



**3-DAY WEEKEND
HONORS THE FALLEN**



ODEON IS UNDERWAY
Dan Snow carefully places granite slabs on the top of the new amphitheater at Mission Farm in Killington.
Page 16



TOTAL ARCHERY CHALLENGE RETURNS
Total Archery Challenge is coming to Pico Friday-Sunday. The annual event brings "the greatest outdoor 3D archery experience in the nation," according to event promoters.
Page 24



OPEN STUDIO WEEKEND
The 31st year of Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend will be held Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Visitors can plan a tour through small towns to studios where they can puruse as wide range of handmade crafts and talk with the artist that made them.
Page 22

Sarasota native stops in Rutland on tour to break pickleball world record

By Katy Savage

Pickleball enthusiast Dean Matt made a stop in Rutland on May 21 as he attempts to break a pickleball world record.

Matt, who calls himself The Pickleball Pilot, is playing pickleball in 48 states in 48 days to become the fastest person to play a game of pickleball in all 48 contiguous states, per the Guinness Book of World Records.

"It has flown by," Matt said after finishing

his game in Vermont. "My wife said it would fly by and it has."

Matt, who's been a pilot since high school, is flying his Turbo Cessna 206H six passenger aircraft. He plays two or three games of pickleball a day, each game in a different state.

Vermont was his 36th stop. He played at 10 a.m. at Rutland Racquet Club and then flew
Pickleball → 15



Submitted

Dean Matt, 63, left is flying to 48 states in 48 days to play pickleball and break a Guinness World Record. He is expected to end the pickleball streak on May 26.



Courtesy Killington Resort

Greg Hiltz

Greg Hiltz retires from Killington snowmaking after 45 years

By Brooke Geery

Not many people can say they've covered New York's Central Park with snow, but Greg Hiltz can. A select few people can say they've pulled off making enough snow for a World Cup course in one night, and they'd probably have to thank Hiltz for it. In his 45-year career making snow at Killington Resort, he created, innovated, and made so many laugh, but on March 21, 2023, Hiltz took out his channel locks and turned off his final snow gun at The Beast.

"That's true, I'm done. Love the mountain, love the people,"
Greg Hiltz → 10

Mendon man arrested for threatening with axe

By Katy Savage

A Mendon was arrested May 21 after police said he struck a vehicle with an axe and threatened to cut people's heads off at Gifford Woods State Park in Killington.

Vermont State Police arrested Ralph Schneider, 61 over a dispute that allegedly started about headlights.

Police said Schneider was mad at three people from Pennsylvania — Jacob Fedinez, 21, Jace Hoffman, 19, and Lucas Shreck, 19, for shining headlamps into his campsite. They were in a car owned by Fedinez when Schneider approached them with the weapon, according to an affidavit by Trooper Ryan Gardner. A fourth person they had just met, David Chandler, 42, of Kentucky, was outside their vehicle.

Schneider allegedly pinned Chandler to the door and "got up in his face with an axe," police said.

Schneider then struck the roof of Fedinez' vehicle, hitting a ski rack with skis and breaking a binding. The group told police Schneider asked them to get out of the car because "he was going to kill all of them."

Police found Schneider in a tent near the cars. When police approached him, Schneider said he was homeless.

"There was a strong odor of intoxicants coming from his
Axe → 15

Green Mountain school board stands by 'Chieftains' name, drawing resignations

By Kate O'Farrell and Patrick Crowley, VTDigger

In a vote that led to multiple resignations, the Green Mountain Unified School District upheld the "Chieftains" name for its high school mascot during a meeting on Thursday night, May 18, in Chester.

According to an emailed statement from board chair Deb Brown, the board voted 6-5 that the "Chieftains" name did not violate a state policy that intends to ban racist and offensive school mascots.

"The Board expects to provide a written decision in the coming days, to include a summary of facts and basis for its decision, as called for in the policy," Brown said in the statement.

The vote followed months of public debate and at least two other school board votes

involving the "Chieftain," which critics say represents a racist misappropriation of Indigenous culture — and a violation of a new state law that bans offensive mascots.

Initially, Thursday's vote was a 5-5 tie, according to reporting by the Chester Telegraph. Brown broke the tie, voting to keep the name. After the results, two board members who were opposed to the name, Dennis Reilly and Kate Lamphere, resigned and left the meeting.

The Telegraph reported that another board member, Katie Murphy, then protested that the use of a double-negative in the wording of the question led her to vote incorrectly. But with two members already off the board, the vote result would not have

changed in a re-vote. Murphy also resigned on Thursday night, but reportedly asked to rescind that decision.

Superintendent Lauren Fierman told the Telegraph that she resigned her position, but will stay on until a replacement is found. Fierman cited her opposition to the "Chieftains" name in her decision to leave.

Fierman oversees two merged districts — Green Mountain and Ludlow Mount Holly districts — under the name Two Rivers Supervisory Union.

VTDigger could not reach Fierman and the two resigned board members on Friday.

In response to a request for comment on the resignations, Brown referred to recordings
Chieftains → 7

VSP seize 25 guns during Fair Haven drug bust

FAIR HAVEN—On Friday morning, May 19, Vermont State Police (VSP) seized 25 firearms—which included rifles, handguns and a semi-automatic weapon—as well as hundreds of rounds of ammunition, crack cocaine and fentanyl from a drug distribution organization in Fair Haven.

The Vermont State Police Drug Task Force, Field Force, and Tactical Services Unit coordinated with local and federal agencies, including the Fair Haven Police Dept. and the FBI, to seize the firearms and illicit drugs during the early morning, with a search warrant.

John Muzzy, 32, of Fair Haven and his girlfriend Rebecca “Becca” Ross, 39, are facing federal drug charges in connection with a raid at their residence at 596 West St.

Initial hearings in U.S. District Court in Burlington were scheduled for Tuesday, May 23.



Courtesy VSP FB

25 guns were seized in a raid.

New attorneys take over as Scofield retires

By Victoria Gaither

Two new attorneys, Kevin Gustafson and Justin Schoville, have taken over the Killington Real Estate practice from attorney Marylou Scofield.

Gustafson and Schoville moved into the building on March 1 and took up office space on the first floor at 335 Killington Road in Killington.

In a phone interview, Schoville said, “We have updated the office, we are excited about the progress we made and settling in just fine.”

He also said more space means more services for Killington and the surrounding community.

They plan to stay with real estate law and add litigation services.

For attorney Gustafson, it isn’t all about work. As a snowboarder, plans to ride at Killington and Pico.

Schoville is more into hiking but says the slopes will call his name eventually.

Both thank Scofield for her support and transition into their new roles and job. Scofield plans to put the computer away and hit the road.

“I want to spend more time with my family. We are staying put for now but hopefully going on trips and traveling.”

When asked about her proudest accomplishment during her career, a

little teary-eyed, she reflected on her work with the Killington Pico Chamber of Commerce.

“They do great work, and I was happy to help draft their by-laws and purchase the building at the bottom of

the access road,” she said in her office interview.

On Friday, May 26 the new owners will host a welcome reception from 4-6 p.m. at 335 Killington Road in Killington. All are welcome.



Submitted

Above right: Attorney Marylou Scofield is retiring. Above: Kevin Gustafson and Justin Schoville have taken over the Killington Real Estate practice from Scofield. A welcoming reception will be held Friday at their offices on Killington Road from 4-6 p.m.



By Victoria Gaither

Angelly Graves, owner of Imperial Eyebrows Microblading & Permanent Makeup in West Rutland, shares her joy.

Woman finds community in eyebrow business

By Victoria Gaither

When permanent cosmetic tattoo makeup artist Angelly Graves moved to West Rutland two years ago with her husband, Miguel Graves, she knew right away it was home.

“I love this community; we tried Miami. I like some things about Miami, but I am calm, and it’s calm here,” said Graves.

Graves is originally from Colombia, a country known for coffee, being one of South America’s most popular tourist destinations, and a culture of beauty.

“My aunt Sarah had this beauty salon. I grew up watching her do haircuts; she inspires me and gives me advice about my business,” said Graves.

Graves is in the business of eyebrows, and she opened Imperial Eyebrows Microblading & Permanent Makeup in West Rutland last year. “This is a way for me to help women look nice and feel good about themselves,” she said.

Microblading is a semi-permanent form of cosmetic tattooing. But unlike traditional tattoos, which use a tattoo gun, microblading uses a blade-shaped tool with a row of tiny needles to

create hair-like strokes along your brows while depositing pigment into your skin, resulting in realistic eyebrows.

Because it’s semi-permanent, it doesn’t wash off, but you do have to have the eyebrows touched up about yearly because, like any tattoo, over time, it fades, Graves said.

The mother of two girls said she became interested in eyebrows because it’s a

“If you don’t have eyebrows, you look inexpressive,” Graves said.

window into expressions.

“If you don’t have eyebrows, you look inexpressive all the time, so I would like to put in that expression—whether it’s anger or happiness—you can see all of that through your eyebrows because they are so powerful.”

She also finds power in Rutland women. “Women here are so supportive of each other. They try to help each other, and it’s nice,” she said.

The power of her community gives Graves a positive outlook on life and a place with her husband to raise her two girls while doing a job she loves.

“I love Vermont, but we love Rutland,” Graves said.



Submitted

Slate Quarry Park wins Public Places Honor Award

Slate Quarry Park, located at 76 Main Street in Poultney, has received a 2023 Vermont Public Places Honor Award as one of Vermont’s exemplary public places.

Slate Quarry Park is a pocket park sited in a central location on Poultney’s Main Street. It was constructed in 2021-2022 and is built of varying hues of local slate. The land for the park was donated to the Town of Poultney by the Slate Quarry Park Group — a non-profit formed in 2016 with the purpose of building a park that honors the slate industry and its workers. The non-profit also raised the funds to pay for the park’s design and construction. Numerous donations were made by residents, past and present, area civic organizations, and nonprofits, and multiple local and state grants were awarded. The largest source of funding was from the land and water conservation fund. Slate production has been a vital part of the economy, culture, and history of the area for centuries and the new park pays significant homage to the industry.

The final design of Slate Quarry Park was the work of Brian Post of Standing Stone Landscape Architecture LLC of Chester after an initial concept was rendered by Alan Benoit and Andrew Doyle of Sustainable Design of Dorset. Construction was by Schinski Landscaping of Poultney with Dave Fielder, Nantucket Dry Stonewall Company of Cornish, New Hampshire and Nantucket, Massachusetts. The slate stone used in the park’s landscape was donated by eleven different quarries. Notable contributions of stone were from Camara Slate, Rupe Slate, Taran Brothers Slate and Brown Quarried Slate, Inc., and Sheldon Slate sandblasted the plaques.

“It was a pleasure to work on a design with the central focus of slate, a stone that is one of my favorites to include in my projects. The Slate Quarry Park Group’s dedication to making this happen was tremendous. I am proud to have been able to be a part of,” said Brian Post, Standing Stone LLC.

Key features of the park include the colors of slate, which includes all of the hues quarried in Slate Valley, the slate walkway patterns which mirror the slate roof patterns found in area homes and churches, large slate monoliths with sandblasted plaques mounted on them detailing the formation of slate and the history of the slate industry, a hand-carved entry sign by local stone artist Kerry O. Furlani, a slate nautilus, curvilinear slate benches and fine details of masonry throughout the park. The shrubs and trees are all native plants found in Vermont.

The Vermont Public Places awards are co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects Vermont, Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Vermont Planners Association and the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program The biennial awards program

is “designed to shine a spotlight on public places and spaces” and “honors projects that promote positive public uses and benefits by creating, preserving or enhancing exterior or interior public space, green corridors and networks of spaces.” Recipients of the Public Places awards are selected by a jury of prominent Vermont planners, landscape architects and community and urban forestry professionals.

Honor awards are presented to projects that are “enriched by planning or design or that increase awareness of the benefits of creating public spaces and/or connecting downtowns, village centers or city neighborhoods to natural areas devoted to conservation, recreation and working lands” and have a significant feature or stand out as being exceptional overall. The Slate Quarry Park was one of six projects in the state to receive the 2023 honor award. Other recipients include: Kingdom Trails Network Capacity Study, East Burke; Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail Marketing, Branding & Wayfinding, Northwestern Vermont; Swinging Bridge Pocket Park, Chester and Teagle’s Landing, Woodstock.

Slate Quarry Park is open from April – October, dawn to dusk, and free to all. Free parking is available on Main Street in Poultney. In addition, Slate Quarry Park is the newest location on the Stone Valley Byway which runs along Route 30 from Hubbardton to Manchester.

For more information visit: vermontvacation.com.



Submitted

Slate Quarry Park in Poultney recently won an award.

KILLINGTON FOOD SHELF



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

Sherburne UCC “Little White Church,” Killington, VT

Table of contents

Local news	2
State news	11
Opinion	12
Puzzles	17
Calendar.....	18
Arts, Dining, Entertainment.....	22
Pets	30
Horoscopes.....	31
Columns.....	32
Service directory.....	34
Classifieds.....	35
Real estate	36

MOUNTAIN TIMES

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

Polly Lynn MikulaEditor & Co-Publisher
Jason MikulaMarketing Manager & Co-Publisher
Katy SavageAssistant Editor/Office Manager
Lindsey RogersMarketing/Advertising Consultant
Pat WiseGraphic Designer

Interested in advertising? Call 802-422-2399

Email: lindsey@mountaintimes.info
For classifieds/yard sales: classifieds@mountaintimes.info
For events: events@mountaintimes.info

Contributors:

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



©The Mountain Times 2022
The Mountain Times • P.O. Box 183
Killington, VT 05751 • 802-422-2399
Email: editor@mountaintimes.info
mountaintimes.info

Killington Fire and Rescue hires two

The new municipal dept. now employs three plus volunteers, seeks growth to ensure shorter response times

By Polly Mikula

KILLINGTON — Over the past three years, fire and rescue services in Killington have undergone some of the most radical changes in its history: In 2020, the new Public Safety Building was completed; in 2022, the town voted to bring the services under municipal ownership; and in 2023, the town hired the department's first paid employee, Chief Chris LaHart.

Now Killington Fire and Rescue has two more paid members: Glenn Burres, 58, was hired as the assistant chief (a part-time position) and Mark Foote, 30, was hired as full time firefighter and head of EMS.

"I think there's nothing but opportunity in front of us," Foote said. "I'm really excited to see how things unfold," he said, adding: "No transition is ever perfect."

The past five months under the management of Chief LaHart hasn't all been smooth. A number of volunteers have quit — including most of the town's search and rescue team — and a few more resignations from long-time firemen were received by the Select Board Monday, May 23.

But there have also been new recruits and promotions from within, as was the case with Burres and Foote.

Transitioning to a municipal dept.

"What we have to remember is that the reason why we have a hybrid fire department today is because the volunteers came to the town manager saying, 'we no longer can really provide the service that the town needs. Things are changing, and we have to start looking at a paid fire department,'" Select Board Member Jim Haff explained. "They came to us... And then the board put it up to a vote to the townspeople: 'Shall the town take this over?'"

That vote was held on Town Meeting Day 2022 and passed with "overwhelmingly support," Haff said, making the fire department, EMS and search and rescue a new municipal department. (The town had long financed Sherburne Volunteer Fire Dept., but it was an independent agency.)

The board then began to search for a fire chief — and announced it would be a paid position for the first time.

A search committee, made up of three voting members: Tom Rock, Barry Leete and Jim Lewis, reviewed the nearly dozen applications and unanimously recommended LaHart to the Select Board.

On Nov. 14, 2022, Chris LaHart was named the new chief of Killington Fire and Rescue. In January 2023 he took the reins.

Since then he's been acquainting himself with the building, equipment, personnel and protocols.

Search and Rescue's reboot

Thus far, the most public display of defection was in March when most of the volunteers with Killington Search and Rescue (KSAR) quit after LaHart took them off duty March 6. (According to LaHart he had repeatedly requested documentation showing the members had proper qualifications and trainings to provide search and rescue services but after 60 days those requests were still not met. He felt sending

them out put the town at risk. But former KSAR members felt blind-sided by his sudden top-down/paramilitary style authority over their organization, which had always operated in parallel but more or less autonomously from the fire dept.)

(Editor's note: neither of the summaries offers a complete picture of the positions above. Please read the many letters to the editor that have run over the past few months for a fuller understanding.)

The former members of KSAR brought their grievances before the Select Board hoping to separate from the chief, but the board sided with LaHart, supporting his goal of creating a united Killington Fire and Rescue team.

"My vision was Killington Fire and Rescue Services. We decided we're going to re-brand it that way under town leadership," LaHart explained. "We're one team, one fight, one set of rules," he summarized.

The three different programs: Fire, EMS and Search and Rescue will have some different protocols, he allowed, "because EMS is run different than fire. But we're codependent."

Chief LaHart and Assistant Chief Burres are the heads of the fire program; Foote is the head of the EMS program and LaHart hopes to name a head of the search and rescue program soon.

"We have training coming up the first of June, I should have somebody in that role by then," he said.

"We have what we call a unified command structure. There's not one guy that's large and in charge primping his feathers out there, we share responsibility for our different pieces of the pie," LaHart said. "I can't do it alone. So there's my help."

"As a chief officer, it's incumbent upon me to trust my junior officers," he added.

As of May 11, LaHart said he had assembled 12 volunteers for the search and rescue program.

"Come June the search and rescue portion will be back in service. But there will not be any more 'KSAR,' 'KSAR' is gone. It's now 'Killington Fire and Rescue Services,'" he emphasized. "We do search and rescue, we do EMS, and we do fire."

The scope and focus of the search and rescue program under LaHart will be slightly different in that they will not train with ropes for high angle rescues but rather focus on the boots-on-the-ground aspect.

"We'll do wilderness first aid, lost hikers, lost skiers, lost bikers, injured hikers, injured bikers, rattlesnakes, gunshot wounds, any you name it," LaHart said. "What we won't do, at this point, is high angle rescue. I will support the team if they want to learn that skill. The team will develop through Burres, my training officer, he'll develop the standards that will be used," he explained.

Minimally, an aspiring search and rescue volunteer for Killington Fire and Rescue Services will need to complete the basic

search and rescue course online, CPR, and wilderness first aid, LaHart said. "That would be our starting point to give me enough confidence to stand our portion back up with the state," he said, adding that he'd support volunteers who wanted to go beyond those basic requirement and get certified as a wilderness first responder (WFR) or in outdoor emergency care (OEC).

LaHart says the vast majority of the calls KSAR took over the past many years required a boots-on-the-ground response only.

Foote agreed, saying: "If you think about ski accidents, mountain biking, hikers, all these things, statistically speaking, the things you're seeing coming out of the woods are traumas, slips, trips, falls."

A boots-on-the-ground approach with trained volunteers will be well-equipped to handle all such cases, LaHart, Foote and Burres all said. And if there is a need for high angle rescue, mutual aid from the state and re-

gional crews will be called upon, LaHart said.

"The former members [of KSAR] that left here had established a program that met those needs, I'm gonna use that," LaHart added.

"Yeah, it's a good program."

Fire & EMS, it's all about response time

"Emergency Medical Services [EMS] is 70% of the call volume at Killington Fire and Rescue Services," said LaHart. "The other 30% is shared between fire-side the search and rescue-side... that 30% can be emergency and non-emergency calls for service," he said. "Killington averages 1.62 calls a day, which I round up to two per day," he continued, noting that the volume fluctuates with the seasons in proportion to how many visitors are here. "Sometimes we'll have four times that," he said. "But since April 1, I've seen a huge decrease in our calls."

Standards for the fire and emergency medical services programs are based on national recognized goals for response time.

For EMS it's known as the "golden hour."

"The golden hour is defined as the time it takes to recognize an emergency... and get that emergency in a hospital," said LaHart.

The golden hour ideal helps to inform courses of action, LaHart explained further. Such as, "whether I fly a helicopter out here to take your trauma to Dartmouth, or whether I just take the stub toe to Rutland Regional," he said.

While EMS makes up the majority of the call volume, the number of responders needed is generally fewer.

"Usually you can get away with two," explained Burres. "Because you're usually working on just one patient. [Volunteers] just can't get a whole lot of arms and legs in there ... and we don't transport, so essentially what our guys are doing are patient assessments, doing what they can while they wait for regional. And then they turn it over to them."

"Not to be morbid, but when you're not a transport agency, the name of your game is 'keep the patient alive' so you can hand

them off to the next person," Foote echoed.

LaHart spoke about the national standard for response time when there's a fire.

"The goal from the time the emergency hits and I'm notified to the time it takes to be pulling the parking brake on the fire engine is between 5 and 7 minutes, 90% of the time," LaHart said, quickly adding: "I can't do that here. Geographically, it's just not possible."

Killington has a population of about 1,400 people living in 46 square miles, which averages out to roughly 20-25 people per square mile, LaHart noted. Based on that, "Theoretically, four to six people is what I should have on duty 24/7 to effectively go out and provide a fire response, but... when you bring it up to 13,000 say on a busy weekend, that exponentially increases the people per square mile," he said. "This is why the hybrid model will be successful here. Because you have to staff up some seasons."

While the national standards for fire response may be more aspirational than directly applicable for all parts of Killington at this stage, reducing response time will help to protect people and property damage.

For good coverage, the town needs four to six people on each shift, LaHart said, explaining that firemen typically work 12-hour or 24-hour shifts. He hopes to hire another paid firefighter soon, which would bring the team up to four paid employees.

If there's a true house fire, however, "and I need to do work inside, I need to assemble 17 to 18 people just to be able to meet my legal obligations," LaHart explained, citing a standard risk matrix. "Killington doesn't need to have 17 firefighters here on duty. That's unrealistic," he said. "I think the hybrid model [with paid and volunteer firefighters] works well here."

With the addition of volunteers and mutual aid "I can assemble that magic number of 17," he said.

Volunteering with potential

Selectman Haff said that having the potential to become a career firefighter at Killington could be a draw to join Killington Fire and Rescue.

LaHart agreed: "These two were both volunteers at one time," he said referring to Burres and Foote. "They had a passion for volunteering and now it's their career."

LaHart said he is willing to train anyone who wants to volunteer — and reimburse them if they complete approved courses, but he added that volunteering is a pretty serious investment of time.

"I don't think people really understand what goes into it from a medical standpoint, from a training and investment standpoint. It's a real investment the volunteers make, and that they don't get enough credit," LaHart said.

"A lot of people want to be driving these trucks," he added by way of example. "But wanting it and going through what you need to do to learn it, are two different things... Again, it's my life at the end of that hose line, so I just can't give it to anybody. The people

Fire and rescue: from page 4

that really want to do it, you'll see them on Tuesday nights when we train.

"For people that come to me with experience, we might just need to show them our way of doing things here and there, to work out the kinks, then 'bam,' they could be driving trucks in a week," he said, explaining that a timeline for training really depends on the person. "The time it takes is the time it takes for them to demonstrate proficiency."

But regardless of experience, "If you want to donate your time to the town of Killington, I will find a place where I can use you," LaHart said. "I have guys that I know won't climb ladders. I have guys that won't go in a burning house. But maybe he's a commercial truck driver. I teach him how to run the pump. He drives the truck for me. It's great to know that I got a guy that I know I can rely on to do that kind of work."

"I'll take people that maybe don't even have a high school education, but have a great heart and want to learn how to do things... You don't need to know Pythagorean Theorem to learn how to don and doff a suit," he said.

LaHart sees recruiting and properly training the Killington Fire and Rescue team as a main focus of his tenure and legacy in Killington.

"I'm here to train the next starting bench," LaHart said. "That's it. I'm gonna pass the torch to, hopefully, somebody from within."

"I'm here to train the next starting bench," LaHart said. "That's it. I'm gonna pass the torch to, hopefully, somebody from within."

"Eventually, you know, I'm gonna retire someday, but I still love what I do," he added.

Open door policy

"We have an open door policy here," said Burres. "Anytime anyone who has a question should stop in, or if you just want to say hello. [The Public Safety Building] is now staffed Monday through Friday."

"I really want people to know that we are here. To come and talk to us. Don't be afraid to bang on the door. Anytime. If they see cars, or see the bay doors up... we're trying to let people know that there's people here... that they can stop by and ask questions. There's nothing too important — except for if the bell goes off," he said. "I can leave my desk and drop whatever I'm doing at the time to answer questions... If I don't have the answers, I'll find it out."

When's the best time to stop by? "Six on Tuesday night," Foote said.

"That's when we do our truck checks, when we're opening cabinets, when we're engaging with the equipment and the tools," Burres explained. "Maybe we pull the ladders out or we have some hose off... maybe we're spraying water into the retention pond... you get to see some of the equipment in action."

"If you might have a passion, seeing some of this being done is a really good way to go: 'Yeah, you know what, that's cool, I want to do that!'" Burres concluded.



By Polly Mikula

Glenn Burres (left) and Mark Foote (right) were recently made Killington Fire and Rescue's second and third paid employees after LaHart.

Glenn Burres named assistant chief

Glenn Burres, 58, was named Assistant Fire Chief, a 25 to 30-hour a week part-time position in the beginning of April.

Burres moved to Killington about 16 years ago after retiring as the deputy chief of a fire department in Newburgh, New York.

"I worked up from being a firefighter up to deputy chief and retired after 20 years," he said. "My wife was living up here [in Killington] already — my daughter went to Killington Elementary — and it was time to come up here full time. I've been coming and working here for well over 20 years," he said, adding. "I bartended up at Killington, most of those years, full time — seasonally at the K-1 Base Lodge, then at the golf course in the summer."

He was a volunteer with Killington Fire and Rescue before being named Assistant Chief, a part-time job.

"I applied for the chief's job. But, unfortunately, there were some reciprocity issues between New York and Vermont. I mean, I have stacks and stacks of certifications but unfortunately some of them are not recognized in Vermont," he explained. "Chris [LaHart] is federal, so he's nationally certified... I really enjoy working for Chris, I think he's a great person for this job. He takes it very personally, he doesn't like people being unhappy."

Burres is in charge of training volunteer firefighters. "Every Tuesday night from 6-9 p.m. we go and do what we've talked about in the classroom," he said. "Then there's times where I'll have guys come in and say, 'Hey, listen, I want to learn to drive a truck... or let's go throw some water around. Or can you teach me how to use a saw?' I say: 'Let's go!' I try to make myself available as much as possible for whoever wants to learn... This is my main job."

A lot of that training is done internally, but some certifications have to be taught by a certified trainer, which Burres schedules. "I get in touch with different purveyors that may want to come in and do training — the experts. I'm in touch with the state and in charge of keeping people's training credits up to snuff so they are still certified on the fire-side; Mark is doing the first responder-side," he said.

Trainings are always ongoing for all members of Killington Fire and Rescue, Burres explained.

"A couple of weeks ago, I trained on electric vehicles, charging stations, and electric bicycles, because we're getting more and

Burres → 6

Mark Foote becomes Killington's first full-time paid firefighter

Mark Foote, 30, became the department's first full time paid firefighter (other than the chief), as well as the head of the EMS program at the end of April.

"My medical first response kind of career, if you will, started when I was 16 years old," Foote said. "I'm not a native to Killington, even though I like to say I am. My family has had property here since '94. We have a place over next to Pico. I started skiing at Killington two weeks before my second birthday. I joined the Hopefuls race program when I was 6. I raced for Killington for 10 years. When I got done with that I wanted something to keep me out on the hill, so I joined ski patrol and I worked ski patrol at Killington for 10 years... Even though I'm from the Boston area, this has always been kind of home," he said.

"I moved up full time at the beginning of the pandemic. One of my friends who I've known for years and years and years, joined the fire department, and he said, 'Hey, you should join the fire department with me.' I did that almost three years ago," he continued.

"I got my EMT last year and literally yesterday I got my certification for Fire 1 and 2," Foote said, May 11. "Our class started in the second or third week of August and the final test was April 30," he said, clarifying that Fire 1 went from Aug. to Jan. and Fire 2 from Jan. through the end of April.

When asked what the certifications taught him, he explained: "Fire 1 gets you interior; putting wet stuff on the red stuff," he summarized. "And doing search and rescue — how to rescue

Foote → 6

Burres:

from page 5

more of that. You don't realize how many fires are caused by those and how dangerous those things are," he said. Adding "it takes a normal car fire maybe 500 to 1,000 gallons of water put out depending on if it's fully evolved. For an electrical vehicle fire, it's at least 10,000 gallons and it has to be watched for 24 hours straight because they often rekindle... Essentially what electric vehicles are is thousands and thousands of battery [cells]. Well, if one disintegrates then they start catching fire side-by-side... almost like they're bottle rockets and fireworks. And as soon as you think you've got it put out, 24 hours later it can restart.

"We have a lot of electric vehicles up here and a lot of charging stations up here," he continued. "You know, they recommend at least being 500 feet away from any occupied building for charging stations? No one does that because there was no standard when they were being put in.

"The thing about the fire service is it's an ever-changing battleground," he summarized.

"We're also trying to do a lot more pre-planning. We are in the process of checking all our hydrants — dry hydrants and wet hydrants — to make sure they're up to ISO standards, what we can use, what we can't use, what's filled with silt, what we have to maintain, that type of thing."

Burres is also helping to document the certifications of the volunteer crew and inventorying the department's equipment.

"There's a stringent testing process on all of our stuff. From hoses to ladders to air packs to you name it, it's pretty much got to be tested, and after certain amount of time — 10 years is usually the golden number — then it's just got to be replaced. You just can't use it anymore... So we're in the process of changing gear over as a lot of our gear was out of service... We're in the process of sizing, ordering, getting new gear — turnout gear, it's called, it's everything from boots to gloves to helmets to pants to coats, all that stuff."

Burres's passion for training expands to public education as well. He enthusiastically welcomes residents to stop by the Public Safety Building to ask questions or just to see the crews at work. He also is working to update the department's Knox Box system. A Knox Box is a small, wall-mounted safe on private residences or businesses that holds building keys so that fire and rescue services can access the building in an emergency without having to break into the property. Killington Fire and Rescue holds a master key to all boxes in town.

To get a Knox Box, residents simply apply for one at the Public Safety Building. "Then you buy the box and it's keyed specifically for our key," he explained.

After mounting it to the side of your building, a member of the fire department usually will do a quick walkthrough to know where the box is located and what keys are needed, Burres explained. "You never know where a fire can get started, so we try to get every key possible."

While the Knox Box program in Killington has been in place for decades, "many folks don't know about it, or keys get changed or building occupants change," he explained.

Burres also said he hopes more people will consider volunteering. "The message I want to get out, is if you want to volunteer we'll find a place for you to serve," he said. "We may not make you an interior structural firefighter right away, but if that's your goal we will make sure you get the state certification that you need. You can go take Fire 1 and even Fire 2, like Mark just went through... And all those certifications would be paid for by this department so you don't have to have any cost, you're just volunteering your time. Once you complete it, you get reimbursed."

But as a first step, he hopes more folks will stop in and engage at the Public Safety Building.

"Anyone is welcome anytime they see us there," he said, adding, "the best time is Tuesdays from 6-9 p.m. when we're reliably outside and training. You can see the trucks opened up and there's always someone available."

Foote:

from page 5

somebody trapped in a burning building. Fire 2 gets more into some of the specialized things," he said citing examples including work with hazardous materials, fighting fire with foam, taking control of the scene and how to allocate or call for resources as needed.

"So Fire 1 is 'I just I want to go inside and I want to fight fire.' Fire 2 is more logistics. Because there are a lot of logistics to fighting a fire," he summarized.

After Fire 1 and 2, more specialized classes are offered for advanced training. "There's all types of specialty courses," he said.

Foote said he felt "relieved" when he was notified last month that he'd gotten the full-time job with Killington Fire and Rescue.

"I mean, I went to college to be an engineer. I have a computer engineering degree. I didn't grow up saying I want to be a career firefighter. I grew up saying I want to be an engineer, specifically computer engineering," he explained of the circuitous route his career path had taken. "But this opportunity presented itself and I said, 'Hey, you know what, I love this place so much and I want to have a way to be able to give back to the community that gave so much to me. I really kind of fell into it, doing the volunteer thing. Then when the changeover happened... I said, 'Oh, all right, I'll throw my hat into the ring. If I can do a little bit more for the community, then I'm all about it.'"

While still new to his role as a full-time employee, Foote was confident in both the direction of the department and the resources he had to help him succeed.

"I think there's nothing but opportunity in front of us," he said. "You know, I'm gonna have hiccups. Glenn and I are going to figure things out together; what works, what doesn't work. I certainly never envisioned that I was going to be running First Response, that I was going to be the head of EMS. So, I'm doing a lot of learning."

"I am fortunate that I have a lot of really great resources around: Chris is very knowledgeable, Glenn's very knowledgeable, my head of service in Fair Haven, Wendy Fitzgerald is one of the District 10 training coordinators for Killington, Chittenden, Rutland, Fair Haven, Castleton, and West Haven, the whole district. She's one of the big 'mucky mucks' and I had worked on the ambulance for them full time since the beginning of October, so she's a great resource," he continued. "When I'm not sure about something I can call... They say the sign of a good leader is surrounding themselves with intelligent people, right? And knowing when to call on them. And I'm just so incredibly grateful that I have such an amazing support system to help me build Killington first response on the EMS side up to where we need it to be."

Foote is also responsible for training EMS volunteers — both with in-house trainings or bringing in certified instructors when needed.

"A good example is, in a couple months here, when we need to do CPR, I'm not a CPR instructor. So I'll bring in a CPR instructor who'll re-cert everybody's CPR."

"We got to develop now a training program on the medical side, and make sure that the training program hits the appropriate continuing education credits for everybody."

When asked how he typically spends his 40 hours a week in the office, he said.

"First, I'm figuring out what the state needs from us. All all EMS services are issued a license by the state and those licenses are valid for three years. Ours happens to be coming up at the end of the year, so we're gonna have to reapply by Dec. 31 in order to continue as a EMS licensed operator for first response. So my big focus right now is: What records do we have? What does the state need? What do I need to do to make sure that next year, we're still in a position to be serving the community?" he said.

"Secondary to that is just going through everything we have. When I was just a baby EMT at the bottom of the totem pole, I wasn't necessarily going through every thread and stitch because I had people above me who handled those things. In these early stages I'm familiarizing myself very, very, very intimately with every single needle stitch for all of the medical equipment and just trying to build a solid foundation that we can springboard off of moving forward."



Courtesy VINS

VINS Director of Wild Bird Rehabilitation Grae O'Toole holds the red-tailed hawk by its feet just before releasing it back into the wild in Hartland near where it was first found injured in late February.

VINS releases rehabilitated red-tailed hawk

By Curt Peterson

About a dozen of Ed Finley's neighbors and friends were gathered by their vehicles on a Clay Hill Road meadow in Hartland to witness release of a red-tailed hawk that had been rehabilitated at Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS). The event was a unique memorial dedicated to Finley, resident on Clay Hill Road and long-time board member of Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited, who passed away at 75 on Feb. 28.

For 20 years, Finley managed an annual youth event named for late VINS supporter David Chang, where GUVTU members teach kids how to cast, tie flies and catch stocked fish in a local pond. This year's Chang Memorial will be held on Sept. 23.

The bird, of undetermined gender, mysteriously fell from the sky near the site on Feb. 27, one day before Finley's death. Obviously wounded, it was taken to VINS for treatment immediately. VINS tries to release its recovered patients near where they are found.

After a brief introduction by Charles Rattigan, VINS executive director, Grae

O'Toole, director of VINS' wild bird rehabilitation program, opened a cardboard carrier and, wearing protective gloves, displayed the hawk for onlookers, a few of whom were waiting with phone cameras to capture the actual release.

The raptor wasted no time, flying to a large pine at the far end of the meadow. Within seconds other birds, including blue jays, crows and chickadees, set up a cacophony of warning shrieks. One bird took a threatening dive at the hawk, still apparently getting its bearings after four months of captivity and treatment.

O'Toole, who earned her degree in biology and environmental studies at University of Wisconsin/Racine, said hawks' aggressive hunting lifestyle often results in "terrible injuries."

She had served as a summer intern at VINS in 2014, then returned as an employee in 2017. She's been director of the rehabilitation program for two years.

When the crowd began to disperse the hawk left its perch and circled the meadow before disappearing over the woods to the west.

What Americans don't know about Nonprofits, Vermonters probably do

One evening last week, I received a phone call from one of our region's most thoughtful volunteer fundraisers, a soft-spoken community leader I admire tremendously.

After we discussed the purpose of her call — to secure hosts for an event to benefit a vital housing nonprofit — we proceeded to other topics. When she signaled the end to our call, she did so almost apologetically: she had just landed in Chicago and had to get going to an important family gathering.



For the Greater Good
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

That this volunteer fundraiser was so committed that she made a business call while in transit at one of the busiest airports in the world, while also taking care of her family, was remarkable for so many reasons.

Many Vermonters are aware that nonprofits depend on individual donors for funds and other support, especially since government funding is becoming more scarce. They also are aware that nonprofits throughout the country — about 6,000 in Vermont alone — depend on dedicated volunteers like my friend, in addition to modestly compensated staff, to sustain their organizations.

Yet, an article in the May 2023 issue of The Chronicle of Philanthropy, titled, "What Americans Don't Know About Nonprofits" cites a study that indicates a lot of Americans are, in fact, not aware of the value of nonprofits or what it takes to sustain them.

A few of the findings from the study, produced by Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, and based on a survey of about 1,300 people conducted last summer, might surprise Vermonters:

- Fewer than 20% of those surveyed think nonprofits are on the right track
- Only 1/3 believe charities contribute a lot to society
- Only 14% said they had a lot of confidence in nonprofits' ability to solve problems
- Very few think they've benefitted from a nonprofit

Perhaps the most distressing insight, per The Chronicle, is this one: "20 years ago, about 85% of Americans gave. That share has steadily declined to about 50%."

As might be surmised, The Chronicle of Philanthropy is targeted at those who work for charitable and educational institutions but its articles are also relevant to the general public that supports and cares about nonprofits.

To that point, the cover story of that issue of The Chronicle was a multi-page feature on how organizations around the country are addressing the housing crisis, which is extremely relevant to Vermonters.

Titled, "Everyone Should Care About Housing: It's the key to education, health, economic opportunity and more," it included inspiring examples of how individual donors, foundations, builders, community land trusts, houses of worship, community development institutions and tenant groups, are collaborating strategically to remedy the housing crisis.

In Vermont, that exact kind of collaboration is now intensifying, driven by affordable-housing nonprofits around the state, including Housing Trust of Rutland County, and NeighborWorks of Western Vermont. Likewise, the nonprofit Rutland Regional Planning Commission is stepping up its efforts, including communicating more proactively and on a regular basis with diverse stakeholders.

Also, in Rutland City, recently elected Mayor Michael Doenges, who won the election this past March, has projected a strong sense of urgency in his actions to maximize Rutland's economic opportunities. He's proactive, assertive, and decisive.

Doenges, whose mother served for many years as a beloved fundraiser for a Rutland-based college, is acutely aware that fulfilling his economic vision needs to involve local nonprofit leaders, especially those with proven experience and expertise in economic development.

For all those reasons and more, it would be surprising to hear that many Vermonters do not value our nonprofits, or that they couldn't name at least one of Vermont's many charitable foundations. It would be even more surprising if Vermonters could not name the individual nonprofits that serve their communities, as well as the staff members and volunteers who work for those organizations.

To be sure, Vermont has its share of nonprofits whose stated mission and fundraising efforts may divert urgent support from charities that address more crucial issues such as food insecurity, homelessness, and domestic violence. And, of course, there is a small minority of Vermont nonprofits that exhibit questionable ethics, especially when it comes to financial matters.

The fact is that most ethical nonprofits today, in Vermont and elsewhere, recognize their responsibility and accountability to follow ethical business practices in achieving their social mission, and they are enthusiastic about being transparent. After all, it's very easy for any stakeholder, especially media, to find detailed information about a nonprofit's operations.

In that regard, Vermont's small size is a big plus.

Many Vermonters are aware that nonprofits depend on individual donors for funds and other support, especially since government funding is becoming more scarce.

Greater good → 16

← Chieftains: from page 1

of the meeting, which were not posted online as of Friday afternoon.

In an interview earlier this month, Green Mountain graduate Laurel King, who now attends the University of Vermont, said the moniker has at times spurred racist behavior among fans and is a source of shame. She refuses to wear gear from her alma mater.

"I would be embarrassed to be associated with the one public school in Vermont that continues to hold on to their racist mascot," King said.

King said she and another student lobbied the school board to retire the mascot when she was still a student.

"This was before the state had stepped in with the mandate and all, and we thought it would be an opportunity for Green Mountain to sort of be a changemaker in Vermont and just step out in front of law, and do what we believe was the inclusive and right thing before it was necessary," she said.

After the school board removed the "Chieftain" image but kept the name in October 2021, the Legislature passed Act 152 in 2022. The law required Vermont schools to adopt a "nondiscriminatory school branding policy" by the start of this year, aiming to eliminate the use of offensive and stereotypical branding at schools around the state.

In accordance with the new law, the Green Mountain school board voted 7-2 in January to eliminate use of the "Chieftain" mascot entirely — both name and image. But soon after, some district residents circulated an online petition to reverse the decision and bring the Chieftain back to the school, garnering 500 signatures. The petition, which is still online, cites tradition, history and alternate definitions of "chieftain" outside of Indigenous culture, despite the head-dress originally associated with the mascot.

On Feb. 16, the school board voted 6-4 to reinstate the name, though not the image. At that meeting, school board vice chair Adrienne Williams, who voted in the majority, said the state law on offensive mascots "has absolutely no enforcement clause. So even if we were to be found, you know, out of order, nothing happens.

No fines, no loss of funding, nothing."

At the meeting, Brown gave her reasons for the second vote on the mascot image, citing a lack of clarity in the January discussion.

"There are several of us that do not feel that the way the vote happened last meeting, it didn't sit well with us. Members of the community were not given notice in advance to be able to be heard," Brown said in February.

Also during that meeting, an eighth-grade student at Green Mountain Union High School, Honore Hazen, stood before the board and recounted her experience with racism at the school, including finding graffiti of the N-word in the bathroom. Her grandmother Beverly Hart said graffiti of swastikas remained on school buses, even after they had been reported.

"It is embarrassing for me to continuously have to report these incidents," Honore said at the meeting. "People whisper the N-word when I walk by. People repeatedly say it in the halls, at lunch, and on the bus."

Debate around the mascot has continued throughout the year. In an email earlier this month, Williams said "the reactions have been (a) mixture of differing viewpoints, as one would expect in a situation like this."

In any case, the votes earlier this year didn't change much, some parents and students said in interviews earlier this month.

"They said they were going to retire the mascot image but they didn't. It was still all over the place," said Carrie Roy King, a district resident and parent.

When the school board re-

versed its decision to remove the mascot entirely, Roy King filed a formal complaint with the state, as Act 152 allows.

Elias Stowell-Aleman graduated from Green Mountain last year. He said that while many students wanted the mascot changed during his senior year, there were years in which the mascot elicited racist behavior at sporting events.

"There were people that would come and wear head-dresses or, like, chant in some very racist and stereotypical ways, but I think that, like, passed when I was in middle school," Stowell-Aleman said.

Stowell-Aleman said he wasn't shocked at the school board's reversal, which he says echoes its actions in the highly publicized debate Green Mountain faced in 2016, when a transgender student was denied access to the bathroom of their gender.

"It's the same kind of process where change is supposed to be made and then change is delayed for a very long time. I can't say I was surprised," Stowell-Aleman said.

Green Mountain is not the only school engaged in a mascot debate. In Danville, the Indians became the Bears in late 2021. In South Burlington, the school retired the Rebels mascot and introduced the Wolves to the school. In Brattleboro, the Colonels mascot appears to be on the way out, but in Townshend, after a student study, Leland & Gray is keeping its Rebel mascot for the time being, while encouraging students to come up with a new one. And locally, the Rutland Raiders, after much back-and-forth with "Ravens," decided to drop it altogether and be 'Rutland.'



Courtesy Green Mountain Union HS, FB

After months of back-and-forth, the Green Mountain Unified School District voted on Thursday to keep the name as its high school's moniker as the Chieftains. The vote led to the resignations of the superintendent and two board members.



Courtesy Alpine Bike Works, FB

Alpine Bike Works to offer bike shipping service

Alpine Bike Works in Killington is now the first east coast retailer authorized to ship Giant bicycles direct to customers across the country.

The new program was announced in early April and allows select retailers who meet the stringent requirements set forth by Giant to ship Giant bicycles nationwide. It comes at a time when major bicycle brands are shifting focus to D2C sales and internalizing the customer experience through acquisitions and consolidation.

Giant is giving its retailers yet another tool to compete in an industry faced with frequent price cuts and promotions to clear the supply glut held by manufacturers and the ever-increasing prevalence of D2C sales – both of which come at the expense of retailers' bottom lines.

"We are beyond excited to have been selected for participation in this program. Among the many other challenges faced in this industry, the restrictions on shipping new bikes included in many dealer agreements very much limits retailers' ability to expand their customer base beyond the immediate proximity of their brick-and-mortar locations. This may be due in part to wanting to ensure the best possible customer experience, but Giant has made certain that the proper customer support channels are in place at participating retailers. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve a broader audience." (Ian Accurso, Alpine Bike Works).

Alpine Bike Works is a full service bike shop specializing in all things "mountain." It has locations in both Killington and Keene, New Hampshire, offering a wide variety of Mountain, Gravel, Road, BMX and e-bikes, along with all supporting accessories, apparel and components. Services offered include repairs, tune-ups, suspension service, custom wheel building, and e-Bike diagnostics. For more information, visit: AlpineBikeWorks.com.

Four nonprofits receive grants

Four local nonprofit organizations received \$5,000 grants from Heritage Family Cares 4 You's (HFCares4U).

The 2023 recipients were Community Cupboard, Vermont Farmers' Food Center, Vermont Achievement Center and Northshire Day School.

People who donate at least \$15 annually to HFCares4U become "Friends of the Foundation." Friends have the opportunity to vote for the organizations which receive grants through our "Friends 4 The Community" giving initiative. The 2023 recipients are: Northshire Day School, Rutland Community Cupboard, Vermont Achievement Center

(VAC) and Vermont Farmer's Food Center.

"We would like to congratulate these wonderful nonprofits and thank them for all they do," said Mark Grossarth, managing director of HFCares4U. "These organizations work tirelessly to make our communities a better place."

Heritage Family Cares 4 You (HFCares4U) was created by Heritage Family Credit Union leadership who were seeking a meaningful way to give something back to the communities that provided much to the credit union over the years. For more information, give HFCares4U a call at 888-252-8932 today, or visit hfcare4u.com.



The four 2023 recipients of HFCares4U \$5,000 grants (pictured top left to bottom right) are: Vermont Farmers Food Center, Northshire Day School, Community Cupboard, Vermont Achievement Center.

Courtesy Heritage Family Credit Union

Crowdfunding campaign launched for 'Poultney Downtown Mural Initiative'

\$3,250 goal to receive a 2:1 matching grant

POULTNEY—Realizing an action goal from Poultney Comes Together, a 2019 community workshop, Poultney residents will soon be able to enjoy public murals downtown thanks to a recently launched crowdfunding campaign.

The campaign is sponsored by the Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Development's Better Places program and led by the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee.

"Public art adds to the artistic and cultural value of a community, enhances the quality of life for residents, and leads to greater economic vitality," said Dept. of Housing and Community Development Commissioner Josh Hanford. "This collaborative effort will bring inspiration and a pop of color to Poultney's

downtown business district."

If the campaign reaches its \$3,250 goal by June 21, 2023 the "Poultney Downtown Mural Initiative" will receive a matching grant of \$6,500 from DHCD's Better Places program.

The funds raised will support two murals in Poultney's downtown business district, including a series of historic photos from the Poultney Historical Society's glass plate negative collection on the Auto Supply Building, and a natural scene designed by local artists on the side of the new Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District office. Citizens of Poultney will decide what art is put up on the PMNRCD mural at a public polling booth at Poultney Arts Day on May 26.

"Action goals from the Poultney Comes Together Workshop highlighted important

projects and pain points for the community," said Nic Stark, PDRC committee member, "Covid definitely derailed a number of the initiatives, but their ideas and goals are still strong. In our objective to revitalize downtown Poultney, they offered a terrific road map for where to put our efforts first."

Murals increase foot traffic, foster community identity, and create a sense of place through streetscape beautification, according to a news release by the Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Development, May 16. "Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well-being. Let's continue to foster community identity, sense of place,

along with health and happiness through this exciting mural project!" it continued.

Better Places is a community matching grant program empowering Vermonters to create inclusive and vibrant public places serving Vermont's designated downtowns, village centers, new town centers, or neighborhood development areas. The program supports community-led projects that create, revitalize, or activate community gathering areas that bring people together to build welcoming and thriving places across Vermont.

Residents, businesses, and neighbors ready to support vibrant public places, community gathering areas, and local opportunities are encouraged to get involved and support these projects.



TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

Do I need a zoning permit?

“Yes,” the zoning administrator says:
“If you’re asking this question, you most likely do.”

Here’s more details:

A Zoning Permit is only not required for:

- Fences and walls under 6 feet high and which do not interfere with corner visibility and are outside the town road right-of-way
- A free standing residential accessory structure such as a shed, tree house, doghouse, child’s playhouse or similar structure that does not exceed 144 square feet in size and is 12 feet or less in height and does not have plumbing.

But It **MUST** meet setback requirements.

- Interior renovations that do not increase the overall floor area **or result in additional bedrooms**
Increasing bedrooms **ALWAYS** requires a permit.
- Patios at grade level
- General maintenance such as painting, roofing and siding

Now that that’s cleared up, here’s more detail on filing for permits:

The Town of Killington requires various permits and approvals for development. A Zoning Permit is required for any project that involves:

- New buildings or building additions
- Porches, decks and similar structures
- Swimming pools
- Accessory apartments (in house or over garage)
- Projects that increase the footprint or floor area of a building
- Change of use (**yes, this includes adding additional bedrooms!**)
- Subdivision, parcel merger, and boundary line adjustments

An application for a zoning permit is here: bit.ly/KillingtonPermitApp

Note: If your project was approved by Act 250 you must also contact Rick.Overkirch@vermont.gov

Let’s not forget about short-term rentals:

Yes, the town requires short-term rentals registration to safely bring as many guests as legally possible. The advertised capacity of a short-term rental is limited to its approved septic or sewer capacity. All short-term rentals are subject to inspection by the state Division of Fire Safety, although self-certification is an option for rental properties with an occupancy of 8 or less.

To register your short term rental, visit: bit.ly/KillingtonSTR
Contact asst. state fire marshal Joshua Maxham at 802-786-0071 or Joshua.Maxham@vermont.gov for an inspection.

For a short-term rental checklist go to firesafety.vermont.gov.

Little info for you condo owners, too:

Condominiums are regulated by the state Division of Fire Safety and the state Act 250 Program. Changes beyond painting or decorating may require Division of Fire Safety approval. Increases to the floor area or creation of an additional bedroom would require Act 250 approval. Contact your condominium association before making any changes beyond painting or decorating.

PLANNING & ZONING

Tel: 802-422-3241 x 3

Email: planner@killingtontown.com

2706 River Road, P.O. Box 429, Killington, VT 05751

killingtontown.com

When do I need a driveway permit?

The Zoning Administrator says “yes, this should be the first thing you do!” A Drive-way Access Permit is required from the town Selectboard for a new or modified driveway off a town road. Contact the Town Manager to start this process. A State Highway Access and Work Permit is required from the state Agency of Transportation (VTrans) for a new or modified driveway off U.S. Route 4 or VT Route 100. For a Frequently Asked Questions sheet on state highway access and work permits visit: vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/permitting/faqs.

How about commercial business?

You always need a permit for business signs.

Visit: bit.ly/KillingtonSign. Most commercial development will need to be reviewed by the Development Review Board and Division of Fire Safety. Killington is a 1-acre town. Anything over could be subject to Act 250 review and approval. Questions? Request a Project Review Sheet from state permit specialist Rick Overkirch at 802-282-6488 or Rick.Overkirch@vermont.gov.



For more information about
zoning permits scan or click:
bit.ly/KillingtonPermits

Please don’t live by: “build it and they will come...”
It’s *NOT* better to beg for forgiveness than ask for permission.”

Greg Hiltz:

from page 1

love the job, but I've done my time," Greg says with the authority he's become so well known for. "I will miss the camaraderie, the challenge, the excitement and the ability to turn around and say, 'Wow, I had my hands on that. I helped do that.'"

Hiltz's Killington career began during the 1977/78 season, one year after he'd first applied and realized he wasn't quite ready to make the move from New York to Vermont. When he was offered a snowmaking job for the second time, he dove into the lifestyle headfirst.

"Back then, single and free, I would work all night and then ski during the day on my first day off. Go home and crash and then ski the next day, go home and crash and then go back to work for a while. It was awesome," he said.

It wasn't long before his dedication and work ethic earned him a promotion.

"So, I was working on the night shift, and by my second year, the night foreman decided to stop showing up. So 'tag you're it, Hiltz.' I was promoted to the night foreman and I got a \$.25 an hour raise from \$2.75 to \$3 an hour," he remembers.

Hiltz was living his best life, when on July 25, 1980, his career (almost) came to its premature conclusion. Working on a snowmaking pipe above South Ridge, Greg's hand was crushed under 900 pounds of steel.

"It was bad. It was real bad," he said. "But through the whole thing, I kept my wits about me. I had two guys working with me and I told them what we should do to free my hand up. We basically ended up ripping it out. I called dispatch, got on the radio and said, 'Hey, need some help up here.'"

Since no one could drive to where they were located, the trio met the truck, which happened to be loaded with 13 cases of dynamite. After a quick bandage job, they headed down the work road.

"They weren't going slow!" Greg laughed. "The dynamite is bouncing around and I'm thinking, jeez, this could be the last ride I ever take."

They arrived at Snowshed unscathed and unloaded the TNT. The ambulance was coming up the access road, and they flagged it down in the sweltering July heat. The paramedics pulled over opening the door to the back of the bus.

"The last thing I remember, I said, 'What are you gonna do, try and cook me in there?'" he laughs. "Because there was no AC and when they opened the door the hot air just fell out."

After three days in the Rutland Hospital, Hiltz was transferred to Albany Medical Center, where he said he was fortunate to have a great surgeon, whom he credits with saving his hand. The injury sidelined him for a year and a half, during which time he was unable to work. But in 1982, he was able to come back to Killington as the first-ever snowmaking control room operator.

"It was a pretty basic system then. Just a big control board with meter readings so you knew the pump was running or it wasn't," he says. "Probably two years later, I was getting back the ability to use my left hand, so I went back to making snow at night."

He kept up that grind for nearly a decade, but by the season of 1992/93, his family was growing.



Courtesy Killington Resort

Greg Hiltz operated a bulldozer with a winch on it while helping to make of Bear Mountain in 1979.

"At that point my daughter was 9 years old, my son was 7. I had to have some work life balance, so I went to days," he said. "I still made snow right up until 2021/22."

Over those 40-some years, Hiltz saw the resort grow firsthand, and was always the loudest voice in the room – not afraid to speak up to get the job done right. He was on the crew that laid the first snowmaking pipe for Bear Mountain, which is a memory he'll never forget.

"That was 1979 and there I am in a big bulldozer with a winch on it, working with a welder and laying the pipe down the hill. I can remember one day when we were doing that our radios weren't working, but we still had to continue moving the pipe. From where I was perched on Outer Limits — about 300 yards below where there's trees on the left and on the right when you ride the [Bear Quad] — I was yelling. They could hear me at the bottom and understand what I was saying. Everyone laughed about that."

Fast forward 25 years, to the first Audi FIS Ski World Cup event in 2016. As snowmaking manager, Hiltz was tasked with turning grass into a World Cup course for the first time. He recalls the first visit from Tom Johnston, who oversees all World Cup course builds worldwide.

"We had guns on the first day, we're plugging along. He rode the lift and said we didn't quite have it. The next day, we rode the lift again and we basically awestruck him. He just kept shaking his head. We got to the top and he pulled us aside and said, 'you know, in my entire career of running World Cup races and overseeing the snowmaking, I have never seen so much power on one trail. Oh, by the way, you guys killed it,

you've got enough snow.'"

To pull off that feat, Hiltz said he spent three days building enough splitters to enable 70 hydrants to run more than 100 guns on Superstar.

"The guys were joking that they could walk down the trail and step from gun to gun. That's how tight together they were," he says.

Indeed, Hiltz's tenacity and resourcefulness have been integral in Killington securing the Heroic Killington Cup for six years running.

"We will remember Greg for his legacy," says Killington President and General Manager Mike Solimano. "His unwavering commitment to quality (always telling me – and John Cumming we need to spend more on snowmaking, at every chance he had.) The world-class reputation of Killington Ski Resort owes much to Greg's tireless efforts, his leadership, and his commitment to the art of snowmaking."

On May 18, Hiltz's storied career was celebrated at the Killington Grand Hotel, with a party for the ages. He was handed a Simon Pearce replica World Cup trophy and bid a fond farewell by the team he led so well. Even Killington Founder Preston Smith sent along a note of thanks and congratulations.

"Looking back as founder and CEO of Killington Ski Resort, I remember so many employees and their commitment and dedication to the success of Killington. Greg stands out. [His] determination exposed a strong work ethic, which then turned into leadership. Moving on to become a master of snowmaking and contributing to our company's leading product and success story. This is not just about [his] work ethic and accomplishments, it is really about the ever-positive attitude [he] possesses," Smith said.

In the past few years, Hiltz had stepped into an advisory role at Killington, working on projects with Director of Planning Jeff Temple that ran the gamut from research for the Great Gulf village to signing off on dig safe permits for major snowmaking projects at the resort. His experience made him the go-to expert.

"You need a dig safe permit before you can dig. There's power lines, there's comm lines, there's potable water and there's snowmaking. I've had digs all over the mountain so I know where stuff is," he said. "I won't say I know everything, but I know quite a bit about where everything is."

He also knows everything there is to know about snowmaking and is excited to take his knowledge with him onto his next challenge. As of April, he is selling snowmaking pipe around New England. He says this time, his retirement from Killington Resort is final, but he wouldn't change it for the world.

"I've had a great life at Killington, there's no doubt about it," he says. "We all have trials and tribulations. I had some incidents that set me back, and I'm the kind of person that I overcome. Period. End of story. I'll always overcome."



Courtesy Killington Resort

Greg Hiltz helped to lay down pipe on Bear Mountain in 1979 when that area was first being developed.

State Board of Education exempts private schools from quality standards

Vermont-NEA says move points to urgent need for Legislature to stop taxpayer funds flowing to private schools

RUTLAND—On May 17, the State Board of Education voted to exempt private schools that receive public vouchers from the latest education quality standards.

The Vermont-NEA immediately responded saying that the State Board of Education provided yet another example of why the Legislature must end the practice of sending the public’s money to unaccountable private schools. The board — a majority of whom are private school advocates — made it clear that it doesn’t see the need to hold private schools to the same high standards required of public schools, according to a news release from Vermont-NEA.

“What the board didn’t say, but certainly knows, is that by exempting approved private schools from the mandate to provide an education that is substantially equal it also exempted these schools from providing an education that is equitable, anti-racist, culturally responsive, anti-discriminatory, and inclusive,” said Don Tinney, a veteran English teacher who serves as the elected president of Vermont-NEA.

“Sadly, the board has effectively sanctioned a separate but unequal education system for a significant number of students outside our public schools. In doing so, it will expose these children to a higher risk of inequitable and discriminatory treatment and substandard curricular requirements and teaching practices,” Tinney continued.

The new education quality standards are the result of over two years of evaluation and discussion by the Act 1 Working Group, a diverse group of stakeholders charged by the legislature and Gov. Phil Scott to eradicate racial bias and to ensure that the standards are inclusive, anti-racist, anti-discriminatory, equitable, and culturally responsive. The legislation creating the working group also directed that the revised education quality standards apply to all schools receiving public money.

The standards ... ensure that the standards are inclusive, anti-racist, anti-discriminatory, equitable, and culturally responsive.

All but one member of the working group – which included Vermont-NEA – agreed with applying the standards to private schools receiving public money; the lone dissent was the Vermont Independent Schools Association. The state board, in voting to exempt private schools from the standards, is flouting the spirit of the law, according to the Vermont-NEA.

“The board is essentially telling private schools that they can keep taking lots of public money, but they don’t have to meet the same high standards as public schools,” Tinney said. “What’s even more troubling is that private schools don’t have to ensure that students of all ancestries and social groups feel safe, respected, and welcome.”

The question of how to reset public funding of K-12 education was a major topic in

this year’s legislative session because of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Carson v. Makin*. This decision, released almost a year ago, said that states that allow taxpayer vouchers to be used at private schools must make taxpayer dollars available to all private schools, even religious ones.

The decision upended Vermont’s 1860s-era voucher scheme that has allowed towns without their own public schools to give taxpayer funded vouchers to students to attend nearby public or private schools. The decision has already allowed taxpayer funding of religious schools, many of whom boldly refuse to attest that they will be free of discrimination.

Vermont-NEA is now asking the Legislature to rectify the situation.

As Tinney said: “There’s a solution to this violation of the Vermont Constitution’s requirement for the separation of church and state. And there’s a solution to funding discrimination with public money — restrict taxpayer dollars from going anywhere but our public schools.”

Youth Risk Behavior Survey offers insights into pandemic era student health

Challenges in mental health and substance use stand out during a period of social and educational disruption

New data from the Vermont Dept. of Health that measures students’ health risks and behaviors provides a unique snapshot of Vermont youth’s health and well-being during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 2021 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), released Monday, May 22, shows that students know how to get help from an adult if they need it, are involved in extracurricular activities, and generally feel valued by their communities. However, areas of concern include continued substance use, the number of students reporting active thoughts of self-harm and significant disparities in mental health among populations such as LGBTQ+ students.

The survey of Vermont high school and middle school students is conducted every other year and asks questions covering a broad range of topics, including substance use, mental health, unintentional injuries, violence, physical activity, nutrition, and factors such as school and family connectiveness and post-graduation plans. The survey is a joint effort of the Health Department and Agency of Education that surveys middle school students in grades 6 through 8 and high school students in grades 9 through 12.

The new data reflects disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in students’ routines and lives — including remote learning, lack of social interactions and curtailed after-school and extracurricular activities — which impacted people’s usual behaviors.

The time of year for when students took the survey also shifted. The 2021 YRBS had to be conducted in the fall semester (September-December) instead of the spring semester (January-June), which meant the average age of survey participants was younger than in past years. This likely influenced the data, relative to things kids may experience when they are even just a little older.

For these reasons, unlike previous YRBS reports, the report does not compare 2021 to previous years and should not be used as a direct comparison to previous years. Health officials said that the data does afford a perspective into student behaviors at the peak of the pandemic.

“While the pandemic disruptions mean we won’t have

an apples-to-apples comparison of trends from earlier years, this data gives us better insight into how Vermont’s youth population managed during that difficult time,” said Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD.

Dr. Levine said every generation has its unique individual and societal challenges, but the pandemic took a toll not seen for decades. “Few have experienced what these kids have, with impacts on almost every aspect of their lives – from education, missed milestone celebrations, and to their mental health and emotional development,” said Dr. Levine. “As the governor has said, ‘the kids are not all right,’ and we are working across state government and with community partners to bend the curve to improve the physical and mental health of our young people.”

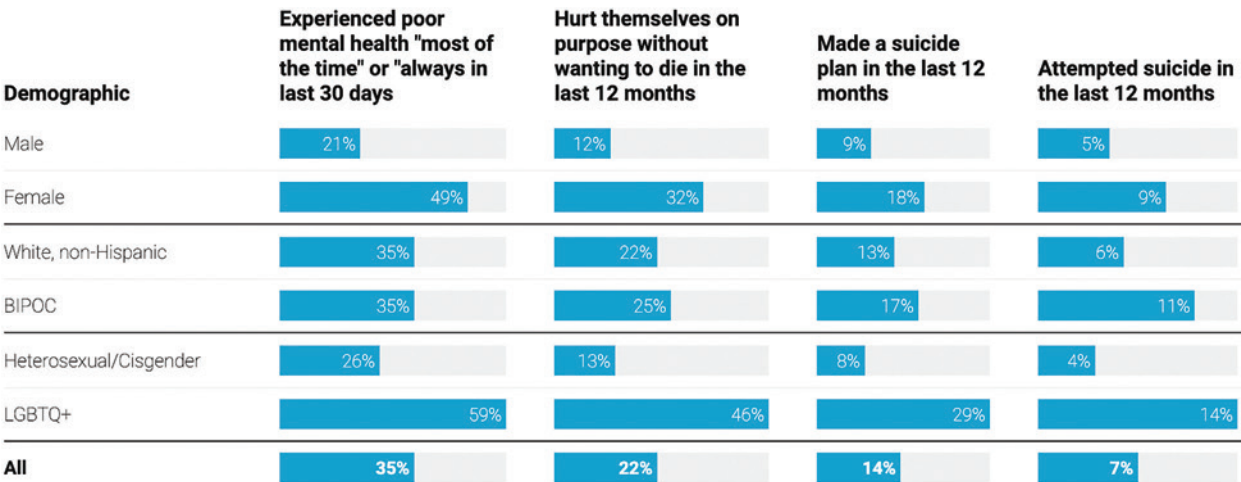
Below are some of the most notable Youth Risk Behavior Survey Highlights, according to the dept.

Mental health, self-harm and community

New for this survey, students were asked if they experience poor mental health. The results show a significant disparity in the mental health of LGBTQ+ and female students.

- 35% of high school students report they recently experienced poor mental health
- LGBTQ+ and female students experience poor mental health at twice the rate of heterosexual, cisgender and male students
- 22% of middle school students reported they recently had poor mental health “always or most of the time”
- LGBTQ+ and female students in middle school are nearly three times more likely to report “feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge at least most of the time during the past year”
- Data on community and relationships show more than half of all high school and middle school students believe they matter to people in their community.
- 70% of high school students and 67% of middle school students said they have at least one teacher or adult at school they can talk to if they have a problem

Youth Risk Survey → 14



Courtesy Erin Petenko, VTDigger

Chart shows how high schoolers said they were feeling as a percentage of the 17,000 surveyed in the fall of 2021.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Legislature was productive on issues that really count

By Angelo Lynn

Editor's note: Angelo Lynn is the editor and publisher of the Addison County Independent, a sister publication to the Mountain Times.

Deem this year's legislative session a success, and if you think none of the goings-on in Montpelier impact you directly, here are several reasons why they do and why you should care.

First, let's note that while the Democratic-controlled Legislature had a new super-majority that could override Republican Gov. Phil Scott's vetoes, they nonetheless agreed upon two culture-war issues that have rocked other states: 1) they passed landmark reproductive shield bills to protect medical professionals from suit or recrimination for performing abortions or gender-affirming care; and 2) they strengthened Vermont's gun safety laws.

In signing H.89, Gov. Scott said: "Today, we reaffirm once again that Vermont stands on the side of privacy, personal autonomy and reproductive liberty, and that providers are free to practice without fear."

That follows the perspective of keeping the government from intruding on the rights of women and transgender people when making personal health decisions. It passed with overwhelming margins in the Legislature and signed with approval by a Republican governor.

Similarly, the Gov. Scott was eager to sign a bill prohibiting paramilitary training camps, as well as another law, dubbed the "suicide prevention law" that increases the waiting period for buying firearms to 72 hours, creates new gun storage requirements to prevent children from accidentally gaining access to firearms in the house, and expands access to "extreme risk protection orders."

Both laws affect the lives of many residents within each of our communities, and in each case improve the well-being of our greater community. Watching the battles engulf other states on these two issues makes us doubly grateful to live here.

Not everything, of course, was hunky-dory in the state's capital. Gov. Scott spent the session warning the Legislature of overspending, and Democrats spent the session trying to deal with the significant problems facing the state. It should be obvious to most Vermonters that you can't deal with the problems without putting some resources into the fray.

To that end, Democrats were successful in passing major child care legislation, H.217. The legislation will pour \$120 million into the ailing industry in an effort to make child care more affordable to those young Vermonters most in need. To pay for the initiative, the bill would enact a payroll tax of 0.44% starting July 1, 2024, with employers required to cover at least 75% of the new levy.

That increase in taxes affects all of us, and is what has prompted the governor's promised veto, which the Legislature has the votes to override.

The other signature legislative achievement was the clean heat bill, S.5, which sets in motion a complicated plan to devise an affordable heat standard that seeks to reduce the cost of heating a home in the near future, as well as reducing the state's carbon footprint. The bill sets up a two-year study of how to create such a system, and demonstrate that it can work before the Legislature will vote again on that proposal in another two years. If you heat your home

Session → 15



Since That Day by Pat Byrnes, PoliticalCartoons

LETTERS

Keep your lawn friendly to pollinators

Dear Editor,

After a protracted winter and fickle spring, the sunlight has dried off the dew. Idle hours lie ahead. Put earmuffs on to deaden the roar of the mower. Repeat passes out from the house to the edge of the property, leaving behind a carpet of green.

Who would attempt to disrupt this homeowners' ritual with a notion like No Mow May, pesticide-free lawns, electric mowers? Challenge the notion that an expanse of lawn is a sign of prosperity and leisure time?

The signals are small, imperceptible at times, but are there. Our hard-working invertebrates, the butterflies, bees, beetles, moths, and others speak out for shelter and food to over-winter, feed their young and pass on their genes in exchange for pollinating many of our favorite plants.

Between 60 to 80% of wild plants in our state are dependent on animals, mostly bees, for the 'ecosystem service' of pollination. (VT Fish and Wildlife Department)

Mowing high, set to 5 instead of 3, allows wild plants in pesticide-free mowed areas to thrive under the cutting blade. They will flower and feed the pollinators. By mowing less often, more of these plants will bloom. Leaving

Pollinators → 14

30+ year league threatened to end

Dear Editor,

I've run the Killington Softball League every year since 2004. I took one year off in 2009 and was begged back the following year because of how poorly it was run. I'm not saying this to brag, it's just I'm good at running this league and one reason people like playing in it, is because of that. Nobody else wants to run this league. One of the reasons I've run it for so long is, so this town has softball.

I was informed last week by Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth that I'm not allowed to be the commissioner or be the league's representative. New Rec Director Emily Hudson told me I needed to attend a Select Board meeting to request permission for the league to be allowed to play at the Ada Hall Softball Field on River Road. Chet stated my banishment was a Select Board decision. How can they decide without me attending the meeting to request permission?

This stems from a 2021 private text message to the league coaches where I called former Rec Director Sarah Newell an offensive word. I was upset that Sarah didn't answer any of my emails regarding starting the league up. The text was shared with Sarah. It was a lapse in judgment, but I've since apologized to her and publicly in a newspaper interview. I thought we moved on but apparently Chet has not.

The quick timeline is in

2020, the league was suspended by Chet for "Covid Violations" which were not violations in Vermont, but I was told by Chet that he didn't care what the governor said. The rest of 2020 season and 2021, the league played in Chittenden. Last summer, I brought the league back to Killington to support the town and businesses in it. I ran the league but appointed Josh Stevens as my spokesperson. In July 2022, I sent an email to Chet and Sarah asking for an end of season meeting with them, and Josh, to discuss the town taking over the league this year as they expressed. Neither Chet nor Sarah bothered to respond to my email.

In the 19 years I've run this league, I've worked greatly with over six rec directors and town managers. I've never had an issue with anybody. I've only had issues with Chet and Sarah. They're horrible at communicating, which has been a major problem. I don't get their combativeness with me.

Yes, I said a bad word. Yes, I'm not perfect but to penalize the league and stop a tradition that has happened every year since 1990 is insane. That field was built for the community to play on, which is specifically what this league does. What's the use in it sitting vacant?

Thank you,
Killington Softball
League Commissioner DJ
Dave Hoffenberg

Alcohol-related litter is plentiful

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the editorial discussing litter and some of its causes ("Green Up: Plan to make it fun" April 27, 2023).

However, as a frequent cyclist on Vermont's roads

I suppose
these litterers
must be
"knocking back
a cold one"...

(preferably the gravel ones) I have an additional perspective.

Moving at a slower pace than in a car, one sees in greater detail the detritus on the road-side. To my dismay and great anxiety as a vulnerable road-user, much of it is alcoholic beverage containers (more so than soft drink containers). I suppose these litterers must be "knocking back a cold one" en-route and, to avoid being cited for an open container in case of being pulled over, just jettison the evidence.

Coupling this with the volume of DUIs described in the various police logs (many of them multiple offenses), an alarming connection can be made.

The beauty and safety of our byways are compromised by this specific type of behavior and litter.

Blair Peterson,
Cornwall

CAPITAL QUOTES

Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis is expected to formally enter the presidential race this week as he faces a First Amendment lawsuit from Disney. Most national polls have shown Trump in the lead among Republican voters, followed by DeSantis.

“Governing is not about entertaining. Governing is not about building a brand or talking on social media and virtue signaling. It’s ultimately about winning and producing results,”

Ron DeSantis told voters during a recent stop in Iowa, referring to Trump.

“Governor DeSantis has never lost an election, ever. He won a massive electoral landslide during his 2022 re-election in Florida because he led with strong policy positions, and Floridians have supported those overwhelmingly,”

said **Erin Perrine**, the communications director for Never Back Down, in a statement.

“The issue DeSantis has is understanding that he’s not just in Florida anymore. You go to other states, and they don’t know about his victories unless he tells them. And he’s gotta find a way to communicate that quickly on the stump and not have 40-minute friggin speeches,”

said **Ford O’Connell**, a Republican strategist.

“(DeSantis) has to remind people that Donald Trump is a three-time loser... That Donald Trump has left the Republican Party in an extremely weak position. That Trump is almost dead on arrival come the general election,”

said one **former Trump campaign adviser** who now supports DeSantis.

OP-ED

Holding down legislative expenses

By John McClaughry

Editor’s note: John McClaughry is vice president of the Ethan Allen Institute (ethanallen.org). He has served in both the House and Senate.

One interest group fared extraordinarily well during the just-completed legislative session. That’s the interest group comprised of representatives and senators. Unlike other interest groups, who have to lobby legislators for the benefits they want, the legislators themselves get to vote on their own benefits. This was an opportunity not to be missed.

This year’s legislative compensation bill (S.39) prescribes a 100% increase from today’s \$14,616 per year salary to \$29,766 in 2027. It also allows legislators to enjoy state employee health insurance. The state’s 80% contribution for a \$27,300 family plan comes to \$21,840.

One new proposal in the package would credit each legislator with one day a week pay when the Legislature is not in session. This was a big issue for former House Speaker (1985-1994) Ralph Wright (D-Bennington). In South Boston, where Speaker Wright had been introduced to politics, this was known as “walking around money.” He was not however successful in getting it enacted in his day.

Back then, one popular way for legislators to feather their own nests was budgeting for 16 weeks in session, discovering at the end of that period (early May) that much needed legislative work had fallen short of

completion, then rushing through a budget adjustment bill adding two or three more paid weeks. One year when I was there I blocked a last minute extension and made the legislature work two weeks for free.

That didn’t improve my standing with a lot of legislators, of both parties. No wonder they didn’t buy my amendment to make meal reimbursement for traveling legislators (\$35 a day) be the same as for state employees (\$21.35 a day). Legislators felt they needed 62% more than state employees to survive on out of state trips.

To be sure, there is a good case for tracking legislative compensation to allow for dollar depreciation, just as the per gallon gasoline tax rate has to be increased from time to time to bring in enough to maintain the highways. Some legislators seem to believe they deserve more, the more they spend and the more tax dollars they bring in. I would rather give them a performance bonus based on how well they restrain spending and ease the burden on taxpayers who provide the tax dollars.

In 2004 the Ethan Allen Institute proposed a Vermont version of the Taxpayers’ Bill of Rights. That constitutional amendment provided that whenever annual revenues exceeded an index based on population growth plus an inflation rate, all excess funds must be returned to the taxpayers. This year Colorado returned \$2.7 billion to taxpayers. If the Legislature wants to keep

Expenses → 14

Affordable housing in Vermont, a crisis in need of solutions

By Matthew Durkee

Editor’s note: Durkee is the New England Regional president and leads Community Bank’s team. He’s a native Vermonter and has been active in the local banking community for his entire 30+ year career.

Like many other states in the U.S., Vermont is facing a severe affordable housing crisis. Affordable Housing Month [May] provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the current crisis and the need for more affordable housing options.

Affordable housing is defined by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development as housing where the occupant is spending 30% or less of their gross income on total housing—including utilities—and is typically available in low- to moderate-income areas.

The housing crisis is particularly concentrated in cities where the cost of living is high and rental prices are skyrocketing. Chittenden County for example, is approximately 2,000 units of affordable housing short of demand. There is an urgent need, throughout Vermont, to meet the basic housing needs of its community members. Without actions to address the crisis, the situation is likely to worsen with more and more Vermonters facing housing insecurity.

The 2019 Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA)’s Affordable Housing report contained several startling observations, including:

- 47,000 privately owned households (19% of total housing) were cost burdened, paying up to 49% of their income for housing.
- 38,000 privately owned households (15%) were severely cost burdened, paying over 50% of their income for housing.
- This combination means that over one third of Vermont households are living in unaffordable housing.
- This is even more severe for renter households, of which 51% live in unaffordable housing.

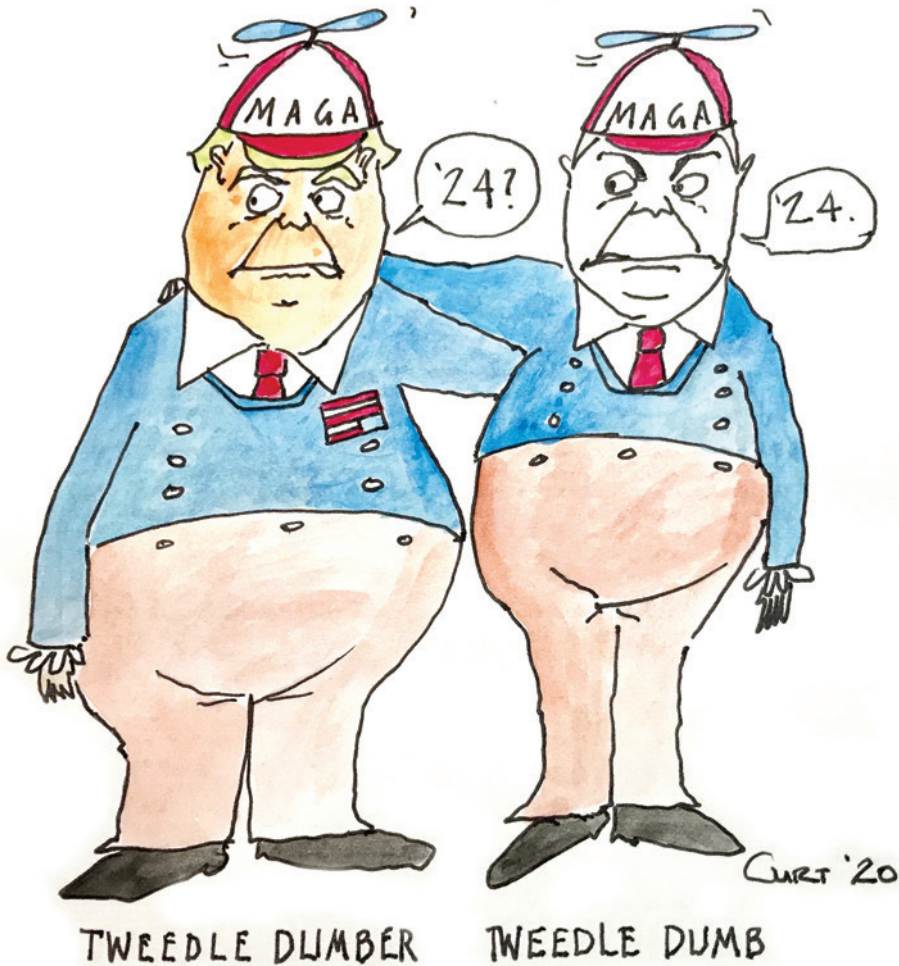
The VHFA report also outlined four drivers of housing costs: 1) land and labor costs; 2) investment for energy efficiency; 3) inefficiencies from regulations; and 4) financing costs. It’s important to note that this report was issued prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the historic rise in inflation.

So where are we since 2019?

Land and labor: Wages have risen significantly across almost all industries, and labor

Affordable housing → 38

CARTOONS



By Curt Peterson, Hartland, Vermont



Biden Re-election Bid by Adam Zyglis, The Buffalo News



Beezwax by John Martin

Youth Risk Survey:

from page 11

- Slightly more than 50% of both high school and middle school students feel valued by their communities. However, this means a great many students disagreed or did not know if they mattered to their communities.
- Serious disparities exist among female, BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students, with fewer reporting feeling valued, or that they have an adult at school with whom they can discuss a problem.
- Of significant concern is the finding that high school students who identify as LGBTQ+ are three and a half times more likely to make a plan to kill themselves, to attempt to do so, or otherwise engage in self-harm. Dr. Levine said working to help these students to know they matter, and to have support services in place and readily accessible, is a top priority across state government.

Substance use

- 16% of high school students report using electronic vape products (EVP) in the last 30 days. Of those students, 30% report vaping every day. A new question asked high school students who vape their primary reason for vaping:
 - 32% percent use an EVP because they want to get high or a buzz
 - 30% use because they feel anxious or stressed
 - 13% use because they are curious about them
- The middle school report shows 9% of students have tried an electronic vapor product.
- When asked about substance use in the previous month, a quarter of high school students reported drinking, 20% having used marijuana and 5% smoked at least one cigarette. Middle school students were also asked about substance use in the last month: 5% reported drinking alcohol, 3% using marijuana and 1% smoked at least one cigarette.

Other report highlights:

- Nearly 70% of high school students believe they will attend a 4-year college or university, a community college or a technical school
- Most high school students participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, band, drama or clubs run by the school or the community
- A third of high school students have had sexual intercourse. Of those currently sexually active, more than half used prescription birth control and a third used a condom to prevent pregnancy
- More than a quarter of high school students are physically active for at least 60 minutes every day

For the complete YRBS reports and highlight summaries, visit HealthVermont.gov/yrbs.

Pollinators:

from page 12

areas on the property to grow wild makes room for a brush pile, a compost bin, even an invitation to those threatened beetles the fireflies to produce an enchanting twilight.

With time freed up, one

can apply sun protection, make a cool drink and sit outside. Tuning into the birds and insects visiting the green space is relaxing.

We're in this together with the birds, bats, butterflies, bees and other

invertebrates. I invite you to find the part you can play in restoring habitat for them, particularly the ones who feed solely on native plants.

Jill Vickers,
Bridport

Expenses:

from page 13

and spend more than the formula allows, the people have to approve the spending proposal via state referendum. (It doesn't have the bonus feature.)

Another solution to shrink legislative spending on themselves is to constitutionally limit the length of the sessions. Proposal 10, that I introduced in 1991, provided that "Any session of the General Assembly which convenes in January shall adjourn for such year no later than April 30. If by such adjournment date the General Assembly has failed to approve appropriations for the support of government for the ensuing fiscal year, the Governor is authorized... to allocate expenditures among such funds and accounts as he or she may find to be in the best interest of the people of the state. In such case, the amount of such expenditures shall not exceed the revenues available during the fiscal year or the amount appropriated for the previous fiscal year."

It never got a hearing, of course, but Gov. Scott has recently favored a three month (12

week) legislative session. It clearly will not get any hearing before the present Legislature, for which no amount of spending is enough to meet all the needs that they find pressing.

Another proposal, revived by Rob Roper, is to reduce the size of the House to a much smaller number. This was hotly debated in 1965 when the old 246-member House was reduced to the present 150.

A single member House district in Vermont represents about 4,000 people. At the other end of the spectrum the California Assembly has only 80 members, each representing 465,000 people. Larger House districts do however reduce citizen access to their representative.

Another incentive I have suggested from time to time is paying the legislators half of their 16 week salary on day one, and the other half on the day of adjournment. The neediest members, having spent their first half salary, would then put pressure on the leadership to finish legislating, collect their checks, and go home. Needless to say...

Greater good:
from page 7

Many of us do, in fact, know our nonprofits. Many of us do, in fact, know many people who have been helped by Vermont’s charities. Many of us do, in fact, give what we can, to support nonprofit organizations, here and elsewhere, that need us the most.

What’s more, many of us give because we know, trust, and admire the people asking us to give — like my Rutland friend calling from Chicago to help raise money for the housing nonprofit. She’s an outstanding example of Vermonters who consistently care, consistently commit, and consistently contribute, to making Vermont a more diverse, inclusive, and caring place to live, work, and play. That, in and of itself, is an asset anyone would consider a big plus, one that has big and positive implications for our state.

For more information visit: philanthropy.com (Chronicle); philanthropy.iupui.edu (Lilly School of Philanthropy); housingrutland.org; nwwvt.org; rutlandrpc.org.

Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal and owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, LLC, based in Rutland, serving charitable and educational institutions: lizdimarco-weinmann.com.

Many of us
give because
we know, trust,
and admire the
people asking
us to give.

Pickleball:
from page 1

a half hour to play another game in Concord, New Hampshire.

Chris Karr, owner of the Pickle Barrel Nightclub in Killington, picked him up from the Rutland Regional Airport in the Pickle Barrel bus.

“A good time was had by all,” said Steve White, a local pickleball addict (self-described) in Rutland and leader of the Better Friendships Pickleball Tournament. “I’m a pickleball nutcase. I love it. I guess I’m making it so everybody knows that.”

Matt took on two locals in Rutland and ultimately lost.

“It’s not really about the score,” Matt said. “That sport is exploding. You can grow with it.”

Matt, 63, a Sarasota, Florida native recently retired as CFO of a company in the cannabis industry and was looking for an excuse to travel around the country.

“I’m getting older, I just want to go around the county,” he said. “It’s a way to combine my love of aviation with playing pickleball.”

Back home, Matt, a former golfer, plays pickleball three or four times a week. He said pickleball is an easier sport to pick up.

“It’s just easy to play — you just kind of show up at the court and play,” Matt said.

He said he just had the idea to break a world record. Then “I called some sponsors and they were interested,” he said. Matt then called Guinness, thinking the record attempt would garner more publicity.

“[Guinness] told me ‘no’ about three times,” Matt said.

But Guinness finally agreed and came up with a new category.

Matt started his record attempt on Monday, May 1.

He departed the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport to play

pickleball in Alabama before slowly making his way out west. His journey is expected to end Friday, May 26 when he’ll play at University Park in Tampa, Florida.

The total trip will be around 9,000 miles, with 80 hours of flight time.

“We’re just having a lot of fun,” Matt said.

The total trip will be
around 9,000 miles, with
80 hours of flight time.

“We’re just having a lot of
fun,” Matt said.

So far, Matt has played with mayors, athletes, including NFL offensive tackle Jordan Mills, as well as ex NBA players, special olympics

kids, low income youth and former New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch.

“I’ll probably come home with a losing record,” Matt said, again emphasizing that it’s about the love of the game, having fun and touring.

To follow Matt’s tour visit: muchodean-aero.com/the-pickleball-challenge.

Session:
from page 12

with gas, oil, wood or renewables through the electrical grid, this bill affects you — and you’ll want to pay attention as the studies over the next two years demonstrate how it will reduce, or not, your fuel bills.

The Legislature also tackled the home affordability issue by passing what it call the “Home” bill, S.100. It effectively eliminates single-family zoning to allow for denser development and tweaks sections of Act 250. While it makes some progress on changing rules that could make the building of future housing less expensive, it came under tough criticism by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, as well as the Scott administration and building groups, saying that it didn’t go far enough in relaxing some of the most onerous Act 250 rules that have increased the costs of housing in Vermont.

Included in the budget bill was \$50 million in one-time money for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to build housing, \$10 million of which is earmarked for homeless shelter expansions and homes for those exiting homelessness. There’s also another \$10 million for the Vermont Housing Improvement Program, which gives grants to landlords to get vacant and derelict units back online. So, progress was made in creating more affordable housing, but more systemic work needs to be done in the second year of the biennium if Vermont hopes to move the needle over the long-term.

Of the things that didn’t get done, paid family leave was the priority issue in the House that was put on hold, and for good reason — the state had too many major initiatives to tackle, and the House proposal was asking for another \$150 million in a budget that was already up 13-plus% from the prior year. No doubt some form of family leave needs to be adopted, but until Vermont’s economy demonstrates it can thrive with the latest round of budget increases, legislative leaders were wise to delay its full implementation.

That said, the initial child care proposal by Sen. Ruth Hardy, S. 56, featured a 12-week family leave provision for new parents, which should be the building block of a future family-leave program for the state. Such a program would help small businesses provide for family leave, creating a level playing field with larger employers that already offer leave programs, not to mention help young families in those first few crucial weeks of parenthood.

Hardy’s S.56 also had a bolder vision for child care that deserves further scrutiny. Her initial legislation sought to expand Act 166, a universal pre-kindergarten program

passed in 2014, by transforming a 10-hour-per-week program for some 3- and 4-year-olds into a full-time school program for all 4-year-olds. Under the proposal, school districts would have provided this universal, play-based education for 4-year-olds, using the expertise of the public school system. Notably, it sought to use the vacant physical capacity in many schools due to declining enrollment.

Unfortunately, that aspect of Hardy’s legislation was left out of the House’s version of the bill, H.217, because of concerns from private daycare centers that the public facilities would undermine their operations, although there remains a provision to study the impacts and benefits of such an expansion over the summer. Surely, the best bang for the public’s dollar here is to fully use existing capacity in our schools and expand that to younger students. We all know that early education is essential to growing healthy, bright individuals with greater capacity to learn as they age; and with universal food programs (breakfast and lunch) implemented this year, Vermont would be a leader in child care facilities — which is important not for any social status, but as an economic driver to attract and keep young families.

At least one other education-related item was left undone. The House passed H.486, a measure to abandon an overly aggressive state initiative to test schools for polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. The measure passed the House with overwhelming support, but died in the Senate Education Committee because its chairman, Sen. Brian Campion, D-Bennington, has refused to listen to school officials or adhere to science-based studies that suggest the state standard it wants to impose is far too restrictive, exceeding federal guidelines by up to 400 times. If the state pursues testing of Vermont’s schools using that standard it could suggest or mandate corrective measures costing hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars without just cause. The state’s school-based organizations of principals, superintendents and school boards, as well as the teachers union, has supported the bill, which essentially asks for a pause in the testing until scientists and state officials can agree on a standard level of exposure that is safe without going overboard. Hopefully, some last-minute agreement can be made to pause the PCB testing, and slipped into the final budget or other bills during the upcoming veto session.

All things considered, however, it was a very productive session that dealt with substantial issues that affect us all. If only Congress were a fraction as effective.

Axe:
from page 1

person,” Gardner said in his affidavit. Schneider told police he asked the group to turn their lights off because they shined right into his tent. He initially denied having an axe, police said. After arresting Schneider, police searched his campsite and found an axe with a wooden handle under a doormat near his campsite.

This wasn’t Schneider’s first encounter with police.

“I was familiar with recent incidents involving complaints of Schneider trespassing at residences in Killington,” Gardner said in his affidavit.

Locals reported Schneider, a musician who formerly ran open mic nights in the area, was acting erratic before he was arrested.

On Mother’s Day weekend, resident Anne Kirby saw Schneider squatting on her parents property on Wolf Hill Road in Killington.

“I saw a guy sitting on my dad’s sugar shack on one of the chairs there,” Kirby said. “He had the fire pit going, he was pretty comfy looking at the view there I thought, ‘this is a dangerous situation.’”

Kirby’s brother Tom Kirby approached Schneider.

“I said to him, ‘this is private property, you can’t camp here,’” Tom Kirby said.

Tom said Schneider apologized, packed up

Schneider is
being charged
with four counts
of aggravated
assault and four
counts of criminal
threatening. He
pleaded not guilty to
all the charges on
May 22.

his belongings and said, “Nobody likes me.”

The day before he was arrested, Schneider was allegedly in a car accident on Wolf Hill Road. Anne Kirby said he crashed his Mercedes-Benz hatchback.

Schneider is being charged with four counts of aggravated assault and four counts of criminal threatening. He pleaded not guilty to all the charges on May 22.

He is being held at Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility in Rutland for lack of \$5,000 bail. Schneider is scheduled to appear in Vermont Superior Court, Rutland Criminal Division court again in August.

Mission Farm Mission continues to enhance its community space

By Curt Peterson

Lisa Ransom, vicar at The Church of Our Savior at Mission Farm since 2020, says the original mission for Mission Farm, expressed in 1895 when Elizabeth Wood Clement gifted the 180-acre property to the Episcopal Church, includes providing beneficial service to the community that is now Killington.

Historically, the farm has focused on the church, Ransom says, which, for 200 years, has had a maximum congregation of 10 people. Even now regular services attract 20, plus those who participate via Zoom. Now the Mission Farm board hopes to make the facility integral to the entire growing Killington community.

"This isn't 'Lisa's idea,' Ransom told the Mountain Times. "I've been invited into the Mission Farm community to take part in this ongoing celebration of its unique buildings and grounds."

A proposed "Odeon," an amphitheater to be built into the bank next to the impressive 128-year-old stone church, will be the epicenter of community involvement. Made of stone and designed to accommodate 10 participants close-up and "hundreds" spread out on the surrounding grass, the Odeon (which is Greek for "small space for singing") will be constructed by professional drystone artists and volunteers starting this summer.

"It will be a public space that will concentrate the earth's energy into a light-capturing atmosphere and host gatherings for

performances and ceremonies," Ransom said. "A seating arrangement of granite slabs, their surfaces speckled with iridescent mica. A welcoming presence to all who seek community gathering and wilderness solitude."

All the permits are in place and all that's needed is financing.

Ransom described the project to the Killington Planning Commission on May 18. Their reaction was very positive. Planner Lisa Davis suggested various grants that might be available and thought the installation might be well included in the new Town Plan.

Ransom was planning to make the same presentation to the Recreation Commission as well.

The popular vicar gives local dry stone wall contractor and artist Dan Snow credit for much of the design.

The renovated former bakery is another community-focused project, which will ultimately house a commercial kitchen for use by entrepreneurs, groups and non-profits. Ransom says there are already applications for use from folks who want to make cheese and bagels during rented time.

"We haven't decided what the usage fees will be, but there will be a requirement that users provide some kind of community benefit," she said.

Vicar Ransom and her husband moved to Killington from Waterbury, where they built, operated and ultimately sold Grow



Courtesy Mission Farm

Dan Snow works on the "Odeon," an amphitheater, next to the 128-year-old stone church.

Compost, a successful food waste composting business.

She was born in Colorado and graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1984.

"My first recollection Mission Farm? When traveling Route 4 with my father in

the 1960s, I spied an incongruous sight – a flash of white on the other side of a green valley. As quickly as it appeared, it was gone, but the memory of the little stone church was fixed in my teenage mind," Ransom said wistfully.

Catch of the Day? Outdoor Adventure.

At the Woodstock Inn & Resort
Activity Center & Fly-Fishing Shop

Outdoor Gear & Clothing
Orvis® Fly-Fishing Equipment
Fly-Fishing Lessons & Trips
Mountain Bike Rentals



Open Daily: 9am - 5pm

Located behind the Woodstock Inn
at the corner of Court & Cross Streets,
Woodstock, VT.



802-457-5530 | woodstockinn.com

WORDPLAY

'BURGER JOINT SLANG' Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

SUDOKU

Solutions →27

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

- ALL-THE-WAY
BLOWOUT
BLUE
BUTTER BURGER
- COMBO
DOUBLE MEAT
EAST COAST
FACIAL
- HAMMERED
LTO
MID-RARE
MINIBURGER
- NO FUN
ON WHEELS
PATTY
PLAIN JANE
- RABBIT FOOD
RATIO
SALLY
SEAR
- SLIDER
SLUG
SMASH BURGER
SPECIAL SAUCE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →27

CLUES ACROSS

1. Wear away by friction
7. Insecticide
10. Elicited a secret vote
12. Beef
13. Disagreement
14. __ Crawford, supermodel
15. Jeweled headdress
16. Digits
17. Trillion hertz
18. Snap up
19. Classical portico
21. Residue after burning
22. Large integers
27. Free agent
28. Where ball-players work
33. Blood type
34. Scottish city
36. Google certification (abbr.)
37. Serbian monetary unit
38. Make a sudden surprise attack on
39. Wood or metal bolt
40. Relaxing attire
41. Famed neurologist
44. Dullish brown fabrics

CLUES DOWN

1. Nonflowering aquatic plant
2. Britpop rockers
3. National capital
4. Consumed
5. The habitat of wild animals
6. Sun up in New York
7. Cygnus star
8. Male parents
9. Talk to you (abbr.)
10. A place to clean oneself
11. Southwestern US state
12. South Korean idol singer
14. Pirate
17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
18. Mistake
20. Promotions
23. Prepares
24. Partner to flowed
25. State lawyer
26. Patti Hearst's captors
29. Pound
30. Electronic data processing
31. Sports player
32. Treats with contempt
35. Apprehend
36. Excessively talkative
38. Highways
40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
41. College organization for males
42. Any customary observance or practice
43. Employee stock ownership plan
44. Male parent
45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
46. Female bird
47. Autonomic nervous system

			1	2	3	4	5	6				7	8	9
		10	11									12		
		13									14			
		15									16			
17										18				
19				20						21				
22					23	24	25	26		27				
		28							29			30	31	32
					33				34					35
					36							37		
			38									39		
	40									41	42	43		
44								45	46	47				
48								49						
50								51						

How to Play

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Ireland on May 25, 1976. I was interested in acting since seeing a stage production of “A Clockwork Orange.” I’ve starred in a number of movies, but my role on a television show about a street gang from the late 1800s made me a household name.

Answer: Cillian Murphy

LOCAL PEOPLE.
LOCAL SERVICE.

HOME COMFORT
ALL SEASON LONG!

▪ **HEATING** - Boilers, Furnaces, Space Heating
▪ Heat pumps
▪ Water heaters
▪ Generators
▪ Smart Home

▪ Fuel Stops
▪ Fuel storage tanks
▪ Propane & Fuel Delivery
▪ Tank monitoring
▪ 24/7 Emergency Service



Call us now at 866-326-0535

WEDNESDAY 5/24

Pre-K Storytime at Billings Farm & Museum

9:30-11 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road. Cost is \$12/child or \$10/member child. Young ones from near and far are invited to the beautiful land of Billings Farm & Museum to hear farm tales wrapped in rich engagement. We are kicking the series off with Farmer Brown Shears His Sheep: A Yarn About Wool" by Teri Sloat. Join us for a woolie adventure with "Farmer Brown and his sheep. Following the story, meet our own flock of newly shorn sheep, make a craft, and enjoy a snack. Adult attendance is required. One adult admitted free with a paid child. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org.

Early Literacy Playgroup

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

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.

Name That Fish Stew! Cooking Class.

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$95. Chef Ted will teach the skills to create a delicious New England seafood stew with shellfish and vegetables. For more info visit odysseyeventsvt.com.

THURSDAY 5/25

Audubon West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk

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

Storytime at Rutland Free Library: 'Ducks'

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

Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. In the meeting room at Sherburne Memorial Library. Weights provided. For more info visit: sherburnelibrary.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.

Black River Memory Café

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Ludlow Community Center, 211 main St., Ludlow. Free. Black River Good Neighbor Services is sponsoring a Memory Café for caregivers & their loved ones. Games and music. Lunch provided. For more info contact: brgoodneighbor@gmail.com or call 802-293-7663.

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.

Crafts for Kids

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

Yoga with Kellie

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

Kids and Adults Ballroom Classes with Patti

Panebianco

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

Sip n Dip

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost is \$35. Perfect for a date night or just out with friends! Attendees follow along with an instructor and leave with a finished acrylic painting. BYOWine. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

FRIDAY 5/26

Killington Golf Course Opening Day

Book tee-times in advance. Killington Golf Course. Passholders only. The golf course opens for passholders only on May 26 and to the public 7 days a week on May 27 and the Adventure Center attractions will run Saturday-Sunday + Memorial Day until June 18, when it will expand to five days a week. For more information visit killington.com.

Total Archery Challenge

7:15 a.m. checkin. Pico Ski Resort, 73 Alpine Dr., Mendon. Cost ranges from \$35-\$145. Black Rifle Coffee Company Total Archery Challenge Powered by PSE is coming to Killington/Pico, Vermont for three days and is bringing you the greatest outdoor 3D archery experience in the nation. We work hard to provide a fun, family friendly environment where everyone can enjoy the great sport of archery. For more info visit totalarcherychallenge.com/events/killington-pico-vt.

WoodSpryte Early Learning Adventures

9:30-10:30 a.m. Green Mountain Community School, Whitney Hall/The Buttery, 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney. Cost: \$12/class. In May and throughout the summer, WoodSpryte Arts classes will be focused primarily around WoodSpryte Garden, our little garden bed in front of the Stone Valley Arts building. 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 Ages 2-8. For info call 802-235-2209, email woodsprytearts@vermontel.net, or find us on Facebook at tinyurl.com/stonevalleyartswoodspryte.

Killington Mountain Bike Park Opening Day

10 a.m. Killington Ski Resort. Lift tickets starting at \$48. Snowshed Quad will spin for mountain biking Friday-Sunday + Memorial Day Monday through June 4. Ramshead Quad will join the party on Friday, June 9, when Killington will commence daily MTB ops. For more info visit killington.com.

Poultney Arts Day

5-7 p.m. Main St, Poultney. Free. Poultney Arts Day will bring our local and regional arts organizations, schools, and community members together to demonstrate and share with the community the power of creative practice and ignite interorganizational collaboration. Happenings along Main Street include artists demonstrating blacksmithing, glassblowing, slate and stone carving, welding, woodworking, raku, mural painting, and cooking. There will be artist talks, a youth art show, hands-on activities and more, culminating with evening dance and music performances.

The Black Fly Ball

6-9 p.m. Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston Fundraiser. Join The Little School in Weston for a fun evening of great food, live music, and good company at Weston Theater's Walker Farm. The Black Fly Ball is our major annual fundraiser. It is a wonderful community event for all with food, live music, and beverages. We have a large live and silent auction as our fundraising portion and the proceeds from this event will go to fund scholarships, professional staff enrichment, outdoor learning materials, art and activity supplies, and improvements to the playground and school building. For more info visit littleschoolvt.org/tickets/black-fly-ball-tickets

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

Youth Literary Open Mic

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

SATURDAY 5/27

Total Archery Challenge

7:15 a.m. checkin. Pico Ski Resort, 73 Alpine Dr., Mendon. Cost ranges from \$35-\$145. Black Rifle Coffee Company Total Archery Challenge Powered by PSE is coming to Killington/Pico, Vermont for three days and is bringing you the greatest outdoor 3D archery experience in the nation. We work hard to provide a fun, family friendly environment where everyone can enjoy the great sport of archery. For more info visit totalarcherychallenge.com/events/killington-pico-vt.

Plant and Bake Sale

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St., Brandon. Free. Before you hit the garden stores this Memorial Day weekend, stop by at the Brandon Congregational Church's annual plant sale and bake sale. There will be a variety of annual and perennial flower plants, herbs and vegetable starters, and houseplants. All for great prices! Bring your kids and they can plant and take a flower for free. There will also be a bake sale inside Fellowship Hall including pies, cinnamon rolls, cake pops, bread, brownies and more! All proceeds will benefit Elaine Averill. For more info visit tinyurl.com/Brandonplantbakesale.

Open Studio with Katie Roberts, Schandra Singh,

David Crandall & Pete Landis

10 a.m. Bridgewater Mill, 102 Mill Road, Bridgewater. Free. The Bridgewater Mill is home to several Vermont artists. For Vermont Open Studios, come by and talk to the artists, see their process and shop their unique work. For more info visit vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend.

Calendar → 19



Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 18

Vermont Craft Council Open Studio Weekend

10 a.m. 56 Terrill St., Rutland. Free. The Vermont Craft Council is once again sponsoring Open Studios, with over 155 participants. Included in Rutland City are Carolyn Shattuck, Carrie Pill, and Ann McFarren, with numbers 50, 51, & 52 on the map. Artists and craftsmen across the state are opening their doors and inviting the public in to see them work. So, get the map, follow the big yellow signs and enjoy the tour! For more info visit vermontcrafts.com/2023-spring-open-studio-sites.

Vermont Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Franklin Conference Center, 1 Scale Ave., Suite 92, 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.

BBQ & Brew

12-6 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, Rt 175 S. Main St., Rutland. Cost: 2-Day Pass \$30.00; Single Day Pass \$20; Children 13-17, \$10. BBQ & Brew is a 2-day outdoor festival featuring local food vendors, popular food trucks, live music, cornhole and other interactive experiences. All the BBQ choices you could possibly want from restaurants all over the region plus brews from both national and local breweries will be here to provide your beverage of choice. For more info visit bbqandbrewvt.com.

The Soufflé Also Rises & 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

Miss Lorraine's School of Dance presents 'Viva Las Vegas'

4 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Tickets: \$25-\$30 + tax/fees. An exciting compilation of dance showing the hard work of our dancers ages 2 through adult. 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 the Broadway theatre. For more info visit fola.us.

SUNDAY
5/28

Total Archery Challenge

7:15 a.m. checkin. Pico Ski Resort, 73 Alpine Dr., Mendon. Cost ranges from \$35-\$145. Black Rifle Coffee Company Total Archery Challenge Powered by PSE is coming to Killington/Pico, Vermont for three days and is bringing you the greatest outdoor 3D archery experience in the nation. We work hard to provide a fun, family friendly environment where everyone can enjoy the great sport of archery. For more info visit totalarcherychallenge.com/events/killington-pico-vt.

Vermont Craft Council Open Studio Weekend

10 a.m. 56 Terrill St., Rutland. Free. The Vermont Craft Council is once again sponsoring Open Studios, with over 155 participants. Included in Rutland City are Carolyn Shattuck, Carrie Pill, and Ann McFarren, with numbers 50, 51, & 52 on the map. Artists and Craftsmen across the state are opening their doors and inviting the public in to see them work. So, get the map, follow the big yellow signs and enjoy the tour! For more info visit vermontcrafts.com/2023-spring-open-studio-sites.

Vermont Open Studio with Katie Roberts, Schandra Singh, David Crandall & Pete Landis

10 a.m. Bridgewater Mill, 102 Mill Road, Bridgewater. Free. The Bridgewater Mill is home to several Vermont artists. For Vermont Open Studios, come by and talk to the artists, see their process and shop their unique work. For more info visit vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend.

The Soufflé Also Rises & 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. For more info, call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / info@odysseyeventsvt.com

BBQ & Brew

12-6 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, Rt 175 S. Main St., Rutland. Cost: 2-Day Pass \$30.00; Single Day Pass \$20; Children 13-17, \$10. BBQ & Brew is a 2-day outdoor festival featuring local food vendors, popular food trucks, live music, cornhole and other interactive experiences. All the BBQ choices you could possibly want from restaurants all over the region plus brews from both national and local breweries will be here to provide your beverage of choice. For more info visit bbqandbrewvt.com.

Open Mic Poetry at Phoenix Books

Rutland

2-3:30 p.m. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St., Rutland. Free. Join us for an afternoon of poetry hosted by Phoenix Books Rutland's own Bianca Amira Zanella. Come to read, come to listen, or come for both. Registration is requested. To register or for more info visit phoenixbooks.biz/event/open-mic-poetry-1.

Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson

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

MONDAY
5/29

Babies and Toddlers Rock

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

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.

The Soufflé Also Rises & 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. For more info, call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / info@odysseyeventsvt.com

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.

Knit Night

6 p.m. Kimball Library, 67 No. Main St., Randolph. Free. Bring your knitting - or other handcraft - and enjoy an evening of crafting and socializing. For all ages and experience levels. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson

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



**VERMONT OPEN
STUDIO TOUR**

SATURDAY

TUESDAY
5/30

Audubon Delaney Woods Bird Walk

7:30 a.m. Delaney Woods Trailhead, Wells. Enter Delaney Cross Road off North Street in Wells, across from the Lakeside Park, and look for the parking area on the right. Easy to moderate terrain, 3.4 miles. Free. For more info visit Joel Tilley at jtilley50@gmail.com (preferred method), or 802-598-2583, evenings 7 to 8 p.m.

Spring Bird Walks

7:30 a.m. Meet at the Endless Brook trailhead, Poultney (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.

Chess Club

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

Yoga with Emma! (Kids)

4:30-5:15 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Yoga with Emma! 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.

HEAD OVER HEELS GYMNASTICS PRESENTS

KIDS

10 FULL WEEKS BEGINNING JUNE 19, 2023

SUMMER

AT OUR NEW LOCATION!

CAMP

BOYS & GIRLS
Ages 3+

Monday through Friday
8:30am - 3:30pm

Skill Building:
Cooperation,
Problem Solving,
Socialization

**Structured,
Educational
Themed
Weeks**

**LEGO'S ★ FAIRIES & GNOMES ★ FARM ★ SPACE ★ SCIENCE
SAND & SUN ★ ADVENTURE ★ ROCKIN' IT ★ ANIMALS ★ OBSTACLES**

Weekly camps are designed around an educational themed unit. Each student will participate in hands-on activities designed specifically for the weekly theme while incorporating gymnastics, crafts, team building games, problem solving, and more! Students will be provided with snacks, a camp t-shirt and Friday pizza parties!

GYMNASTICS CLASSES, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, FIELD TRIPS & OPEN GYMS ARE AVAILABLE ALL SUMMER LONG.
CALL FOR DETAILS!

HURRY, LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE! CALL US NOW! 802.773.1404
129 FOREST STREET, RUTLAND, VT 05701
WWW.HEADOVERHEELSVT.COM

Inn at Long Trail

McGrath's Irish Pub

Pub Open Daily
Starting Friday May 26th

Live Music
Fri. & Sat. @7:30 p.m.
Doug Hazard

#1 Après MTB/Hike DESTINATION

Rte. 4 between Killington & Pico
802-775-7181
innatlongtrail.com
Rooms & Suites available

DANIEL ANDAI
Artistic Director & Violin

AMADI AZIKIWE
Viola

REED TETZLOFF
Guest Artist, Piano

SIMON GHRAICHY
Guest Artist, Piano

KILLINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

CLASSICAL CONCERT SERIES

JUNE 24 – JULY 22, 2023

Pico Mountain Lodge • Saturdays, 7pm

Enjoy performances by world-renowned musicians.

TITLE SPONSOR:
Luc Walter Foundation

CONCERT SPONSORS:
Casella Resource Solutions • Community Health Centers of the Rutland Region
Dead River Company • Great Gulf • Heritage Family Credit Union
Betsy & Baxter Holland • Killington Resorts • Rotary Club of Rutland
Rutland Regional Medical Center • Victoria & Robert Young

kmf
KILLINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

41 YEARS

Details online or call **802.773.4003**.
kmfest.org

What will your adventure be?

BC camp
BETSEY COX

Camp SANGAMON

It's your choice. Everyday

www.campbetseycox.com • www.campsangamon.com

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED 5/24

LUDLOW

5:30 p.m. Calcuttas – Sammy B

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Kim Wilcox

RANDOLPH

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



RUTLAND

5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Duane Carleton

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

THURS 5/25

BARNARD

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Feast & Field with Young Tradition VT

BETHEL

7 p.m. Babes Bar – Trivia Night hosted by The Babes

BRANDON

6 p.m. Ripton Mountain Distillery – Open Jam

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Josh Jakab

CHESTER

6 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Breanna Elaine

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

7 p.m. Off the Rails – Rick Clogston

POULTNEY

7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Vinyl Night with Ken

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Chris Pallutto

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 5/26

BOMOSEEN

6 P.M. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Aaron Audet

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

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Live Music

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – JD Tolstoi

6 p.m. The Foundry – James Joel

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Doug Hazard

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

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Calcuttas – Bob Kennedy & Rhys Chalmers

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B and Friends



POULTNEY

5:30 p.m. The Poultny Pub – George Nostrand

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Brooks Hubbard

SAT 5/27

BARNARD

5:30 p.m. Town Hall – Community Celebration & Performance by the Villalobos Brothers

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Joe Fernandes and special guest Tim Rager

CHESTER

5 p.m. Country Girl Diner – Cruise In with musical guest Cruizin'



KILLINGTON

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

2 p.m. Still on the Mountain – James Joel

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Live Music

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Doug Hazard

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – James Joel

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Calcuttas – Zach Yakaitis

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Bear Mountain Boys

POULTNEY

5:30 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Breanna Elaine

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – George Nostrand

RANDOLPH

9 a.m. Gifford Medical Center – Farmers Market with music by The Bear Mountain Jammers

RUTLAND

12 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds – BBQ & Brews with music by Swamp Frog, Rustie Bus and Jamie Lee Thurston

6 p.m. Taso on Center – Tom Irish

STOCKBRIDGE

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

SUN 5/28

BRIDGEWATER

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Tad Davis



KILLINGTON

2 p.m. Still on the Mountain – George Nostrand

5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – James Joel

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

LUDLOW

5 p.m. Calcuttas – Nick Bredice

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Dance Party with DJ Dave

RUTLAND

12 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds – BBQ & Brews with music by Flash Back, Tyler Serrani and Duane Carleton

MON 5/29

KILLINGTON

5 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n

LUDLOW

6:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B

8 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic with King Arthur Jr

WEST RUTLAND

10 a.m. Downtown – Memorial Day Parade

WOODSTOCK

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

TUES 5/30

KILLINGTON

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

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

8 p.m. Off the Rails – SINGO

POULTNEY

7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Open Bluegrass Jam

QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

RUTLAND

5 p.m. Moose Lodge – Silas McPrior



Come for the View,
Stay for the Experience!



Spa & Salon Open Daily • Horseback Trail Rides
Delicious Food • Luxurious Lodge Rooms
Cabins & Guest Houses • Clay Bird Shooting
Pontoon Boat Rides • And So Much More!
All with Central Vermont's Best Views!



Joanne Pearson/Fair Haven Photographs



MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

802.483.2311 | mountaintopresort.com



OPEN DAILY 11:30-9 P.M.

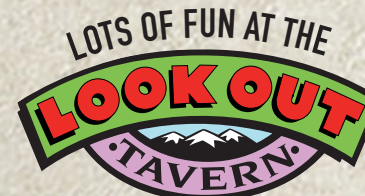
FRI & SAT 11:30-10 P.M.

*CLOSED TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAYS THROUGH MAY

BURGERS BEST ~ BURRITOS ~ HOMEMADE SPECIALS ~
WINGS ~ SANDWICHES ~ KIDS MENU ~ NACHOS

* RENOVATED GAME ROOM * EV SUPERCHARGERS
* EPIC WIDESCREEN TV'S * NEW DINNER MENU

PARTIES OF 8 OR MORE RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED
WE LOVE GROUPS AND BIG PARTIES



2910 KILLINGTON ROAD, KILLINGTON VT
802-422-LOOK : LOOKOUTVT.COM

Mary Lou's
WOOD-FIRED PIZZA • BAR • LIVE MUSIC

Dine-In
or
Takeout

MaryLousKillington.com | (802) 422-9885
2841 Killington Rd | Killington, VT 05751

Vermont Open Studio Weekend celebrates 31 years

Saturday and Sunday, May 27-28—STATEWIDE—The 31st year of Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend will be held during Saturday and Sunday May 27 and 28, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day. Visitors will have the opportunity to plan a tour that brings them through the small towns of Vermont to studios where they can purchase beautiful well-made objects and talk with the artist that made them.

Open Studio Weekend is a celebration of the creation of craft and artwork and the work life of Vermont artists. With a focus on the studio, including work space and materials, the event aims to illustrate both that creating art requires an investment of time, training, and specialized tools and equipment, and that the process is accessible and rewarding.

The Vermont Crafts Council affirms that creative problem solving is an essential human skill that will be strengthened with engagement with non-digital materials, clay, wood, metals, glass, felt, thread, cloth, paper, and paints. The history of craft traditions in Vermont presents a window into past community life that is again being embraced by a new generation seeking a grounded connection to human, handmade, functional artwork that is used in everyday life.

During the two day event, artists statewide open their studios to visitors to discuss and demonstrate their work. Visitors can purchase work directly from the artist, often choosing

from a wider selection than is available online or through galleries. Many artists will accept custom orders and offer seconds and discontinued designs for sale on this weekend. Visitors can also use the tour to visit over 20 small galleries and art centers that exhibit and sell the work of a variety of local artists. Each small gallery has its own collection of local artisan work. Several of these centers will feature groups of artists and themed displays and special sales for the weekend.

Glass blowers, potters, metal workers, jewelers, weavers, painters, woodworkers, photographers, book artists, printmakers, felt makers, dyers, basketmakers and rug hookers are among those that invite visitors to come behind the scenes into their studios.

A key part of the Open Studio experience is planning your own route through the Vermont countryside at the end of May when it is transitioning from spring to summer. Use the printed map booklet, available at many Vermont information centers and rest areas, or download it from vermontcrafts.com. Also available there is a link to a Google map that is updated with the latest participant information.

Open Studio Weekend, May 27 and 28, welcomes visitors to over 155 sites across Vermont. More details about the artists, including pictures of their work, is available at Vermontcrafts.com.

LOOP 5: Rutland-Castleton Loop

42. Karen Deets. Stained glass panels, jewelry, supplies, mobiles, garden art. karendeets.com.
43. Beth Murphy. Pressed botanicals, mixed media collage. bethmurphybotanicals.com.
44. Stragnell Art – R Sanford Stragnell. Unique sculptures inspired by nature. vermontcrafts.com/stragnell-art.
45. Merwin Gallery – Tom Merwin. Oils on canvas, sumi ink drawings. merwingallery.com.
46 – 48 Loop 7
49. Twin Elms Studio – Hallie Monroe. Vitreous painted stained glass. twinelmsglass.com.
50. Carrie Pill. Vibrant, Vermont-inspired, oil paintings. carriepill.com.
51. Ann McFarren. Original Vermont scenes, oil, watercolors. annmcfarren.com.
52. Shattuck Studio and Gallery – Carolyn Shattuck. Book arts, printmaking and collage. shattuckgallery.com.
53. Jennie Johannesen. Pastel bird paintings. vermontcrafts.com/jennie-johannesen.
54. Birren Kirby – Anne Birren Kirby. Watercolor, acrylic, oil paintings. birrenkirby.com.

A variety of artistic mmedia and styles will be available to guests in the Vermont Open Studio Weekend around the state as artists open their studios and welcome visitors. Submitted

KEEP ROLLING

SUSHI YOSHI
CHINESE GOURMET
HIBACHI STEAKHOUSE

Mid-way up Killington Access Rd.
Open for Indoor Dining, Take-Out and Delivery
vermontsushi.com • 802.422.4241

HIBACHI | SUSHI | ASIAN

THE PARTY STORE

Shop Today – Party Tonight !!!

- 1000s of Costumes
- Birthday Themes
- Balloon Creations
- Custom Banners
- Cake & Candy Making Supplies
- Shop Local

The Party Store | 129 Strongs Ave Rutland | 802-773-3155

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST!
SHERBURNE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(LITTLE WHITE CHURCH)
Route 4, Killington

Friday, May 26, 2023
7:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Pancakes & Maple Syrup
Bacon & Sausage
Fruit
Coffee, Tea, Juice

Vermont Open Studio with Katie Roberts, Schandra Singh, David Crandall and Pete Landis at the Mill Marketplace in Bridgewater

Saturday and Sunday—May 27-28 —BRIDGEWATER— The Bridgewater Mill Marketplace, in the center of Bridgewater is host to Vermont Spring Artist's Open Studio.

Open Studio will be free and open to the public, on the first and second floors of the Bridgewater Mill. Dates are May 27 and 28, 2023. Open hours are: Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

In this Open House, award-winning artist Katie Roberts demonstrates how she creates her unique nature paintings with water-mixable oil paints and describes crafting her trademark live-edge frames.

Guests to the gallery and studio are welcome to shop amongst Roberts' original paintings, prints and cards, as well as develop ideas for any desired custom artwork. Her paintings are inspired by the native forest areas and wildlife. As a nature artist, Roberts has exhibited in Vermont and New Hampshire, including at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Equinox Village, The Collective and the Artistree and received the second place award from the Beaver Brook Association, New

Hampshire, as well as the People's Choice and Best Riparian awards from the VINS. Her art has appeared in the Vermont Standard and is found in numerous private and public collections. Her art website is katiejroberts.com.

Roberts explained, "My pieces have a large part of sustainability to them. In addition to being painted with water-mixable oil paints, they are also housed in my live-edge frames, which I design and create with rescued slab wood directly from local saw mills. My prints are on bamboo art paper and my cards are printed on 100% recycled paper."

Roberts routinely donates a percentage of each sale to wildlife conservation. She states, "Nature can't communicate its needs; I feel as though my artwork visually speaks for it, that I just pass on the message."

Roberts is a member of the Artists for Conservation, the world's leading artist group supporting the environment. The AFC has members in 30 countries, and its mission is to support conservation and environmental education through art that celebrates nature.

Roberts regularly donates worldwide to such wildlife

conservation organizations as the Endangered Wildlife Trust, the Vermont Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, the Peregrine Fund, the Born Free Foundation and the American Bird Conservancy.

Also participating in their studios at the Mill are the following Vermont artists:

- Schandra Singh, large-scale oil and gauche pieces that illustrate social and political realities: schandrasingh.com, singhschandra1@gmail.com;
- David Crandall, 40-year jewelry designer and crafter of unique, heirloom-quality pieces: crandalljewelry.com, david@crandalljewelry.com, Facebook & Instagram: @David Crandall Jewelry;
- Pete Landis, new to the Mill artist, creator of complex social perception collage on metal: cargocollective.com/PeteKL, petekldesign@gmail.com, Instagram: @petelandisart.

To see all 143 participating artists and loops around the state, visit the Vermont Crafts Council at vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend.



Submitted

Paintings by Katie Roberts will be on display in Bridgewater during the Vermont Open Studio Weekend on May 27-28 where artists in Vermont will open their studios to visitors.

White Memorial Park pool in Rutland to open for the season

Friday, May 26th—White's pool will officially mark the start of summertime in Rutland this weekend as White Memorial Park opens to the community.

The White Memorial Pool Holiday Weekend Hours

- Fri. May 26: Open Swim

4-6 p.m.

- Sat. May 27 and Sun. May 28: Lap Swim (9-11 a.m.) Open Swim (11 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- Monday, May 29 (Holiday) Lap Swim (9-11am) Open Swim (11 a.m.-7 p.m.)

RATES 2023

Day Pass:

- \$5R/\$8NR (Ages 2 and Up)

Season Pass:

- Ages 2 and Up:

\$25R/\$36NR

- All household members are required to have their own pool pass.
- Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult (18 years or older).



Submitted

White's Pool, the well-known stop to cool off during the summer heat will officially open its doors for the 2023 summer season this Friday, May 26.

Total Archery Challenge, a 3-day event to be held at Pico

Friday-Sunday, May 26-28—KILLINGTON—The annual Total Archery Challenge is coming to Pico Mountain in Killington for three days bringing "the greatest outdoor 3D archery experience in the nation," according to event promoters.

"We work hard to provide a fun, family friendly environment where everyone can enjoy the great sport of archery. It's like we always say, 'Life... It's Better with a Bow!'" the Totalarcherychallenge.com homepage says.

What to expect

- 100+ 3D archery targets
- Multiple courses for different skill levels. (You may scoot in to a comfortable range)
- Leupold Course- 25 targets, 15-60 yd shots minimal angles
- Prime Course (toughest course but a lot of fun)- 25 targets, Rocky Mountain Western shoot, 40- 100 yds with steep angles and tougher shots
- BRCC Course- 25 targets, 25-75 yards with steep

- angles and good shots that test your skill
- Sitka Course- 25 targets, long shots, 60-100 yards, on sheep, mountain goat and other awesome species
 - Stationary Kids-Range 10 target shoot at dinosaurs and Zombies!.
 - Novelty shots with the chance to win multiple prizes. Win a truck and more.
 - Vendors with the latest outdoor products
 - An Amazing Venue
 - Fun for the whole family
 - Great food and Fun!

This is the one archery event you do not want to miss. It's great for spectating.

All adult participants that pre-register online 30 days prior to the event will get an awesome event t-shirt, a raffle ticket and an extra entry to win a Prime or Quest bow.

After party

Join the Warrior Rising tribe at the official Total Archery

Challenge after party.

The after party is a free event at Pico Mountain Resort on Friday, May 26 in the Last Run Lounge.

The evening will feature a live auction and raffles from companies like Red Arrow Weapons, Kifarú, Montana Knife Company, Total Archery Challenge, and more! Special guest Tomy Parker will once again be hosting the evening event.

The party starts at 5 p.m. after the shoot on Friday, with the live auction and raffles beginning at 7 p.m.

Tumblers will be for sale all weekend that include beer and raffle tickets! Limited quantities available, so purchase early! Separate raffle tickets will also be available to purchase.

Warrior Rising, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Veteran Service Organization, is proud to partner with the 2023 Total Archery Challenge in order to raise awareness and support for America's veterans.



Submitted

TOTAL ARCHERY CHALLENGE SCHEDULE

DAY 1	
 7:15 AM Check-in opens/receive TAC Activity Pass	 8:00 AM Nock Time courses open
 7:00AM-5:00PM Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks can be Purchased at main lodge	 4:00PM-5:30 PM Course Shuttle/Chair Lift closes Warrior Rising After Party
DAY 2	
 7:15 AM Check-in opens/receive TAC Activity Pass	 8:00 AM Nock Time courses open
 4:00PM-5:30 PM Course Shuttle/Chair Lift closes/Warrior Rising After Party	
DAY 3	
 7:15 AM Check-in opens/receive TAC Activity Pass	 8:00 AM Nock Time courses open
 7:00AM-5:00PM Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks can be Purchased at main lodge	 1:30 Sitka Course Closes 2:00 Leupold Course Closes 3 PM Mtn Festival Closes 4 Course Shuttle/ Chair Lift closes

Archers will test their skills at this years Total Archer Challenge at Pico on May 26-28.

Killington bike park, golf course and Adventure Center to open

Friday, May 26—Killington—In anticipation of the bike park opening day on Friday, May 26, Snowshed quad will spin for mountain biking Friday-Sunday and Memorial Day Monday through June 4. Ramshead quad will join the party on Friday, June 9, when we will commence daily MTB operations. The golf course opens for passholders only on May 26 and to the public seven days a week on May 27 and the Adventure Center attractions will run Saturday-Sunday + Memorial Day until June 18, when it will expand to five days a week. For more information visit killington.com.

Killington mountain bike park opening day

10 a.m. Killington Ski Resort. Lift tickets starting at \$48. Snowshed quad will spin for mountain biking Friday-Sunday and Memorial Day Monday through June 4. Ramshead quad will join the party on Friday, June 9, when Killington will commence daily MTB operations. For more info visit killington.com.

Killington Golf course opening day

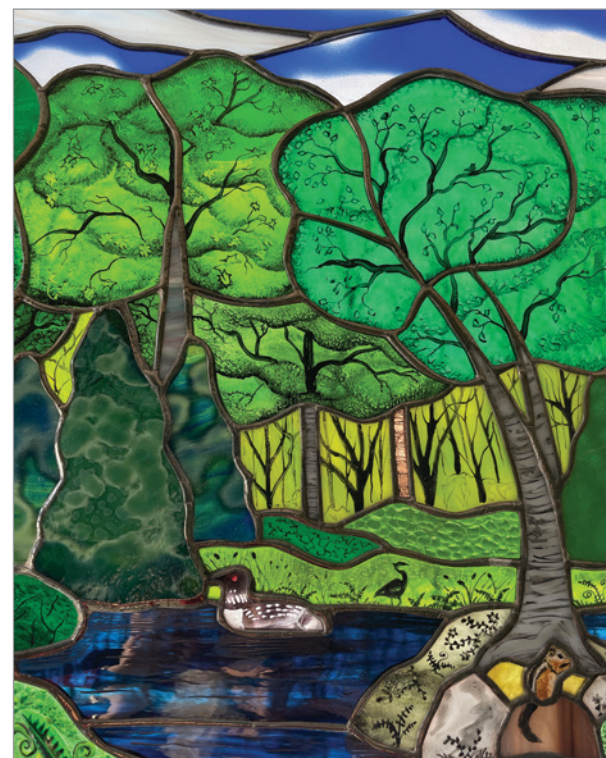
Book tee-times in advance. Killington Golf Course. Passholders only. The Golf course opens for passholders only on May 26 and to the public seven days a week on May 27 and the Adventure Center attractions will run Saturday-Sunday and Memorial Day until June 18, when it will expand to five days a week.

For more information visit killington.com.



Submitted

Golfers and bikers are ready to step into the action as Killington's golf course and bike park open this weekend.



Submitted

Stained glass art by artist Karen Deets, who will be welcoming visitors to her private studio in Brandon during VT Crafts Council's Open Studio Weekend may 26-27.

The Little School's Black Fly Ball fundraiser will take place this Friday night in Weston

Friday, May 26—Weston—The Little School in Weston will host a fun evening with great food, live music, and good company at Weston Theater's Walker Farm. The Black Fly Ball is major annual fundraiser community event for all with food, live music, and beverages.

There will be a large live and silent auction as a fundraising portion and the proceeds from this event will go to fund scholarships, professional staff enrichment, outdoor learning materials, art and activity supplies, and improvements to the playground and school building.

Tickets are \$50. For tickets and info visit littleschoolvt.org/tickets/black-fly-ball-tickets.



Submitted

The Little School, 8 Lawrence Hill Rd, Weston

Deets studio in Brandon open this weekend

There are many secret artists' studios tucked away in some of the most scenic places in Vermont. Open Studio Weekend is an opportunity to visit these private places where art is made, May 27 and 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at participating studios throughout the state. Maps are available online and at participating studios through the Vermont Crafts Council, vermontcrafts.com.

In West Castleton, Karen Deets, a stained glass artist, will welcome visitors to her private studio, tucked away near Glen Lake and Bomoseen State Park.

Featured this year will be a collaboration of jewelry designed and made with her daughter, Shasta Fowler, with new fused glass shapes and the addition of beaded details. A cloud-themed group will incorporate some sand blasted detailing.

In the outdoor granite patio area, garden art will be featured. There will be a display of assorted sizes of panels, each with a story, and other smaller glass items.

Learning and seeing how glass art is made will be the main focus. You are welcome to try glass cutting. Deets actively teaches workshops and is an instructor at the Community College of Vermont in Rutland and the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center in West Rutland. She is a member of two cooperative galleries: Brandon Artists' Guild, Brandon and Epoch Artisans' Gallery, Manchester.

Killington Music Festival celebrates 41 years

Killington, May 22—Now in its 41st season of presenting fine chamber music the Killington Music Festival takes pride, pleasure and excitement in announcing beautiful music is again live on the mountain and its concert schedule for 2023. On Saturday evenings from June 24 through July 22 the internationally acclaimed musicians of the Killington Music Festival will perform at Pico Mountain Lodge at the Killington Resort at 7 p.m. During the Music in the Mountains Classical Concert Series they will also teach, guide and mentor the young aspiring musicians from around the country and abroad.

The season opener on June 24 features crowd pleaser Simon Ghraichy at the piano. Ghraichy is an acclaimed French pianist and a Festival favorite. He is renowned for his unique personal style defined with rich, diverse cultural influences. After intermission Simon and Killington Music Festival's Artistic Director Daniel Andai will perform Beethoven's "Spring" Sonata and Brahms' "Frei aber einsam" sonata.

On July 1, "An Enchanted Evening". Enjoy flute, violin and piano with works of Cesar Cui followed by a Mozart piano quartet. The final piece of the evening featuring Ghraichy playing Schumann's Piano Quintet in E-flat Major Op.4 with Killington Music Festival Faculty members.

July 8: "A Passport Around the World". KMF is excited to bring to Vermont pianist Reed Tetzloff, "A musician of great authority." (Richard Goode). Tetzloff, "an artist of broad musical tastes and individuality" (South Florida Classical Review) came to international attention at the XV Tchaikovsky Competition, as "the lyric hero of the

competition". Reed will perform some of his favorite solo pieces and end the evening with Brahms Piano Quartet in C Minor #3 with KMF faculty members.

On July 15 it will be an evening of "Exquisite Melodies". Killington Music Festival faculty will play works of Mozart and Bowen ending the evening with an audience favorite, Tchaikovsky's "Souvenir de Florence."

Killington Music Festival's season finale celebrating 41 years: Back by popular demand the finale features guitar and strings. We will end the evening with Piazzolla's "Histoire de Tango," which will leave you wanting to dance all the way home.

The Music in the Mountains Concert Series is sponsored by the Luc Walter Foundation and sponsors Casella Resource Solutions; Community Health Centers of the Rutland Region; Dead River Company; Great Gulf; Heritage Family Credit Union; Betsy and Baxter Holland; Killington Resorts; Rotary Club of Rutland; Rutland Regional Medical Center and Victoria and Robert Young.

The concerts are held at Pico Mountain Lodge at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$30. Tickets may be purchased the day of the performance beginning at 6 p.m. at Pico Mountain Lodge. Check or Cash only.

Performances of the Young Artists Series are held at Pico Mountain Lodge at 7 p.m. on Fridays, June 30, July 7, July 14, Wednesday July 19 and Thursday July 20. Additional concerts will be held July 12 and July 19, Wednesdays at noon, in the Downtown Rutland Free Library, Fox Room, Court St. All student performances are free. For more information, please call 802-773-4003.



Photos of recent musicians who performed at the Killington Music Festival. This year marks the 41st year of the popular music festival.

Submitted

White grubs: Friend or foe?

By Nadie VanZandt

Editor's note: Nadie VanZandt is a UVM Extension master hardener from Panton. Are the white grubs you dig up in your garden friend or foe?

White grubs are the larval stage of certain species of beetles from the Scarabaeidae family including June bugs (*Phyllophaga*), European chafers (*Amphimallon majale*) and Japanese beetles (*Popillia japonica*). These grubs are inch-long fleshy whitish C-shaped larvae with a brown head capsule and three pairs of legs below their head.

In larval and adult stages, these beetles are major pests. The larvae feed on roots of turf grass and other plants, which impacts the plants' ability to access water and nutrients, and causes plants to wilt, yellow and stop growing. The adult beetles feed on plant foliage and fruit.

While many beetles (such as the familiar ladybugs and ground beetle) are considered beneficial because they consume aphids, slugs, caterpillars and many other insects, the larvae of beneficial beetles do not look like white grubs.

In late May to early June, Junebugs emerge. They are typically 1-inch long reddish-brown beetles often recognized by a loud buzz followed by a thud on a window screen on a summer night. Junebug larvae take three years to mature. European chafers are golden brown beetles appearing in mid-June to early July. Two weeks later, Japanese beetles, easily recognized by their metallic green head and copper wings, emerge. Both European chafers and Japanese beetles are a 1/2-inch long and take one year to mature. Adult beetles lay eggs in late summer and fall. Once the eggs hatch in the fall, the larvae feast



A white grub, about half the size of a finger.

Submitted

until temperatures drop then burrow deeper in the soil to overwinter. In spring, as the soil warms up, the larvae creep upward to resume feeding on roots. The most damage occurs as the larvae mature.

Controlling these pests depends on the stage of their life cycle and their host preference. Integrated pest management (IPM) consist of monitoring and adopting cultural and biological methods before resorting to chemicals as a last resort. Check your grass for spongy spots or brown patches. Dig a little or lift a patch of grass to look for grubs. A handful of white grubs is not concerning, but a dozen or more will create visible lawn damage. In addition, the presence of predators like raccoons, skunks, starlings or black birds suggests

a grub problem. Since beetles tend to lay eggs in short-cropped lawns, mow your lawn higher than 2 inches. Use a mulch lawnmower to allow the lawn clippings to feed the soil. Build deep roots by watering deeply no more than once a week. If you notice adult beetles on your plants' foliage, hand pick them, preferably in the morning when they are lethargic. Drop them into a container of soapy water.

Choose tolerant grass varieties such as fescues and ryegrass. They contain a fungus that produces toxic compounds called alkaloids that repel beetles. Similarly, larkspur and geranium produce alkaloids and can be used as companion plantings in the garden.

Lastly and only if necessary, to be effective, a pesticide should be applied before the beetles lay their eggs. Always consider that pesticide applications may negatively affect beneficial insects.

For more information, visit: Go.uvm.edu/white-grubs.

'Feast and Field,' BarnArts Music Series, kicks off with its Young Tradition Vermont music series, a night of traditional fiddle

Thursday, May 25—BARNARD—Vermont continues to be home for a wide range of traditional music and dance, a tapestry of people from many places, all with their own traditions. What is now Vermont is the traditional homeland of the Western Abenaki. The state has consistently inspired singers, instrumentalists and dancers, and is deservedly identified for the creativity and contributions of its artists. Young Tradition Vermont is a program with its primary focus on young people, traditional music and dance, and a commitment to ensure what is offered is available at low or no cost.

The Youth Commission is designed as a next step for musicians who have been part of other Young Tradition Vermont programs and show promise as composers, arrangers, teachers and ensemble leaders.

For more information, visit: VtFolklife.org.



Spectators kick back to enjoy an evening of music at Barn Arts. The arts center will host its music series, "Feast and Field," featuring various performers and styles of music for this summers 2023 program, which kicks off this Thursday in Barnard.

Killington

BOOTCAMP

Wellness Center

➔ NEW ➔

SUMMER SCHEDULE

SIGN UP HERE!

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED WHERE THE KILLINGTON ACCESS RD MEETS US-4
2363 US-4, KILLINGTON | 802-558-0547 | KBCKBC.COM | KILLINGTONBOOTCAMP@GMAIL.COM

Delicious Food
with a Spectacular View!

Joanne Pearson

Tavern, Restaurant & Terrace Dining
Lunch & Dinner - 7-Days/Wk
— 12 Vermont Craft Brews On Tap! —
Central Vermont's Best View, Delectable
Food, Luxurious Lodging, Spa & Salon,
Horseback Riding & So Much More!

Gary Hall

(Reservations Recommended)
802.483.2311 • mountaintoppinn.com

MOUNTAIN TOP
RESORT

A B R A D E

B A L L O T E D

A R G U M E N T

T I A R A

T H Z

S T O A

H U N D R E D S

B A S E B A L L F I E L D

A B

G D E

R A I D

R O B E

D R A B S

A N D Y

D A S

D D T

M E A T

C I N D Y

O N E S

G R A B

A S H

F A

A B E R D E E N

P A R A

G I B

F R E U D

P H A R I S E E

S E N A T O R S

I N S T E P

SUDOKU

PUZZLES page 17

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

MENDON MINI GOLF

SNACK BAR

Join Us For:
Mini Golf
Batting Cages
Great Food
Soft Serve
& 26 Flavors of Hershey's Ice Cream

In Mendon on Rt 4 • Across from Sugar & Spice • 802-776-4921
Mon-Thurs. 3:30-8:30 p.m., Fri. 3:30-10 p.m.,
Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

BBQ and Brew held at the State Fairgrounds

Saturday and Sunday, May 27-28—RUTLAND—This weekend the Vermont State Fairgrounds in Rutland will host a BBQ and Brew with all the BBQ choices you could possibly want from restaurants from all over the region in support of Josh's House, a wellness and recreational center.

Some of the vendors will include Fireside Commodities, Frickin' Chicken, Hangry Hogg, Hog Heaven BBQ, Maple Angus, Over The Coals Catering, Restoration Barbecue, Squeels on Wheels.

There'll be interactive experiences for all, including a kids area, contests with cash prizes, lounge areas and more! Brands from both national and local breweries will be here to provide your beverage of choice.

Deejays and live musical artists highlighted by Jamie Lee Thurston will set the vibe.

Cash prizes of at least \$1,500 will also be on the line and there will be competitive tournaments, social tournaments for all, and games of chance. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to Josh's House.

For more information and tickets, visit: bbqandbrewvt.com.

Music Schedule

Saturday:

- Swamp Frog 12:30 p.m.
- Rustie Bus 2:30 p.m.
- Jamie Lee Thurston 4:30 p.m.
- 2Kul Entertainment's DJ LB. All day.

Sunday:

- Flash Back 12-noon
- Tyler Serrani 2:30 p.m.
- Duane Carleton 4:30 p.m.
- 2Kul Entertainment's DJ LB. All day.



Submitted

Jami Lee Thurston will perform at the Vermont State Fairgrounds this Saturday at 4:30 p.m. as one of the featured artists at the event.

WILD KIND
TOYS

Thoughtfully made TOYS that inspire creative play!

Stop in or check out our toys online

wildkindtoys.com | 31 Center Street | Downtown Rutland

LIQUID ART
COFFEEHOUSE & EATERY

Open THURS - SUN

Reopening **MAY 25** 5pm

OPEN MIC THURSDAYS

TEE BONEICUS JONES SUNDAYS

Thank you Veterans!

BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINNER

Starting May 26: Open Thursday – Sunday: 8am–9pm

KILLINGTON, VT | 802-422-2787 | LIQUIDARTVT.COM

Want to submit a classified listing?

Email classifieds@mountaintimes.info or call 802-422-2399 by Monday at 4 p.m. Rates are 50 cents per word, per week; free ads are free.

Main Street will become a stage for creative expression during Poultney Arts Day

Friday, May 26 at 5 p.m.—POULTNEY—A variety of arts organizations, schools, community members and youth will come together on May 26 on Main Street in Poultney to demonstrate and share with the community the power of art, imagination, sculpture, performance and presentation of creative practice. This opportunity and event has the mission to expose and ignite the power of the arts from local institutions to over 300 Poultney and local youth, teachers, local artisans and community members. All organizations involved share a similar goal to enhance the world using art as a vehicle and to share their creative process and practice with the next generation of makers.

Learners and youth from Poultney High School, LiHigh School, Poultney Elementary School and other kids will watch, engage and enter the event with many ways to watch and learn about artists and creatives in their local and regional community.

The creative community of the town and beyond will be able to collaborate, connect and grow, as community members are invited to engage and explore the happenings of the day. There will be various exhibitions on display for people to see at Stone Valley Arts and along Main Street. These will be on view for groups of students to engage with using scavenger hunt activities. Additionally, students from LiHigh will showcase music in front of their school, along with a few other artist demonstrations in the Journal Press building and along the sidewalk of downtown.

This year, Main Street will become a stage for creative expression with Poultney Arts Day at dusk, 5-7 p.m, with dance, theatrical and music performances in the street. A

local arts market will also host a variety of artists and makers who can demo and share their works with the community.

Poultney Arts Day has become a tradition within our community to celebrate art, imagination, community and inter-organizational partnership.

For more info visit poultneyareachamber.com/2023/04/21/poultney-arts-day.



Submitted

Above: A composition by Kamrin Munro of Poultney Elementary School is displayed as part of Poultney Arts Day.



Submitted

Left: A painting by Azure Wood of Fair Haven High School.



Submitted

Young artists prepare a canvas painting to be displayed during a recent Poultney Arts Day. A variety of arts organizations, schools, community members and youth will come together on May 26 on Main Street in Poultney to present their creations.



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!

Dine-in or Take-out available.

Serving Breakfast & Lunch
7a.m. - 2p.m. daily

Check out our menu online!

Sugar & Spice Restaurant & Gift Shop
Rt. 4 Mendon, VT
802-773-7832 | www.vtsugarandspice.com



Great Breakfast & Brunch at the

Open:
M, W, F: 7-12
Sat, Sun: 7-1

EGGS • OMELETTES • PANCAKES • WAFFLES

TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE

923 KILLINGTON RD. 802-422-4411

killington

ATM LOTTERY

market

GROCERY

MEATS, PRODUCE & SEAFOOD

beer and wine

DELICATESSEN



Baked Goods & Breads
Pizza ~ Maple Syrup

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

6:30 A.M. - 9P.M.

2023 KILLINGTON RD
802-422-7736

WINE
Champagne
VT CRAFT
BREWS
CIDERS

Take-Out Convenience:

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Daily Specials posted on Facebook & Call Deli 802-422-7594

Special requests are always welcome!

Rutland County Humane Society



MAYBELLE

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

This pet is available for adoption at

Springfield Humane Society

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

*Open by appointment only. spfldhumane.org



OLIVER

I'm a 6-year-old neutered male. I came to Lucy Mackenzie with my buddies and siblings when our beloved human companion passed away. It was a very, very sad time in our lives and all so confusing, but we've adjusted well since then. While we miss our home and human family, it's actually quite nice here. We're all together in a lovely room here at the shelter and are now officially having a blast making new human and cat friends all the time. We're all working on slimming our magnificent figures down a little bit through exercise (some of us more than others!) and diet. I'm a very curious and outgoing fella that just adores attention, and will seek it out. I love my naps and exploring new spaces equally. And, I truly do love my feline companions.

This pet is available for adoption at

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society

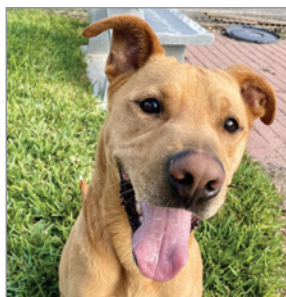
4832 VT-44, Windsor, VT • (802) 484-5829

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

& Thurs. 12-7 p.m. • lucymac.org



Koda—6-year-old. Spayed female. Retriever mix. Tan. Koda loves to play outside. She has lived with children and did well.



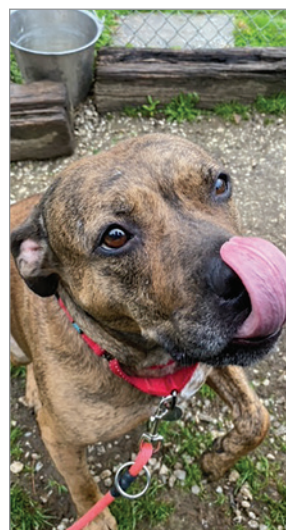
Buddy—3 ½-year-old. Neutered male. Lab mix. Blonde. Buddy has a high prey drive, is smart and loves to work.



Nina—1-year-old. Spayed female. Terrier mix. White/black. This sweet girl is sure to steal your heart. She is both sweet and smart.



Cindy Lou—2-year-old. Spayed female. Labrador mix. Black and white. This little lady is ready to go on her next adventure. She loves to be around people.



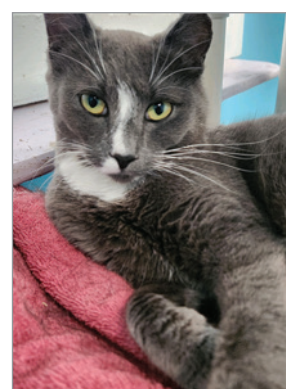
Luah—5-year-old. Spayed female. Pit Bull mix. Brindle. Luah is goofy and will be sure to put a smile on your face.



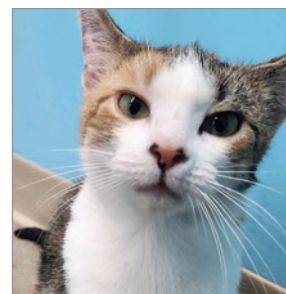
Monica—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Black with white. Monica will reach for you to make you pet her and loves every second of attention.



Thumbelina—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Dilute Torti. Thumebllina is as sweet as they come and will gently purr as you pet her.



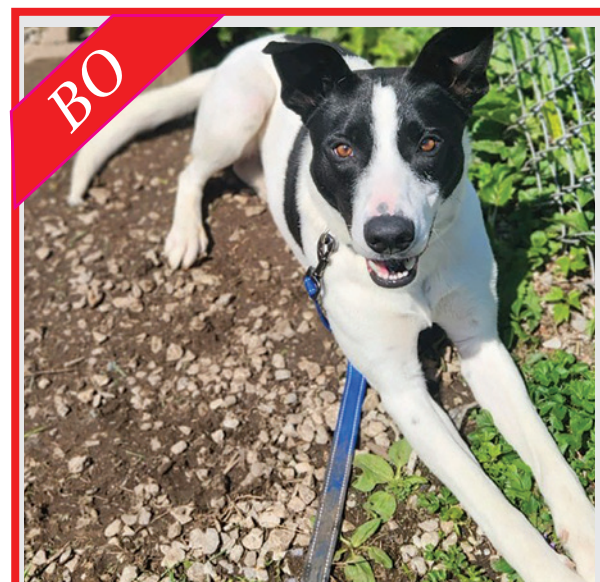
Loretta—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Grey and White. Ms. Loretta likes playing a little hide and seek in our cat trees.



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 petted, and he loves to play with his toys.



Bo—2-year-old. Neutered male. Terrier mix. White/black. Bo would make a great partner for an active family who can take him along on their outings.

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 p.m. and 5 p.m. On May 25, cats 6 months old or older can be spayed or neutered at a discounted rate. To schedule an appointment, please email VT-CAN at vtcaninfo@gmail.com. If you do not have email, please call 802-223-0034 and leave a message. For more information visit vt-can.org.

Catamount Pet Supply Company, inc.

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



OPEN

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

Grooming by appointment | 802-773-7636

Cosmic Catalogue



Copyright ©2022 - Cassandra Tyndall



Aries

March 21 - April 20

Money might be burning a hole in your pocket or you're looking for new ways to hold on to more of what you earn. In either case, you're reestablishing your money beliefs, which in turn, is about you redefining what your values are. If your spending, saving or investment habits aren't aligning with what you say you want, then ask yourself, are you really aligned with your own money goals and philosophies?



Leo

July 21 - August 20

Your engine is well and truly running now that Mars is in your sign. The next several weeks is about putting the U back in YOU! What do you want, need and desire to feel confident, vital and sovereign? Do you need to take charge of your health? Maybe you need to be a little bit selfish for a while? If you're thinking about a professional risk, it just may pay off as your Career Zone is well-starred right now.



Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

Dreams, goals and aspirations don't happen on a wing and a prayer alone. Don't get me wrong, being inspired is half the victory, but don't rest on your laurels neither. You're only as good as your last innings. So, if you have to work harder or do more to make something you really want to happen, happen – then stop reading your horoscope and get into action! Inspired action is the secret sauce for success.



Taurus

April 21 - May 20

You tend to operate in two ways. One way, is like a gentle serene Highland cow, frolicking among green fields. Your other way is to approach things like a charging bull. A domestic situation or a family member may be the cause of your frayed ends this week. Choose your battles. Clashing horns with those you love is never a recipe for the peace and serenity you'd rather have. Take the higher road and be the Highland cow!



Virgo

August 21 - September 20

You're in a deep and retrospective phase right now and it has everything to do with your philosophies and fears. If you want the best of what life has to offer you, then you may need to consider the ways you're holding yourself back. Exploring your inner landscape via meditation, stillness or another healing type of modality will really open up new perspectives for you. The Sun in your career zone spotlights a potential pathway too!



Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

Love affairs and romance are highlighted for you now. If not that, then at least you're wanting more of the good life. Do you even know what kind of good life you want? That's the hard part for you now. Overcome your fears and phobias and let the joy and happiness you want pour in, because it's there for the taking. Stop getting in your own way, say yes to happiness and happy you then will be.



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

It's easy to get hot under the collar by little things. They say don't sweat the small stuff, but if a lot of small stuff comes up, then it's not so easy. Your mission is to take a deep breath and figure out what is worth your energy and attention and what isn't. With the Sun now in your sign, it's ok to be sovereign and put your desires at the core of the issue.



Libra

September 21 - October 20

You can play nice and accommodate others, such as your friends, colleagues or social networks, but you'd be selling yourself short if you did. It might be time for you to step up and let it be known what works for you and what doesn't. In a strange paradox, when you do this, it's likely you'll gain more support than you're currently getting. Sometimes, you actually do catch more flies with vinegar!



Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

You could be making waves within a current partnership right now, either in your personal or professional life. Be mindful though, not everyone sees things quite like you are at the moment. Or maybe you're being pushed into a direction you're not ready to go. Spend a little time asking yourself, why not? Working out where you're resisting will help you understand how to move forward.



Cancer

June 21 - July 20

With confident Mars in your money zone, you'll be ready to take action regarding your wealth, your values and what you need to do to provide the security that makes you feel, well, secure. If you're not sure of what you need to do on a practical level, enlist the help of a professional or a trusted friend for advice. Luck is on your side to gain wisdom and to make your situation better.



Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

If you wait to get other people on board with your vision before you take action on something, you could be waiting a long time. Time waits for no man, as they say. With active Mars at the very top of your solar chart, it's time to strike out in a new direction or put your big picture dreams into action. This week, take the action and let others be inspired by your achievements. Keep the next two years in mind!



Pisces

February 21 - March 20

We got through phases in life where it feels there is one problem after the other. When will it stop, you might ask? That could be the wrong question. Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to find a sense of meaning and purpose in everyday life. Some problems are good problems to have. Perspective counts. There is beauty in the mundane, if you're willing to open your eyes and see it.

RUTLAND'S PREMIERE YOGA & PILATES STUDIO



TRUE YOGA
VERMONT

22 WALES STREET, RUTLAND

Go online to see our full schedule:
trueyogavermont.com

@trueyogavt



VINS NATURE CENTER

OPEN DAILY / YEAR-ROUND



EXHIBITS & ACTIVITIES

- ★ Forest Canopy Walk
- ★ Live Animal Programs
- ★ Adventure Playscape
- ★ Nature Store & Trails
- ★ Songbird Aviary



149 NATURES WAY / QUECHEE, VT / VINSWEB.ORG



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

Email: events@mountaintimes.info

Empowering you to lead a divinely inspired life.

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

Move with intention

Now that Jupiter is in Taurus, things just, well, feel different. The urge to pull inwards, to slow down and to reassess ones' big picture perspective invites new philosophies and beliefs.

To be honest, we also had the chance to do this to a similar degree while Jupiter was in Pisces. The problem with that cycle, it was interrupted by Aries, so it didn't quite feel as it otherwise would have. That said, it was still a time to heal, process and still move forward.

Not this time, though.

This is a cycle about moving slowly, but

with intention. The sign of Taurus is renowned for its stubbornness. In my opinion, Taurus is just unapologetically unwavering about what she knows to be right for her. So, with that in mind, do you know what's right for you? Do you know what you deeply value, believe in and what you're willing to burn the boats for? And I'm not talking about the reactionary click bait or the call to follow whatever the next "in" thing is. I'm talking about what's deeply inside you that you'd never be

willing to compromise on and if that thing were to be, what would you do to fight for it?



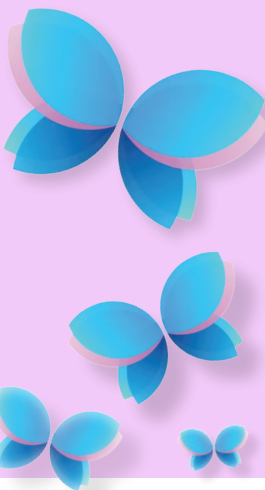
Cosmic
Catalogue
By Cassandra
Tyndall

Heart of the Butterfly

Butterflies,
They flutter,
They fly,
Flapping their wings,
Reaching up to the sky,
They're so care free,
Letting all bad feelings fly away,
Be like the butterfly,
Reach up to the sky,
To all your hopes and dreams,
Listen to your heart,
The heart of the butterfly,
So spread your wings and fly away,
You have the heart of a butterfly.



Poetry is
Power
By Bree Sarandrea



The early bird gets the jumping worm

We've all heard the idiom, "The early bird gets the worm." When it comes to invasive jumping worms, unfortunately, there are more than enough to go around. These invasive worms can consume excessive amounts of organic matter and leaf litter in a garden or forest, to the point that it becomes uninhabitable to native plants and wildlife. This may sound crazy — and some have aptly named these jumpers "crazy worms" — so let's back up.

Worms, of course, are common creatures found crawling around our gardens, lawns, and driveways after a spring rain. Fishermen (and fisherwomen) dig them up and wrap them around hooks to tantalize fish. Kids find them intriguing and dare each other to eat them. Earthworms are also beneficial soil aerators in the garden, and a tasty meal for birds. Although they've become common, there are no earthworms native to the Northeast. Most of the worms found in the soil here are descendants of worms that arrived with early European settlers.

More recently, however, other non-native worms — commonly referred to as invasive jumping worms — have been inadvertently imported to the United States in landscaping materials from Asia. Currently there are three species of invasive jumping worms found in the Northeast: *Amyntas agrestis*, *Amyntas tokioensis*, and *Metaphire hilgendorfi*.

These new invaders go by many names, including crazy worms, jumping worms, or snake worms. Whatever they're called, you don't want them. Forget creepy crawlies; these worms are fast moving, aggressive, jump out of potted plants, and drop their tails as a defense mechanism when grabbed. Unlike most earthworms, jumping worms are parthenogenetic, meaning they can reproduce without a mate, which results in large populations.

Once established, jumping worms turn soil into granular pellets that resemble coffee grounds. They are voracious feeders and consume more organic matter and nutrients in the soil than regular earthworms do. This changes the chemistry and structure of the soil, which can affect microbial communities and kill plants. Invasive plant species often replace native species in forests containing jumping worms, which is detrimental to forest structure and negatively impacts native wildlife species such as ground nesting birds, amphibians, and invertebrates. Jumping worms can even out-compete and exclude previously established beneficial earthworms.

So how do you find jumping worms? These pests now exist in every state in the Northeast. They live in the upper soil layers, leaf litter, mulch, and compost. They prefer moist conditions and are often found under lumber or other materials left on the ground. Jumping worms are

smooth and glossy dark brown or gray in color, with a distinct ring-shaped white band, called the clitellum, which completely encircles the body near the head. Conversely, European earthworms are more reddish in color, and their raised pink clitellum is further from the head and does not go all the way around the body.

Mature jumping worms are active from August through September and are easier to identify than the juveniles which emerge in the spring. Adult worms will die with the first frost, but jumping worm eggs will survive the winter in tiny cocoons, which hatch in the spring. This makes them difficult to detect if you purchase plants early in the growing season.

Prevention is key to minimizing jumping worm damage and spread, as there are no known effective controls for these

invasive pests. If possible, it's best to buy bare root stock and be mindful when moving any plants, soil, compost, or mulch onto your property. Home-owners have reported finding jumping worms in materials purchased from large box stores, local garden centers, and even from municipal compost piles. Local plant swaps and sales can also be a source of jumping worms. And if you fish, be

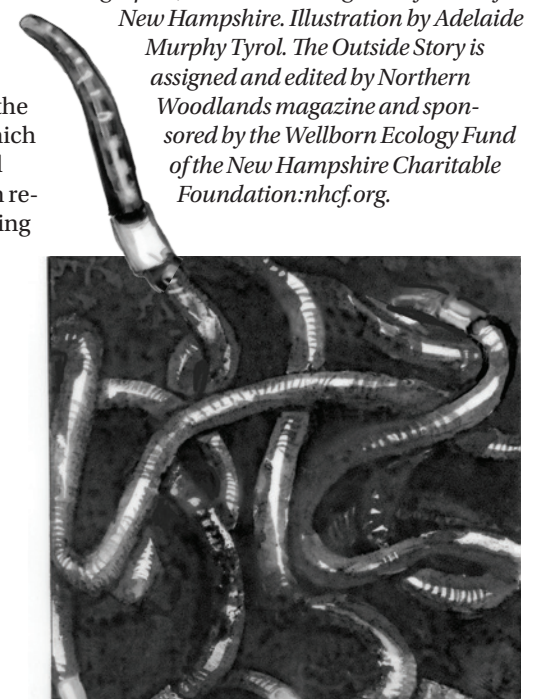
certain not to use jumping worms as bait or dump any excess worms on the ground, which can lead to further spread.

If you do find jumping worms in your garden, one way to capture and dispose of them is to pour a mustard seed solution (1/3-cup ground yellow mustard seed mixed in 1 gallon of water) on the soil. This will irritate the worms and bring them to the surface, where you can attempt to hand pick them and seal them in a bag to dispose of in the trash. This is tedious work. But when it comes to jumping worms, it's best to be proactive and — as the old saying goes — be the early bird who gets the worms, before they ruin your landscape.

Jen Weimer is a forest health expert, photographer, and writer living in the forests of New Hampshire. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



The Outside
Story
By Jen Weimer



Woodstock
Athletic Club

GET CYCLING CERTIFIED.

WITH SCHWINN® MASTER
INSTRUCTOR AIMEE NICOTERA
IN OUR TECHNOGYM INDOOR
CYCLING STUDIO!

Become a spin instructor during this power-packed day! This critically acclaimed indoor cycling certification, based on the Schwinn® Cycling Coach's Pyramid™, allows you to work smart, break through barriers, fill your room with riders and shine in the studio.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11
8AM - 5PM
\$249 PER PERSON

LEARN MORE & REGISTER:
WOODSTOCKINN.COM/CYCLINGCERT

802-457-6656
Route 106, Woodstock, VT



CORE
HEALTH & FITNESS

StairMaster
SCHWINN
NAUTILUS
STAR TRAC
THROWDOWN

I've seen the future of technology

On May 9, 1974, music critic Jon Landau walked into the Harvard Square Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and witnessed a revelatory concert delivered by a 25-year-old, young and impassioned Bruce Springsteen. Landau would write about his experience soon after, inviting the world to buy into the hype that he was peddling.

And we did.

Springsteen would go on to release 14 Platinum albums, win 20 Grammys and an Oscar, and get inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Would any of that have happened without Landau's praise? Possibly.

Any writer would sell their soul to have such a brash prediction validated by history. And while I rarely make predictions, I feel strongly enough about this one that I'm going to put it out there: I've seen the future of technology and it's an app named ChatGPT.

If you've already heard or experimented with this wondrous app, then you know what I'm talking about. If you haven't heard about ChatGPT, then allow me to make a case for its validity once again (I commented on an online version of ChatGPT back in February, but I had to revisit it with the release of the mobile app).

The name "ChatGPT" certainly doesn't do much to entice the curious. After all, do we really need another app for chatting? But while all other chat-based apps allow two separate parties to communicate, ChatGPT lets you "communicate" with artificial intelligence (AI).

Of course, chatting with a bot is nothing new; we've been doing it on websites for years to get basic consumer questions answered. The difference with ChatGPT, however, is that the experience of chatting is ridiculously human and amazingly helpful in terms of information gathering.

ChatGPT is a LLM (Large Language Model), a type of deep learning algorithm that can ingest and analyze a dataset and then return responses to specific queries.

In other words, you ask ChatGPT questions and it provides you with thoughtful, creative, and interesting answers, and does so in grammatically accurate prose.

Ok, all that's interesting, but how does that qualify as a tectonic shift in technology? Well, I've integrated the app into my personal and work life and I can tell you that it has completely altered how I approach information gathering and productivity.

In the past, if I had a question about something, I would conduct a search on Google and then peruse the answers until I

found what I was looking for. With ChatGPT, I ask a very specific question and then get a very specific answer. I'm not pointed anywhere. And the answer is not based on one data point, but on all the data points available.

That means ChatGPT could, hypothetically, read 500 articles about a specific Hawaiian flower and then use its AI to construct an educated summary, plus offer insights that may not have been previously available (now you see why teachers are freaking out).

Again, I don't often recommend products, but downloading ChatGPT and testing it will undoubtedly impress even the most judgmental critic.

But don't just take my advice. Consider this: the ChatGPT online portal broke all records by amassing 1 million users in its

first week of release in November 2022. It then exploded with 9,900% growth in 60 days to 100 million users. By April of this year, that number was at 173 million users. It is now readily agreed that ChatGPT is the fast-growing digital platform in history. And it's not going away because Microsoft (who already invested \$1 billion in parent company OpenAI) has just announced another infusion of \$10 billion. Sounds risky?

Well, if the people involved are correct, once monetized, ChatGPT should earn \$1 billion by the end of 2024. And it's only going to get better.

Those numbers are beyond staggering. But as I stated, it's not luck. ChatGPT is an astonishing leap forward in AI and something everyone should

try. So, go ahead. Download the app and ask ChatGPT to write you a short story about two ducks at the rodeo searching for the meaning of life. And then ask it to write the story as if the author were William Shakespeare. You won't be disappointed.

This week's film, "Brian and Charles," also features an AI robot. But this robot, while technically impressive, is a far cry from ChatGPT.

This is one of those quiet and understated films that you don't expect to like, but end up admiring deeply. There's some quirky humor and heartfelt tugs at sentimentality all wrapped up in a well-crafted, albeit simplistic, storyline. In other words, it's a good rainy day film.

A well-programmed "B" for "Brian and Charles," now available for streaming on Amazon Prime.

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



The Movie
Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Memorial Day: Freedom is not free

This weekend, we express our gratitude for our fallen heroes. Each of us will do this in our own way. Some of us will attend parades and lay down wreaths of flowers at the gravesites of our men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Others will carry an American flag down Superstar as they feel the freedom of the wind on their face. Yet others will spend the day with a beer (or these days a hard seltzer) in hand at a family barbecue.

We all celebrate freedom differently. Kilington used to host an actual triathlon, where you could run, pedal and then ski. Nowadays, we make our own triathlons in a celebration of things we can only do because someone else fought for our freedom to do so.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day, a time directly after the Civil War for Americans to come together to mourn those who were no longer with us — no matter on what side of the battle they had fought. It was a moment in time where Americans could come together to remember the deaths of the 620,000 soldiers — a massive 2% of the entire population — who had died during the War Between the States.

It started with a few women going to the battlefield at Gettysburg (where between 46,000-51,000 Americans died) and placing flowers on the graves of their beloved soldiers. Then the next year, another group of women in Virginia did the same thing. Then, in Mississippi, the women placed flowers on the graves of all soldiers, Confederate and Union alike.

And so, together as a great nation, we mourn our fallen soldiers. But as the nature of war has changed over the years, so has Memorial Day. I have heard people say "Happy Memorial Day" to each other, lost in their own freedom, which seems to just always be present. Even the threats to our freedom are taken with a grain of salt, a sense that our freedom could never be lost.

I remember interviewing my maternal grandfather for a high school history project. I was young, a teenager, without a care in the world except worrying if the other kids would make fun of me for my constant weight issues. My grandfather was only a few years older than I was when he enlisted

in the Navy. And so we chatted, me on the floor at his feet while he sat in his favorite yellow armchair, smoking his pipe and telling funny war stories. He was originally from Georgia and was so fascinated by the cold

temperatures of the Arctic while on the convoy runs. He laughed about making Jell-O in 30 seconds by just dipping it in the freezing cold waters.

But then he got quiet and slowly, over the next few sessions at his feet, I got to understand the true meaning of Memorial Day. My

grandfather served as first gunner's mate on SS *Mormacrey*, part of merchant marine convoys, the deadly PQ Series, delivering goods and TNT to the northern Soviet peninsula of Murmansk. They sailed past the Nazi stronghold of Norway and were constantly bombarded.

He spoke with pride as he chased off a Messerschmitt BF 110 with his mounted gun "Penelope" that was coming toward his ship. And then his face got blank as he told me that the bomber went and destroyed another ship in the convoy instead.

By saving the men on his ship, he had doomed the men on another. He sat, silently and I could see the heartbreak and guilt that went along with the pride of saving his men. I had never seen my grandfather cry, but I saw his lower lip shaking as his eyes glazed over. It broke me. To watch my grandfather struggle to maintain control over the whirlwind of emotions that he was suffering through, even 50 years later.

Neither my mom nor her sisters had ever heard this story. Neither had any one else I spoke with. But my grandmother simply nodded in silence and looked me straight in the eyes, willing me to understand. She

knew. Maybe not all the details, but she knew the horror that my grandfather suffered from. I can only imagine the cheer that went up as the plane flew away, the fists raised in the air in celebration only to be stopped short when they watched another ship explode, its hull packed to the gills with TNT. And the guilty nightmares that followed the survivors for the remainder of their lives.

This weekend, we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. They died

so that others did not have to. They died so that we could be free, to ski, to bike, to golf, have a picnic with our families. Whatever. But remember the families with the empty seat at the table, the soldiers and sailors and marines who never got the chance to be grandfathers, never got to be parents or perhaps even fall in love. So please, take a moment this weekend to honor those who made the great sacrifice. Because Freedom is not Free.



Livin' the Dream
By Merisa
Sherman

Remember the families with the empty seat at the table, the soldiers and sailors and marines who never got the chance to be grandfathers, never got to be parents or perhaps even fall in love.



THE KILLINGTON GROUP
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

#1 RENTAL AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
IN KILLINGTON FOR 45+ YEARS

- VACATION RENTALS
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- CLEANING SERVICES

KILLINGTONGROUP.COM
KILLINGTON ROAD - (802) 422-2300



PLUMBING + HEATING
Professional Service You Can Trust

802-770-8088 LICENSED & INSURED
www.JWplumb.com

WASHBURN & WILSON AGENCY, Inc.
144 Main St. • P.O. Box 77 • Bethel, VT 05032
Providing Insurance for your Home, Auto or Business
Short Term Rentals • High Value Homes
Free Insurance Quotes 
Call Mel or Matt 802-234-5188
www.washburnandwilson.com




Professional Service, Professional Results
For All Your Plumbing & Heating Needs
Specializing in Home Efficiency & Comfort
24 Hour Emergency Service
(802) 353-0125

K&N | Kitchen and Bath Design, LLC

- Cabinets
- Countertops
- Flooring
- Hardware
- Plumbing Fixtures
- Installation

Kelly & Nick | 802-245-4474
125 Valley View Drive, Mendon, Vermont
kndesigns125@gmail.com



**WATER WELLS PUMPS
COMPLETE WATER SYSTEMS
HYDRO FRACKING
GEOTHERMAL**

East Poultney, VT 05741
802-287-4016
parkerwaterwells.com

PRIOR FOR HIRE LLC



Handyman Services
Snow Removal
802.353.1806
Jeremy Prior



Style and service for every budget.®

SPRING SALE!
"BUY 2 GET 1 FREE" *excludes Lutron



- Blinds
- Shutters
- Home Automation
- Drapes
- Shades

WE BRING THE SHOWROOM TO YOU!
Budget Blinds of Rutland | 802-417-0020

Your trusted local resource



RED DUCK Refuse & Recycling

Weekly • Bi-Weekly • Seasonal • Year-Round
802-422-2230 • redduckrefuse.com

candido electric
residential & light commercial • licensed & insured

office: **802.772.7221**
cell: **802.353.8177**
frank candido rutland/killington
candidoelectric@yahoo.com



we help you see the light!

Plumbing and Heating, Inc.
Michael J. Belanger
Residential/Commercial/ Backflow Testing

VT Master Plumber
Serving Central VT
802-797-8292

SINCE 1875



Clifford Funeral Home
2 Washington Street • Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 773-3010
Gary H. Clifford • James J. Clifford

Renovations, Additions & New Construction



(802) 342-6026
www.VisionBuildersVt.com
FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED
ALL CALLS RETURNED

- Structural Repairs
- Preventative Maintenance
- Siding
- Framing
- Decks

ERIC SCHAMBACH • 36 Years Experience



Bring Your Home Improvement Project To Us!

We Offer Solutions

Building Supplies, Hardware & Paint
802-422-3469 | M-F 7:30-4:30 Sat 8-Noon | Route 4 Killington, VT



Full Service Vape Shop
Humidified Premium Cigars • Hand Blown Glass Pipes
Hookahs & Shisha Roll Your Own Tobacco & Supplies
CBD Products • Smoking Accessories

131 Strongs Avenue Rutland, VT
(802) 775-2552
Call For Shuttle Schedule

Like us on Facebook! 



For All Your Home and Commercial Petroleum Needs

746-8018 • 1-800-281-8018
Route 100, Pittsfield, VT 05762 • cvoil.com

Free

FREE: CHARBROIL 4 burner gas grill with many new parts. Runs well – needs cleaning. Available in Killington: 802-422-5499.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE for seniors and low-to-middle income younger taxpayers is offered by Rutland AARP Tax Aid volunteers certified by IRS. Taxes done by appointment only. Now through April 18. For appointment call 802-772-0530.

For Rent

LIVE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE while working. 1-bedrm Condo fully furnished & equipped. Located at the base of Pico mountain. Rent \$1,975.00 Monthly May 1-Nov 1, 2023. Utilities, cable and highspeed Wi-Fi included. Unfortunately, no pets allowed. Contact skionskiofft@aol.com.

FORMER KILLINGTON FIRE STATION 1973 KILLINGTON RD. 4,000 +/- Sq. Ft. rental space 802-236-1360.

Employment

CLEAR RIVER TAVERN Looking for great people to join our kitchen in a range of positions - Dishwasher, Line Cook, Sous Chef. Full time, starting in May. Email your experience, preferred position and availability to mstugart@clearrivertavern.com

For Sale

MOVING SALE: Suede sectionals, beds, dressers, coffee tables, etc. Good condition, cheap. Call: 802-353-4056.

BUYING/SELLING COINS PAPER \$ Sportscards, comic books, vintage postcards and sports items. Saturday May 6th 9am-330 pm. Rutland Elks Lodge, Pleasant St. 802-379-2353. Pepsijoseph@yahoo.com. Dealer tables and house calls available.

FLEA MARKET SATURDAYS- Beginning May 6 from 8 a.m to 2 p.m. Miller Place and Cold River Road. Vintage, folk art, tools and more.

CONTRACTOR FOR SALE. Power tools, staging and wall brackets, windows and doors, stock and other miscellaneous items. Space heaters and hoses. If interested please call 802-492-3356.

Real Estate

KILLINGTON PICO REALTY supports the courageous people of Ukraine and has pledged to donate 1% of every dollar we earned helping clients buy and sell real estate to internationally acclaimed Ukrainian relief organizations. 2814 Killington Road, Killington. 802-422-3600. info@killingtonpicorealty.com.

KILLINGTON VALLEY REAL ESTATE Specializing in the Killington region for Sales and Listings for Homes, Condos & Land as well as Winter seasonal rentals. Call, email or stop in. We are the red farm house located next to the Wobbly Barn. PO Box 236, 2281 Killington Rd., Killington. 802-422-3610, bret@killingtonvalleyrealestate.com.

PRESTIGE REAL ESTATE of Killington, 2922 Killington Rd., Killington. Specializing in the listing & sales of Killington Condos, Homes, & Land. Call 802-422-3923. prestigekillington.com.

SKI COUNTRY REAL ESTATE 335 Killington Rd., Killington. 802-775-5111. SkiCountryRealEstate.com – 9 agents servicing: Killington, Bridgewater, Mendon, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Stockbridge, Woodstock areas. Sales & Winter Seasonal Rentals. Open Monday-Saturday: 10 am – 4 pm. Sunday by appointment.

THE PERFORMANCE GROUP Real Estate 1810 Killington Rd., Killington. 802-422-3244 or 800-338-

3735. vthomes.com. As the name implies “ We preform for you!”

WWW.SKIONSKIOFF.COM, KILLINGTON'S #1 Slopeside Address specializing in Luxury, Slopeside Rentals and Sales by Owner, for over 30 years! info@skionskioff.com 802.422.3553.

Services

BEAUREGARD PAINTING: 30 years experience. 802-436-1337.

CAREERS AT MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT



Central Vermont's premier, 4-season, destination wedding & vacation venue is looking to add key team members! We are looking to fill these roles immediately.

If you have experience, or are willing to learn, consider applying today!

Email Resumes to: hr@mountaintoppinn.com

WEDDING COORDINATOR

If you have event, hospitality, food & beverage, or coordinating experience, this may be the role for you! Being passionate about people, celebrations, & creating lifelong memories is a must. Events experience is a plus. On-site training available. We are looking to hire immediately.

BOOK KEEPER

We are seeking to hire a part-time book keeper. This role is integral to daily operations, involving assiting with audits, reconciliation of reports, and more. Previous book keeping experience is preferred, but not required.

FLORAL DESIGNER

Our on-site floral department is seeking to hire a part-time floral designer for our busy season! Our team constructions bouquets, statement arrangements, and a variety of custom pieces. If you're looking for something fast-paced where you can let your creativity flow, consider applying!

MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

195 Mountain Top Rd Chittenden, VT • www.mountaintoppinn.com



Want to submit a classified listing?

Email classifieds@mountaintimes.info or call 802-422-2399 by Monday at 4 p.m. Rates are 50 cents per word, per week; free ads are free.

SALE ENDS MAY 31ST

STOREWIDE

RELOADABLES, REPEATER CAKES, SPARKLERS AND MORE...

50% OFF

Shop E. Montpelier

Shop Bradford

\$10 OFF

Any Purchase Over \$25.00

COUPON VALID THROUGH - 5/31/23 *One per day & One Per visit*

Visit Us at Either of Our Two Retail Locations

NEW LOCATION

Bradford, VT

799 Lower Plain,

Bradford VT, 05033

802-449-3186

*Note: St. Johnsbury location has moved to Bradford

East Montpelier, VT

2205 VT, Route 14 S.

802-229-9659

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

EXTENDED HOURS

Monday - Saturday

10:00 AM to 6:00 pm

Northstarfireworks.com

branding
engage
BE found

brought to you by the
MOUNTAIN TIMES

Need help marketing your business online?
It's a complex ecosystem to navigate.
Let us help! (don't worry, it's cheap and easy)
802.422.2399

Mountainside at Killington

Scan to view the property.

- Private, single-family home sites
- Spectacular views of the mountains of Killington and the valleys beyond
- Property management, complete year-round service with house checks
- Ski home, enjoy hiking and mountain bike trails

Mountainside Properties
2023 Killington Road, Killington, VT 05751
mountainsideproperties@aol.com
mountainsidepropertiesvt.com/glades/
802-236-1360

FEATURED LISTING
105 NORTHBROOK ROAD, KILLINGTON
PRICE REDUCED \$599,999

Three bedroom & Loft Northbrook Townhouse.
High ceilings, an open layout and large windows with mountain views make for a spacious feel. **Low quarterly fees** make this a great primary or investment property.
802-422-3610 killingtonvalleyrealestate.com

Killington Valley Real Estate

Bret Williamson
BROKER, OWNER

Judy Storch
BROKER

Gary Thompson
BROKER

Cathy Quaglia
BROKER

Laura Derderian
REALTOR®

TUCKER ADIRONDACK LANGE
Real Estate Salesperson, REALTOR®

59 Central Street, Woodstock, VT 05091
303-818-8068
tadkl@kw.com

kw VERMONT
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

Servicing Killington Vermont and surrounding areas
Each office is independently owned and operated

SUBSCRIBE

to our free e-newsletter
TODAY

- Get this week's news right to your inbox.
- Join thousands of other subscribers.
- Get the scoop on the weekend ski reports.

Email:
Editor@MountainTimes.info

Ski Country REAL ESTATE

Celebrating 33 years!
802.775.5111
335 Killington Rd.
Killington, VT 05751

MOUNTAIN GREEN - BLDG 1 & 2

Bldg #1
1BR/1BA Next to outdoor pool **\$200K**
2 BR/1.5BA
\$229,900

Bldg #2
1BR — \$199K

1.48 KILLINGTON LAND

*With some clearing, potential for magnificent views
*Permits for a **4BR** home & Well
* **BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME**
*Call Katie at 802-775-5111

FOX HOLLOW — 3BR/3BA CONDO

*Minutes from slopes, mtn biking, lakes and hiking trails front your front door.
*Call Katie at 802-775-5111
Price: **\$459,000**

Lenore Bianchi

Patricia Carter

Pat Linnemayr

Chris Bianchi

Michelle Lord

Meghan Charlebois

Katie McFadden

Patrick Bowen

Carolyn Bianchi

**NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS?
WE DON'T THINK SO.**

**WHAT'S THE WORD
ON THE STREET?**

Tell us about it: editor@mountaintimes.info

Email editor@mountaintimes.info

Residential contractors' registration program explained, consumer protection tool is live

In a press conference held in the Vermont State House earlier this month, Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas and Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark joined forces to highlight their offices' respective consumer protection work regarding residential contractors and unveiled a new consumer tool to help Vermonters protect themselves: an interactive map on the Secretary of State's webpage that will help consumers determine if a home contractor is registered and in good standing with the state.

"We have great home contractors here in Vermont and the new residential contractor registration program was set up to protect consumers and hold bad actors accountable,"

said Copeland Hanzas. "The Contractor Locator map will make it easier for Vermonters to research and vet contractors before work starts, which will help both parties."

The Vermont General Assembly took action during the 2022 legislative session requiring the registration of residential contractors working in Vermont. This requirement applies to any residential contractor who performs construction where the estimated value is \$10,000 or more, inclusive of labor and materials. Registered home contractors will also be required to maintain insurance and execute a written contract. The registration program is overseen

by the Vermont Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation (OPR).

The Vermont Attorney General's Office supports both consumers and small businesses, and has long supported a residential contractor registry. The new law created a position of "Residential Contractor Specialist" at the Attorney General's Office's Consumer Assistance Program.

"I encourage all Vermonters to do their homework before hiring a residential contractor," said Attorney General Charity Clark. "Simple

steps like reviewing the home improvement fraud registry, requesting references and checking them, verifying that a contractor is registered, and getting your agreement in writing can save you time and

money in the long run. If you need help at any step along the way, my office's Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) is here to guide you. CAP can be reached at 800-649-2424, or visit ago.vermont.gov/cap for more information."

Representative Scott Campbell, D-St. Johnsbury, joined the secretary and attorney general in praising the new map and the new registration program. As a lead sponsor of the legislation that created the registry, and a contractor himself, Campbell sees the map as a big benefit to contractors, in addition to helping consumers.

Registry → 39

This requirement applies to any residential contractor who performs construction where the estimated value is \$10,000 or more, inclusive of labor and materials.



KILLINGTON PICO REALTY



Iconic Swiss Farm Inn, traditional B & B and 48-seat restaurant serving

The World's Best Breakfasts for decades. Located in Pittsfield, VT, one of New England's classic ski towns, just 10 minutes from world class skiing at Killington and Pico Resorts, the inn features 14 guest rooms, each with its own private bathroom, a commercial kitchen, public dining area, outdoor pavilion seating and comfortable gathering spaces where guests can socialize with others or just relax and enjoy the wonderful Vermont ambiance. The property includes lovely owner's quarters, featuring an updated kitchen, dining area, reading nook, sunny living room, three bedrooms, business office, attached oversized garage and plenty of storage for all your hospitality needs. The majestic setting features two expansive barns, wonderful open hillsides reminiscent of the Sound of Music and panoramic views of the surrounding Green Mountains. The pandemic brought new challenges to the Swiss Farm Inn, but also opportunity, as the inn has now fully transitioned to a highly profitable short-term rental property, appealing to ski clubs, wedding parties, family reunions, business retreats and a host of other groups who appreciate the multitude of outdoor activities, beautiful scenery, dining and shopping experiences, and sight-seeing that Vermont has to offer. As a B&B or AirBnB, the Swiss Farm Inn represents an extraordinary investment opportunity.

Offered at \$749,000 • TheSwissFarmInnForSale.com



Killington Pico Realty proudly donates 1% of every dollar earned to internationally acclaimed Ukrainian relief organizations.

**2814 Killington Rd.
802-422-3600**

www.KillingtonPicoRealty.com



Kyle Kershner
Broker/Owner



Jessica Posch
REALTOR®



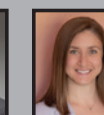
Daniel Pol
Associate Broker



Jane Johnson,
ALHS, ASPI®
REALTOR®



Edward Herson
Lic. Assoc.
R.E. Broker



Krista Neary
REALTOR®



John Humphreys
REALTOR®



kw VERMONT

802.353.1604
VTPROPERTIES.NET

**IDEAL PROPERTIES CLOSE TO
KILLINGTON, OKEMO OR WOODSTOCK!**

**HOMES | CONDOS | LAND
COMMERCIAL | INVESTMENT**



Marni Rieger
Broker
802.353.1604



Samantha Ecker
802.661.8069



Alexandra Lemesciuc
518.760.1294



William Spanos
802.345.0693



Lindsay Cimadon
860.681.9302

Marni@PeakPropertyRealEstate.com
1995 Route 4, Killington VT
59 Central Street, Woodstock VT



NOW ACCEPTING NEW LISTINGS! CONTACT US FOR A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!



LUXURY 5 BED/ 8 BATH TIMBER FRAME RETREAT WITH AMAZING VIEWS!

Prime spot a couple of minutes from the Killington Access Rd. Gorgeous open floor plan with multiple living levels & lock out options. Ideal property for short term rental investment. Exercise room/ Indoor Pool, wine cellar, 3 car heated garage, and so much more! **CALL FOR PRICE.**



THE ICONIC BACK BEHIND RESTAURANT & SMOKEHOUSE.

High visibility located on the corner of Route 4 and Route 100 South. A minute away from the Killington Skyship. Dining room & bar permitted to seat 109 & outdoor seating up to 50. Newly updated commercial kitchen. Awesome opportunity here. **\$549,900**



2 MILES TO OKEMO/ JACKSON GORE! HARRY'S CAFE!

Successfully run for 34 years with a huge following of customers. Newly renovated in 2018. So much potential make it something else or keep it the same. **MOTIVATED SELLERS! \$499K**



MINUTE AWAY TO KILLINGTON SKYSHIP GONDOLA & BASE LODGE.

Build your dream retreat here! 7.88 acres of land with mountain views surrounding and lovely river frontage. 7 bedroom state VVW permit in place. **\$315K**



Slow Release Fertilization Program
Including Weed-Insect Control
Grub Control
Liming-Core Aeration
Organic Fertilizer Options

Happy Memorial Day!
Call (802) 773-7833

← Affordable Housing:

from page 13

availability for construction companies is very limited. Demand for land has skyrocketed, increasing acquisition costs, and Vermont has an arduous and expensive permitting process. Neither of these provide any relief to the cost of building housing.

Investment for energy efficiency: Energy programs are often required as part of the permitting process (solar, power stations, increased thermal insulation, etc.) which may decrease monthly operating costs over time, but add to construction costs up front, and this cost must be recouped through the sales price of the house or the rental charge of a housing unit. It is not clear whether any community has reduced any of these requirements to help reduce costs.

Inefficiencies from regulation: Almost any residential housing developer can tell stories of the convoluted and costly permitting process for housing. Multiple layers from local, regional, and state agencies are sometimes in conflict with each other, requiring a developer to navigate multiple constituencies that each have their own agenda. It often feels like each area is working in their own silo and not considering the whole. An example

Many municipal regulations require fees, conditions, and lengthy review processes which increase costs, delay construction, and add uncertainty to a project.

Every bank is required by law to engage in affordable housing projects as part of its Community Reinvestment Act activities. The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) was established in 1977 to incentivize financial institutions to invest in and meet the needs of the lower- and moderate-income communities in a bank's footprint. Vermont's banks are active participants in helping fund affordable housing through significant donations to various not-for-profits focused on housing, special lending programs requiring a lower down payment, reduced and/or eliminated mortgage insurance, and funding loans at lower than market rates for various housing entities throughout the state.

Community Bank—and many others—have created lending programs to eliminate the cost of Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) for loans up to 90% loan-to-value and reduce the cost of PMI for loans over 90%. Banks also make investments to a wide variety of programs, including purchasing Low Income Housing Tax Credits used to reduce the costs of new housing and investing in local non-profits like Champlain Housing Trust and EverNorth, experienced organizations that fund the construction and renovation of affordable housing properties throughout the state.

Vermont's affordable housing crisis not only requires action from government and non-profit organizations, but also from individuals. It is important to give back and support the communities where we work and live and not rely solely on government mandates.

The perception of what affordable housing means has shifted in recent years: it has become more mainstream to have affordable housing in areas where middle-class people live, which provides more opportunities for residents. Affordable housing does not mean poor living conditions or low-quality housing; it is a necessity for many individuals and families, and providing it in more mainstream locations can benefit everyone involved.

While the affordable housing crisis in Vermont is complex, there is hope for the future. Banks are partnering together to make deals happen, recognizing that it is important to make their communities more affordable. It is not only the responsibility of banks to combat the affordable housing crisis; we need the help of communities. With a shortage of affordable housing units and increasing demand, it is crucial that our communities work together to find solutions. Simplifying the regulatory burden, both at the state and local levels, will reduce the costs required to get a project approved, reduce the overall project costs, and allow for a lower-cost end product. By investing in local, affordable housing projects and providing education and funding, we can help ensure that all Vermonters have access to safe and affordable housing, improving the quality of life for all.

would be towns that want housing density and more open space in each development (which is desirable to keep the Vermont "feel" to an area) but due to the open space requirement, the developments have less space for construction housing units, and have to spread the cost of the open land over the units. To offset this, developers often want to build vertically, to spread the costs of the foundation, roof, and infrastructure over more units. However, many towns limit new-building heights, when another floor or two could materially decrease the end costs of units.

Many municipal regulations require fees, conditions, and lengthy review processes which increase costs, delay construction, and add uncertainty to a project. I have seen cases where it has taken five years for a developer to get final approval for a project. Consider a developer that began the permitting process four years before Covid, but did not receive approval until Covid started. The economic assumptions developers used to plan their projects no longer worked by the time they secured approval in 2020, and as a result some builders simply mothballed their projects and less affordable housing was constructed.

Financing costs: With the significant rise in inflation came increased interest rates, so home buyers are faced with increased mortgage costs and reduced eligibility for loans. The interest rates are market driven and essentially out of the control of local bankers. Now, a couple that qualified for a \$200,000 mortgage when rates were at 4%, with no changes in their economic condition, only qualify for slightly over \$150,000.



Kitchen Fire Suppression Systems Extinguisher Sales & Service

Serving the Greater Rutland Area
On-site Maintenance & Service
Residential & Commercial
Over 20 Years Experience

802-779-1928 | business@marblevalleyfire.com | PO Box 1609, Rutland, VT 05701



TOWN OF KILLINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION



Summer fun awaits!

Fourth of July Celebration:

Parade, BBQ, Family Games, Fireworks



Adult programming

- Pickleball Club: Gives members access to court times reserved specifically for club member (starting June 5)
- Adult Pick-up Soccer: Monday/Wednesday 6-8 p.m. (starting June 5)
- Adult Open Swim: Everyday 11:15 a.m. -12 p.m. (once pool opens)

2023 River Road Concert Series

Thursdays 6-7:30 p.m. July 6 through Aug. 24

At the Sherburne Memorial Library,

2998 River Road, Killington

Join us for **FREE live music!**

Bring a picnic, lawn chairs, friends and family! The River Road Concert series is a summer tradition.

Line up:

- July 6: John Lackard Blues Band
- July 13: TBA
- July 20: Rick Reddington and the Luv
- July 27: Twangtown Paramours
- Aug. 3: Moose Crossing
- Aug. 10: Chad Hollister - Chili Cook-off
- Aug. 17: Shanaganans
- Aug. 24: Curragh's Fancy



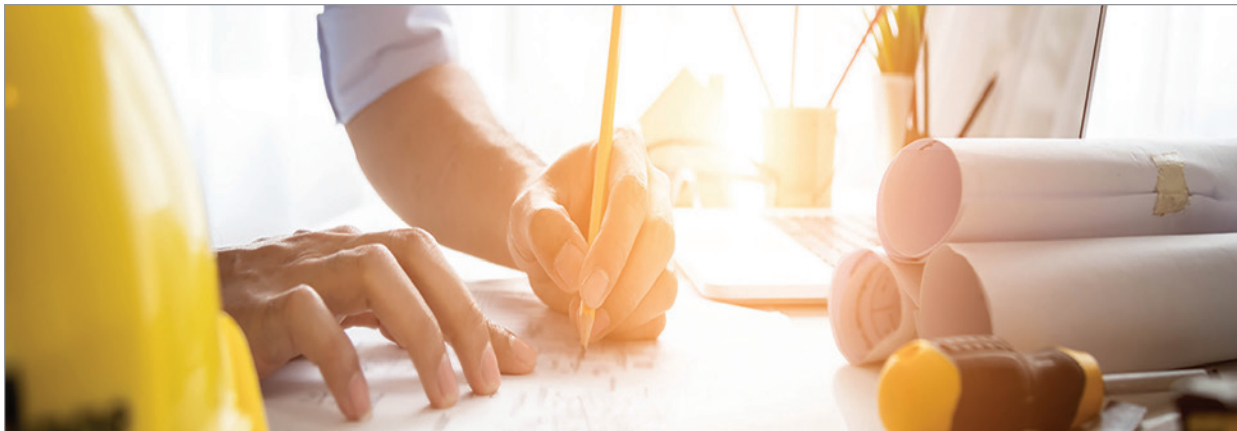
Killington Chili Cook-Off 2023

Thursday, Aug. 10

At Sherburne Memorial Library,
2998 River Road, Killington



For more info on Killington Rec programs and events visit: killingtonvt.myrec.com



Submitted

In a press conference held in the Vermont State House earlier this month, Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas and Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark joined forces to highlight their offices' respective consumer protection work regarding residential contractors and unveiled a new consumer tool to help Vermonters protect themselves: an interactive map on the Secretary of State's webpage that will help consumers determine if a home contractor is registered and in good standing with the State.

← **Registry:**
from page 37

"This program, with tools like this map, gets contractors' names out there, in front of potential customers, showing folks that they are professionals," said Campbell. "And for the first time we will have a statewide list of contractors. This creates new ways to keep in touch with contractors and help with training and best practices. The industry is only getting more complex, and customers' expectations are high."

Guy Payne, the executive director of Sustainable Energy Outreach (SEON), also addressed reporters and expanded on Campbell's comments about training and the development of professional standards. SEON works in the renewable energy/energy efficiency sector and provides training through a network of businesses and

educational institutions.

"The registration program creates exciting new opportunities for SEON and others to provide educational resources and training to home contractors," said Payne. "Certification for builders, that shows they have the knowledge and skills to build to quality standards, including Vermont's Energy Code, will be an important part of the registration program as it matures. Homeowners want contractors that are engaged in continuous learning and have certifications."

Secretary Copeland Hanzas encouraged Vermonters to check out the new map and renewed her call for contractors to register. For more information, visit: sos.vermont.gov/residential-contractors.

THE 10TH ANNUAL



**CAIRO SHRINERS OF RUTLAND
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

to benefit the Cairo Shrine Center of Rutland

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023 - 8:00AM

**Registration 8:30 shotgun
Fun "Captain & Crew" Scramble
with 4 person teams!**

Neshobe Golf - 224 Town Farm Road, Brandon Vt. 05733

Beginners & all ability levels are welcome
to join the fun!!!

\$100 per player includes golf, cart, Golf amusement,
Nice Lunch!

**Many chances to win tons of great prizes
on our expanded 50-50 raffle !!**

Please join us for this wonderful day of golf
and help support our shrine!

Hole & Flag Sponsorships are also available!



NESHOB
Est. 1958

**For more information and
registration forms,
visit www.cairoshriners.org**

LIMITED TIME OFFER: Free Energy Savings Kit*

Efficiency
Vermont

efficiencyvermont.com/kits
(888) 921-5990

Want to save energy and reduce your carbon footprint at home?
Get a free kit full of efficient lighting and water-saving devices:

- 10 LED bulbs (40 / 60 / 75 watt equivalents)
- Low-flow showerhead
- Kitchen faucet aerator
- Bathroom faucet aerator
- Plus a bonus smart bulb

Sign up today: efficiencyvermont.com/kits

*Subject to availability and eligibility.

**\$47
value!**



BIGGER IMPROVEMENTS HAPPEN AT **THE BEAST.**

BOOK YOUR ADULT BIKE CAMP TODAY.



Our **downhill adult mountain bike camps** are day camps available in two day sessions. Adult camps are open to ages 18+ of **all ability levels** from first time mountain bikers to seasoned rippers.

Scan code or visit killington.com/bikepark to purchase.

