glass and other materials to create the pattern. This is a two-part class. The first day will involve design and placement of mosaic tesserae and the second will involve grouting and finishing the project. Each student will take a beautiful lawn/ garden sculpture home with them. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

Summer Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Depot Park, 15 Evelyn St., Downtown Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, and the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. The farmers' market brings together as many as 60 vendors. With a seasonal variety of produce, local grass-fed meat, eggs, artisan cheeses, freshly baked breads, jellies and jams, maple products, honey, CBD products, delicious hot foods, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland Railroad Museum & Model Club

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

Calendar → 15

FARMERS MARKET

SATURDAY



Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 14

Tails on Trails

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Northwood Park, Post Road, Rutland. Free. Join us for a canine education day and green up event! Proceeds go to Rutland County Humane Society & Vermont Police Canine Association. Hosted by Every Day Canine. Food, raffle, police K9 demos, free dog training consultations, learn about trail etiquette with dogs, and how to keep our trails and hikes safe for everyone. For more info visit: everydaycaninevt.com.

The Soufflé Also Rises and Apple-Tart Cooking Class

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

Introduction to Origami

1-3 p.m. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St., Springfield. Cost: \$25. Introduction to Origami with Gloria Dufield will start with the basic valley and mountain folds, then will practice and use double sided origami paper to create at least 3 origami creations – a butterfly, a crane and a frog that actually jumps. Double sided origami paper and a plastic bone folder tool for making crisp folds. (\$5 materials fee) Register by May 17. For more info visit galleryvault.org.

Rutland Youth Theatre presents: 'Into The Woods JR'

2 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Price: adults: \$15 + tax/fees; children under 18/seniors over 65: \$10 + tax/fees. Be careful what you wish for, as Stephen Sondheim's and James Lapine's cockeyed fairytale comes to life in this adaptation of their groundbreaking, Tony Award-winning musical. "Into the Woods JR." features all of your favorite characters — Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk) and the Witch — in this lyrically rich retelling of classic Brothers Grimm fables. For more info visit paramountvt.org.

Tillie Walden Cartoonist Laureate of Vermont

3 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Walden's work is celebrated for its intimate and authentic portrayal of adolescence that often explores queer themes with beautifully crafted images paired with realistically emotional text. Entertainment Weekly named her as one of "the most essential graphic novelists of her generation." The Yankee Bookshop will be on hand with copies of Tillie Walden's books. For more info visit: adrian@normanwilliams.org.

Rutland Youth Theatre presents: 'Into The Woods JR'

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Price: adults: \$15 + tax/fees; children under 18/seniors over 65: \$10 + tax/fees. Be careful what you wish for, as Stephen Sondheim's and James Lapine's cockeyed fairytale comes to life in this adaptation of their groundbreaking, Tony Award-winning musical. "Into the Woods JR." features all of your favorite characters — Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk) and the Witch — in this lyrically rich retelling of classic Brothers Grimm fables. For more info visit paramountvt.org.

FOLA 2023 Film Series Featuring 'Show Boat'

7 p.m. Heald Auditorium at Ludlow's Town Hall, 37 Depot St., Ludlow. Free. Featuring Ava Gardner, Kathryn Grayson, and Howard Keel, "Showboat" is the musical that changed Broadway theatre. For more info visit folaus.com.

Coffeehouse Concert - Two Duos: Pepper and Sassafras, and Phil Henry and Jeff Kimball

7:30-9:30 p.m. UU Church of Rutland, 117 West St., Rutland. Cost \$20. Two award-winning duos will share an evening of acoustic original music as central New York's Pepper and Sassafras team up with Rutland's own Phil Henry and Jeff Kimball. For more info visit eventbrite.com/d/vt--rutland/events.

SUNDAY
5/21

Intro to Mosaics - Gazing Balls

9 a.m.-12 p.m. The Mint, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Members \$75; non-members \$90. We will be creating gazing balls or garden ornaments using bowling balls as our substrate. Students will learn how to prepare their substrate, learn about appropriate adhesives, design a pattern and cut glass and other materials to create the pattern. This is a two-part class. The first day will involve design and placement of mosaic tesserae and the second will involve grouting and finishing the project. Each student will take a beautiful lawn/ garden sculpture home with them. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

"Grateful Dead for Acoustic Guitar" Workshop

11 a.m.-1 p.m. A Sound Space, 162 Woodstock Ave., Rutland. Cost \$20. Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers shows you how to play the chords, create powerful grooves and also how to add cool embellishments and leads. For tickets visit eventbrite.com/e/grateful-dead-for-acoustic-guitar-taught-by-jeffrey-pepper-rodgers-tickets-606809572767?aff=aff0evvnt.

Met Opera: Don Giovanni (Mozart)

12:55 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Cost: \$25. Tony Award-winning director of Broadway's A View from the Bridge and West Side Story, Ivo van Hove makes a major Met debut with a new take on Mozart's tragicomedy, re-setting the familiar tale of deceit and damnation in an abstract architectural landscape and shining a light into the dark corners of the story and its characters. Maestro Nathalie Stutzmann makes her Met debut conducting a star-studded cast led by baritone Peter Mattei as a magnetic Don Giovanni, alongside the Leporello of bass-baritone Adam Plachetka. Sopranos Federica Lombardi, Ana Maria Martinez, and Ying Fang make a superlative trio as Giovanni's conquests—Donna Anna, Donna Elvira, and Zerlina—and tenor Ben Bliss is Don Ottavio. For more info visit paramountvt.org.

Raptors in Focus: Photography

Workshop

1-3 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Queechee. \$52 general public; \$45 VINS member. Join local photojournalist Rob Strong for an exclusive photo shoot with our resident raptors that will leave you with stunning pictures and great memories. With a focus on capturing movement, our hawk and other raptor models will be flying for the camera, allowing you to get amazing action shots. Designed for the intermediate level photographer, Rob will go over essential techniques help you get the most out of your camera, maximizing results and improving wildlife photography skills. Registration is required. For more information, call 802.359.5000 or visit info@vinsweb.org.

MONDAY
5/22

Baby and Toddler Rock

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

Drive-up-pick-up meals

12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$3.50 donation ages 65+, \$6 fee under age 65. Reservations required. Godnick Center, in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, is providing drive-up pick-up meals on Mondays and Thursdays at noon at the Godnick Center. Call (802)773-1853 for information or to make a reservation for pick-up.

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.

TUESDAY
5/23

Audubon Castleton University Trails Walk

7:30-10:30 a.m. Meet at the D&H trail crossing on South St., Castleton. Free. Visitor parking is behind the Stafford Academic Center in the Stafford lot (#39 on the campus map) Easy terrain, 2.6 miles. More info: jptilley50@gmail.com.

Spring Bird Walks

7:30 a.m. Meet at the Endless Brook trailhead (Endless Brook Road, on left, 0.9 mi in from VT Rte 30). Free. Join Slate Valley Trails and the Rutland County Audubon Society for weekly slow-paced (3 to 4 miles, 3 to 4 hours) bird & wildflower hikes. For more info visit: slatevalleytrails.org.



Stories on a String

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

Children's Indoor Storytime

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

"She Means Business" Event Highlights Women-Owned Business in the Rutland Region

12 p.m. Hub CoWorks, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland. Free. (Please register in advance.) Attendees will have the option to plan their day, selecting from two workshops, a QuickConnect networking session with lenders and resource providers, a business hop to downtown Rutland businesses, and an evening reception hosted by the Vermont Women's Fund. Those who want to shop and support woman-owned businesses in the Rutland region can get an early start by visiting participating businesses during the weekend of May 20 and 21 in downtown Rutland, Killington, and other parts of the county. Registration at vtsbdc.org/she-means-business-rutland.

Alzheimer's Support Group at Community Health

4 p.m. Community Health Allen Pond, 71 Allen St., Rutland. Claudia Courcelle and her team of care managers will hold their Alzheimers support group meeting. Info@<https://www.chcr.org/community-news/alzheimers-support-group-at-community-health-meets-jan-10-in-ru> For more info visit: members.rutlandvermont.com. events/calendar. For questions call: 802-465-2255.

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!

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

GE Aviation-Rutland's pie eating contest nets \$2,100 for Imagination Library

GE Aviation's pie eating contest event to raise money to benefit the Imagination Library at Rutland Free Library was messy but a very sweet success. The GE Employees Community Concerns fund donated \$2,100 to support this literacy-based non-profit organization founded by Dolly Parton which gives free books to children under 5 who reside in Rutland City, Rutland Town, Mendon, Ira, and Tinmouth. GE employees donated money towards nominating an employee to participate in the pie eating competition, with participants from Plant 1 and 2. The winner from Plant 2 was Daniel Corey.



Contestants enjoy the taste of victory during GE Aviation's pie eating contest, a benefit for RFL's Imagination Library.

Submitted

Chaffee flexes muscle earning first Devil's Bowl win in five years

Tanner takes SCoNE race; Munger picks up where he left off in Limited Sportsman

Kevin Chaffee ended a long dry spell at Devil's Bowl Speedway on Saturday, May 13, and he did it with authority. The Bradford racer posted his first win at the track in five years, while six other feature races featured a mix of first-time winners and familiar faces in Victory Lane.

Chaffee's victory in the headline Sunoco Sportsman Modified division was his first since July 2018. He started fifth on the 24-car field and was able to capitalize on two quick cautions in the first four laps to get through traffic and take the lead from Allan Hammond at lap 5.

Two more back-to-back

yellow flags bunched the field at laps 14 and 15, but Chaffee held the whole time and drove away for a comfortable 4.254-second margin of victory.

Marty Kelly III's up-and-down race ended "up," as the Shaftsbury, racer posted the runner-up finish. Kelly started fourth and fell to as low as seventh place at the halfway mark, but he marched through traffic to get to second place with five laps to go.

Former track champion Vince Quenneville ran with the leaders all race and finished third, followed by fellow veteran Jimmy Ryan and strong young racer David Boisclair.

Devil's Bowl →29



Kevin Chaffee tasted victory at Devil's Bowl on Saturday.

Submitted

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By Allison Smith/UVM Extension 4-H James Shorey of Fair Haven sang "This is Home" on stage at 4-H State Day, held May 6 in Barre, earning a spot on the Vermont 4-H delegation to Eastern States Exposition in September for his outstanding performance.

Local 4-Hers earn accolades

Rutland 4-Her Anna Weideman wowed the crowd at 4-H State Day with her rendition of "Cups." The annual showcase of 4-H talent took place May 6 at the Vermont Granite Museum.

By Allison Smith/UVM Extension 4-H

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
5/17

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

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

RANDOLPH
7 p.m. Kuyas at One Main – Open Mic with Indigenous Entertainment

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

9:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Open Mic hosted by Rick Urbani

THURS
5/18

BRANDON
6 p.m. Ripton Mountain Distillery – Open Jam

CASTLETON
6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Josh Jakab

LUDLOW
5 p.m. Off the Rails – Motorcycle Cruise Rally with music by the Bear Mountain Boys

PITTSFIELD
7 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Duane Carleton

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



QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Strangefellows Pub – Trivia Night

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

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

FRI
5/19

CASTLETON
6 p.m. Castleton Pizza Place and Deli – Live Music

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

LUDLOW
8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Conniption Fits

POULTNEY
5:30 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Aaron Audet

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Arthur James

SAT
5/20

BRIDGEWATER
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Damon Millard

KILLINGTON
9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Rick Webb

LUDLOW
8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Jake Kulak Band

POULTNEY
5:30 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Mike Schwaner

QUECHEE
6 p.m. Public House Pub – Bobby Sheehan

SUN
5/21

KILLINGTON
2 p.m. Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar – Sammy B

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

RUTLAND
4 p.m. Grace Congregational Church – Five Mystical Songs

MON
5/22

LUDLOW
6:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B

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

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Tad Davis

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

TUES
5/23

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

LUDLOW
8 p.m. Off the Rails – SINGO

PITTSFIELD
6:30 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Jam

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

QUECHEE
5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager



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Piper to run mega-marathon on trails to fight substance abuse

By John Flowers, Addison Independent

May 23-27—RIPTON — When Chip Piper clears a hurdle, he sets it higher for the next time.

Last May, Piper (then 53) ran an endurance race called 88-K Invictus, originating at the Silver Towers Camp in Ripton, as a way to gather financial pledges for the Turning Point Center (TPC) of Addison County's plan to establish a recovery center for folks battling substance use disorder.

Chip's late son, Michael, lost his struggle with addiction in 2020. Chip has been ramping up his running in

"How do I define victory? I define it by raising awareness, and if I can save one life or help one person recover, that's a victory in itself." Chip said.

memory of Michael and as a vehicle for fundraising to help those in recovery.

"[What] I say to myself in those moments in 'the pain cave' is, 'On the other side of this pain is victory,'" Chip said. "How do I define victory? I define it by raising awareness, and if I can save one life or help one person recover, that's a victory in itself."

His goal last May for Invictus was to raise \$20,000 for TPC. He and his supporters exceeded that by \$3,000.

This May, he's shooting higher. He will take part in the Infinitus race at Ripton's Silver Towers camp, from May 23-27. Piper will run a marathon a day for five consecutive days. That's 135 miles in five days.

He's set a goal of \$50,000 — which he hopes to exceed — and he's not only running on behalf of Michael and the TPC. He's also running for:

Silver Towers Camp, an overnight retreat for those with mental and physical challenges. Silver Towers is the



Chip Piper has been running in memory of son Michael and as a vehicle for fundraising to help those in recovery from substance abuse. He will run five marathons in as many days on rough Vermont trails in order to raise funds.

chief charitable project of the Vermont Elks Association; and Jenna's House, a Johnson, Vt., organization dedicated to the pursuit of substance use prevention. It is

named for Jenna Tatro, who died from an opiate overdose in 2019. Check out jennaspromise.org.

Chip's teammates in his penta-marathon effort include folks from Jenna's Promise, the TPC and some Middlebury College students.

Needless to say, Piper has been spending a lot of time over the past few months getting his body race-ready.

"My training has been to really get time on my feet and run 17 to 20 miles once a week with smaller runs, but

"This will be the toughest race series I have ever attempted ... [it's] a trail marathon every day for five days ... steep, steady climbs covering over 135 miles of the forest."

the most important change is to get vertical and to run in areas where I can work on climbing and elevation," he said. "This will be the toughest race series I have ever attempted in my running career ... [it's] a trail marathon every day for five days in the Green Mountains. A grueling course of rocks, roots and steep, steady climbs covering over 135 miles of the forest."

"My legs, my back and my feet will be inflamed for those five days of extreme running, and nothing is more satisfying to me than to do this in honor my son Michael and Jenna Tatro."

On May 27, supporters will raffle several items (Red Sox tickets being one of them), and there will be event t-shirts for sale, along with other event swag and snacks/drinks.

For more information visit: trailrun4recovery.com. To donate, visit: tinyurl.com/429xeavab.

Rutland Farmers Market returns to the city center

Wednesday and Saturday May 17 & 20—RUTLAND—The Farmers market has returned to the outdoors at Depot Park in Rutland having just returned from its winter location at The Franklin Conference Center in The Howe Center.

The outdoor market features farmers, potters, canners, bakers, jewelers, distillers, quilters, live music, an excellent selection of ethnic cuisines, a seasonal variety of produce, local grass-fed meat, eggs, artisan cheeses, freshly baked breads, jellies and jams, maple products, honey, CBD products, delicious hot foods, wine and spirits, artisan crafts, and more. The market is a great place to shop, eat, and visit.

It's one of the largest farmers' markets in the state.

The market runs from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturdays, or stop by on Wednesday afternoons from June 7 to Oct. 25 from 1-5 p.m. for a mid-week restock from a smaller selection of vendors.

For more information, visit: downtonw Rutland.com/farmersmarket.



Products of many varieties are available on Wednesdays and Saturdays at the downtown Rutland Farmers Market. The market returns to its outdoor location at Depot Park this week where it will remain until October 25.

Submitted

BarnArts 10th annual Race Around the Lake welcomes spring, celebrates community, and raises money for youth programming

Saturday, May 21—BARNARD—While serious runners will find interest and challenge in the 5K and 10K Race Around the Lake in Barnard on Saturday, many also come out for friendly exercise or just to celebrate the beautiful spring in Barnard.

The fundraiser is the primary supporter of BarnArts Summer Youth Theater, celebrating its 12th anniversary year in 2023. This year's SYT musical will be "Newsies!" produced in Barnard, Aug 4-6.

Registration fees for the 5K are \$40 for adults and \$30 for youth 12 and under, while fees for the 10K are \$50 for adults and \$30 for youth 12 and under. Walkers and families are welcome on the 5K, while the 10K is for runners only. This year the Upper Valley Running Club included the 10K in its running series, and around 150 runners are expected just on the 10K course!

Registration is available online through 7 p.m. on Saturday at runsignup.com. Day-of registration begins Sunday at 9 a.m. at the park (cash & check only). The 10K starts at 10:30 a.m. and the 5K starts at 11 a.m. Both races will be RFID chip timed. A virtual race option is also available through May 22.

The Race Around the Lake is an important fundraiser for BarnArts but it is also important for the community.

"BarnArts is all about community and this race is a great example of that," said Executive Director Linda Treash. As well as choosing to participate in the race, "local families and individuals come out to volunteer or to just watch and cheer people on while enjoying nature."

Beginning and ending at Silver Lake State Park, the 5K and 10K courses circle Silver Lake on town roads and single-track trails with intermittent views of the lake. The 10K is famously tough, as it exits the woods and climbs steep Tower Road before returning to the park and the lake.

Again this year with the registration fee comes a complimentary lunch and an awards ceremony along Silver Lake in Barnard. This year's lunch will include beef chili, hearty vegetarian salads, fresh fruit, bread & cheese and chocolate milk. Items are being donated by Twin Farms, Red Hen Bakery, Plymouth Cheese, Heartwood Farm, Strafford Creamery, and BarnArts.

Live music will be provided by Justin Park and Chloe Powell. An award ceremony will begin a bit after noon. Prizes are awarded to the top three male and female overall finishers, as well as the top male/female runners in specific age categories. Prizes have been donated by Wood's Syrup, Elevation, Farmhouse Pottery, Harpoon, Fable Farm, Cayer's Honey, Anichini, Woodstock Farmers' Market, Barnard General Store, Crystal Garden Herbs, and Silver Lake Syrup.

BarnArts Race Around the Lake raises funds exclusively for BarnArts youth programming, including scholarships for BarnArts Summer Youth Theater which will this year produce "Newsies" in August. As part of its global music residency program, BarnArts brought Mi'kmaq fiddler Morgan Toney to 6 area schools for unique workshops and a lively public concert in Woodstock last week. They are bringing The Villalobos Brothers to local schools next week and will have a public performance outdoors at Barnard Town Hall on Saturday, May 26th at 5:30 p.m. Tickets available with a sliding-scale price \$10-50 at barnarts.org.

For more info on the race, BarnArts youth programming, or if you would like to volunteer for the race, please visit barnarts.org or call 802-234-1645.



Runners take part in the Race-Around-the-Lake in Barnard to raise money for youth programming. this year's race will be held on Saturday at Silver lake State Park in Barnard.

Submitted



Submitted

The emerald ash borer, (seen above) an invasive, tree killing species has been detected in all Vermont counties except Essex. May 22-28 marks emerald ash borer awareness week.

May 22-28 is emerald ash borer awareness week

By Ginger Nickerson

The week of May 22-28 has been designated National Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week to help increase public awareness of this tree-killing beetle and the damage it can cause to all species of native ash trees within the *Fraxinus* genus.

The emerald ash borer (EAB), a native of southeast Asia, was first detected in Michigan in 2002. It was initially confirmed in Vermont in 2018 in Orange County and has now been confirmed in all counties except Essex County.

We have learned from municipalities in the Midwest that have been dealing with EAB for two decades that the more time a town or city has to plan for the removal or treatment of ash trees on municipally managed lands, the better they are able to manage the financial costs and impact of the beetle.

Towns may choose to treat some public ash trees with pesticides, which is costly, but may be the only viable option to save a tree. However, this must be done before the beetle is well-established in the tree. If not treated, ash trees will die and potentially create a hazard along roads and other public areas.

Once an adult EAB starts laying eggs in an ash tree, it can take three to five years for enough larvae to build up under the bark for the tree to start showing symptoms. Because of this EAB can be hidden in plain sight, and ash trees in an area with confirmed infestations may still look fine.

It can take up to 10 years from when EAB first arrives in an area before ash trees begin dying off at a large or landscape scale. That is why communities throughout Vermont should start planning now for how they will deal with ash trees on municipal lands.

The first step for any municipality to establish an ash management strategy is to inventory the ash trees on municipal lands. This includes shade trees on streets, parking

lots and green spaces, town forests and municipal rights-of-way. Inventories can range from simple paper-based tally sheets to using GIS software to create digitized maps.

The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry of the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation provides resources and direct technical assistance to design and conduct ash inventories. Its website has many resources including templates for writing ash management plans, tools to calculate the costs of different management scenarios, case studies from other municipalities and examples of documents, such as letters to residents and contracts with tree removal companies.

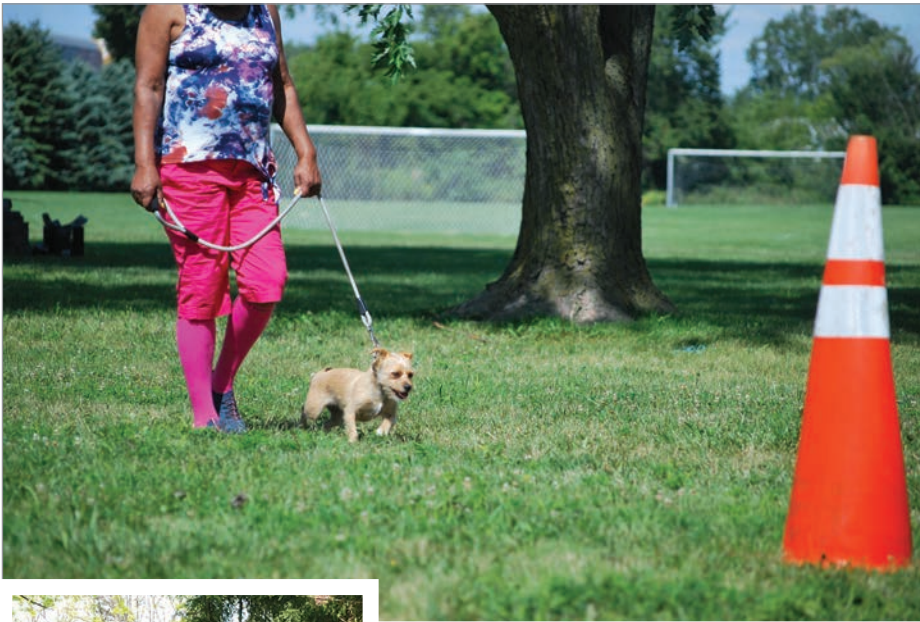
Program staff Ginger Nickerson and Joanne Garton are available to give presentations on EAB and provide technical assistance to municipalities, including assistance to conduct ash tree inventories.

Community members can do their part to scout for this pest and report any trees suspected of being infested with EAB by uploading photographs via the "Report It!" button at vtinvasives.org. You can learn how to identify ash trees and the signs and symptoms of the pest at vtinvasives.org/invasive/emerald-ash-borer. This website also links to a map of EAB infestations, created by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, which shows a 10-mile radius around each confirmed infestation. Areas marked in yellow indicate a high likelihood of other ash trees being infested with EAB. The areas in orange and red have a more established EAB infestation level.

Over time, the EAB infestation in Vermont will continue to spread. State agencies and conservation organizations are helping manage this pest, but more needs to be done to avoid accelerating its spread and unnecessary management costs. Recommendations can be found at go.uvm.edu/ash-borer-spread.

3rd annual Tails on Trails dog training and trail run held at Northwood Park

Saturday, May 20—Northwood Park, Post Road, Rutland—On Saturday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., join us in person or virtually for a canine education day and green up event, hosted by Every Day Canine. Proceeds go to Rutland County Humane Society & Vermont Police Canine Association. Food vendors, raffle baskets of dog food from local shops, police K9 demos, agility course to try out, free dog training consultations with Nate from Every Day Canine, trail etiquette education posters, flyers, and seminar at noon, and how to keep our trails and hikes safe for everyone. Donations to be contributed by attendees to help you raise money for the animals. Create a team and raise money! \$150+ wins a RCHS tumbler. \$250+ wins a RCHS winter pompom hat. Raise \$150 win a RCHS tumbler, raise \$250 win a RCHS winter pompom hat! Help green-up and receive a free t-shirt. For more info or to become a sponsor visit: everydaycaninevt.com.



Tails for Trails, to be held at Northwood Park in Rutland, will include raffles, food vendors and dog training. The event is hosted by Every Day Canine to raise money for Rutland County Humane Society.

Submitted

Rutland Youth Theatre to present 'Into The Woods JR' at The Paramount Theatre

Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21—RUTLAND— On Saturday and Sunday this weekend, The Rutland Youth Theatre will perform “Into The Woods JR” at The Paramount Theatre in Rutland. Stephen Sondheim’s and James Lapine’s cockeyed fairytale will come to life in this adaptation of their groundbreaking, Tony Award-winning musical. “Into The Woods JR” features all of your favorite characters — Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk) and the Witch — in this lyrically rich retelling of classic Brothers Grimm fables. The musical centers on a baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King’s festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a witch’s curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse, and wind up changed forever. The concert will be shown at 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday with a matinee show at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for adults plus tax/fees; for children under 18 and seniors over 65, \$10 plus tax/fees. For more information, visit: paramountvt.org.

Cartoonist Tillie Walden to make appearance in Woodstock

Saturday, May 20—Woodstock—On Saturday, Tillie Walden, recently named the 5th Cartoonist Laureate of Vermont, will appear at the Norman Williams Public Library in Woodstock. Walden, a graduate of and currently a professor at the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction, won the Eisner Award for best reality-based work for her graphic novel memoir “Spinning” at the age of 22 in 2018. She has published other graphic novels including, “On a Sunbeam” (originally a science fiction webcomic) and “Are you Listening?” She collaborated with Emma Hunsinger on a picture book for children, “My Parents Won’t Stop Talking. Walden is currently working on a graphic novel trilogy and, with musicians Tegan and Sara, two books for middle-grade readers. Walden’s work is celebrated for its intimate and authentic portrayal of adolescence that often explores queer themes with beautifully crafted images paired with realistically emotional text. Entertainment Weekly named her as one of “the most essential graphic novelists of her generation.” The Yankee Bookshop will be on hand with copies of Tillie Walden’s books. This event is free and the public is warmly welcome to attend. RSVP (below) is appreciated as seating is limited. For more info visit normanwilliams.org.



Submitted

Cartoonist Tillie Walden and a panel from one of her graphic novels. Walden will visit Norman Williams Public Library in Woodstock on Saturday.

Rutland Garden Club to host plant sale

Saturday, May 20 —RUTLAND—The Rutland Garden Club Plant Sale is a local tradition and it’s coming back Saturday at 9 a.m. at the corner of Main and Center Streets in Rutland in front of the Hull Maynard Hersey Building. There will also be a bake sale with proceeds dedicated to our new Rutland Garden Club Scholarship. The scholarship was established to encourage the pursuit of a career in fields related to the natural environment. Founded in 1914, the Rutland Garden Club has contributed to the beautification of the Rutland area for over 100 years. Currently we support over 20 public gardens throughout the city. The club also works to stimulate the public’s interest in all phases of gardening through educational presentations, workshops, garden therapy, and youth projects. We hope our scholarship will help inspire the next generation to continue this tradition of community service. The first scholarship will be awarded on June 14 at the RHS Senior Awards Ceremony. Interested in learning more or becoming a member? Please visit rutlandgardenclub.org.



Submitted

The Rutland Garden Club Plant Sale is a tradition that will return to Rutland this Saturday.

Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers to teach Grateful Dead guitar in Rutland

Sunday, May 21—Rutland—On Sunday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers will teach the techniques of the famous rock-jam band, The Grateful Dead. He will show the techniques The Dead used with chords and arrangements and also how to add cool embellishments and leads. The workshop is based on the best-selling Homespun video series on classic Dead songs for acoustic guitar. Rodgers teaches how to create the powerful grooves on songs like “Friend of the Devil,” “New Speedway Boogie,” “Althea,” and “Casey Jones,” and he will also show how to add cool embellishments and lead breaks inspired by the Dead’s live and studio performances.

Rodgers interviewed both Jerry Garcia and Bob Weir in depth about their guitar and songwriting styles and draws on insights from those conversations to capture the soul of their timeless songs. The workshop is designed for intermediate players but is also accessible for beginners with knowledge of basic chords.

For more info visit tinyurl.com/deadworkshopsoundspace.



Submitted
Musician Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers will teach a guitar class in the style of acid-rock jam band, The Grateful Dead this Saturday.

Drag story hour held at Phoenix Books Rutland May 21

Sunday, May 21—RUTLAND—Emoji Nightmare and Kat-niss Everqueer, two of Vermont’s favorite performers, are bringing Drag Story Hour to Phoenix Books Rutland on Sunday, May 21 at 2 p.m. at Center Street in downtown Rutland. All ages are welcome to this free event.

The queens will be sure to delight and captivate audience members of all ages as they share stories focused on individuality, activism, gender, creativity, expression, and social responsibility. Drag Story Hour (DSH) is just what it sounds like—drag performers reading stories to children in libraries, schools, and bookstores. DSH captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models. In spaces like this, kids are able to see people who defy rigid gender restrictions and imagine a world where people can present as they wish, where dress up is real.

DSH was created by Michelle Tea and RADAR Productions in San Francisco in 2015. The Vermont Chapter of DSH was created by Emoji Nightmare and Nikki Champagne in 2017. In 2021, Emoji joined the national board of directors for DSH.

For more information on DSH, visit DragStoryHour.org.



Submitted
Drag story hour will be held at Phoenix Books in Rutland.

Come to our sugarhouse for the best breakfast around! After breakfast, check out our gift shop for all your souvenir, gift, and maple syrup needs. We look forward to your visit!

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'She Means Business' event highlights women-owned business in the Rutland region May 22

Monday, May 22—RUTLAND—“She Means Business” will take place on May 22 at The Hub CoWorks located at 67 Merchants Row in Rutland. The second in a series of “She Means Business” events will provide opportunities to learn, connect, and celebrate Vermont’s women-owned businesses.

Attendees will have the option to plan their day, selecting from two workshops, a QuickConnect networking session with lenders and resource providers, a business hop to downtown Rutland businesses, and an evening reception hosted by the Vermont Women’s Fund.

Those who want to shop and support women-owned businesses in the Rutland region can get an early start by visiting participating businesses during the weekend of May 20 and 21 in downtown Rutland, Killington, and other parts of the county.

The event is open to anyone who owns a business, is thinking of starting one, or just wants to see what Vermont’s small business community has to offer.

The schedule for the day includes:

- 12-1:30 p.m.: —Workshop
- Building Your Business Model with Center for Women & Enterprise Vermont
- 1:30-3 p.m.: Workshop — Nine steps to Increasing Awareness for Your Business & Ask Us Anything with Vermont Small Business Development Center
- 3- 4 p.m.: Rutland Business Hop—Check out the area’s vibrant small business community. Pick up a map at The Hub CoWorks (67 Merchants Row), and more details will be on the event website.
- 4-5:30 p.m.: QuickConnect—Connect with lenders and statewide service providers offering insights and materials for small business owners. Start collaborations with lenders, business advisors, and experts.
- 5:30-7 p.m.: Reception & networking hosted by the Vermont Women’s Fund

A celebration of the day includes

food, fun, and a continuation of networking conversations.

This event is hosted by Vermont Small Business Development Center, Small Business Administration Vermont District Office, Vermont Women’s Fund, CEDRR, Downtown Rutland Partnership, and Center for Women & Enterprise.

This event is in partnership with the Community Navigator Pilot Program, funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

All activities are free. Walk-ins are welcome but guests are asked to register in advance for planning purposes.

For more information or to register visit: vtsbdc.org/she-means-business-rutland.



"She Means Business," an event to highlight women-owned businesses, will be held for women who own a business, or are thinking of starting one. The event will be held on May 22 at The Hub CoWorks located at 67 Merchants Row in Rutland.

Coffeehouse Concert with Pepper and Sassafras, Phil Henry and Jeff Kimball

Saturday, May 20—Rutland—On Saturday at UU Church of Rutland, Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers, grand prize winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, teams up with multi-instrumentalist songwriter Wendy Sassafras Ramsay in this dynamic acoustic duo. Vermont singer-songwriter Phil Henry exudes the skill of a craftsman and the authenticity of an artist. In summer of 2022, he was voted as a “Most Wanted” Emerging Artist to return to play on the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival mainstage in 2023. Joining Phil for this show will be multi-instrumentalist Jeff Kimball.



Submitted
Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers

Tickets will be \$15 advance; \$20 at the door. For more information visit: tinyurl.com/coffeehouseuuchurch.

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Rotary Club of Rutland hosts Mucho-Dean-Aero 48-48-48 Pickleball Challenge

Sunday, May 21 at 10 a.m.—RUTLAND—Mucho-Dean-Aero Productions, a leader in aviation adventure and marketing events announced that its Sarasota-based pilot and pickleball addict, Dean Matt will attempt to set the World Record for Fastest Time to Play a Game of Pickleball in all 48 Contiguous States.

The World Record attempt will be held May 1-26, 2023 and will start and end at Dolphin Aviation, Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport (SRQ).

The 48-48-48 pickleball challenge will be at the Rutland Racquet Club on May 21 at 10 a.m.

“This World Record attempt, we will showcase the tapestry of who and where pickleball is played across the United States,” said Shannon Yeager, Sarasota pickleball player.

Dean Matt plans to play in private clubs, “entertainment” establishments, public courts, private country clubs, stadiums “where the pros play,” private residences....even on an airport tarmac. Along his 26-day journey, he will play local “picklers” celebrities, pickleball professionals and team owners (from the sport’s major leagues including APP,

PPA, and MLP), media figures, mayors, and even a governor or two.

Matt hopes the tour will also help showcase the local fast-growing pickleball community. It is estimated that about 38 million people have played pickleball in the last year, making it one of the fastest-growing sports ever.



Submitted
Dean Matt will attempt to set the world record for fastest time to play a game of pickleball in all 48 contiguous states.

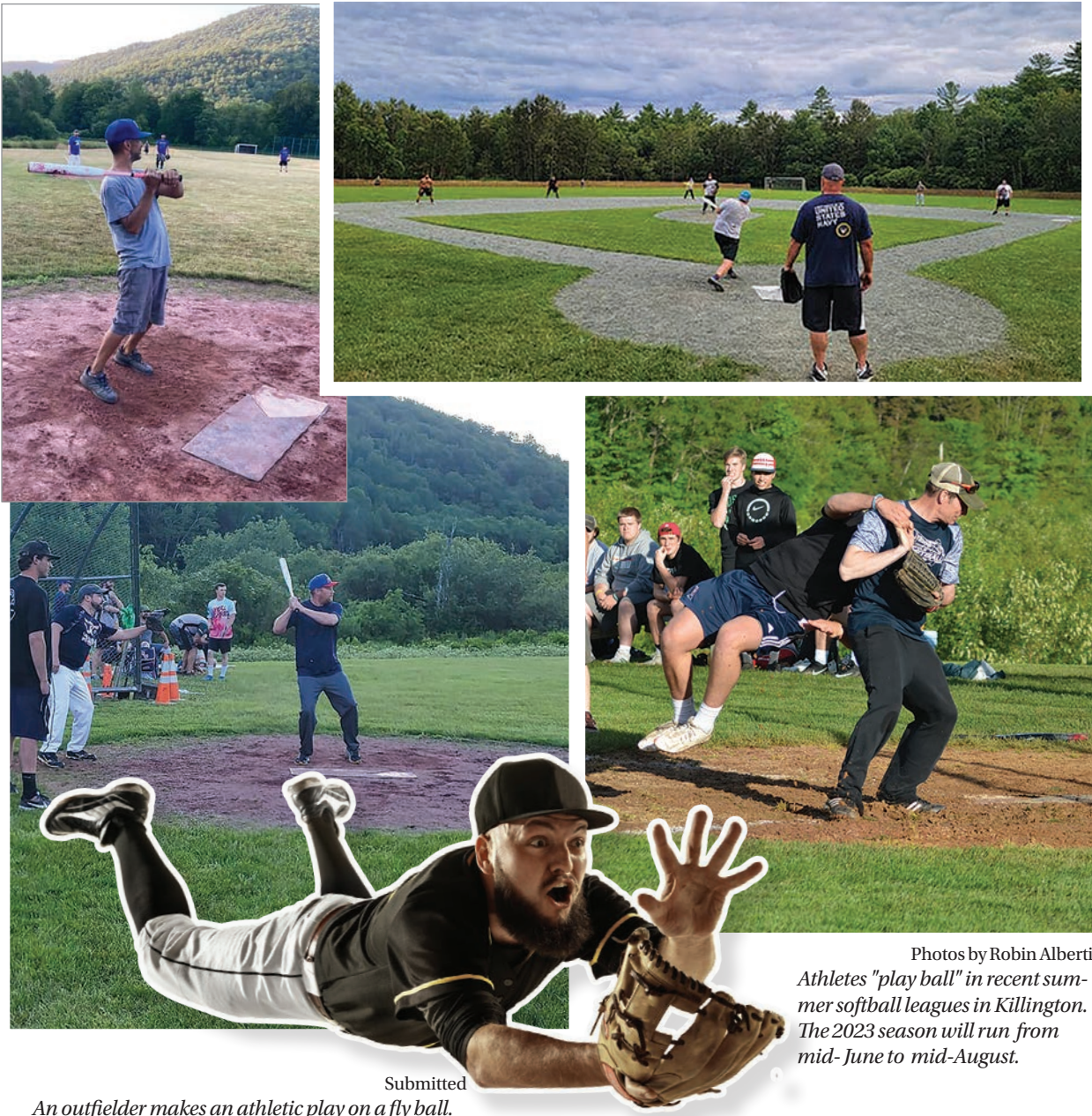
Need puppy papers?

We've got you covered.

Give us a call at 802.422.2399 and we'll save some for you at 5465 US-4, Killington.

Killington Softball League prepares for season

Are you ready for some softball? The Killington Softball League is preparing for the upcoming spring/summer season. If you're interested in forming a team, sponsoring a team, playing on a team or you played on a team last year, please contact Commissioner Dave Hoffenberg at killingtonsoftball@gmail.com. We're also looking for people to be paid umpires for the games which are played Wednesdays at 5:50 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the ADA Hall Softball Field located behind the Sherburne Memorial Library on River Road. It's a men's league that welcomes women to play. Games should run from mid-June until mid-August.



Photos by Robin Alberti
Athletes "play ball" in recent summer softball leagues in Killington. The 2023 season will run from mid- June to mid-August.

Submitted
An outfielder makes an athletic play on a fly ball.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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SUDOKU

< PUZZLES page 11

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6	3	2	7	4	1	9	5	8
8	5	1	6	9	2	7	3	4
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Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Rutland County Humane Society



MAYBELLE

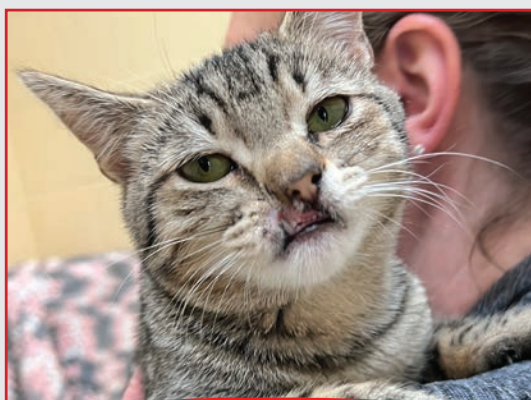
A beautiful 10-year-old calico. This sweet girl loves attention so much she starts to drool in excitement! Sadly she lost both her owners this year and is longing for a loving quiet home to spend her golden years in. Her adoption fee is \$10 as most was covered by a kind donor. To adopt her fill out an application on our website.

This pet is available for adoption at

Springfield Humane Society

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

*Open by appointment only. spfldhumane.org



JOY

A 6-month-old spayed female. She had a cleft lip but that has been fixed! She's a sweet gal who loves attention and affection! She also loves children who will play gently—and snuggly naps.

This pet is available for adoption at

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society

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

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

& Thurs. 12-7 p.m. • lucymac.org

Catamount Pet Supply Company, inc.

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Rutland Town, VT 05701 | 802-773-7642



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Grooming by appointment | 802-773-7636



Koda—6-year-old. Spayed female. Retriever mix. Tan. Koda is an active pup who has lived with children and did



Buddy—3 ½-year-old. Neutered male. Lab mix. Blonde. Buddy is smart and is a fine sporting dog/high-drive working dog. He has a high prey drive.



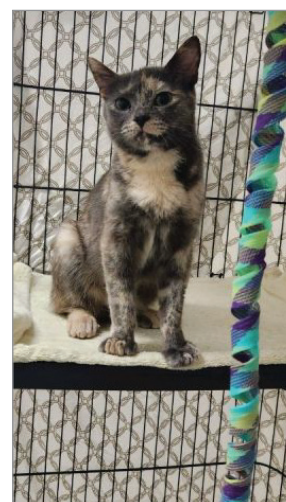
Nina—1-year-old. Spayed female. Terrier mix. White/black. This sweet, smart girl will steal your heart. She a curious girl who loves people and does well with other dogs.



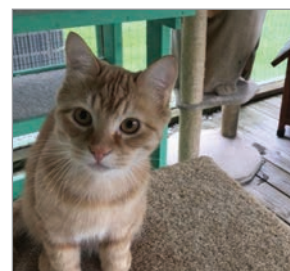
Cindy Lou—2-year-old. Spayed female. Labrador mix. Black and white. This little lady loves people and would make a great adventure pal!



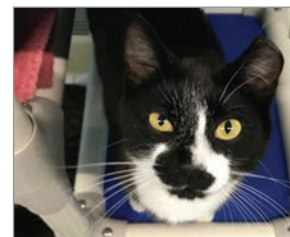
Luah—5-year-old. Spayed female. Pit Bull mix. Brindle. Luah is sure to put a smile on your face. She has bursts around the room and is happy as can be!



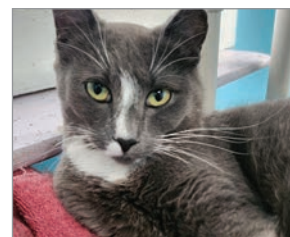
Monica—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Black with white. Monica is such a love bug! She loves every second of attention.



Edison—1-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Orange. Edison is a cat who loves lounging in the sunshine.



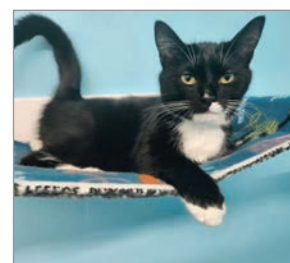
Thumbelina—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Dilute Torti. Thumebolina loves attention and will gently purr as you pet her.



Loretta—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Grey and white. Ms. Loretta likes playing a little hide and seek in our cat trees.



Martha—9-month-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Calico/white. This little lady races other cats to make sure she is the first to greet you.



Mr. Boy—7-month-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Black and white. Mr. Boy loves being pet, is a playful, cat, and loves to play with toys.



Bo—2-year-old. Neutered male. Terrier mix. White/black. Bo loves adventures and would make a great partner for an active family.

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

Transportation to cat spay and neuter clinic is available May 25

Vermont Companion Animal Neutering (VT-CAN), a low cost spay/neuter clinic located in Middlesex is a long drive from Rutland County. To help out, RCHS and VT-CAN are working together to make it easier for cat owners. By dropping your cat at the RCHS shelter at 6 a.m., volunteers will transport your cat to VT-CAN where he or she will be spayed or neutered and given vaccines, and returned to RCHS for pick up between approximately 4:30-5 p.m. on May 25. Cats 6 months old or older can be spayed or neutered at a discounted rate. First option is surgery, rabies, distemper, and a dose of Revolution for fleas and ear mites applied at the clinic for \$75. Another option is surgery, rabies, distemper, 3 doses of pyrantel dewormer sent home and a dose of Revolution for fleas and ear mites applied at the clinic for \$85. Microchips are an additional \$25. Prior registration is required. Cash only and exact change are required at time of cat drop off at RCHS. To schedule an appointment, please email VT-CAN at vtcaninfo@gmail.com or call 802-223-0034 and leave a message. For more information visit: vt-can.org.

Cosmic Catalogue



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Aries

March 21 - April 20

Talk to anyone who's made it big in their life and you'll find they all share something in common. It's not talent, it's not a fat inheritance that gave them a head start. It's not a viral TikTok video or some other such nonsense. Do you want to know what it is? An unswerving and unshakable level of self-belief in their own innate abilities. Almost an insufferable level of self – confidence that some might call arrogant. Despite all that, they are having the last laugh, so why aren't you?



Leo

July 21 - August 20

Professional progress is promised as Jupiter makes his rare visit to your career sector for the next twelve months. Recognition and rewards are likely and you may be well – positioned to pick and choose from a variety of exciting options. There's a catch though – there are no guarantees that one move will be the right move. An experimental approach to your big life plans will eventually land you exactly where you're meant to be. Stay open minded to the fact that anything can happen.



Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

Just when you thought life couldn't get busier, it's going to. Your ruling planet spends the next twelve months in your daily grind zone. The good news is, you'll see how you can improve your rituals and routines. Improving your health and wellness will be important, so if you've been lagging in that area, you know what to do. What you do now will seem like hard work but is certain to set you up for future success and you'll be glad you made the effort.



Taurus

April 21 - May 20

The golden Jupiter in Taurus cycle is going to open up so many new doors, opportunities and perspectives. You've been toying with change for some time now – either chosen or not. What to do with those changes? You learn and grow! The next twelve months are going to bring you an array of amazing chances to see yourself and your life from a whole new perspective. The position you're in now will be vastly different in a year's time. It's exciting and welcomed – embrace it!



Virgo

August 21 - September 20

No doubt the last few years have brought radical shifts to your life perspective and personal philosophies on life. The arrival of Jupiter in Taurus may see new ways in which the world can open up for you. Achievement and progress are likely to pave way for meaning and purpose. The world really is your oyster now. Travel and study are well – starred which may lead to new opportunities opening up that you couldn't have imagined before. Spiritual leanings are likely too.



Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

One of the most joyful and happy phases arrives this week and will remain for the next twelve months. A question – when was the last time you really had fun, treated yourself or those you love? You work hard enough so now it's time to enjoy more of the good life. Personal projects, hobbies and outlets are highlighted, as is love, romance and spending more time with children. A luxury experience here and there wouldn't go astray neither. Make happiness your priority.



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

You're going to enter a bit of a hermit cycle as Jupiter enters Taurus this week, lasting for the next twelve months. This is a period where you may be less social than usual as you explore your inner world and grapple with some of life's big questions. For some Gemini's the pressure is on professionally which will make you less available for others. Be sure to rest when you can because in a year's time we will be having a completely different conversation.



Libra

September 21 - October 20

What's yours, mine and ours can be points of contention within partnerships, both personal and professional. It's not just money neither, it can be emotional and energetic entanglements that don't always feel balanced too. Jupiter in Taurus is set to change all that. In some way shape or form, you're likely to be the beneficiary of someone else's effort. Savings, debts, investments and taxes are also featured, so pay attention to those areas. You could actually be in a better financial position than you thought.



Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

Changes on the home front are possible over the next twelve months thanks to Jupiter in Taurus. Jupiter tends to make things bigger, so you might upgrade or expand on your living situation. A few luxuries or high-end improvements are possible. More people may share space with you or you finally find our own little space where you can truly enjoy fecund, lush abundance. So many blessings are on offer in your domestic life so be sure to bask in it.



Cancer

June 21 - July 20

A double – luck phase arrives thanks to Jupiter in Taurus. The next twelve months look bright for expanding your social circle either professionally, personally or both. Getting out of your shell and making the connections with those who can open doors for you will change your life. Social connections, groups and communities are set to change in exciting ways from not what you know, but whom. That said, surround yourself with those who have similar philosophies and aspirations you do.



Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

Jupiter in Taurus visiting your relationship sector for the next twelve months is text book astrology for blessings and benefit in all types of partnerships. This is something you have to look forward too and it's exciting. Jupiter tends to enlarge what he touches, including problems you may have in a current situation. It can be a double-edged sword. One thing is for certain, if you can embrace being in the present moment, things get a whole lot better.



Pisces

February 21 - March 20

A new level of contentment arrives with Jupiter settling into Taurus. The next twelve months may see you enjoy your local scene rather than far flung destinations. Relationships with siblings and your closest friends may blossom too. Reading, writing and study are featured as you may seek to develop your skills, knowledge or do more of that brings a sense of purpose to your daily life. Without a sense of meaning each day, what is the point? Dive into passions that arouse your curiosity.

NEW

SUMMER SCHEDULE

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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.

Wanting more

This week brings a new astrological landscape which is set to shift priorities, plans and dreams. The question begs, what does abundance mean to you? How do you define wealth? Have you even taken the time to figure out what kind of life you actually want to lead? Are you living with meaning and purpose? Are you stuck on a default setting that is determined by family, culture or even necessity and attempt to call that happiness?

The pace of life begins to slow down dramatically this week as Jupiter moves into slow, steady and fecund Taurus for a whole twelve months. So if you too find yourself dragging

your feet when it comes to timelines, deadlines or keeping up with how things once were, then you're right where you're meant to be.

As the last gasps of capitalism attempt to drain what's left from the collective psyche, you might realize there has to be something more. And by more, I don't necessarily mean more money, more success or more glass ceilings to smash through. More often than not, the real abundance is the simplicity, rather than the complexity of life. Take greater joy from tending the field of your own life and what matters to you and watch it blossom.



Cosmic
Catalogue
By Cassandra
Tyndall

Shining stars

Stars,
They twinkle,
They shine,
When it is dark,
Late at night,
You'll see something,
Something quite beautiful,
An endless skyway of stars,
You could be a star,
Beautiful as a team,
Beautiful by yourself,
You can shine,
Beautiful and bright,
Be yourself,
You do you,
A star is beautiful and so are you.



Poetry is
Power
By Bree Sarandrea



Camping – from tents to trailers

For 25 years beginning in 1975 the month of May meant the beginning of camping season for my husband, Peter, and me. We had a permanent site at Belview Campground in Barton, Vermont. Crystal Lake was so close that we just walked through a field and we were there.

I was reminded of my own enthusiasm for that lifestyle when Kathy, who sits at the front desk of a medical office where I had an appointment, told me how she can't wait for camping to begin. That triggered a trip down memory lane for me.

Camping means different things to different people. For some it can be roughing it in a tent and for others it means the comforts of a trailer. The latter has all kinds of options. My husband and I started off in a very basic pop-up camper. Peter came into our marriage owning the camper and since I didn't know any better I thought it was wonderful compared to being in a tent. Anything other than a hotel was a rustic adventure for me back then.

Once I saw other available camping options I wanted to take a step up and get a "self-contained" trailer. That means you have a bathroom complete with toilet and

shower as well as either a pull-out bed or a permanent bed. Acquiring one would mean no more trips to the community bathroom and shower!

As fate would have it a friend of my husband told him about a trailer that was being sold due to the death of the owner's wife. The price was a real bargain as he got lonesome seeing it sitting in his yard and was happy to know that another couple could make memories of their own in it.

It served us well for a few years but after seeing the layout of other trailers in the campground we wanted to "trade up." We sold it for the same price that we had paid for it. The buyer told us that the trailer would be used as a hunting get-away in the Barton area.

It didn't take us long to find a trailer we liked that had a permanent double bed, a shower that you could actually turn around in and a toilet on which your knees didn't hit a wall. Life just got a whole lot better!

I really got spoiled when the campground owners came and asked all of the seasonal campers if we would be interested



Looking
Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw

Meet the Chestnut-Sided Warbler

While planting the vegetable garden last May, I heard a repeated bird song emanating from the adjacent raspberry patch: "Pleased, pleased, pleased to MEETCHA." Finally, the small songster perched near the tip of a raspberry cane, its tail cocked. The bird's yellow crown, black mask, olive back with black streaks, and white breast with rusty side patches were clearly visible – the striking markings of a male chestnut-sided warbler. (Breeding females are similarly-colored but lack the black eye mask.)

Chestnut-sided warblers migrate north each spring and nest throughout the Northeast, north to Atlantic Canada, and west across the Great Lakes states and southern Canada to North Dakota and Saskatchewan. Their breeding range extends south in the Appalachians as far as Georgia.

Unlike many warblers, which prefer mature forest, chestnut-sided warblers thrive in early-successional habitat in rural areas – overgrown fields, regenerating deciduous forest, and woodland edges. They benefit from forestry practices that encourage diverse vegetation and shrub growth.

The song of the chestnut-sided warbler is more complex than that of most warblers. While there are two basic song patterns, there are several different variations within each category. The male warbler in my raspberry patch was singing to attract a female. Once nesting begins, males do not sing as often and switch from the "MEETCHA" song to a whistled, unaccented song used to defend territory and in aggressive encounters with other males.

In "The Singing Life of Birds," author and ornithologist Donald Kroodsma describes listening to a dawn chorus of chestnut-sided warblers at a power line cut in a Berkshires woodland. Although the birds were all singing the "MEETCHA" song, he was able to differentiate individual males by their songs and to draw a rough map of their territories. His auditory observations were confirmed by the different patterns on sonograms made from his sound recordings. Kroodsma described this early morning singing as a massive competition for females among neighboring males.

In addition to his song, a male chestnut-sided warbler courts a potential mate by spreading his tail and wings and raising, lowering, and vibrating his crown and flight feathers. He then guards the female as she builds the nest, and he will chase other males that enter their territory. This is with good reason; DNA analysis has

shown that about half the young of a nest are typically fathered by other males, often neighbors.

The female builds the nest between 1 and 6 feet from the ground in a crotch of a small tree or shrub such as blackberry or alder. She constructs the nest from strips of cedar bark, grapevine, or other plant fibers and lines the cup with fine grasses and hair. She lays three to five cream or greenish-white eggs speckled with brown or purple, and incubates them for 11 to 12

days. The nestlings hatch sparsely covered with down and helpless. Both parents feed the young regurgitated insects and caterpillars many times each day, and the babies develop rapidly. When a little older, the parents offer their young small insects. Ten to 12 days after hatching, the nestlings are ready to embark on their first flight. The parents continue to feed the fledglings until they are a month old.

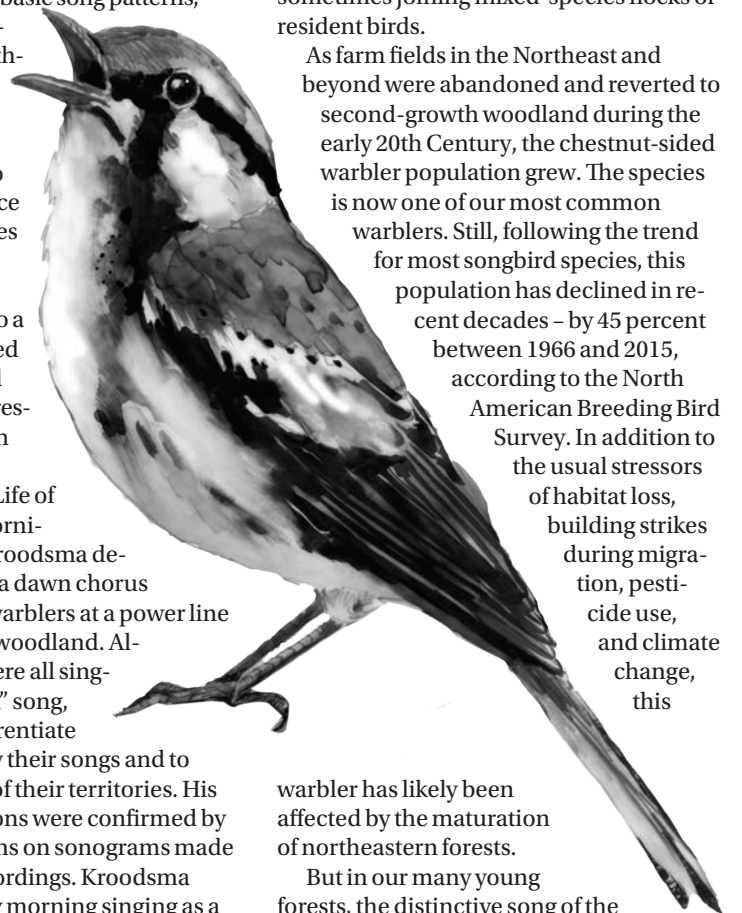
Ninety percent of the chestnut-sided warbler's diet year-round is insects, caterpillars, fly larvae, and spiders, with seeds and fruit comprising the remaining portion. In fall, chestnut-sided warblers migrate by night to the second-growth forests, thickets, and shade-grown coffee plantations of Central America, where they can continue to find insect prey, sometimes joining mixed-species flocks of resident birds.

As farm fields in the Northeast and beyond were abandoned and reverted to second-growth woodland during the early 20th Century, the chestnut-sided warbler population grew. The species is now one of our most common warblers. Still, following the trend for most songbird species, this population has declined in recent decades – by 45 percent between 1966 and 2015, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. In addition to the usual stressors of habitat loss, building strikes during migration, pesticide use, and climate change, this

warbler has likely been affected by the maturation of northeastern forests.

But in our many young forests, the distinctive song of the chestnut-sided warbler prevails. If you follow the song and watch closely, you may catch a glimpse of this colorful little bird.

Susan Shea is a naturalist, writer, and conservationist based in 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: www.nhcf.org.



Having a ball

I had an inkling that something big was happening, so when the truck pulled up and the guys got out, I ran outside to investigate.

It was Christmastime circa 1980 and my father had been working with one of his buddies to secure a used pinball machine to house in our basement playroom. And while I don't specifically remember asking for a pinball machine, I certainly wasn't against the idea.

When they raised open the back door of the truck, I caught my first sight of Jungle Queen, a Gottlieb pinball machine originally released in 1977. (Google the name and you'll see plenty of pictures since it was a popular game during that era.)

The two brutish movers carefully lowered the machine out of the truck and then carried it around the back of our house, placing it in a predefined space behind our basement couch. Once they wiped it down and plugged it in, they then made sure it was operational. And when it was determined that everything checked out, they handed my father the keys and headed out.

My father was all smiles as he showed me how they had jury-rigged the payment system so no quarters were needed to play. He then punched up a ball and tried to play.

My father was no pinball aficionado and it showed. And since he was never a fan of engaging in activities he wasn't good at, that was likely the last time he ever attempted to play.

Jungle Queen was from the pre-digital era, which is why it was easy for my father to procure. Classic machines were on the way out since "high tech" games like Space Invaders were beginning to overwhelm the market.

I don't remember exactly what my father paid for Jungle Queen, but it wasn't much. I do know the bulky machine was taking up space in his buddy's warehouse, so he was more than happy to unload it at a reasonable price.

Admittedly, I wasn't initially thrilled since Jungle Queen looked a bit weathered. It was also one of the older generation of games where the scoring was calculated on rotating analog number spindles. Any game worth its salt at least had a digital scoring readout.

Nevertheless, I was anxious to play.

Jungle Queen had four flippers, three pop bumpers, two five-bank pop targets, and two kick-out holes. These are standard components in most pinball machines, even to this day (albeit, most of the analog elements have now been digitized).

I played Jungle Queen daily, much to the chagrin of my mother since the machine was far from quiet. Eventually, she had to institute rules regarding play, which meant I was only allowed to engage during daylight hours.

Jungle Queen turned out to be a social bonus for me since not many kids had a real pinball machine in their house. It didn't matter that it was old school, everyone thought it was cool to play endless pinball for free.

Before long, I knew every nuance of that machine. I had all 10 of the highest scores and no one came within thousands of points of beating me. There wasn't one aspect of that game that I didn't understand.

But like all great endeavors, eventually I got bored with Jungle Queen. Kids would come over and want to play and I'd either shrug them off or begrudgingly engage, knowing I could win without even trying.

Years went by where Jungle Queen wasn't even turned on. Occasion-

ally, I would check to see if the electronics were still functional by playing a ball or two, but then I'd bore quickly and turn it off.

And then the day came where it was time to say goodbye. My father had died and my mother was moving away. My older brother was moving into the family house and had no affiliation to Jungle Queen. He told me to take it if I wanted it, but since I was a recent college graduate and lived in a small apartment, the option was untenable.

I have no idea where Jungle Queen ended up – maybe in a pinball museum or some wealthy guy's basement. I just hope it's actually getting played.

This week's film, "Pinball: The Man Who Saved the Game," is the story of how one New York writer in the 1970s used his passion for playing pinball to completely upend a decades long ban on the activity.

Based on a true story, "Pinball" follows the unlikely heroic activities of Roger Sharpe as he balances his love for the woman of his dreams against a city intent on crushing his favorite pastime.

Check this one out if you loved playing pinball back in the day. It's a story that you likely never knew about, but that had lasting repercussions on the video game world of today.

A bumpy "B-" for "Pinball: The Man Who Saved the Game," now available for rent on multiple platforms.

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



The Movie
Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Vermont receives \$6.2 million for response to homelessness

Vermont nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and the Congressional delegation announced May 10 that Vermont has been awarded \$6.2 million through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help address homelessness across the state.

Vermont has the second highest rate of homelessness in the nation, according to the 2022 HUD Annual Homelessness Assessment Report.

Awarded through HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) Program, this funding was competitively distributed throughout the country to quickly rehouse and support individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness.

Almost 50%, or \$2.9 million, of the overall funding awarded to Vermont will go to the Vermont State Housing Authority for rental vouchers and support services for those experiencing homelessness.

Will Towne, co-chair of the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance and Chief Operating Officer at Spectrum Youth Services stated, "We are so appreciative of this funding award in light of the unprecedented challenge ahead of us. We look forward to increasing Chittenden County's funding award next year, in collaboration with our community partners, to ensure we continue to move toward making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring."

Kara Casey, co-chair of the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness, noted, "The award of this funding reflects the incredible work that is being done in communities throughout Vermont and is vital in addressing the current housing and homelessness crisis. These organizations do the necessary work of supporting households in overcoming barriers, connecting to resources, and finally having a place to call home."

"To my mind, safe, decent, and affordable housing is a basic human right," said Sen. Bernie Sanders. "It is completely unacceptable that, in the richest country in the history of the world, so many Vermonters are homeless, struggling to pay rent, or unable to find safe, affordable housing for themselves and their families. We have a lot more work to do to ensure affordable and stable housing for every Vermonter, but this federal funding is an important step in the right direction."

"Housing is a human right," asserted Rep. Becca Balint. "And stable, affordable housing means opportunity and success for so many Vermont families. To house Vermonters, it is clear we need bold investments in our housing stock and supportive housing programs. I'm pleased to see the funding from the homeless assistance awards and am committed to advocating for increased funding from Congress."

"Vermonters are facing a devastating housing crisis, and it is more important than ever that we secure federal support to help families find safe, affordable housing," said Sen. Welch. "This funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will help local government and non-profits do the essential work of brining Vermonters out of homelessness and connecting families with stable housing. I'm grateful for the work local groups are doing to address this crisis and to HUD for bringing this important funding to Vermont."

HUD grants will be awarded to:

- Brattleboro Housing Authority: \$258,046
- Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity: \$156,070
- City of Burlington: \$587,220
- Institute for Community Alliances: \$124,382
- NewStory Center: \$140,287
- Pathways Vermont: \$151,084
- State of Vermont, Office of Economic Opportunity: \$576,075
- Steps to End Domestic Violence: \$165,945
- Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness: \$143,773
- Vermont State Housing Authority: \$2,912,386
- Washington County Youth Service Bureau: \$986,552
- Total: \$6,201,820

Senate approves changes in state cannabis regulations

By Fred Thys/VTDigger

The Senate on Thursday, May 11, by a unanimous voice vote, approved a bill, H.270, that opens the door to developing new strains of cannabis and makes some changes in the cannabis medical system.

The bill would create a new "cannabis propagation cultivator" license allowing the establishment of cannabis nurseries in Vermont.

"The purpose of this license type is to allow businesses to specialize in developing new strains or cultivars and provide clean, tested source material for cultivators," Sen. Wendy Harrison, D-Windham, told colleagues as she

presented the bill during the initial debate Wednesday night.

The nursery license would allow strains to be developed in Vermont that are free from pesticides and pathogens. Contamination with a pesticide led the state Cannabis Control Board to recall all cannabis from Holland Cannabis in February.

The bill also would make some changes in Vermont's medical cannabis system. Under present law, people with post-traumatic stress disorder seeking a medical card so they can buy cannabis from a medical dispensary must

Cannabis → 30



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Looking Back:

from page 26

in getting hooked up to cable TV. The majority of us did and what a treat that was!

We were gradually experiencing life in a summer retreat with a beautiful lake just a few feet away. For my husband it was a fisherman's paradise as Crystal, Shadow, Willoughby and Caspian lakes were all very close by. He even made a fisher-woman out of me as I enjoyed it as much as he did. In fact the fish often were biting better on my side of the boat and Peter would say he was just the guide that day!

What would the camping experience be like without a campfire? We enjoyed one every night when the weather cooperated. Of course, we had marshmallows! Since there were no street lights nearby the sky looked entirely different than it did in the city. We cooked most of our meals on a charcoal grill but a small gas grill served that purpose

toward the end of our long camping life.

We were ready for a change after 25 years and replaced the lake life with a pool in our yard. That got a lot of use until age caught up with both the pool and with the two of us. When it needed a new liner we decided it was time to fill it in. I now have a lot more lawn to mow but we have a nice big backyard in which to grow blueberries and raspberries.

I think the pandemic made a lot of people appreciate the outdoors as the fresh air seemed like a safer place to gather. If you are thinking about giving camping a try, go for it! There is something for every budget and lifestyle. Reconnecting with nature is a lot of fun. Maybe you will do what we did...start with the basics and work your way up to the comforts of home.

Devil's Bowl

from page 16

The top 10 finishers were rounded out by Walter J. Hammond, Frank Hoard III, Justin Comes, Tim LaDuc, and Billy Lussier, who earned the \$100 Hard Charger bonus. Qualifying heats were won by Chaffee, Kelly, and Troy Audet, who crashed at the finish line after contact with LaDuc and was unable to race in the feature.

The traveling Sprint Cars of New England (SCoNE) tour opened its 2023 season with its first of four Devil's Bowl appearances of the year, and a familiar driver stood in the winner's circle at the end of a quick 25 laps. Stephantown, New York's Matt Tanner took the lead from polesitter Travis Billington on the second lap and never looked back, beating Canadian racer Jordan Poirier by 5.223 seconds.

Beloeil, Quebec native Poirier – the defending champion of the New York-based Empire Super Sprints tour – made his first start in Vermont a profitable one, running from a 14th-place starting spot after a qualifying crash to the runner-up finish. Young driver Chase Moran scored his first-ever Sprint Car podium finish by taking third. Defending SCoNE champion Chris Donnelly finished fourth and Billington held on for fifth.

Caleb Lamson was sixth ahead of Will Hull, Kady Berry, Jim Lowrey Jr., and Troy Comeau. The heats were won by Donnelly and Hull.

Second-generation driver A.J.

Munger of nearby Benson Landing, picked up right where he unexpectedly left off last week, topping the 25-lap feature for the O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman division. Munger was leading on opening night with just 10 laps left when his engine let go, but a new powerplant helped him keep his momentum, and this time he led every circuit on his way to the win – the third of his career.

Gary English was a solid runner-up finisher, tying his best mark, while polesitter Hunter Nutter held on to third place. Jason Quenneville and Bob Kilburn both went forward from their starting positions to complete the top five finishers. The balance of the top 10, in order, was Anthony Ryan, William Duprey, Steve Miller, Justin Lilly, and Scott Towslee. Heats were won by Kilburn, Duprey, and Ryan.

The Hoosier Daddy Racing Novice Sportsman class saw its first first-time winner of the year in Josh "Boomer" Patterson. The Milton resident — who grew up just a few miles from Devil's Bowl Speedway in Benson — was perhaps the most popular winner of the night. Bobbi Jo Hulst lead the first five laps of the race, but Patterson took command after a restart on lap 6, and then survived a final restart with just three circuits left in the 20-lapper.

Tyler Travis finished second for the second time in as many events in 2023, and Adam LaFountain posted his first podium run of the season in third place. Hulst had a solid night with a fourth-place showing, followed by

Chaffee's victory in the headline Sunoco Sportsman Modified division was his first since July 2018.

Randy Edson. Donald Williams was sixth, followed by Michael Clark Jr., Aaron Clark, Eric Shaw, and Holden Bass. Heat wins went to Matt Wade and Donald Williams.

Chayton Young took the trophy home to Wynantskill, New York, following the 15-lap Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint feature. Young started third and zoomed into the lead on the first lap, but he held it for only three laps before fellow teenager Gage Provencher took over. Provencher looked the part of a winner, but Young got back by him on lap 12 and held on for the win.

Provencher settled for second ahead of defending champion Logan Denis, veteran John Smith, and relative newcomer Chris Lennox. Past champ Ray Hanson was sixth, followed by Roger LaDuc, Joe Kemp, John Carleton, and Tommie Kasuba. Hanson and Denis won the heats.

Orwell's Jakobee Alger was a first-time winner in the 15-lap 'A' Feature for the Mini Stock division. Alger drew the outside front-row starting position and scooted

away on the opening lap to pace the field every step of the way. Former champion Craig Kirby rebounded from a tough opening-night to post the runner-up finish, and Mini Stock veteran Jake Barrows took his first podium of the year in third.

Mark Mahoney was fourth and Levi Cram crossed the finish line in fifth, but Cram's computer module

failed technical inspection and he was disqualified, moving Jarrod Colburn up in line. The rest of the top 10 was made up of Austin McKirryher, Brian Blake, Ronnie Alger (the winner's father), Clemmy Bell, and Robert Steves. McKirryher, Cram, and Mahoney won the qualifying heats, and former champion Chris Conroy won the 'B' Feature for non-qualifiers.

Devil's Bowl Speedway returns to action on Saturday, May 20, at 6 p.m. with the season's first 50-lap Enduro race. All weekly divisions (except Crown Vics) will be on the card, and the 500cc Mini Sprints will have a special three-segment, \$250-to-win event. The annual kids' poster contest will also be held. Grandstand general admission is \$15 for adults and free for children aged 12 and under. Infield drive-in parking is also available for \$20 for adults and free for kids. Pit area passes are \$28 for members and \$38 for non-members; the minimum age in the pit area is 10 years old, per Vermont state law.

Devil's Bowl Speedway is located on Route 22A in West Haven, four miles north of Route 4, exit 2 and just 20 minutes from Rutland.

For more information, visit DevilsBowlSpeedwayVT.com or call (802) 265-3112.

Devil's Bowl Speedway is on Facebook at facebook.com/DevilsBowlSpeedway, and on Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat at @DevilsBowlSpeed; follow the action using the #DevilsBowl hashtag.

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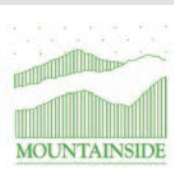
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← Cannabis: from page 27

be in psychotherapy. This bill would eliminate that requirement.

The bill also would allow caregivers to take care of two patients instead of one, as is the case under current law. Caregivers may grow cannabis for their patients.

Also under the new bill, patients with life-long conditions would be able to renew their medical cards once every three years instead of annually.

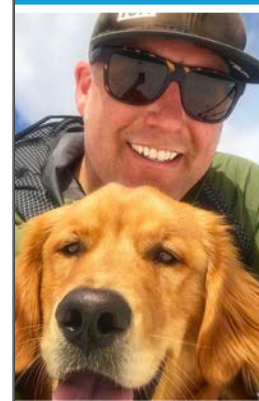
"It doesn't make sense to require a patient to submit to an annual renewal that merely verifies that they continue to have an incurable condition," Harrison said.

The House passed the bill in March. Both chambers must now reconcile the differences between their versions of the bill before

it heads to the governor's desk. One main difference: The Senate version would treat all outdoor cannabis-growing operations as agriculture, which would prohibit local ordinances from regulating them as public nuisances, most notably odor, to any greater degree than they do other agriculture, and also would protect them from local zoning rules.

Under present law, only small outdoor growers of up to 1,000 square feet of cannabis canopy are exempt from these municipal restrictions. The Senate also would add \$500,000 to replenish the Cannabis Business Development Fund, which provides grants and technical assistance to social equity applicants who have been disadvantaged by the war on drugs. The fund has largely been depleted.

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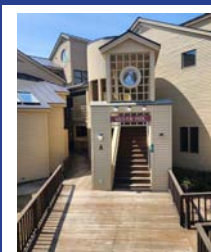
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Carolyn
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Fawns are arriving; leave them alone, urges F&W

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says deer fawns are being born this time of year and asks that people avoid disturbing or picking them up.

Most deer fawns are born in late May and the first and second weeks of June, according to Vermont deer biologist Nick Fortin.

Fortin says it is best to keep your distance because the fawn's mother is almost always nearby. When people see a small fawn alone, they often mistakenly assume it is helpless, lost or needing to be rescued.

Fawns do not attempt to evade predators during their first few weeks, instead relying on camouflage and stillness to remain undetected. During these times, fawns learn critical survival skills from their mothers. Bringing a fawn into a human environment results in separation from its mother, and it usually results in a sad ending for the animal.

Fortin encourages people to resist the urge to assist wildlife in ways that may be harmful, and he offered these tips:

Deer nurse their young at different times during the day and often leave their young alone for long periods of time. These animals are not lost. Their mother knows where they are and will return.

Deer normally will not feed or care for their young when people are close by.

Deer fawns will imprint on humans and lose their natural fear of people, which can be essential to their survival.

Keep domestic pets under control at all times. Dogs often will kill fawns and other baby animals.

For the safety of all wildlife, taking a wild animal into captivity is illegal in Vermont.

"It's in the best interest of Vermonters and the wildlife that live here, for all of us to maintain a respectful distance and help keep wildlife wild," added Fortin.



VTF&W photo by Sean Fowler

Fawns are being born now and should be left alone. Their mothers are almost always nearby, according to Vermont Fish and Wildlife.



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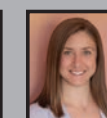
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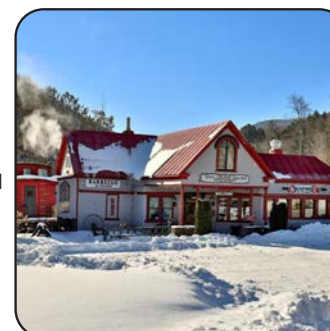


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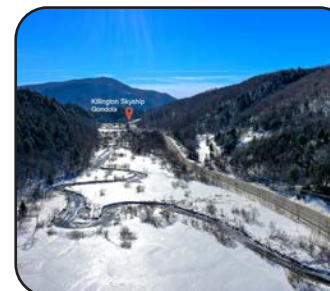
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