



ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS MONDAY, MARCH 17

Head to Rutland for the annual Shiver Me Shamrocks 5K on Saturday, but beware of leprechauns who are known for being practical jokesters and mischievous. According to Irish folklore, they live in remote areas, make little shoes, and protect their pots of gold hidden at the end of rainbows.

Page 17



TMD ROUND-UP

Town Meeting Day offered some surprising results this year. Check out our round-up of town and school district results from around the region.

Page 5



PI DAY

Eat a slice of pie on March 14. Pi (π) is the most famous irrational number: 3.14.

BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH!

March 15 is the date Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated. The infamous phrase from Shakespeare is an ominous warning.

The vast majority of school budgets pass statewide on TMD

Just nine districts voted down school budgets, while over 100 passed them

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

Despite more than a year of political focus on the cost of Vermont's education system, voters across the state by and large backed their local school budgets on Town Meeting Day.

According to preliminary results compiled by the Vermont Superintendents Association, just nine school district budgets out of more than 119 statewide had failed their budgets. They were Alburgh, Fairfax, Georgia, Ludlow-Mount Holly, Paine Mountain, Slate Valley, Springfield, Stamford and Wolcott.

The single-digit tally is a stark reversal from last year, when about a third were rejected.

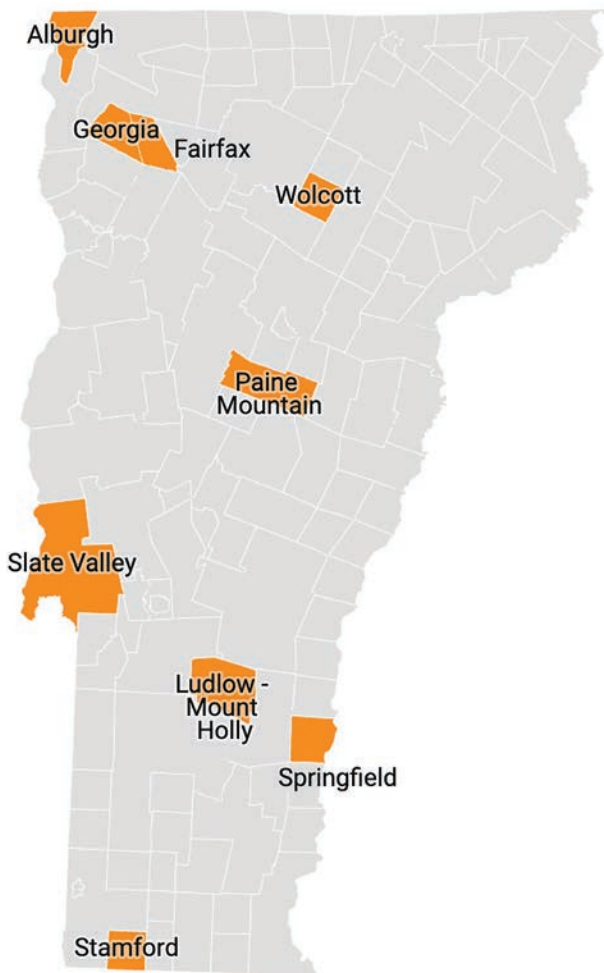
Amid work in Montpelier to reimagine Vermont's public education system, and following a year of taxpayer anger over school spending, it was unclear how voters would view their local school budgets on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 4.

Chelsea Myers, executive director of the Vermont Superintendents Association, expressed relief Wednesday morning that so many communities supported their school budgets, describing the results as "kind of back to normal."

"We would be having a very different conversation if the results resembled last year," she said in a press briefing.

In 2024, schools faced skyrocketing costs and brought budgets to residents that in many cases increased property taxes by double-digit percentages. In turn, voters rejected nearly one in three of those budgets, a historic proportion

School budgets pass → 4



Courtesy Vt Superintendents Association

Voters in nine school districts failed budgets at Town Meetings.

Killington voters approve water line bond, work begins in April on Contract 4

By Polly Mikula

At Town Meeting Day Killington voters overwhelmingly approved Article 4, a bond not to exceed \$11.2 million for the final portion of the new municipal water system — Contract 5, 6A, and 7. The vote was 225 yes to 106 no.

The next day, Wednesday, March 5, the town signed a contract with SUR Construction West, Inc. of Winchester, New Hampshire, to continue the water line from its intersection at East Mountain Road to Ravine Road — Contract 4. The bid for construction was \$6.96 million and the total project cost is \$8.37 million for this portion.

A portion of Contract 4 — East Mountain Road through the proposed village — is within the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district. The portion from The Lookout to Ravine Road is outside of the TIF district and will instead be financed through a combination of the town's Catalyst grant (managed by the Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant and State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan.

Work is scheduled to begin the week of April 21 (pending frost levels) and will take 435 days to complete, with a planned break in the schedule next winter. Production assumes an average of 400 feet per day of construction with two crews working from each end of the project; paving is scheduled for Fridays. One lane will remain open to traffic at all times. Work

Water line → 2



Submitted

Lawmakers consider guardrails for social media platforms designed to addict teen users.

'Kids Code' bill advances in Vt Senate as lawmakers look to rein in Big Tech

By Habib Sabet/VTDigger

State lawmakers in the Senate Committee on Institutions advanced a bill late last month that would put up guard rails for social media platforms designed to keep teens hooked. The bill, S.69 — known as the "Kids Code" by proponents — will land on the Senate floor for a vote this week after the week-long Town Meeting break.

The legislation would require social media companies to adjust algorithms and design codes for users under 18 years old with the aim of making them less addictive and harmful for teens. The bill would also put up guard rails to prevent tech companies

from collecting and sharing the personal data of minors.

"This technology is very complicated, obviously," Sen. Wendy Harrison, D-Windham, told fellow lawmakers in the Senate Committee on Institutions. "I am very passionate about this legislation because it will benefit both the parents and the kids who are subject to it."

Likening social media platforms to slot machines, consumer advocates have argued that tech companies use targeted algorithms and features like "endless scrolling" to trap users in cycles of compulsive use, which can have dramatic consequences

on the mental health and development of adolescents.

"These companies have spent billions to make their products work this way," Laura Marquez-Garrett, an attorney with the Social Media Victims Law Center, said in testimony to lawmakers last week.

"Kids are really vulnerable to these designs and they start losing themselves," she said.

The Kids Code is just one in a constellation of bills lawmakers have taken up this year with the aim of regulating social media companies and strengthening data privacy protections for

Kids Code → 8

Table of contents

Local news 2

State 10

Opinion 12

Puzzles 15

Events calendar 16

Music calendar 19

Arts, dining, entertainment 20

Pets 30

Horoscopes 31

Columns 32

Classifieds 33

Real estate 34

Service directory 38

MOUNTAIN TIMES

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Sherburne UCC "Little White Church," Killington, VT

Local Vermonters go to D.C. to raise hemophilia awareness

New England Hemophilia Association members converged in D.C. on March 5-7

Members of the New England Hemophilia Association and their families went to Washington, D.C., to lobby Senators and Representatives for support. Hemophilia is a bleeding disorder where blood doesn't properly clot and affects around 30,000 American adults and children. Vermont was represented by Ian Cornell, his brothers Kaleb Cornell and Levi Cornell, and their mother, Joannah Roush. They met with Staff from the offices of Senator Bernie Sanders, Senator Peter Welch, and Representative Becca Balint. They shared their situations and stories and requested support to protect continued access to the healthcare that so many children and adults rely on daily.



Pictured (l-r) Kaleb Cornell, Joannah Roush, Ian Cornell, Levi Cornell, Deputy Health Policy Director for Bernie Sanders Colin Goldfinch, and National Bleeding Disorders Foundation member Johanna Gray came together in Washington, DC, on March 5-7 to raise awareness for healthcare support for Hemophilia.

Submitted



By Kevin Barnes

Ludlow Rotary recently hosted Neighbors Together's Paula Vanguilder (left) and Bridgette Willis (right) for an update on their organization's community efforts.

Ludlow Rotary hosts Neighbors Together for community discussion

The Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) recently welcomed Paula Vanguilder, chairman of Neighbors Together, to speak about the organization's ongoing community support efforts. Originally formed during the 2023 flood relief efforts, Neighbors Together has since expanded its outreach to provide mental health and addiction recovery support, cooking classes, school snacks, fresh flowers for seniors, and more.

Co-chaired by Shannon Barton and Bridgette Willis, the group focuses on fostering connection, well-being, and empowerment through inclusive programs and community services.

Neighbors Together's next event, Mom Prom, will take place on March 15.

For more information, visit: the Neighbors Together Facebook page.

Water line: from page 1

hours will be 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with federal holidays off.

A portion of Contract 4 (6,400 feet) should coincide with Phase 1A of the Killington Road project, which is expected to go to bid within the next few weeks and be completed by next April. SUR Construction will first prioritize the 11,600 feet outside the road project, then "coordinate with the road contractor for planning of the concurrent projects," according to the contract signed March 5.

Casella has been working on Contract 1-3A of the waterline for over a year and will complete that portion of the project this spring. Contract 1-3A brings water from the valley wells on the "flats" of Route 4 to a pump station east on Route 4 then up across East Mountain Road to Shagback Mountain and back down to East Mountain Road.

SUR Construction will hook into that water main connection on East Mountain Road and bring the water to the proposed village area, then continue the line to the intersection of Ravine Road and Killington Road.

Water is anticipated to become available to residents along East Mountain Road by September 2026.



By Polly Mikula

Members of Dufresne Group, SUR Construction West, Inc., the Town of Killington and CEDRR gathered to sign Contract 4, Monday, March 10, at the Killington Public Safety Building.

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7:00 PM



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FRIDAY, MARCH 28TH



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DIRTY DEEDS
THE AC/DC EXPERIENCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 25 | 7:30 PM



CIRCUS SPRINGBOARD



THURSDAY, MAY 1 | 7:00 PM




DRAGONS AND BEASTS
MYTHICAL LIVE

FRIDAY, MAY 2 | 7:00 PM

HANK AZARIA
AND THE EZ STREET BAND



SATURDAY, MAY 3 | 7:00 PM



LITTLE FEAT
SHRINE UP THE BAND TOUR


MONDAY, MAY 5 | 7:00 PM

An Evening With



Judy Collins

THURSDAY, MAY 15 | 7:30 PM



VERDI'S LA TRAVIATA

THURSDAY, MAY 22 | 7:00 PM



SHAWN COLVIN AND RODNEY CROWELL
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Women's history – made by Vermonters: Inspiration, empowerment, resources

Women's History Month (WHM), celebrated nationally in March since 1987, offers a perfect opportunity to highlight the remarkable contributions of Vermont women, past and present. In fact, the Downtown Rutland Partnership (DRP) is hosting a mingle-and-learn mixer featuring local women business owners at The Mad Rose pub on March 26th. (At the end of this article are more details.)



For the Greater Good
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

The following feature highlights numerous extraordinary Vermont women who have contributed their talents to the state – and, in several cases, to the world at large. Also included is a list of resources that make it possible for other women to start businesses, artistic enterprises, nonprofits, or political careers here in Vermont.

U.S. Representative Becca Balint, elected in 2022, brings her background as a historian and educator to her political career. The first woman and openly LGBTQ+ person to represent Vermont in Congress, she previously served as President Pro Tem of the Vermont State Senate.

Madeleine Kunin, Vermont's first and only female governor, and the first Jewish woman elected governor in the U.S., remains an inspirational figure. In a November 2024 interview about the presidential election, Kunin declared: "When I woke up this morning, I didn't feel very inspirational ... But as the day goes on ... the fighting spirit is fighting its way back into my mind. I know we can't give up."

Townshend, Vermont native Clarina Irene Howard Nichols, was a 19th-century journalist, lobbyist, and advocate who fought for women's property rights and suffrage. Dorothy Thompson, a journalist who opposed Nazism, including Hitler, was expelled from Nazi Germany for her reporting and inspired Sinclair Lewis' "It Can't Happen Here," his work about autocracies. Thompson is buried in Barnard.

For over three decades, Allison Hooper has revolutionized the artisan cheese industry through Vermont Creamery, introducing goat cheeses and cultured butter to American palates. Currently a partner in Ayers Brook Goat Dairy in Randolph, she continues to be a mentor and a voice for U.S. cheesemakers.

A few of Vermont's women artists have also gained national recognition for their work, showcasing diverse styles and perspectives. Among them:

Anaïs Mitchell, born in Montpelier, won eight Tony Awards for her musical "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." Shaina Taub, from Waitsfield, earned two Tony Awards for "Suffs," a musical about the women's suffrage movement. Alison Bechdel, from Bolton, is known for her graphic memoir "Fun Home," which was adapted into a Tony-winning musical. Waitsfield's Grace Potter, and Barre's Miranda July, also contribute significantly to the arts.

To be clear, not all accomplished Vermont women aspire to become famous but rather aim to serve their communities' first and foremost. Here are a few women-owned businesses in the Killington-Rutland area that rightly deserve their many fans.

Liquid Art Restaurant in Killington serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, in an art gallery featuring both a cocktail bar and an espresso bar. Downtown Rutland boasts numerous women-owned businesses, including The Gymnasium, Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center, Phoenix Books, Kaleidoscope Art Supply, Grateful Vermonter, Fruition Fineries, Divine Boutique, Camille's vintage clothing, Bougie on A Budget, Mad Rose pub, Hand-carved by Ernie's, Prouty's Ice Cream Parlor, Speakeasy Café, and Loose Loona Gifts and Tea House.

It should come as no surprise that the CEOs or executive directors of many area non-profits

Women's history → 39

← School budgets pass: from page 1

given the typical broad support for school spending plans.

Following the initial tumult, many districts took three or even four attempts to pass budgets.

This year, state analysts predict property taxes will rise on average just under 6% — less than half of 2024's increase. To keep taxes from surging again, many districts planned to cut staff.

In Montpelier, Gov. Phil Scott has used the Legislative session to outline his "education transformation proposal," a plan that would consolidate Vermont's 119 school districts into just five and radically reimagine how the state provides funding for education.

The plan, he argues, would save millions.

But to achieve those savings, small schools would likely close, and class sizes would intentionally grow to create efficiencies.

On Wednesday, Sue Ceglowski, executive director of the Vermont School Boards Association, described the Town Meeting Day results as a show of confidence from Vermonters. That backing will give policy-makers "the time to make any changes in a thoughtful way," she said.

While most school districts vote on budgets on Town Meeting Day, some will bring budgets to voters in the coming weeks. About a dozen districts that voted Tuesday had not yet reported election results as of 11 a.m. Wednesday, according to the superintendents association.

Habib Sabet contributed to this reporting.

Town Meeting Day round-ups from around the region

By Polly Mikula

Rutland re-elects Doenges as mayor, ousts three incumbent aldermen

Incumbent Mayor Mike Doenges beat challenger Alderman Henry Heck 2,075 to 1,581. The mayor’s race saw about a 20% bump in turnout compared to 2023 but Doenges took about the same percentage of the total vote in each election: 56.5% in 2023 and 56.7% in 2025.

While voters granted Doenges another term, they did not act accordingly with the aldermen, rejecting three incumbents: Alex Adams, John McCann and Carrie Savage — all from the Rutland Forward group. Instead city voters chose to re-elect former aldermen with strong name recognition.

Former Mayor Dave Allaire was the top vote-getter with 2,058 votes. Tom Donahue came next with 1,936. Paul Clifford came in third with 1,776. Larry Cupoli was fourth with 1,769. Longtime Alderman William Gillam came in fifth with 1,681, and first-term Alderwoman Kiana McClure won reelection with 1,656 votes.

Voters strongly supported the budget and down-ballot articles.

Pittsfield approves 1% option tax

Pittsfield voters approved Article 7, which asked “Shall the town assess a one percent (1%) tax on rooms and meals and alcoholic beverages pursuant to V.S.A. § 138(b)?”

The motion to accept the article was made by Ann Kuendig, who stated that the town would be joining 28 other communities who impose a 1% tax on meals and rooms and alcohol. The town keeps 70%, the state takes 30%.

“Every \$1.00 we gain from the local option tax a property owner will save \$.70 in property tax,” Kuendig said according to the town minutes. “Our effort is to try to diversify our revenue and reduce taxes.”

The majority were in favor by voice vote and the article was approved.

Four of five area towns vote to eliminate town listers, auditors

Votes to eliminate auditors for public accountants were on the ballot in Reading, Ryegate and Woodstock, while requests to trade listers for professional assessors were on the ballot in Albany, Bridgewater, Hartland, Lincoln, Reading, Shrewsbury, Westminster, Williamstown and Woodstock.

Locally, voters in Woodstock, Reading, Hartland, Shrewsbury and Bridgewater all authorized the elimination of the office of town listers. Professionally qualified assessors will now be hired to assume those duties.

- In Woodstock the article to eliminate listers passed by paper ballot 105 yes to 10 no.
- In Reading voters approved eliminating listers 110-35 with 3 blank) and eliminating auditors 114-27 with 7 blank. There were no candidates on the ballot for any of the positions.
- In Hartland voters passed Article 9 to eliminate listers 66-32.
- Shrewsbury voters also approved replacing its listers with a hired professional assessor, 146-61.
- Bridgewater, however, bucked the trend and voters rejected a motion to eliminated the office of the town lister and moved to a professional assessing system. It failed 86-53 in a paper ballot vote, after a residents moved to switch the vote from a floor vote. Opponents argued that the town’s current listers are more familiar with the town and that there is no reason to get rid of the office folks are willing to do it.

Killington ousts two incumbents, expands Select Board to five

Killington voters decided to shake up both the members of its Select Board and its governing structure. Voters elected to expand its Select Board from the current three-member board to a five-member board. Voters also chose to oust both incumbents who were up for re-election. Rick Bowen defeated incumbent Robert Hecker for a 1-year term (215-114), and Patrick Cushing defeated incumbent Christopher Karr for a 3-year term (196-131).

Residents interested in running for the additional Select Board seats must file petitions to be considered. A special election will be held at a date TBA in May.

Killington was not the only town that voted to increase from a three- to five-member board at this year’s Town Meeting. Winhall (near Stratton) also voted to expand its board to five via a floor vote, March 4 (42 yes, 27 no). Westmore voters (in the Northeast Kingdom), who voted last year to expand to five, had an article on this year’s ballot to move back to a three-member board — the measure was voted down by a count of 36 no to 23 voting yes, so the five member board remains.

3 or 5? Select Boards split in both Windsor and Rutland Counties

Windsor County

Baltimore - 3	Andover - 5
Barnard - 3	Bethel - 5
Bridgewater - 3	Cavendish - 5
Hartland - 3	Chester - 5
Plymouth - 3	Ludlow - 5
Pomfret - 3	Norwich - 5
Reading - 3	Royalton - 5
Rochester - 3	Springfield - 5
Sharon - 3	Weathersfield - 5
Stockbridge - 3	Weston - 5
West Windsor - 3	Windsor - 5
	Woodstock - 5
	Hartford - 7

Rutland County

Ira - 3	Brandon - 5
Mendon - 3	Benson - 5
Mount Holly - 3	Castleton - 5
Mount Tabor - 3	Chittendon - 5
Pittsfield - 3	Clarendon - 5
Shrewsbury - 3	Danby - 5
Tinmouth - 3	Fair Haven - 5
Wells - 3	Hubbardton - 5
West Haven - 3	Killington - 5
	Middletown Springs - 5
	Pawlet - 5
	Pittsford - 5
	Proctor - 5
	Poultney - 5
	Rutland Town - 5
	Sudbury - 5
	Wallingford - 5
	West Rutland - 5

Mountain Views School District voters okay \$30.8 million budget; Werner newly elected to the board

Voters in the seven-town Mountain Views Supervisory Union School District (MVSU) overwhelmingly approved a \$30.8 million school budget on Town Meeting Day (1054 yes, 653 no, 3 blank) — 61.8% to 38.2%. Voters in six of the seven towns (Barnard, Bridgewater, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock) approved the budget, with only Killington voting against the proposed expenses. However, the measure failed by only 39 votes this year (149 yes, 188 no) — last year it failed by 129 (186 yes, 315 no). The per pupil spending is \$17,230, which is 1.03% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

There were six three-year slots open on the MVSU School Board but only Woodstock had a contested race — a three-way race for two board seats. Incumbent Matt Stout was reelected, and newcomer Sarit Werner was chosen for the second seat. The open seat was vacated by Ben Ford, who did not seek re-election for personal reasons.

Incumbents Carin Ewing Park, representing Barnard, Lara Bowers in Bridgewater, and Elliot Rubin in Plymouth, were all reelected by voters without opposition. An open board seat in Reading went unfilled.

Otter Valley budget passes by one vote

On Town Meeting Day, the Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) school budget passed by a single vote: 817 yes to 816 no. Expenditures for the 2025-26 year totalled \$28,022,099, a 4.53% increase.

According to Brandon Town Clerk Susan Gage, the ballot-reading machines had initially tallied 815 yes to 814 no, a margin so slim that a manual recount was undertaken. During the recount, four ballots were revealed to have stray marks that had rendered them unreadable to the machines — two of those were in favor of the budget and two were opposed, bringing the official totals to 817 yes and 816 no.

Slate Valley district budget fails

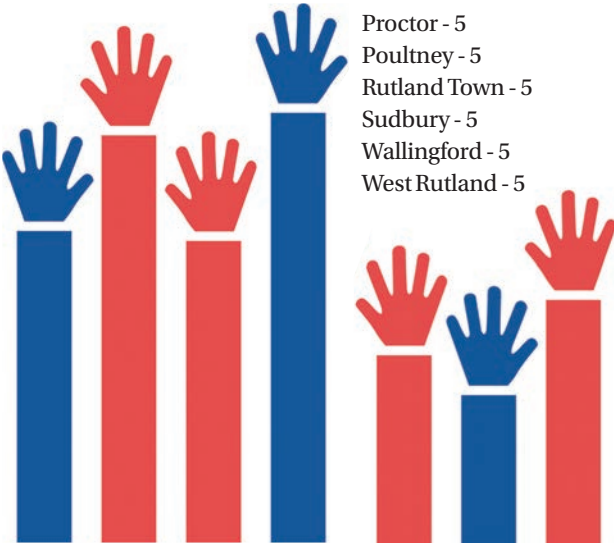
Slate Valley voters defeated the district’s \$32.1 million budget at Town Meeting Day by 318 votes. The tally was 789 yes - 1,107 no. With the proposed budget, four of the district’s six towns (Castleton, Fair Haven, West Haven, Benson, Hubbardton, and Orwell) would have seen a tax rate decrease, given the projected yield.

The budget called for a 5.2% increase in spending over the current year; the education spending per pupil totaled \$11,782.98 — among the lowest in the region.

Wells Springs Unified Union district passed with a 8.45% increase over last year for a \$13,100 per pupil cost and Mill River went up 5% for a \$13,570 per pupil cost. Rutland City School District passed its budget of \$67.2 million with a per pupil spending of \$12,197 — 1.75% lower than last year. Mountain Views School District, which includes Killington, passed a per pupil expenditure of \$17,230.

Voters in Rutland County endorse combining high schools

At Town Meeting Day, March 4, the three-town school district of Quarry Valley overwhelmingly approved a non-binding article endorsing the possibility of closing a school. The district currently operates three high schools: Proctor, West Rutland and Poultney. While no specific school has been identified for potential closure, voters showed support for the idea, 471 for to 365 against.





TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE: PROPOSED SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS, AMENDMENTS TO KILLINGTON ZONING BYLAWS, and KILLINGTON ZONING MAP

The Killington Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed Subdivision Regulations, Zoning Bylaw Amendments, and Zoning Map Amendment for the Town of Killington on: March 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the **Sherburne Library; 2998 River Road, Killington, Vermont**. The hearing will also be held remotely via zoom. The link to join remotely is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82016521376?pwd=A5o6YgZerFHNta7lpNGZl74DLnyuey.1> or by call in: +1-646-931-3860, +1-929-2056099

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

The principal purpose of the proposed subdivision regulations and zoning bylaw amendments is to (1) provide for orderly growth and coordinated development in the Town of Killington, and to further the purposes of the Town of Killington Municipal Plan, (2) to amend the current zoning bylaws to reflect changes made by the adoption of subdivision regulations in the Town of Killington, (3) to clarify Section 407 of the Zoning Bylaws that relates to the short term rental of dwelling units, (4) to require a zoning permit for the removal of trees within an area equal or greater to the maximum lot coverage percentage applicable to the subject zoning district or the removal of more than five (5) trees with a caliper width of eight inches (8") or greater within twenty (20) feet of any side or rear property boundary in any twelve (12) month period except for the removal of dead or diseased trees and the removal of trees in accordance with a forest management plan, (5) to reduce the number of allowed driveway curb cuts to one unless exempted by the town road foreman and fire chief, and (6) to clarify the exemptions (specifically signs) from setbacks in all zoning districts. The Town of Killington Zoning Map has also been amended to rezone a small portion of the Forest Reserve District to the Valley District. The adoption of subdivision regulations and proposed zoning bylaw amendments will affect every geographical area of Killington, and are consistent with the goals and policies outlined within the Town Plan.

The proposed amendment to the Town of Killington Zoning Map is in conformance with the Land Use Chapter of Killington's Town Plan. Specifically, this change is designed to maintain consistency among the Valley Zoning District and to encourage the use of PUDs to cluster development.

The proposed zoning bylaw amendments affect every section of the zoning bylaw, however, the section headings materially affected by the proposed subdivision regulations and zoning bylaw amendments are: SECTION 100 – ENACTMENT, SECTION 120 – DEFINITIONS, SECTION 300 – CONDITIONAL USES, SECTION 407 – SHORT TERM RENTAL OF DWELLING UNIT, SECTION 420 – LOCATION OF ACCESS DRIVEWAYS, SECTION 440 – SIGNS, SECTION 615 – ZONING PERMIT FOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT OR LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT, SECTION 712 – GENERAL DUTIES, and SECTION 751 – PUBLIC NOTICE: CONDITIONAL USE REVIEWS, VARIANCES, MAJOR SUBDIVISION REVIEWS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPEALS.

The full text of the proposed Town of Killington Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Bylaw Amendments may be found at the Town Clerk's office, 2706 River Road, Killington and on the Planning Commission page of the Town's website at <https://KillingtonTown.com>.

*Dated at Killington, Vermont this 26th day of February.
William H. Austin, Assistant Town Planner, Town of Killington, Vermont*



Submitted

Cheers to Mountain Top for the accolades as the greatest.

Mountain Top Resort named 'World's Greatest Wedding Venue'

CHITTENDEN — Mountain Top Resort has been recognized as the World's Greatest Wedding Venue by World's Greatest TV (WGTV), a show that spotlights companies excelling in their industries. After a rigorous selection process, the Vermont resort was chosen over numerous wedding venues nationwide, securing the title in the summer of 2024.

The recognition was highlighted in Episode 385 of "World's Greatest TV," which aired on Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 on the Bloomberg Network. The segment is currently available on Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Hulu, and on the World's Greatest TV website for a limited time.

Mountain Top Resort's Operations Director Mike Howe, Events Manager Miranda Link, Marketing Director Jade Miller, and Facilities & Grounds Director Roger Hill showcased the venue's standout offerings, including:

- The event barn and wedding coordination experts – A picturesque space designed to create unforgettable wedding experiences
- Guest homes and accommodations – A range of lodging options that provide comfort and convenience for wedding parties and guests
- Dining options – On-site culinary offerings that elevate wedding celebrations
- Activity center & nordic operations – A variety of recreational experiences, including Nordic skiing, which celebrates its 60th year of operations in 2025

Mountain Top Resort, a four-season destination in Vermont, has long been a sought-after venue for weddings, combining luxury accommodations with breathtaking natural surroundings. The resort offers year-round amenities for overnight guests and day visitors, from a full-service spa to outdoor adventures.

For more information, visit: mountaintopinn.com.

How Killington Resort became the Beast

Part One: Setting the scene

By Karen D. Lorentz

Before their use as recreation destinations, the mountains in Vermont presented formidable barriers to travel and trade, especially in the southern half of the state. The unbroken ridge was not as penetrable as the northern half where river valleys traversed the higher peaks. The Green Mountain range cut off the eastern half of the state from the western side. Mountain passes at elevations of 2,000 feet above sea level were difficult to negotiate in the late 1700s and early 1800s, and settlers moved among towns infrequently and only when the weather cooperated. As a result, there were great differences in political, social, commercial, and religious lives of Vermonters.

As more towns were settled, however, more roads were built and as people had reason to cross the mountains, they found ways to do so, although the traveling remained an arduous journey. While the railroad that was planned between Rutland and Woodstock failed to materialize, a stage line did go over Sherburne Pass in the 1800s and afforded a scenic route that was compared to the Swiss Alps!

With the advent of the railroad in 1850 and the beginnings of Vermont tourism ushered in by the famous spas like those at Clarendon and Middletown Springs, more visitors found their way to Vermont.

One of the first settlers to capitalize on the economic benefits of tourism was an enterprising pioneer who discovered mineral springs on his land in Clarendon in the 1770s. He built a large log structure to house guests in 1781 and expanded it to a hotel for 100 guests in 1798. He ran a thriving tourist business by marketing the “therapeutic powers” of the bubbling waters at Clarendon Springs.

There were more than 100 commercial springs in Vermont in the 1800s, 32 of which attracted hotels of varying proportions and amenities. By the 1850s Woodstock, Manchester, Wheelock, Quechee, and Brattleboro were among the better-known locations that attracted a successful mineral-spring hotel business.

Visitors also discovered the delights of sunsets from mountain peaks and the rehabilitative powers of mountain air. Whereas the stagecoach and boat had brought summer people to the lakes and spas, the trains made “mountain trade” possible. Outdoor enthusiasts who enjoyed hiking up tall mountains and basking in fresh mountain air during the nation’s Romantic Period in the 1800s set the scene for the development of hotels on Vermont mountain summits.

No sooner had the horse path been built than Vincent C. Meyerhoffer built a rustic cabin about 300 feet below Killington Peak where he entertained visitors in the summer.

Summits as assets

The same men who had once seen mountains as obstacles to commerce had discovered a natural asset. By 1858 Mount Mansfield had a Summit House and soon after a luxurious village hotel, too. The latter combination transformed the town of Stowe from a wilderness to a highly successful recreational mecca!

Other mountain retreats were established throughout the state, including successful summit houses on Mount Equinox in Manchester and Breadloaf in Ripton. Mount Ascutney had a mountain road surveyed by 1857, and in 1858 a large shelter for hikers was built from granite quarried on the mountain. Towns located near mountains — Woodstock, Montpelier, St. Albans and Manchester — quickly became thriving centers of tourism. Native Vermonters were aware of both the economic benefit and the aesthetic challenge of mountain adventures. In Rutland there was also an interest in “going up the mountain.” The earliest newspaper articles in the Rutland Herald described horseback excursions to the mountaintop. The first article was entitled “Mt. Killington” and was dated Aug. 18, 1859. Leverett Wilkins of Mendon wrote about building a rough road starting from a gang mill, located in the Wheelerville area of Mendon.

No sooner had the horse path been built than Vincent C. Meyerhoffer built a rustic cabin about 300 feet below Killington Peak where he entertained visitors in the summer.

Rutland waited until 1879 to cash in on Killington. A surveyor with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey had laid out a route to the second highest peak in the state. Delighted with the prospect of a tourist attraction, the citizens of Rutland raised enough money for the construction of a mountain road for horse and carriage travel. They broke all records for building mountain roads, seeing it to completion that same season (1879).

Vying with spokesmen for Mount Mansfield, the publicists for Killington advertised “a fine road leading east from the village” and a view from the top “far surpassing in extent and beauty that obtained from any other mountain in Vermont” and even “regarded more attractive than that from Mount Washington, being less a scene of desolation and of greater pastoral beauty, presenting to the beholder a sea of mountains clothed to their summits with verdure, their sides dotted with nestling lakes and fertile farms.” (Smith and Rann, eds. “History of Rutland County, Vermont,” 1886.)

The Beast → 9



Courtesy of the Green Mountain Club

Snowshoe visits to Killington Peak were a popular winter activity in the early 1900s. The photo above is dated March 26, 1916 and shows 10 men atop the peak in wool winter gear.

← Kids Code:
from page 1

Vermonters.

That same goal was at the heart of a sweeping data privacy bill lawmakers passed last year, only to have Gov. Phil Scott veto the legislation despite broad support. Drawing on policies already enacted by states like California and Connecticut, the more than 100-page omnibus bill from 2024 patched together a slew of provisions aimed at regulating tech companies, including an earlier version of the Kids Code and statutes providing ground rules for data brokers.

This year, lawmakers are attempting a divide and conquer strategy for the task of reining in big tech.

In addition to S.69, Senate Institution Committee members also last week took up S.71, a bill to establish general ground rules for tech companies that collect, share and sell the data of users in Vermont. That bill would create a private right of action against companies that violate those rules.

Meanwhile, S.70, which hasn't yet been discussed in committee, would give users the right to request the removal of their data from data brokers. All three Senate bills have companions introduced in the House.

big tech, including S.69, could see stumbling blocks on the way to Scott's desk, where it faces the possibility of another veto.

Last year, the omnibus data privacy bill was the subject of intense debate

Last year, [the bill]... faced fierce pressure from industry lobbyists who flocked to the State House to argue against the legislation.

Rep. Monique Priestley, D-Bradford, who was one of the architects of last year's data legislation and is sponsoring the House bills, said it was "cleaner" to have the legislation broken down into component parts this time around.

"Each one of those bills is now a refined version of what has happened with these bills across the country," said Priestley, referencing policies from other states that have served as models.

But legislation regulating

in both chambers before reaching its final form and faced fierce pressure from industry lobbyists who flocked to the State House to argue against the legislation.

Priestley said passing the bills could be a similarly uphill battle this year.

"Because people are losing faith that the federal government will act at this level, everyone realizes that the states are the level that these things are going to get accomplished," she said.

"So everyone is piling on."



By Charles Ullman



By Polly Mikula

Pico Ski Club skis Interconnect

On Sunday, March 9, about 50 members of the Pico Ski Club, coaches and parents embarked on a ski adventure from the top of Pico to the base of Ramshead at Killington via the Interconnect trail (mostly used by Snocats). The group returned to Pico via The Bus.

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The first known Killington House (left) in the late 1800s. Hikers (middle) summit in the 1900s. Thousands visited the Summit Hotel during the 25 years it operated. The 1954 Pomift (right).

← The Beast:

from page 7

Playing host to increasing throngs of friends and visitors, Meyerhoffer enlarged his cabin to a hotel, which opened on June 17 for the 1880 season. Killington’s Summit House was more ambitious than the original hotels on either Mansfield or Camel’s Hump with rooms for 30-40 guests.

Other routes to the peak were in use from the eastern side of the mountain including a Juggernaut Trail that led in from West Bridgewater (reportedly following or paralleling a Juggernaut Road built in 1853).

In 1913 a group from Woodstock raised funds to build a trail from West Bridgewater to Killington Peak. (Years later Pres Smith used this route when scouting the mountain.)

Winter catches on

In 1892, the Woodstock Inn opened its doors in winter and entertained visitors with cross-country ski treks; by 1910 they had built a winter sports center with toboggan runs and a ski jump. Vermont colleges sported ski teams and the first rope tow began operations Jan. 28, 1934 in Woodstock. By 1941, there were reportedly 50 tows across Vermont.

In 1892, the Woodstock Inn opened its doors in winter and entertained visitors with cross-country ski treks; by 1910 they had built a winter sports center with toboggan runs and a ski jump.

As a small-town trend was developing for winter use of the hills, Perry H. Merrill, the state forester who eventually became the commissioner of forests and parks, saw an economic benefit to the new sport and obtained Killington Peak for the state. He tried to promote his Killington idea to businessmen in Rutland in 1941 but was not successful, as they were aware of the challenges facing Pico.

The lack of access to Killington Peak further discouraged any interest.

World War II halted Merrill’s ski-area promoting. But in 1951 he sent forester Charles Lord and highway engineer Abner W. Coleman to survey Killington. They pronounced it “fit for skiing,” but still Merrill couldn’t persuade anyone to develop the mountain.

The key ingredient of a good mountain was there along with nearby places that had catered to tourists and could now host winter guests.

Next week we’ll meet the person who saw—and capitalized—on that potential latent in The Beast.

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Vermonters who work from home tend to earn more, data shows

By Erin Petenko/VT Digger

Vermonters who work mostly from home earned 28% more than the average employee in the state in 2023, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau that was recently released.

Remote workers reported a median income of about \$65,000 per year, well above the \$51,000 median for all workers 16 and older, according to the bureau's American Community Survey, which surveyed people from roughly 14,000 Vermont households in 2023.

The estimated 55,000 workers, 16% of the state's workforce, who work remotely reported other clear differences from in-office workers: They are older, more likely to be women and more likely to work in professional, information-related or administrative roles.

Peter Nelson, a demographics researcher at Middlebury College, called the disparities a "fascinating phenomenon" that is "only going to become more pronounced in a place like Vermont," where second-home owners are fairly common and may benefit from an ability to work remotely.

"On the one hand, our politicians would be clamoring to be able to claim that they created 55,000 jobs that pay, on average, \$65,000 a year. That's what people dream of," he said. "But at the same time, we've seen in [this] state what the impact of the arrival of higher-earning populations have had on our very limited housing supply."

Vermont officials have tried to promote migration to the state through programs like a remote worker reimbursement, arguing new working residents are essential to Vermont's economy and future. But migration during the Covid-19 pandemic appears to have played a role in rising housing demand, according to the state's latest housing report, driving up prices and lowering the availability of apartments and homes.

It's hard to say how many work-from-home Vermonters were working for out-of-state companies in 2023, since the Census does not track each respondent's employer.

There are other caveats, too. Since the data is self-reported, different respondents may have different definitions of whether they are "working from home," including those that may actually go into a physical workplace a few days a week.

However, Nelson said the data appears to correspond to unsurprising patterns in the breakdown by occupation and industry. Vermonters in professional, managerial or finance-based roles were more likely to work remotely, likely because their profession makes it easier to do so. Occupations like retail work, manufacturing and construction were less likely to work remotely.

Nelson said he can do his work as a professor almost anywhere, meanwhile, "a plumber that works for the college isn't much use if that plumber stays at home."

The data also reveals trends in the demographics of remote workers. They tend to be slightly older, which Nelson said suggested that more senior employees were more likely to have flexibility around working remotely. He gave the example of someone who has worked at a firm in Boston, then moved to Vermont and took their clients with them.

About 54% of remote workers were women, compared with 49% of the overall workforce. That could be due to women choosing to work from home to accommodate their



Submitted

Data shows remote workers may earn \$14K more (median income), be older, more women.

greater domestic load, Nelson said.

"We know within households, the distribution of domestic responsibilities isn't shared equally," he said.

But he cautioned that at-home businesses like child care, which are women-dominated, could also skew the data.

In-person workers had an average one-way commute time of 24 minutes, the data showed. The vast majority drove their own car to work, at 81%, with about 10% carpooling and the rest biking, walking or taking some form of public transportation.

Despite the fact that remote workers did not use their cars to commute, they were about as likely as the average worker to have access to one or more cars.

"That's another indication of class differentiation," Nelson said. "They're not working from home because they're stuck at home. They're working at home by choice."

The Census only published data by county for a 5-year average, due to the smaller sample sizes. Between 2019 and 2023, remote work tended to be highest in Chittenden, Washington and Windham counties, and lower in Rutland County and the Northeast Kingdom. The rate

loosely correlated to broadband access and the percent of workers in professional roles.

While the divide between remote and in-person workers may be the result of long-term divides in the workforce, it could also deepen them, allowing remote workers additional privileges like commuting cost savings and housing flexibility.

"Privilege enables privilege," Nelson said.

The divide may already be changing how and when Vermont's second-home owners come to the state. In a preliminary study of mobile phone location data, Nelson found that second-home owners have been visiting at less predictable times and staying for longer since the onset of the pandemic.

He believed that shift could be in part the result of remote work making it easier for visitors to be flexible in their timing.

"It wasn't like everyone arrived in July and then left in December or January," like the classic "snowbirds," he said. "What seems to be happening in places like the amenity destinations of Vermont or Colorado is that the rhythms have shifted, and the length of time that people are spending in what you would describe as a second home location is extending."

FROM GROUNDWORK TO GREATNESS



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Attorney General Clark releases top 10 consumer complaints of 2024

Office saves and recovers more than \$2 million for Vermont consumers

In recognition of National Consumer Protection Week, Attorney General Charity Clark announced the top 10 consumer complaints received by her office’s Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) in 2024. In keeping with past years, the top complaints involved vehicles, home improvement matters, and retail, which collectively represent 48% of all complaints filed in 2024. Attorney General Clark also released CAP’s 2024 Annual Report in which the program details its record-high recoveries and savings for Vermont consumers, totaling more than \$2 million.

“Vermonters should know that they have rights as consumers, and the Consumer Assistance Program is free and here to help navigate consumer problems that arise,” said Attorney General Clark. “Every day, the Consumer Assistance Program helps consumers and businesses resolve disputes, and last year returned \$2 million in savings to Vermonters. Thank you for being our eyes and ears in reporting consumer problems to my office!”

While the top 10 consumer complaints of 2024 remained largely the same as those of 2023, there was a noticeable difference in fuel disputes reported last year. Fuel complaints moved back up to the No. 4 spot from No. 10 in 2023.

In addition to mediating 63 propane-related complaints in 2024, CAP responded to 68 inquiries from fuel providers and consumers about the application of the “Propane Rule,” a consumer protection rule enforced by the Attorney General’s Office.

Again, this year, the top complaints reported to CAP were auto and home improvement complaints. CAP has made great strides in addressing the issue of home improvement by hiring a home improvement specialist in July of 2023. As a result, in the year-and-a-half since the home improvement specialist joined CAP, more than \$800,000 has been recovered or saved

by Vermont homeowners. In Vermont, businesses can be considered consumers too, and in 2024, businesses continued to utilize the services provided by the Small Business Initiative (SBI) at CAP. Businesses filed 69 consumer complaints in 2024 and CAP was able to recover over \$550,000 for businesses. In addition to complaint mediation, the SBI has provided outreach and education efforts to businesses across Vermont in areas such as flood resources, scam prevention, and issue spotting.

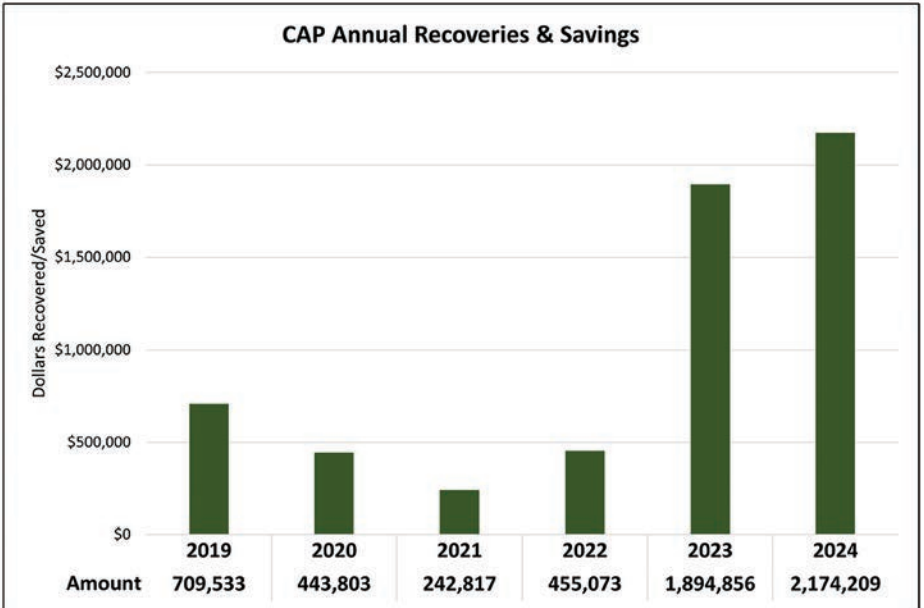
CAP is a program based at the University of Vermont in partnership with the Attorney General’s Office that has been serving Vermonters for over four decades. “Thank you for being our eyes and ears in reporting consumer problems to my office!” said Clark.

The program’s primary goal is to address consumer problems in Vermont, which it does through its mediation service, outreach, and education. Staff, with the help of service-learning students, manage informal inquiries, provide referrals to resources, and engage in mediation of consumer complaints. In 2024, the program received 8,705 unique contacts, including reports of scams, and provided extensive mediation services on 1,277 consumer complaints.

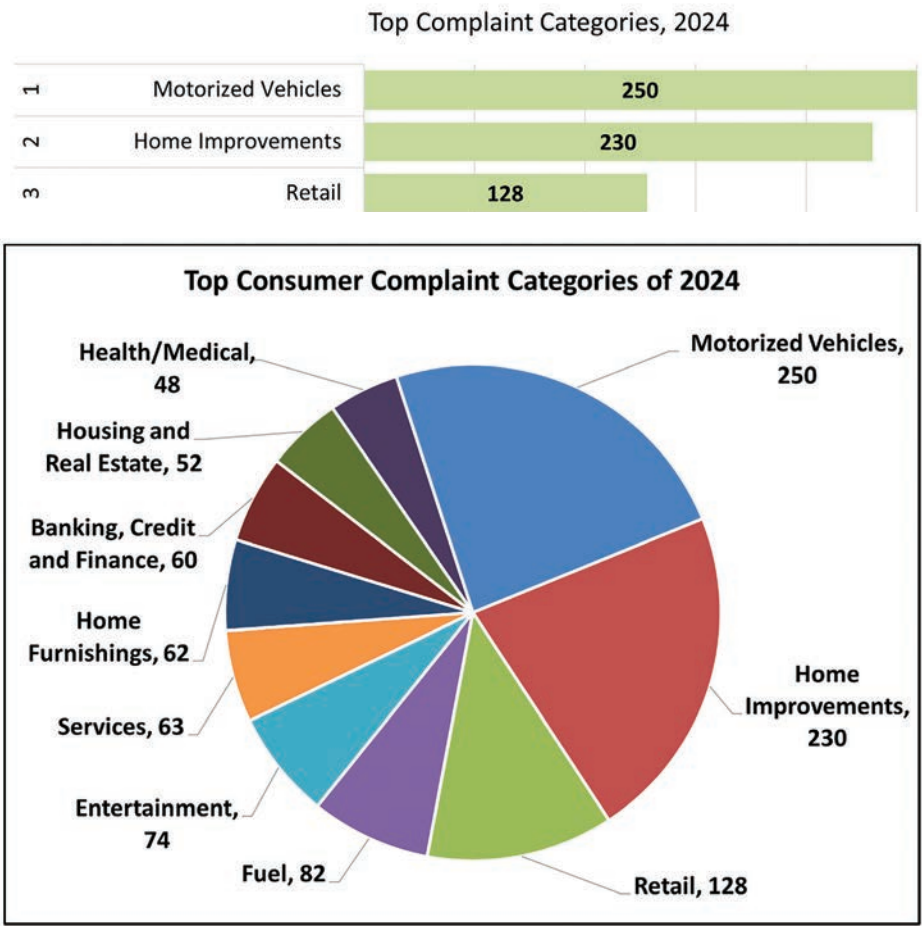
Vermonters experiencing consumer problems should contact CAP for help. CAP can help address consumer concerns before, during, and after problems arise, and complaints filed help to identify trends in consumer problems. CAP data is reviewed by the Vermont Legislature when considering consumer protection laws, for enforcement by the Attorney General’s Office, and for consumer education and outreach. Vermonters may reach CAP by calling 1-800-649-2424 or visiting ago.vermont.gov/cap.

Rank	Consumer Complaint Category	Number of Complaints
1	Motorized Vehicles Common issues included defective merchandise; failure of state inspection; misrepresentation; and unsatisfactory service/ repair.	250
2	Home Improvement Common issues included failure to perform; unsatisfactory service/ repair; criminal home improvement fraud concerns; and deposit refund disputes.	230
3	Retail Common issues included failure to deliver; refund policy/refund disputes; defective merchandise; and unsatisfactory service.	128
4	Fuel Common issues included pricing complaints; refund delays; propane tank removal delays; billing disputes; contract disputes; and safety concerns.	82
5	Entertainment Common issues included satellite dish; ticket agents; event/concert venues; publications; and social media.	74
6	Services Common issues included tax preparation; childcare providers; plumbers; and beauty services.	63
7	Home Furnishings Common issues included defective merchandise, often involving new appliances.	62
8	Banking, Credit and Finance Common issues included debt collection; credit reporting disputes; and financing/loan issues.	60
9	Housing and Real Estate Common issues included landlord-tenant issues; security deposit disputes; and warranty of habitability disputes.	52
10	Health/Medical Common issues included failure to deliver, unauthorized billing; excessive estimate/ charge; and unsatisfactory service.	48

Courtesy Attorney General Charity Clark
The nature of the top 10 disputes that the Attorney General’s office received last year.



Courtesy Attorney General Charity Clark
Chart shows amounts Vermont’s Consumer Assistance Program has recovered each year.



Courtesy Attorney General Charity Clark
Pie chart shows the relative share of complaints the top 10 complaints in 2024 received.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Vermont stands poised to take among strongest efforts in the nation to protect our children

By Jonathan Haidt

Editor's note: Jonathan Haidt is the author of "The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness" a 2024 book which argues that the spread of smartphones, social media and overprotective parenting have led to a rise in mental illness.

Vermont is at a critical crossroads.

Think back to your own school days. How much learning, friendship and fun would have been lost if you had been allowed to bring a small television set to school and watch it all day long, even at lunch and recess? It may seem like an absurd question — a television set? At school? — but it is precisely the reality that students today are experiencing.

Since the early 2010s, U.S. middle and high schools have seen a startling increase in mental illness and psychological suffering among their students. The acceptance of smartphones in schools has fueled cyberbullying, conflict among students and a cumulative, enduring and deleterious effect on adolescents' abilities to focus and apply themselves. This is especially harrowing as nearly half of American teens say that they are online "almost constantly."

This isn't just about mental health. Globally, test scores have been dropping since 2012. In January, new data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress showed that reading and math scores in the U.S. have dropped to their lowest levels in decades.

Right now, Vermont has the opportunity to restore the school day. H.54/S.21, introduced by Rep. Angela Arsenault, D-Williston and Sen. Terry Williams, R-Rutland earlier this year, calls for all students in Vermont to access the benefits of a phone-free and social-media-free school environment. If passed, Vermont will join the dozens of states across the country that are currently working to address this important issue.

Vermont will also join countries including Australia, Brazil, France, Finland, Greece, Italy and the Netherlands that have passed legislation or enacted policies to limit or eliminate cell phone usage by students.

In a divided country and a world of diverse nations, we have seen education policy on this subject move at astonishing speeds. Why? Because parents and teachers around the world have seen the damage done to students' attention, education and mental health when they spend much of the school day on their phones texting, scrolling and posting on social media, watching videos and playing video games.

A 2024 survey of school principals showed that they were similarly alarmed by the effect of smartphones on students, with 88% stating that they were making children tired and distracted, and 85% believing it was amplifying violence and bullying in schools. No wonder that, in 2023, a major UNESCO report considered the overwhelming evidence that excessive phone use was correlated with lower school performance and poorer mental health and called for the ban of smartphones from schools.

Protect our children → 14

Nearly half of American teens say that they are online "almost constantly."



Losing four years by John Darkow, Columbia Missourian

LETTERS

Risky business? Volunteering in a small community

Dear Editor,

Lawsuits and similar threats against local nonprofits and their volunteers don't just target individuals, they weaken our community. They deter public service, drain resources, and distract organizations from delivering vital services many of us rely on. It is a reality that well-meaning community members — in many cases our neighbors and friends — must contend with.

Unfortunately, these adversarial actions have become increasingly common.

Several area nonprofits and their volunteers personally have faced these challenges, in some cases resulting in litigation, but in nearly all cases draining the time, energy, and resources of everyone affected. These individuals are not paid professionals, but local volunteers who help carry on the important work of organizations that deliver essential services to our community.

Risky business → 14

Thanks Killington!

Dear Editor,

Thank you to our Killington community for supporting the Drive-Thru Lasagna dinner on Monday, March 3, at the Killington Public Safety Building. The event was sponsored by the Sherburne United Church of Christ, Killington's Little White

It is our pleasure to be part of such a caring and supportive community.

Church. A special thanks to our chef, Rob Merrill, who prepared and cooked 12 pans of lasagna for the Killington Resort with the help of Rick Dundas, who donated the bread, lettuce, and brownies. To the many — "behind the scenes" — volunteers who prepared and assembled the meals for our customers. To the volunteers who directed drivers and delivered the meals.

It is our pleasure to be part of such a caring and supportive community. Thank you.

Nan Salamon, Killington

Who is "affordability" for?

Dear Editor,

For better or worse, the word "affordability" is the new buzzword. It is all over the news and in the public sphere. It was all over the campaign trail and the governor and our Legislature mention it in practically every other sentence. While this is a great thing, something we all should be talking about, and should have been a long time ago, no one has yet said what affordability is and who it is supposed to be for.

We all probably have a general conception of it. As usual, this depends on one's status within the economic pyramid. What is "affordable" to a millionaire is not "affordable" to a working person at \$15 or \$20 an hour, with the usual taxes extracted from their paychecks every week, their labor enriching the millionaires and helping to fill the federal and state's treasury.

So what is "affordability?" Who is it for? Who is eligible for it in our society of "eligibility require-

Who's it for → 14

The growing justice gap in Vermont

Dear Editor,

Justice should not be a privilege reserved for those who can afford it. In Vermont, the gap between legal needs and available resources continues to grow, leaving too many individuals and families without meaningful access to the justice system. This is not just a legal issue — it is a fundamental challenge to the fairness and integrity of our community.

The Vermont Bar Foundation (VBF) is committed to bridging this gap. As the primary funding source for civil legal aid in the state, the foundation supports organizations that provide critical legal services to low-income Vermonters. From housing and employment disputes to domestic violence protection and family law matters, these services are often the last line of defense for our most vulnerable neighbors. Yet, funding for legal aid remains insufficient to meet the growing need.

The 2024 Vermont Justice gap → 14

CAPITOL QUOTES

Tariffs trigger stock market woes

On Monday, March 10, the S&P 500 closed down 8.6% from its Feb. 19 record high, shedding over \$4 trillion in market value since then and nearing a 10% decline. The Nasdaq ended last week more than 10% from its December high. Concerns over the current administration's tariffs on New Mexico and Canada, plus indications from the president that the country could be headed into a recession have sparked concern on Wall Street.

“There is a period of transition because what we’re doing is very big. We’re bringing wealth back to America. That’s a big thing... it takes a little time, but I think it should be great for us,”

said President **Donald Trump** in a Fox News interview on Sunday, March 9.

“I have every major industry in Kentucky lobbying me against them: the cargo shippers, the farmers, the bourbon manufacturers, the homebuilders, the home sellers — you name it — fence manufacturers. The bourbon industry says they’re still hurt from the retaliatory tariffs during Trump’s first term. So do the farmers,”

said Kentucky Senator **Rand Paul** (R).

“People can understand ongoing tensions with China, but the Canada, Mexico, and Europe part is confusing. Unless that gets resolved over the next month or so, this could do real damage to the economic prospects of the US and M&A activity,”

said **Peter Orszag**, CEO of the financial services company Lazard.

“The Canadian tariffs will definitely have a detrimental impact on the economy of Maine and on border communities in particular. We have, for example, a major paper mill in northern Maine right on the border that gets its pulp from Canada.”

said Sen. **Susan Collins** (R-Maine).

COMMENTARIES

Transforming education in Vermont through equity, quality, and sustainability

By Governor Phil Scott

Over the past few months, my administration has rolled out a plan to transform and strengthen our public education system. After last year’s double digit increase in property taxes, Vermonters made it clear that we need to make major changes to a system that no longer meets the needs of our students, educators or taxpayers.

Our plan is focused on three critical areas. The first is quality.

Vermonters spend more money per student on education than nearly every other state. But because of the way our system is designed, we’re not leading the pack in terms of outcomes, in fact we’re moving in the wrong direction. A report released just last month shows that our test scores in key areas are continuing to decline. Which means we’re not getting the best return on

our substantial investment.

With that in mind, transformation must be looked at through the lens of increasing education quality for every kid, in every county across the state. That also means giving our educators, who are working incredibly hard, more support and better pay to do what they love to do.

Second is equity.

Vermont students are guaranteed by our constitution equal access to education. Every kid, whether you live in Brighton or Burlington, deserves access to art, music, languages, AP courses, CTE and trades training, after school, summer programming and sports. But we know we’re not meeting that standard. The gap between programs from school to school, district to district and

It’s time to ... build a system that prioritizes our kids over our nostalgia.

education quality for every kid, in every county across the state. That also means giving our educators, who are

Transforming ed → 39

Chicago heat wave and Vermont’s housing crisis - Occam’s razor

In 1995, Chicago experienced a heat wave in which the temperature reached 106 degrees, which translated into a heat index of 126, the temperature that the body felt. Within a week, the streets were buckling, the power grids failed, and over 700 people were dead.

By all accounts, the cause of death was the heat.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) arrived on the scene, as is their custom when there is a significant mortality event, and worked with the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office (CCMEO), jointly concluding that the deaths were the result of hyperthermia.

In other words, the heat was the cause of death.

But, along came Eric Klinenberg, who conducted a “social autopsy” and discovered that while it was uniformly hot throughout Chicago, the deaths occurred in clusters, which indicated that there were other factors to be considered, not just the heat.

Klinenberg dug into the anatomy of the metropolis to conduct a “social autopsy,” which examined the social, political, and institutional factors at play that allowed or caused the heat wave to result in such a tragic loss of life.

Klinenberg’s findings can be refined into this simple analysis: the connected communities survived while the disconnected

communities experienced the tragic loss of life, with victims dying behind locked doors and sealed windows, out of contact with friends, family, community groups, and public agencies.

Connectivity was the factor that made all the difference.

The lesson learned here is one that can be applied to Vermont’s housing crisis.

By all accounts, the agreed-upon problem is that there is not enough housing. The experts

grind numbers and count families and conclude that there is simply not enough housing to house all Vermonters in need of housing today, let alone all of the Vermonters that will need additional housing in the future.

It’s a simple determination that seems plausible, when there are people in need of housing and they can’t find the housing, it must be because there is a shortage of housing!

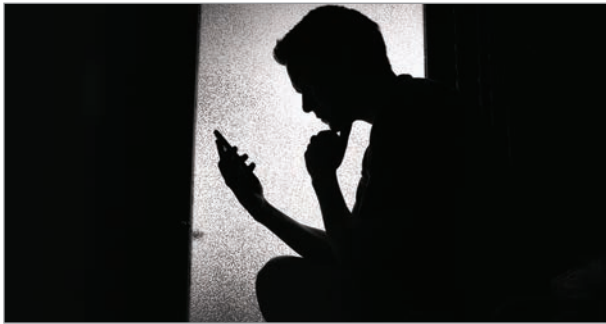
But, just like in Chicago, the simplest determination is not necessarily the correct determination. I contend that in Vermont, just as in Chicago, the most accurate determination of the most significant factor in the crisis is connectivity.

Amid Vermont’s housing crisis, seven state departments and agencies have a piece of the state’s housing policy and programming, all working independently and with their own

Housing crisis → 15



The Accidental Activist
By Stephen Box



Protect our children: from page 14

H.54/S.21 requires that all Vermont schools prohibit students from using personal electronic devices during the school day while protecting the autonomy of school decision-makers to decide how they want to implement the mandate in a way that works best for them.

The proposed Vermont legislation is among the strongest in the nation — mirroring model legislation put forth and supported by national organizations, including a requirement that schools stop communicating with students via social media. Many schools have become dangerously reliant on social media to communicate with students about school activities like sports or theater, or even using Instagram direct messages to chat with students. I applaud Vermont for addressing schools’ overreliance on social media both within and outside of the school day.

Social media is designed to steal the attention of kids and teens who are at pivotal stages of their mental development. Our kids are owed their attention back.

Moreover, I am pleased by the bell-to-bell device separation mandate that applies to all schools in H.54/S.21. While many jurisdictions in the U.S. are limiting student phone use only during instructional time (which is certainly a step in the right direction), I am glad to see Vermont taking among the strongest efforts in the nation to protect our children.

Limiting phone use only during instructional time still allows for students to rush to their phones between classes, at lunch and during recess, costing them valuable opportunities to connect with one another face-to-face.

Moreover, research from the National Education Association found that 73% of teachers in schools that allow phone use between classes report that phones are disruptive during class. In contrast, of the several policies examined, only the phone-free or “away for the day” policy produced good results: only 28% of teachers in such schools said that phones were disruptive during their classes. It’s only when students have six or seven hours away from their phones that they fully turn to each other and to their teachers.

Walk around most school hallways today and take in the silence, notice the eeriness. In contrast, whenever schools adopt a bell-to-bell policy the reports from teachers and administrators are always the same: “We hear laughter in the hallways again.” Also, bullying, disciplinary problems and absenteeism decline. School becomes more fun.

In passing H.54/S.21, Vermont can bring conversation and laughter back to the hallways of nearly 83,000 students.

Social media is designed to steal the attention of kids and teens who are at pivotal stages of their mental development. Our kids are owed their attention back. They are deserving of the learning, friendship and fun that we recall from our own schooling experiences. Vermont students are pleading for it. And, for now, the one place where we can truly safeguard that is schools. We need to give our kids a break from the noise and the drama. We need to — and Vermont can.

Risky business: from page 12

Most nonprofits rely on volunteers in various capacities to carry out their missions. Without them, the cost of services will rise as volunteer efforts must be replaced with paid positions, or these organizations will stop operating in our community altogether, to the detriment of

volunteers so they may continue serving without fear of personal or financial peril? First, take advantage of all these institutions have to offer. Utilize their services. Learn who runs them — they may well be your friends and neighbors. Understanding the role they play in our com-

What happens to one’s willingness to volunteer when a civic duty becomes a potential liability?

all who depend on them. So it is particularly worrisome when everyday community members become targets after answering the call to serve. What happens to one’s willingness to volunteer when a civic duty becomes a potential liability? The inevitable chilling effect impacts us all. Even casual readers of the listserv know that we all depend on those willing to pitch in. From nonprofit board members to municipal appointees and social service volunteers, our lives are enriched by those who choose to serve. Our community would look and feel very different without them. Our community would be a less pleasant place to live without them. The cost of living here would be even higher without them.

As the challenges associated with volunteerism increase, our community risks losing these dedicated individuals. Some may choose not to volunteer locally because the personal or financial risks are too great. Others may opt to step down from current positions for similar reasons. This should trouble us all.

At a time when institutions designed to protect and enrich citizens’ lives are under attack in the United States and around the world, it is imperative that we defend ours here at home and the individuals who make them work. The alternative is a society where volunteerism is discouraged, civic engagement is hazardous, and essential services are out of reach for those who need them most.

What can we do to protect local organizations and their

community will help you become an advocate and spread the word about the good they do. Contribute financially if you can. You are the reason these organizations exist and they cannot exist without you.

Second, find an organization aligned with your interests and volunteer, despite the potential risks. Local institutions need your help and our community relies on the services they provide. In nearly all cases, the experience will be deeply rewarding and the risks manageable.

Third, call attention to these challenges as they arise and support those who are impacted. The bar to filing or threatening lawsuits in Vermont is low, which can invite mischief. The goal of such actions may not be to right a wrong, but to pursue other ends, impose litigation costs on others, or elicit financial windfalls. Discourage this behavior by speaking out when it occurs.

Volunteering is an honorable pursuit but often not an easy one. At its best, this work transforms lives and strengthens our community. It prevents the cost of living here from rising even faster. It forges friendships and brings together people of different backgrounds. It encourages generosity and inspires others to public service. It makes our home a wonderful place to live. Those who choose this path despite the risks should be commended and defended. Not just because they need our support, but the institutions they serve form the backbone of our community and benefit all.

Benjamin Brickner, Pomfret

Who’s it for: from page 12

ments?” Is it low taxes for the rich while more and more of the taxes necessary to run our state and country get shifted onto the middle and working classes, which has been the trend of our disastrous experiment in neoliberalism?

What do we mean by affordable housing? Affordable health care? We seem to know what is “unaffordable,” for both of these dire necessities, and so many others, but we have never defined what is affordable for them. Who would deter-

mine what is affordable and what is not and for whom? Will there be an “affordability” commission to study what is affordable and what is not to make recommendations that may or may not be acted on in the next biennium?

Maybe someday we should at least clarify what we mean by “affordability” and determine who it is intended for before we proclaim it as our new buzzword.

Walter Carpenter, Montpelier

Justice gap: from page 12

Statewide Legal Needs Assessment (Legal Services Vermont, 2024) paints a stark picture. Thousands of Vermonters face legal challenges without representation, often navigating complex legal systems alone. The Access to Justice Coalition, a collaboration of legal service providers, advocates, and non-profit leaders, has worked tirelessly to increase visibility and support for these issues. But without long term, sustainable funding, even the most dedicated efforts cannot fully address the crisis.

Investing in access to

systems. Preventing unlawful evictions, securing fair wages, and ensuring protection for survivors of domestic violence all lead to more stable communities and a stronger, more just Vermont.

As the Vermont Legislature considers budget priorities, it is imperative that funding for civil legal aid be recognized as an essential investment in our state’s future.

Justice should not depend on income level, and the Vermont Bar Foundation stands ready to partner with lawmakers, businesses, and community leaders to ensure that

In the Economic Impacts of Civil Legal Assistance Programs study ... it was reported that for every \$1 invested, there is an \$11 return to the Vermont economy.

justice is not only the right thing to do, it is also fiscally responsible.

In the Economic Impacts of Civil Legal Assistance Programs study (Vermont Bar Foundation, 2019) commissioned by the VBF it was reported that for every \$1 invested, there is an \$11 return to the Vermont economy. This shows that every dollar spent on civil legal aid generates significant returns, reducing the burden on courts, social services, and emergency

no one is denied their legal rights due to financial hardship.

We urge all Vermonters to support this cause — whether by advocating for increased funding, donating to organizations that provide legal services, or simply raising awareness of this critical issue.

Access to justice is not a luxury; it is a necessity. Vermont cannot afford to underfund it any longer.

Hannah King, executive director of the Vermont Bar Foundation

WORDPLAY

FARM AND AG WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

- AGRICULTURE
AGRONOMY
ANIMALS
ANNUAL
- APIARY
BIODIVERSITY
BIODYNAMIC
CAPACITY
- COVER
CROPS
CULTIVATION
DEADHEADING
- DRAINAGE
DRILLING
ECOLOGY
EROSION
- FARMING
HARVEST
HUSBANDRY
IRRIGATION
- LIVESTOCK
ROTATION
SOIL
TILLAGE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 30

CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep

5. Rock TV channel

8. Streetcar

12. Concerning

14. Expression of recognition

15. Greek goddess of youth

16. An iPad is one

18. Adult beverage

19. Manning and Wallach are two

20. Makes a petty verbal attack

21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname

22. Pointed ends of pens

23. Wristwatches

26. Body part

30. Made a mistake

31. Adjusted

32. Turkish honorific title

33. Yell

34. Historic Alabama city

39. Cub

42. Type of sea bass dish

44. To call (archaic)

46. Unfortunate

47. Separate oneself from others

49. Hero sandwiches

50. Former OSS

51. Open spaces in

1. Works of body art

2. Abba __, Israeli politician

3. A desert in Asia

4. Eat greedily

5. Doomed French queen

6. Beat

7. One who survives on blood

8. As a consequence

9. Counted on

10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science

11. Unclean

13. One who does not drink

17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago

24. __ student, learns healing

25. Bacterial skin infection

26. Expresses surprise

27. What one says on a wedding day

28. Crony

29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)

35. Unit of length

36. Side that is sheltered from the wind

37. More (Spanish)

38. Autonomic nervous system

40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris

41. Statements that something is untrue

42. Greek alphabet letter

43. Suspends from above

44. Popular types of cigars

45. Girls

47. U.S. philosopher and logician

48. Nocturnal hoofed animal

49. Relaxing spaces

52. From a distance

53. Form of Persian

54. Amounts of time

55. Trigonometric function

Housing crisis:
from page 13

standards, rules, policies, and strategies.

Amid Vermont's housing crisis, there are several public housing authorities, all with their own strategies for administering the federal housing funds that come through their respective fingers, all of them with their own standards, rules, and policies.

There are 22 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Rutland County alone that play an active role in housing, or attempting to house, those in need of housing. All of the NGOs compete for the same funds, guarding their budgets and headcount in siloes, which results in 22 mini-housing forces, all of them with their own standards, rules, policies, and strategies.

If there was ever a situation that screamed for connectivity, this is it.

The Vermont Housing Finance Agency, in its Housing Assessment study commissioned for the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, determined that there are 2,413 vacant units in Rutland County.

How can there be so many vacant units while the state is actively debating the funding of the motels to house the families in need of housing?

Using Rutland County as a starting point and assuming that the other counties have half as many vacant units, one can estimate that there are in excess of 15,000 vacant units in the State of Vermont, and yet somehow seven state agencies, a dozen or more public housing authorities, and an abundant supply of NGOs are unable to locate housing for their clients.

I contend, vociferously, that the State of Vermont's greatest opportunity to address the current and future housing crisis is to get connected, to break down the silo walls, and to work together. I realize that's a stretch, but it's a significant dose of reality to call out the current lay of the land and to challenge those in authority to put connectivity at the forefront of any current or proposed housing strategy.

To that end, Partners in Housing is working in Rutland County to connect Housers, Wrappers, Supporters, and the Government with a united mission of ensuring that all Vermonters have access to safe and healthy housing. Partners in Housing meets on the last Friday of each month at 1 p.m.

For more info, email: PartnersinHousingVT@gmail.com.

SUDOKU

Solutions → 30

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

WED
3/12

S.E.A.T. Exercises

9-10 a.m. (Wednesdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$6 per individual class or \$5 per class when paying for the whole month upfront. A brand-new, chair-based full body workout led by Melissa Cox. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853.

Winter Naturalist Series: Nordic Ski Adventure

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Prosper Road Trailhead, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Woodstock. Free. Enjoy cross-country skiing on moderate trails through northern hardwood forests, led by park naturalists. Recommended for intermediate and advanced skiers. Trail passes (\$20-\$35) and rentals available at Woodstock Inn & Resort Nordic Center. nps.gov/mabi.

Michelob ULTRA Ski Bum Race Series

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesdays through March 12. Highline ski trail, Killington Resort, Killington. \$60 per individual. Open to skiers, snowboarders, and telemark skiers ages 21+. Compete weekly for Ski Bum glory, followed by après parties with food, drink specials, and prizes from 4-6 p.m. Training course available 10 a.m.-noon. Registration required. killington.com/ski-bum-race-series.

Active Seniors Lunch

11:30 a.m. (Wednesdays) The Lookout Tavern, 2910 Killington Road, Killington. \$5 donation towards the meal. 908-783-1050.

Gentle & Restorative Yoga

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Wise Pines, 184 Hartland Road, Woodstock. \$15 or \$30 for three classes. Yoga class for seniors. wisepines.com/events.

Diabetes Support Group

1-2 p.m. (Monthly, 2nd Wed.) RRMC Diabetes & Endocrinology Center, 160 Allen St., Rutland. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Hosted by Community Health and Rutland Regional Medical Center's Diabetes & Endocrinology Center. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. chcr.org/diabetes-support-group.

Public Skating

2-3:40 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Adult \$8, Youth \$6, Seniors \$5, Child under 3 Free, Super Senior (70+) Free. Skate rentals \$7 (figure or ice hockey). Last public skate of the winter season. unionarena.net.

Cribbage for Adults

3-5 p.m. (Wednesdays) Hartland Public Library, 135 Route 5, Hartland. Free. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar or 802-436-2473.

Public Skate

3-5 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

3:30-4:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class focused on weight training and balance exercises. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Diabetes Support Group

5-6 p.m. (Monthly, 2nd Wednesday) Community Health Castleton, 261 Route 30, Castleton. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. chcr.org/diabetes-support-group.

Pride of Woodstock 365: LGBTQ+ Mental Health

Discussion

6 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center Hayloft, 2095 Pomfret Road., South Pomfret. Free. Pride of Woodstock, Vermont launches its year-round programming with a discussion on LGBTQ+ community mental health, moderated by Chris Nial of MadFreedom Advocates. The session offers a supportive space to discuss mental health challenges and resources. Open to LGBTQ+ individuals 18 and older. RSVP at prideofwoodstockvermont@gmail.com.

Running Injury Free

6 p.m. Upper Valley Aquatic Center, 100 Arboretum Ln., White River Junction. Free. Learn training tips, injury prevention, and strength routines to improve performance ahead of race season. Virtual option available. RSVP required at 802-359-7400 or info@befit-pt.com. uvacswim.org.

Watercolor Wednesdays

6-7:30 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$25. Join artist Caitlin for a relaxed watercolor workshop. Materials provided. Attend multiple sessions in March for a gift certificate bonus. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

Beginner & Intermediate Line Dancing Lessons

6-8:30 p.m. Springfield Vermont Recreation Center, 139 Main St., Springfield. \$15 beginner, \$10 intermediate (\$5 if attending beginner). Learn line dancing with beginner lessons from 6-7:30 p.m., followed by improver/intermediate lessons from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Outside food and non-alcoholic beverages permitted. Wednesdays through May 21, except April 23. copperheadlinedancing.com.

Film Screening: 'FLOW'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Theatre, 11 S. Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Come out and see the 2024 Academy Award winner for Best Animated Feature, "FLOW" at Randolph's historic theater. playhouseflicks.com.

THURS
3/13

Intermediate Line Dance

9:30-10:30 a.m. (Thursdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853.

Survivors Support Group

10 a.m.-noon. (Thursdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Fliers are available at the Godnick Center or call 802-775-3232. rutlandrec.com/godnick.

Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323.

Communication Skills Class

10-11:30 a.m. (Thursdays through April 24), Bugbee Senior Center, 262 No. Main St., White River Jct. Learn how to improve communication, reduce stress, and build healthier relationships. This course is led by Jeanne Childs. Sign-up required before the first session. 802-295-9068 or email hello@bugbeecenter.org.

Chaffee: Artery

Noon. (Thursdays) Adults. Connect and create with others. \$10-\$20. Painting in all mediums welcome. No set topic or instructor, attendees will work on their individual artwork. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

Ukelele Group

Noon-1 p.m. (Thursdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Attendees will play a collection of sheet music. All levels welcome, ages 12+. Must pre-register by Wednesday at noon. chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

Michelob ULTRA Race World

1-3 p.m. Thursdays through March 13. Pico Mountain, 73 Alpine Dr., Killington. Weekly race series featuring individual and team competitions, followed by after-parties at the Last Run Lounge with food, prizes, and Michelob ULTRA specials. picomountain.com.

Play Bridge!

2-4 p.m. (Thursdays) Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295.

Stick & Puck

3-5 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

Public Skate

5:15-7:15 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

Sip 'n' Dip: Hot Air Balloons

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$35 per person. Enjoy a fun evening of painting with instructor Sally Hogan while creating a hot air balloon acrylic masterpiece. BYO wine. Min: 5 participants. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Women's Circle

6-8 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. A welcoming and inclusive social and learning space for women and gender-expansive individuals (18+). Light refreshments provided. socialtinkering.org/womenscircle.

J.P. Murphy Band

6:30 p.m. Fair Haven Free Library, Fair Haven. Enjoy an evening of live music with the J.P. Murphy Band. Free and open to the public. fairhavenfree.org.

Film Screening: 'Perfect Days'

7-9 p.m. - Herrick Auditorium, 233 South St., Castleton. Join the Communications and Soundings Departments for a screening of "Perfect Days," directed by Wim Wenders. The film follows Hirayama, a Tokyo toilet cleaner who finds beauty in music, books, and photography. Open to the public; students must RSVP online. Free. VermontState.edu. Marisa.Valent@VermontState.edu.

Speed Dating With Wingman Of The Year

7-9:30 p.m. Prouty's Parlor, 62 Merchants Row, Rutland. \$20. Join Wingman Of The Year for a fun, fast-paced speed dating event for singles ages 21+. Check-in begins at 6 p.m. Enjoy one-on-one chats, great vibes, and a relaxed setting to meet potential matches. Pre-registration required. Venue offers mocktails, ice cream, and more. wingmanoftheyear.com.

Film Screening: 'FLOW'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Theatre, 11 S. Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Come out and see the 2024 Academy Award winner for Best Animated Feature, "FLOW" at Randolph's historic theater. playhouseflicks.com.

Stick & Puck

7:45-9:15 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

FRI
3/14

Senior Café

10-11 a.m. Hartland Public Library, 153 US-5, Hartland. Free. Monthly gathering on the first Friday for unprogrammed social time with refreshments. Technical support appointments available by request. Transportation assistance may be arranged through Volunteers in Action. admin@aginginhartland.org or via@mahhc.org.

Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Browse thousands of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles. Rare and antique books available. All purchases by donation (limit two grocery bags per family). Proceeds support library programs. No book dealers. rutlandfree.org.

Bone Builders

11 a.m.-noon. (Fridays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class that focuses on weight training and balance exercises to improve strength, balance, and bone density. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Connections & Interconnections of Life Weekly

Group

Noon-1 p.m. (Fridays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. A place to share thoughts, philosophies, spirituality, cultures, and more in a respectful way. All are welcome. Must RSVP: chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

THANK YOU WALK

FRI @ 1 P.M.



Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info.
from page 16

Thank You Walk

1 p.m. – The Green, Woodstock Join The Thompson for the 11th annual Thank You Walk as part of March for Meals. Participants will gather on The Green in Woodstock at 1 p.m. and “march” down Central Street, delivering thank-you notes, cookies, and balloons to local businesses in appreciation of their support for Meals on Wheels. thompsonsniiorcenter.org.

A Magic Show 55 Years in the Making

1:30-3 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$8. Magician Tom Joyce presents a fun and interactive magic show exploring the art of illusion, audience participation, and even teaching a few tricks. Part of the Rutland OLLI Spring 2025 program. learn.uvm.edu/olli/rutland.

Stick & Puck

3-5 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

Ethan Setiawan & Fine Ground

5-8:30 p.m. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St., Randolph. \$10-\$40 (pay what you can.) Mandolinist Ethan Setiawan returns with his new bluegrass project, Fine Ground. A free musician's workshop from 5-6 p.m. invites players to explore musical improvisation, followed by an intimate concert in the Esther Mesh Room. chandler-arts.org.

Fierce Females Pop-Up Exhibit Opening Reception

5:30 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. Celebrate Women's History Month with Fierce Females by Finnie Trimpi, a collection of 61 portraits honoring inspiring stories and collective strength. Exhibit runs March 14-April 5. artistreevt.org.

MUD (Season) Exhibit Opening Reception

5:30-7:30 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. Celebrate the arrival of spring with Artistree's annual MUD (Season) Exhibit, showcasing 2-D and 3-D works from 60+ local artists inspired by Vermont's seasonal transition. Exhibit runs March 14-April 19. artistreevt.org.

West Coast Swing Dance Classes

5:30-6:30 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall (upstairs), 35 Marble St., West Rutland. \$15 per class, \$10 for students, \$12 for RRMC employees and family. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. vtwestiebest@gmail.com.

VINS Owl Prowl

5:30-7 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$20 general, \$17.50 members. Take a guided evening hike to discover the nocturnal world of owls. Weather permitting, explore on snowshoes. Ages 13+ only. Reservations required. vinsweb.org/event/owl-prowl-2025.

Public Skate

5:45-7:45 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. Final public skate of the season. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

Jazz Night

6:30-8 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$5-\$20 by donation. Enjoy an evening of improvised jazz inside the Kaleidoscope Art Gallery with local musician Justin Burgess. BYOB and food welcome. Limited seating for 16. 21+ event. A 10-minute intermission will take place halfway through. The store will remain open for guests. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

Film Screening: 'Casablanca'

7 p.m. Grange Theatre, 65 Stage Road, South Pomfret. \$8-\$10. Enjoy the classic 1942 film “Casablanca,” where cynical nightclub owner Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart) must decide whether to help his former love Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman) and her husband escape the Nazis. Rated PG. Runtime: 1h 42m. artistreevt.org.

Film Screening: 'I'm Still Here'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Theatre, 11 S. Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Come out and see the 2024 Academy Award Nominated biopic of Bob Dylan, “I'm Still Here,” at Randolph's historic theater. playhouseflicks.com.

Vertical Challenge at Pico

7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Pico Mountain, 73 Alpine Dr., Killington. Free with required lift ticket purchase. Join the Vertical Challenge, a ski and snowboard race series with a festival atmosphere, activities for all ages, and prizes throughout the day. Schedule: Register at skiracing.nastar.com. killington.com.

Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Browse thousands of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles. Rare and antique books available. All purchases by donation (limit two grocery bags per family). Proceeds support library programs. No book dealers. rutlandfree.org.

Vermont Winter Farmers Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. Shop local produce, crafts, and goods every Saturday through May 10, 2025. vtfarmersmarket.org.

VT Residents Appreciation Day

10 a.m.-4 p.m. – Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences (VINS), 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$10 admission for Vt. residents. Explore outdoor exhibits, meet majestic birds, wander through the Songbird Aviary, and experience the Forest Canopy Walk. Indoors, discover the Birds Are Dinosaurs exhibit, the Reptile Room, and more. VT ID required at entry. vinsweb.org.

Kids Oil Painting Workshop

11 a.m.-noon. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$25 per person. Ages 6-11. Instructor Spencer Pelkey teaches the Alla Prima Oil technique, a wet-on-wet painting style completed in one sitting. All supplies included. Min: 5, Max: 12 participants. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Rutland Railway Association & Model Club

11 a.m.-3 p.m. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. See an operating HO scale model railroad set up and displays of hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and more. facebook.com/p/Rutland-RailwayAssociati on-100066761013097/.

A Day for Jake

11:30 a.m. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Road., Killington. Free with lift ticket admission. Celebrate the legacy of Jake Burton Carpenter with a global day of snowboarding. Join a group ride, toast to Jake, and enjoy giveaways while supplies last. Schedule: Rally to The Stash at 11:30 a.m., toast and photos at 12 p.m., and group ride at 12:15 p.m. RSVP at adfjw25killington.splashthat.com. killington.com.

Art at the Chaffee: Drop N' Paint

Noon-2 p.m. (Saturdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25 per person, instructor help optional with a fee. All ages. Supplies and images to paint are provided. Must pre register by Friday noon at: chaffeeartcenter.org.



SAT @ 1P.M.

Teen Oil Painting Workshop

12:30-2:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$30 per person. Ages 12-17. Instructor Spencer Pelkey teaches the Alla Prima Oil technique, a wet-on-wet painting style completed in one sitting. All supplies included. Min: 5, Max: 12 participants. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Shiver Me Shamrocks 5K Run/Walk

1 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. St. Patrick's Day-themed 5K benefiting local organizations through the Heritage Family Cares 4 You Foundation. The event kicks off with a free Leprechaun Leap Fun Run for kids, followed by a chip-timed 5K. Costumes encouraged, with prizes for best dressed, plus refreshments and surprises. No dogs or strollers due to road conditions. Day-of registration available at the Paramount Theatre. heritagefamilycu.com.

Drag Bingo – A Rutland County Pride Fundraiser

2 p.m. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq., Brandon. 21+ event. \$25. Join Rutland County Pride for a fabulous afternoon of Drag Bingo hosted by Carmen Gettit, Donna Rhea, Amy Leigh Celestial, and Bethadone Clinique. Enjoy dazzling performances, thrilling bingo action, and a cash bar by Mea's Place—all in support of the 2025 Rutland County Pride Festival. Wheelchair accessible. rcpride.org.

Body Vase Workshop

2-4:30 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$60. Join Elena Curcio of Small Time Clown Ceramics for a hands-on pottery class where participants will sculpt their own body vase. All supplies included. 21+ event, BYOB. Minimum of six participants required. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

Mom Prom

6-10 p.m. Ludlow Community Center, 37 Main St., Ludlow. \$10-\$20. 16+. Under the Sea theme. Attendees encouraged to wear former bridesmaid dresses, formals, and wedding dresses. Dance contest, door prizes, raffles, charcuterie boards, and dessert station. All proceeds support Neighbors Together. 802-558-5233.

Community Square Dance

6:30-8 p.m. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq., Brandon. \$5 per person, family rates available. The Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club and Brandon Recreation Department present their third annual community dance featuring square, contra, and line dancing for all ages. Caller Peter Tobin will lead the fun, welcoming beginners and experienced dancers alike. Enjoy refreshments, snacks, and door prizes. castoff8s.com.

BrewHaHa: Mike Hanley Live

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$40. 21+. Comedian Mike Hanley brings his sharp wit and storytelling to the BrewHaHa stage. Enjoy craft brews, wine, and soft drinks from Roots The Restaurant in an intimate on-stage setting. paramountvt.org/event/brewhaha-feat-mike-hanley.

JAZZ NIGHT

FRI @ 6:30 P.M.



← **Calendar:**
from page 17

MAPLE FESTIVAL

SUN @ 1 P.M.



Maple Festival

1-4 p.m. Middletown Springs Historical Society, 10 Park Ave., Middletown Springs. Celebrate Vermont's maple season with festivities and the 2025 Maple Festival Raffle, featuring 35 prizes valued at \$100 or more. Raffle drawing at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$25 each or 5 for \$100, must be postmarked by March 12. Proceeds benefit the MSHS general operating fund. mshsvt.org/maple-affle-2025.

Film Screening: 'I'm Still Here'

2 p.m. Playhouse Theatre, 11 S. Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Come out and see the 2024 Academy Award Nominated biopic of Bob Dylan, "I'm Still Here," at Randolph's historic theater. playhouseflicks.com.

MON
3/17

Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323.

Monday Movie

1 p.m. (Mondays) Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. This week's film is the Academy Award nominated movie, "Nickel Boys." sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday or 802-422-9765.

Winter Sowing & Garlic Prep Talk

7 p.m. Godnick Senior Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Gardener Jeanne Corbett shares an economical winter sowing system for starting flowers and vegetables. Bring seeds or use provided ones to create a mini greenhouse. Plus, EMG Zach Eastman gives a quick preview on planting garlic in the fall. get2aklu@gmail.com.

TUES
3/18

Handcraft Gathering

2-4 p.m. (Monthly, 3rd Tuesday) Abbott Memorial Library, Library St., So. Pomfret. Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or mending projects. abbottmemoriallibrary.org.

Alzheimer's Support Group

4-5 p.m. (Monthly, 2nd Tuesday) Community Health, 71 Allen St., Suite 403, Rutland. Free. A monthly meeting for Alzheimer's caregivers and family members to share experiences and support one another. The group is run by participants with hands-on experience in caregiving. chcr.org.

Line Dance Classes

5:30-7:30 p.m. (Tuesdays) Bradford Methodist Church, 186 N Main St., Bradford. \$10. Easy line dancing at 5:30 p.m., perfect for novices, followed by a 6:30 p.m. beginner-level class. All ages welcome. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. jeanbeanslinedancing@gmail.com.

Rutland Area Toastmasters

6-7:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesday) Courcelle Bldg, 16 North St. Ext., Rutland. Develop public speaking, listening, and leadership skills. Guests welcome. 802-775-6929. toastmasters.org.

Gather Together with Social Tinkering

6-8 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. A welcoming community social for all ages with games, puzzles, and activities. Bring a musical instrument, game, or craft project to share. socialtinkering.org/gatherttogether.

Film Screening: 'All We Imagine As Light'

7-9 p.m. - Herrick Auditorium, 233 South St., Castleton. Free. Communications and Soundings Departments screening of "All We Imagine As Light," directed by Payal Kapadia. The film follows nurse Prabha as an unexpected gift from her estranged husband disrupts her daily life in Mumbai. VermontState.edu.

Line Dancing Meetup

7-9 p.m. - Moose Lodge, 78 Center St., Rutland. Join Rutland Young Professionals for an open dance and lesson with Good Time Line Dancing. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a beginner, come meet new people, learn some moves, and have fun. rutlandyoungprofessionals.org.

ONGOING

2025 Annual Student Exhibit: An Artful Adventure

March 8-April 4. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Opening day event on March 8. Celebrate young artists from Vermont schools and homeschoolers as their work is displayed in a professional gallery setting. Featuring a variety of artistic disciplines, including visual arts, theater, culinary, poetry, and music. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Call for Art: 2025 Artist Member Show

Submission deadline: April 1. Stone Valley Arts invites artists to submit up to five works in any genre, including painting, photography, sculpture, mixed media, and jewelry. Accepted artists will be notified by April 6. Artwork drop-off: April 12-13, 12-4 p.m., or by appointment. The exhibition runs April 26-June 8. At least one piece must be for sale. Submit at tinyurl.com/SVA25. Membership required; renew at tinyurl.com/SVA26. stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com

Cooking Classes at Mission Farm

Check website for classes and registration. The Kitchen at Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. Learn to cook, host an event, or teach a class in Mission Farm's open kitchen space. missionfarmkitchen.org.

Fierce Females Pop-Up Exhibit

March 14-April 5. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. Celebrate Women's History Month with Fierce Females by Finnie Trimpi, a collection of 61 portraits honoring inspiring stories and collective strength. artistreevt.org.

MUD (Season) Exhibit

March 14-April 19. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. Celebrate the arrival of spring with Artistree's annual MUD (Season) Exhibit, showcasing 2-D and 3-D works from 60+ local artists inspired by Vermont's seasonal transition. artistreevt.org.

Roamin' Gnome Downtown Hunt

March 10-17. Various locations, Fair Haven. Free. The Roamin' Gnome returns to downtown Fair Haven, stopping at different businesses each day. Find the gnome, notify the store or organization, and enter a raffle for prizes donated by participating locations. Stops include Wooden Soldier, the library, Slate Valley Cares, Sol-Luna Studio, Ruby's Bistro, Scotch Hill, Durfee's, and Goblin Games.

'Waitress'

March 12-April 13. Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. \$27-\$97. This Broadway hit, featuring music by Sara Bareilles, follows Jenna, a pie-making waitress who finds the courage to change her life after an unexpected pregnancy. Directed by Carol Dunne. northernstage.org.

Women's Nordic Ski Skate Clinics

Wednesdays, 8:30-10 a.m., Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. Woodstock Nordic Center, 14 The Green, Woodstock. \$30 per session or \$150 for six sessions. Intermediate to advanced skiers can join Olympian Tessa Westbrook to improve skate skiing technique. Sessions run through the end of the season, weather permitting. Registration at the Nordic Center lodge. woodstockinn.com.

UPCOMING

Auditions: 'The Sound of Music'

March 23, 4-7 p.m.; March 24, 7-9 p.m. First Universalist Church & Society of Barnard, 6211 VT-12, Barnard. BarnArts is holding auditions for "The Sound of Music," with over 20 named roles and an ensemble. All ages, genders, and experience levels welcome. Rehearsals begin in late April. Production runs June 20-29 outdoors in Barnard/Woodstock. Audition by appointment if needed. Fill out the audition form at forms.gle/ba2HEoaHaYGYJXm6. barnarts.org/sound-of-music/.

BIPOC Home & Business Ownership Virtual Gathering

March 19 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Online. Free. Join a virtual discussion on supporting BIPOC community members in securing housing, starting businesses, and building a sense of belonging in the Upper Valley. A new resource guide will be unveiled, and key topics from the October gathering will be addressed, including financial access, zoning, and community outreach. Open to all. Register at vitalcommunities.org/events/bhbo-virtual-gathering.

Noam Pikelný and Friends

March 28 at 7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$35.75-\$51.80. Renowned banjoist Noam Pikelný, a founding member of Punch Brothers and Grammy-winning musician, brings his masterful bluegrass sound to the stage. paramountvt.org.

Specialty Food Day – Okemo Mountain Resort

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Okemo Mountain Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Road, Ludlow. Sponsored by Ski Vermont, the Specialty Food Day Tour brings local food, beverage, and other Vermont vendors to member ski areas. This pop-up farmer's market-style event highlights the unique flavors of Vermont at the base of the mountains. skivermont.com/ski-vermont-specialty-food-day-tour.

The Almost Spring Art Market

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. Free. Browse work from 10 local artists at the first Art Market of 2025. Vendors will be set up inside and upstairs at Kaleidoscope Art Supply. No early birds. Bring extra cash for purchases. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.



DRUM JOURNEYS OF EARTH

Reserve your spot in one of our classes!

West African Afro-Latin
Heart & Ritual of the Medicine Drum

Other forms of ethnic percussion w/
private instruction available!

Classes held at Building #5, Howe Center, Rutland

Contact Gary @ 802-282-2581

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
3/12

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

6 p.m. Killington Cafe & Wine Bar – Open Mic hosted by Liz Reedy

6 p.m. Rivershed – Psylas

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Nick Bredice

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Off the Rails – Learn to Line Dance

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

6 p.m. The Public House – Chris Pallutto

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Full PA/Backline Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave

THUR
3/13

BRANDON

5:30 p.m. Red Clover Ale Company – Open Mic hosted by Emily Nelson

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Jacob Green

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Daniel Brown

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Duane Carleton

4 p.m. Summit Lodge – 10th Annual Killington Irish Festival

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

6 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Jenny and The Bets

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Carl Anton

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

6:30 p.m. The Killarney – Irish Sessions with Gypsy Reel

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Vinyl Night with Ken

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Artistree – Open Mic Night

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Theta waves Trio

FRI
3/14

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Phil Henry

KILLINGTON

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto and Daniel Brown

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Rhys Chalmers

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Nick Bredice and Liz Reedy

3 p.m. Summit Lodge – 10th Annual Killington Irish Festival

4 p.m. The Foundry – Just Jamie

5:30 p.m. Killington Cafe & Wine Bar – Rick Webb

6 p.m. Rivershed – Declan Kelehan

7 p.m. Casey's Caboose – Tboneicus Jones

7 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nick Bredice

7:30 p.m. The Foundry – Ryan Fuller

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – The Zoo

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Just Jamie

9 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Pulse

QUECHEE

5 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music with Peter, Bob and Grace

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – John Lackard

PITTSFORD

7 p.m. Hilltop Tavern – DJ Dance Party with Sunset Entertainment

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Nancy Johnson

RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. The Underground Listening Room – Drumstick Bossman with The Blue Ribbons

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

WEST RUTLAND

8 p.m. American Legion – Aaron Audet Band

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Rivalry

SAT
3/15

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Show with Headliner Tim Lovett

KILLINGTON

Noon. Summit Lodge – 10th Annual Killington Irish Festival

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Nick Bredice

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Daniel Brown Duo

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Chris Pallutto

3 p.m. Still on the Mountain (Outdoor Patio) – Apres Ski with DJ Benny Shreds

4 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Jamie's Junk Show with special guest opener Jenny Porter & Krishna Guthrie

4 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet

6 p.m. O'Dwyers Public House at the Summit Lodge – Rambletree

6 p.m. Preston's at the Grand Hotel – Scott Forrest

6 p.m. Rivershed – Declan Kelehan

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Sammy B

6:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Krishna Guthrie Band

7 p.m. Vermont Craft – Nick Bredice

7 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – Ryan Fuller

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet Band

9 p.m. Pickle Barrel – The Zoo

9 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Pulse

10 p.m. Pickle Barrel Crow's Nest – Jamie's Junk Show

LUDLOW

2 p.m. Okemo's Jackson Gore Courtyard – Apres Afternoon with Adam McMahon Trio

2 p.m. Okemo's The Bull – Rhys Chalmers

6 p.m. Community Center – Mom Prom

POULTNEY

7:30 p.m. Poultney Pub – Monthly Pub Sing with Carl Anton (Irish & Drinking Songs)

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jennings & McComber

6 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music with Well Kept Men

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler's Pub – Karaoke with Sunset Entertainment

STOCKBRIDGE

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Rose Hip Duo

SUN
3/16

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Jeremiah Strauss

KILLINGTON

Noon. Rivershed – Brunch with Declan Kelehan

Noon. Summit Lodge – 10th Annual Killington Irish Festival

1 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Duane Carleton

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Nick Bredice

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Liz Reedy and Sammy B

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Open Mic Night hosted by Liz Reedy

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jazz Night with the Summit Pond Quartet

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Spafford

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

LUDLOW

11 a.m. Okemo's Solitude Lift – Sunday's with Sammy B

QUECHEE

2 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music with High Drive

RUTLAND

9 p.m. CJ's Suds South – Karaoke with Sunset Entertainment

STOCKBRIDGE

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington's Looping Mayhem

MON
3/17

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

4:30 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – St Patrick's Day Comedy Show

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Chris Pallutto

3 p.m. Summit Lodge – 10th Annual Killington Irish Festival

5 p.m. Sushi Yoshi – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Mandatory Mondays with Irish Name That Tune Bingo by DJ O'Dave

6 p.m. The Foundry – Blues Night with John Lackard

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Rhys Chalmers

LUDLOW

5 p.m. Little Mexico – Sammy B

8:30 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic Night hosted by Indigenous Entertainment

POULTNEY

5 p.m. Poultney Pub – Andris Berry

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Rivalry

RUTLAND

7 p.m. Angler's Pub – Trivia hosted by Sunset Entertainment

STOCKBRIDGE

5 p.m. Wild Fern – Bow and River

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Bluegrass Etc. Jam The Irish Session with Ben Kogan

TUES
3/18

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Bredice

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

PITTSFIELD

7 p.m. Town Hall – Open Jam

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – EDM Night with DJ EG, DJ Sims and Sunset Dreamz



Kaleidoscope Art Supply continues to delight and surprise in downtown Rutland

By James Kent

Nearly a year after opening Kaleidoscope Art Supply on Center Street in downtown Rutland, Raven Crispino continues cultivating a welcoming and inclusive space where artists of all levels can explore their creativity. Despite the economic challenges of maintaining a small business, Crispino remains deeply committed to fostering a vital arts community and providing opportunities for artists to showcase their work and teach their craft.

A safe space for art and connection

Kaleidoscope Art Supply offers more than just art supplies—it serves as a creative hub where artists can exhibit their work, lead workshops, and connect with fellow creatives. The store features a unique blend of global art supplies, locally made pieces, and an inviting gallery space.

“I do feel like I’m embraced by the community,” Crispino said. “A lot of people come in and tell me, ‘Thank you for being here.’”

Her gallery shows have garnered a strong response, drawing in crowds and creating opportunities for artists. “When I throw the shows, the place gets packed,” she said. “People respond to what I’m doing, and that creates opportunities—for more people to get involved, for instructors to teach and get paid. Everything is an opportunity under this roof.”

More than just a storefront

One of the defining features of Kaleidoscope Art Supply is its backroom space, which transforms into a workshop and event venue. With a hidden door disguised as a bookshelf, the space can be closed off from the retail area, providing an intimate setting for classes, private events,

and gatherings.

“This looks like just a bookcase, but there are parties that happen behind it,” Crispino said, demonstrating the clever design. “That door is like my Muse—it inspired so much of what happens here.”

The room has hosted birthday parties, art classes, and community discussions, further cementing its role as a stimulating creative hub in downtown Rutland.

A business built on passion

Despite her success in creating a thriving arts space, Crispino does not take a paycheck from the store. “The only people who get paid here are the artists,” she said. “Everything goes right back into the business.” She supplements her income with a separate job, ensuring that Kaleidoscope Art Supply remains open and accessible to the community.

Crispino recognizes that many people assume small business owners are financially secure, but that isn’t always true.

“I didn’t go into this thinking I was going to make a lot of money or retire off of this,” she said. “I just keep the store running. I put gas in the tank and go.”

The store and gallery space serve as points of entry for artists to make their dreams come true, and for Crispino, achieving that is the mission of Kaleidoscope Art Supply.

“I have the platform right now with the space and this downtown business,” Crispino said. “The work gets out there more, so that’s why I wanted to open up the spot for local artists.”

Upcoming events at Kaleidoscope Art Supply

Crispino is dedicated to keeping the space lively with a variety of events.

“Inside Kaleidoscope Art Supply, we have our Almost Spring market on March 16 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,” she shared.

“There’s going to be 11 local vendors, and it’s free to attend.” Crispino also teased a vintage pop-up event on April 5, where attendees can shop for unique clothing and ephemera.

Additionally, the store will host its first Jazz Night on March 14, featuring a local jazz trio performing an improvised set in an intimate, black-box-style setting.

“It’s a by-donation event,” she said. “We want to see the response, and if it works, we’ll keep doing it.”

For those interested in exhibitions, the Galentine’s Day show remains on display through April 6, offering another opportunity for visitors to experience local artwork.

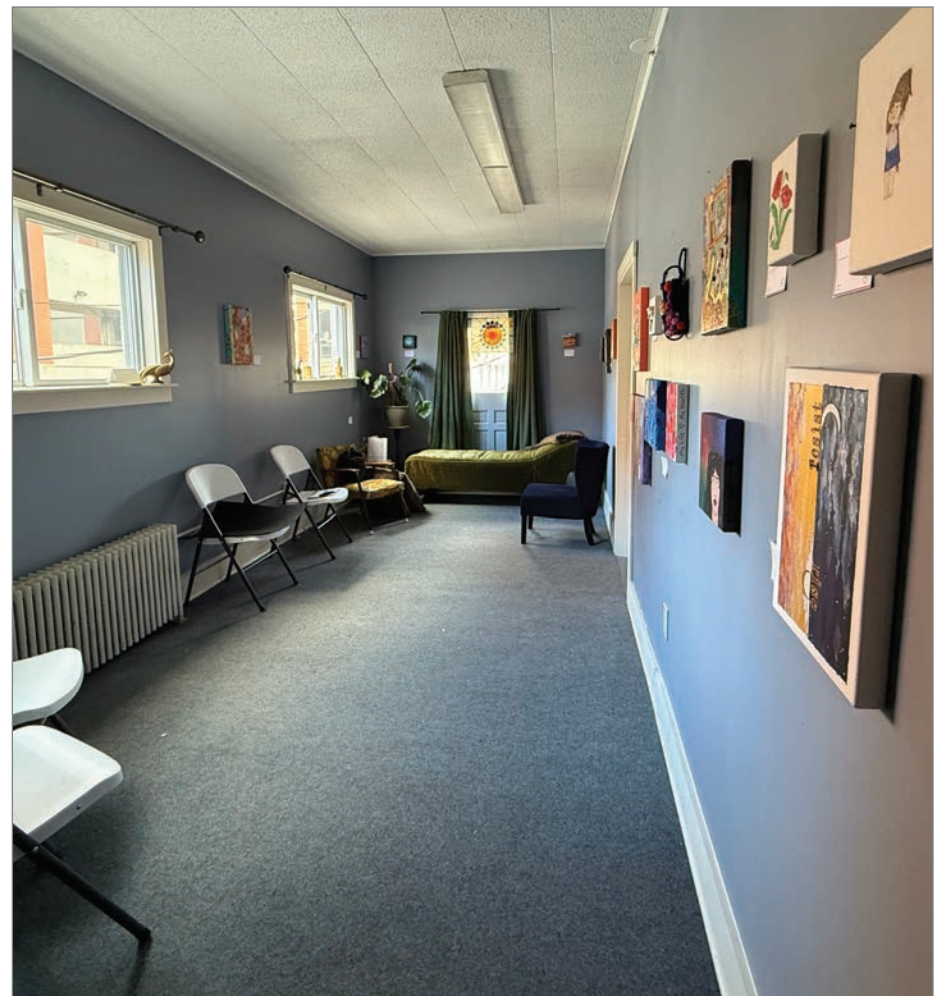
An inclusive vision for the future

Beyond selling supplies and hosting events, Crispino is committed to making Kaleidoscope Art Supply a welcoming space for everyone.

“Causes and holding safe places for people of all backgrounds and identities—that’s important to me,” she said. “I feel like I’m making a difference in Vermont.”

Looking ahead, Crispino hopes to continue inspiring people to explore art and embrace their creativity. “My dreams are to make other people’s dreams come true,” she said. “That’s really why I feel like I’m here.”

For more information, visit: kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.



By James Kent

Kaleidoscope Art Supply owner Raven Crispino (left) revealed her secret bookcase door which leads to a mixed-use artist space for classes, shows, and performances. The back room (right) can be used for classes, workshops, shows, and performances.



Ben & Jerry's new Rivian electric "scoop truck" made its debut at South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, Texas this week.

Submitted

Rivian makes Ben & Jerry's ice cream dreams come true

Electrified scoop trucks to debut at South by Southwest and bring fun to fans across the USA

What's better than companies who want to preserve the world for future generations, unveiling the ice cream truck of the future? Rolling out two electric "scoop trucks," a sweet collaboration between Ben & Jerry's, Vermont's popular ice cream maker, and Rivian, the all-electric automaker.

Built on the Rivian commercial van, the new Ben & Jerry's scoop trucks will modernize everything people love about an ice cream truck. Fans will have a chance to check out the new scoop trucks when one debuts at South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, Texas, this week.

This alliance brings Ben & Jerry's to fans with outstanding reliability, performance & reduced environmental footprint.

Following SXSW, Ben & Jerry's scoop trucks will be hitting the road, bringing good eats and good vibes to the Rivian community across the country, and they will pop up at events in Ben & Jerry's home state of Vermont. Rivian's recent announcement launching the Rivian commercial van to businesses across the U.S.

has helped make these scoop trucks possible, offering unique solutions to fleet customers looking to transition off fossil fuels into modern, electric commercial solutions.

Part of Ben & Jerry's mission is to use its operations to positively impact its community and the planet. This alliance will help serve up smiles by bringing a Ben & Jerry's experience to fans with outstanding reliability and performance, with the added benefit of a reduced environmental footprint.

"Collaborating with the Ben & Jerry's team to build the next generation of electric scoop trucks has been an incredible experience. It's one of those projects that just makes the team smile," said Brian Gase, senior Director of Prototype development at Rivian. "We can't wait for people to stop by for some ice cream and see it in action for the first time during SXSW!"

"Working with Rivian, an industry leader who is committed to sustainability, is an ice cream dream come true," said Ben & Jerry's Sean Slattery, U.S. integrated marketing project lead. "Today, Rivian helped Ben & Jerry's reduce our reliance on fossil fuels in a small way while making things a little bit cooler... which, as an ice cream company, is extremely difficult to do," he joked.

With an estimated range of 161 miles, the Rivian commercial vans will allow for more events, more catering gigs, and dishing out more ice cream than ever to Ben & Jerry's and Rivian's collective fans.



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Spafford brings SW jam grooves to Killington's Pickle Barrel

By William O'Donnell

March 16, at 7 p.m.—KILLINGTON—When it comes to improvisational music, few bands take the art of jamming as seriously—and as fluidly—as Spafford. The Arizona-based quartet, known for their electrifying live shows and seamless musical exploration, is set to bring their signature blend of genre-bending grooves to the Pickle Barrel in Killington on Sunday, March 16.

Spafford has become a staple of the jam band scene with a dedicated fanbase and an ever-expanding tour schedule. Founding members Brian Moss (guitar/vocals), Cory Schectman (keys/vocals), Nick Tkachyk (drums/vocals), and Shon Gordon (bass/vocals) fuse their eclectic musical background ranging from '90s country and alternative-rock hits to jazz, funk, ska and metal into a carefully crafted experience each night that evolves based on the energy in the room.

Ahead of their Killington stop, drummer Tkachyk sat down to talk about their recent tour through Colorado ski towns, the band's approach to improvisation, and the art of picking the perfect cover song.

Spafford has been crisscrossing the country for years, bringing their expansive jams to intimate venues and major festivals. The band recently wrapped up their SpaffSki Tour—a series of performances in Colorado's ski towns, including four-night runs in Steamboat Springs and Crested Butte.

"The road is incredible," Tkachyk said. "We love to be out in the world playing music for people."

The band is no stranger to the Northeast, frequently making stops across Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts. Their upcoming tour swings through Connecticut, New York, and Maine before heading to Killington, Buffalo, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh—a demanding schedule for any touring act.

"We've got a big tour coming up," Tkachyk added. "We love the Northeast."

For a band like Spafford, improvisation isn't just an aspect of the performance—it's the foundation of their sound. Tkachyk, who grew up playing jazz in Tucson, Arizona, credits his background in jazz combos for shaping his approach to jamming.

"Jam band music is a musical conversation," he explained. "If somebody is playing a solo, it's my job as the drummer to communicate with them throughout their solo and do like a call-and-response thing. I carry that same idea into jamming with Spafford."

The band's transitions between songs—sometimes extending into hour-long sets with only a few tracks—are influenced by electronic music, drawing inspiration from drum and bass, and DJ legends Andy C, LTJ Bukem, and Tiësto.

"What I love about Spafford is that I can take that influence from electronic music and bring it into Spafford's musical exploration," Tkachyk said. "And it's so much fun."

During their recent Colorado run, the band showcased this improvisational approach with a three-song first set that lasted an hour.

"Sometimes that happens, you know?" he laughed. "And then at the end of the four-night run, I think our last set was like eight songs. We don't really know what's gonna happen—it's all based on what we're feeling when we walk onto that stage and what the audience is feeling."

Covering the classics: The "Spaffordization" process

Beyond their original compositions, Spafford has developed a reputation for taking well-known songs and giving them a distinctive

jam-band twist.

"We're always just kind of throwing new songs into a hopper," Tkachyk said. "Some of them work really well, and some of them... not so much. But some of them really work in the sense that they get 'Spaffordized.'"

One standout example? A breakbeat-style cover of The Cure's "Love Song".

"We did that in like a drum and bass style," he explained.

Other recent additions to their cover repertoire include Stone Temple Pilots' "Plush," Depeche Mode's "Enjoy the Silence," and Dire Straits' "Money for Nothing," which was cleverly sandwiched between the band's original song, "Ain't That Wrong."

"We also did 'Swingtown' by Steve Miller Band and a really great cover of 'The Way You Do The Things You Do'—the Jerry Garcia Band version," he added.

While their covers are crowd-pleasers, Spafford isn't just reinterpreting rock classics for fun. Sometimes, the band uses their setlists to highlight lesser-known artists.

"If there's an after-effect of an artist gaining some more popularity, then hell yes!" Tkachyk said.

What's next for Spafford?

Looking ahead, Spafford has a packed schedule that includes festival appearances and more tour dates.

"We've got a couple festivals coming up this summer," Tkachyk said. "We're doing Dome Fest with Pigeons Playing Ping Pong and Jam-Packed Festival in Virginia."

Additionally, fans should keep an eye out for Northeast and Midwest summer tour announcements later this month.

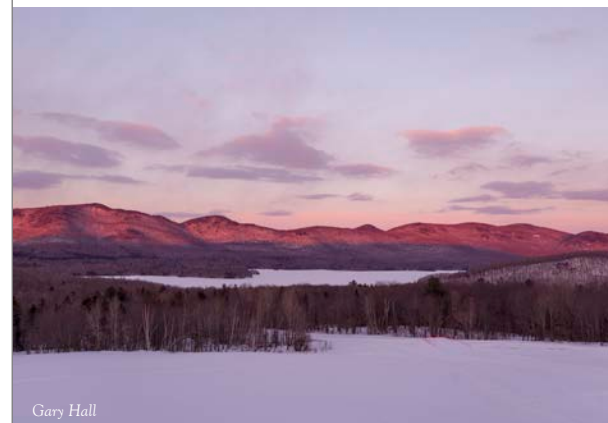
But before they hit the summer circuit, Spafford is bringing the heat to Killington's Pickle Barrel on March 16—a must-see stop for jam band lovers, skiers, and anyone looking for a night of musical exploration.

"That's one of the beautiful things about a Spafford show," Tkachyk said. "It just kind of takes you away for a little bit. And then we just put you right back."

For tickets and more information, visit: spafford.net or picklebarrelnightclub.com.



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Pop art meets Matchbox cars in Pietro Landi's BMW-RAV4 mashup

By James Kent

Woodstock-based artist Pietro Landi is gearing up for the next phase of his BMW-RAV Art Car project, transforming his 2012 Toyota RAV4 into a bold, Hot Wheels/Matchbox cars-inspired creation. Drawing inspiration from BMW's renowned Art Car series—where artists like Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol have turned race cars into canvases—Landi is taking the concept in a new direction by modifying a non-BMW vehicle, blending pop art with automotive culture.

A playful challenge to brand perception

The first phase of Landi's car transformation involved integrating a BMW grille into the front of the RAV4, an experiment in visual perception.

"There's a whole history of this BMW sort of Art Car project and a lot of the big pop artists—like Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, and Calder—have painted a car for BMW," Landi explained. "When I saw that this BMW grille would sort of fit perfectly in the front of the RAV4 grille, it's like almost the exact same height. So I was able to splice it in, and it's sort of this investigation of how we just perceive the world. Everyone sees the grille and the badge, BMW, and they don't even question that the headlights are wrong, the wheels are wrong—like, there's no BMW with a tire on the back ever that I know of."

Landi is preparing to paint the other side of the car orange and add custom wheel covers, a roof rack, and a rear spoiler.

"The basic design direction is to look like a scaled-up Matchbox or Hot Wheels car," he said.

A public art project in motion

Landi describes the car as a sculpture for the community, an interactive piece meant to bring joy and curiosity to people of all ages.

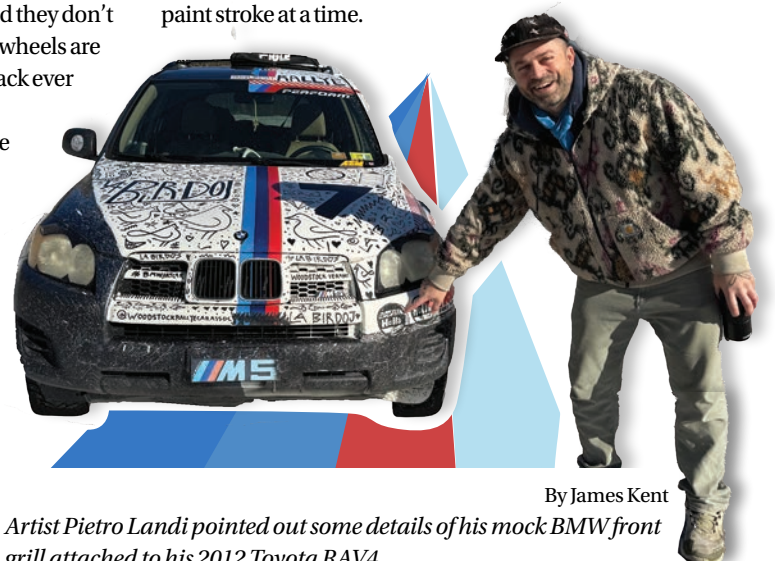
"This is definitely much more for, like, the kids' enjoyment than the adults that are just kind of stuck in their little grown-up world worrying about politics,"

he said. "Every single kid that sees it will, like, tug on their parents' shirt and point at it, you know, because it's just a fun thing."

The car is frequently parked in the Bridgewater Mill parking lot along Route 4 in Bridgewater. Landi operates his Gallery studio space on the second floor of the Mill, where he works as a residential architect while also showcasing his own artwork and a collection of street art from New York City. He recently held his first solo show in New York, featuring a series of mixed-media works he began during the pandemic.

Locals interested in seeing Landi's work can visit his gallery at the Bridgewater Mill or follow the project on pietrolandigallery.com. He is also relaunching his La Birdoj website this spring, featuring bold, graphic T-shirts inspired by street art and pop culture that people can purchase.

With warm weather approaching, Landi expects to complete the next phase of the BMW-RAV Art Car by midsummer. Until then, keep an eye out for his one-of-a-kind creation cruising through Vermont—bringing art to the streets, one paint stroke at a time.



Artist Pietro Landi pointed out some details of his mock BMW front grill attached to his 2012 Toyota RAV4.

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2023 KILLINGTON ROAD

The Bunnies are coming! The Bunnies are coming!

Carve Bunnies partners for third annual girls' trip at Killington and Okemo

By Pearl Bellomo

Carve Bunnies, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting women through action sports and the outdoors, is hosting its third annual ski trip at Killington and Okemo on March 14-16, drawing in over a hundred women from around the U.S. and Canada.

This three-day event provides free time and planned activities to hit the slopes, socialize, and visit local businesses.

Coordinator Annabelle Recierdo recalled how the trip began by accident three years ago while on a girls' ski trip.

"It was me and six friends, and we wanted to fill an Airbnb [in Killington]. We had two spots remaining, so we posted it all over social media...and it really quickly blew up...We had filled those two spots, and then even more people came about and expressed interest. So then we got another house, and then another house, and it quickly became like six to seven houses. And I think in the first year, we were around 85 people," said Recierdo.

It was there she met Carve Bunnies founder, Florie Ventura, opening the door to their friendship and first official collaboration this year.

"She quickly became a really great friend of mine," said Recierdo. "I really do believe in the value of her mission."

Ventura explained that their mission is to "bring together women of different backgrounds, races, and ages to share their passions and participate in predominantly male-led sports in a welcoming all-women environment," achieved through planning and assisting events and community activism.

Whether women already know others in the group or not, there are plenty of opportunities to connect with new people.

Whether women already know others in the group or not, there are plenty of opportunities to connect with new people.

Set up before the trip, a group chat and Google Sheets allowed women the chance to introduce themselves, plus a group mixer on Friday and dinner on Saturday.

Recierdo thanked Cascades Lodge and Killington Distillery for their time, assistance, and generous group rates and discounts.

"It's been a real joy working with the manager [at the Cascades]. Her name's Pia... She's just a very firm believer and sees the value of getting women together, and she's very hospitable and having us there, so I'm very thankful for her," she said.

A Burton representative will also provide demo snowboards, allowing participants to try new models they may not have otherwise.

Backing Recierdo and Ventura is Okemo group leader Bray Brattoya.

"This is Annabelle's third annual trip, and every year, it just gets bigger and better," said Brattoya. "Carve Bunnies and Florie's contribution is huge and it wouldn't be as big without her community! I'm grateful to be friends with these amazing women and that I'm able to contribute in any way. I love snowboarding, and I love encouraging women to push themselves and get out in nature."

Last-minute sign-ups are welcome, with a few rooms left at Cascades, and locals or campers are encouraged to join as well.

"I'll keep doing this. It's an event that brings me joy, and it's just a gift that keeps on giving in my life," said Recierdo.

For more information, visit: carvebunnies.com or email annabellerecierdo@outlook.com.



Courtesy Carve Bunnies

Several Carve Bunnies got in the St. Patrick's Day spirit during 2024's ski trip weekend.



Courtesy Carve Bunnies

This Carve Bunny braved the elements at last year's ski weekend. What type of weather will this year bring?



Courtesy Carve Bunnies

The Carve Bunnies posed at the top of Killington during their ski weekend in 2024.



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Bong Joon Ho returns to dystopian sci-fi in the visually stunning 'Mickey 17'

Those whose familiarity with director Bong Joon Ho starts and stops with his Oscar-winning "Parasite," his follow-up film to that 2019 breakout hit may be confused. Those with a more profound knowledge of Joon Ho's filmography will recognize the same over-the-top sensibilities that mark his work in the sci-fi genre with movies like "Snowpiercer" and "Okja."

Joon Ho is not a subtle filmmaker, and "Mickey 17" isn't afraid to take its satirical approach to future society into absurdist territories. Working from his screenplay adapted from Edward Ashton's novel "Mickey 7," Joon Ho leans into black comedy territory to tell the story of a man, Mickey Barnes (Robert Pattinson), on the lower rungs of a future-dystopian Earth society who signs up to be an "expendable" on a planetary colonization expedition led by a zealous failed politician turned religious-cult leader, played to the extreme by Mark Ruffalo.

Pattinson, who continues a successful pivot from the matinee-idol moniker that threatened him after the "Twilight" series and into parts that lend plenty of opportunities to distinguish himself as an actor who takes risks, is compelling as the wimpish Barnes. We learn much of the details of this saga from Barnes' voiceover, which runs the risk of being annoying, but Pattinson's commitment to this amusing underdog finds the charm and humor of this everyman's plight. As an "expend-

able," Barnes has signed on to a life of certain death. And by death, I mean die, reprint, die, and reprint again. In this future world, reprinting a human body and re-loading its memories are possible, although not entirely sanctioned on Earth. But in space, no one can hear you repeatedly scream as you die in horrific ways, sometimes due to the dangerous nature of the physical assignment and other times due to barbaric scientific experiments designed to test the environment of the planet these colonizers are trying to inhabit.

The fun in "Mickey 17's" first act is learning how Mickey Barnes got himself into the situation and watching him die repeatedly. What sustains the film is what happens when Mickey, version 17, is left for dead, doesn't die, and a newly printed Mickey 18 is running around. A "multiple" is strictly forbidden for reasons I won't spoil here, and many intriguing dynamics come into play when Mickey 17 must navigate a more alpha personality in Mickey 18.

If you've seen Joon Ho's "Snowpiercer" and "Okja," you'll recognize the director's penchant for crafting cartoonish villains who are so over-the-top they stretch believability, even for a science fiction movie. Ruffalo's performance, with a ridiculous set of pearly white chopers, and Toni Collette's, as Ruffalo's wife Ylfa Marshall, may not be everyone's taste. Steven Yeun, who also appeared in Joon Ho's "Okja," also goes a bit more "dialed

up" than perhaps was necessary and may seem out of step for most movies, but in a Joon Ho world, they are par for the course. It's Pattinson, however, who plays it just right, and his ability to concoct multiple versions of a character on screen while seeming distinct and realistic is quite a feat of acting and visual effect razzle-dazzle that gives an audience plenty to marvel at, even if the style of humor won't satisfy everyone.

With CGI visual effects a staple of every action and sci-fi genre, finding a movie that distinguishes itself as a wonder of the craft gets more challenging. "Mickey 17" excels in the visual world Joon Ho creates. The effects, from the seamless integration of multiple Pattinsons on the screen to the wondrous creation of a planet inhabited by what the movie and book called "Creepers," are nothing short of astonishing. I'm not sure I'll see another film in 2025 that pulls off visual effects of this caliber. It's a testament to Joon Ho's imagination and skill as a filmmaker, the stellar cinematography of Darius Khondji, and the effects team led by Vince Abbott. I caught a film screening in IMAX, and the movie's look, feel, and sound screamed "big screen entertainment." I wasn't sorry that I made the trip.

There is always a social commentary running through the lifeblood of all Joon Ho's films. It's one of the things that made "Parasite" such a hit with mainstream audiences. Here, "Mickey 17" is no different. We recognize the same ego-mania drive of Elon Musk and his seeming

Screens & Streams →27



Screens and Streams
By James Kent

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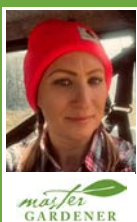
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Screens & Streams:

from page 26

desire to control the world and other worlds in Mark Ruffalo's Kenneth Marshall. And there is a not-so-subtle warning of a future where the class distinction is so great that the only way to succeed is to sign one's life away to corporate experimentation. And, while James Cameron spends his later filmmaking endeavors waxing on the hubris of man trying to conquer nature through the colonization of other planets, Joon Ho makes a much more compelling pitch in "Mickey 17," where Mickey Barnes' good nature and humanity (ignored by many of the other characters in the film) is championed by the delightful herd of planetary inhabitants, the "creepers."

Sadly, in today's world, where getting people into a movie theater post-pandemic relies on some mysterious combination of factors that Hollywood has yet to unlock, the masses are not coming out to see "Mickey 17." And that's a shame. It's a boatload of fun, features a heck of a performance by Robert Pattinson, and boasts some terrific visual effects. Is it on the same level as "Parasite?" No, nor should it be judged on that playing field. It's pure escapism, and who couldn't use a couple of hours of escape these days?

James Kent is the publisher's assistant and arts editor at The Mountain Times.



Courtesy Warner Brothers

Bong Joon Ho's "Mickey 17" is a visually stunning return to dystopian sci-fi, packed with absurdist humor and wild imagination, following a man who repeatedly dies and is reprinted in a future world. With enough sci-fi insanity to keep 18 Robert Pattinsons busy, the film delivers a mix of outrageous characters, breathtaking effects, and sharp social commentary that sets it apart from the genre.

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DOWNTOWN RUTLAND VERMONT



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Since opening in Downtown Rutland in March 2023, Taco Fresco has been committed to using high-quality, fresh ingredients in their tacos, burritos, guacamole, salads, quesadillas, Mexican sandwiches, and more. Their menu consists of simple, delicious Mexican & American fare cooked with flavor and passion.

Their tequila bar is a great place to relax before a show with a frozen margarita, specialty cocktail, sangria, beer, or a glass of wine. Mirroring the fresh qualities you’ll find in the food, the cocktails are all handcrafted with care.

Learn more and find their menu online at tacofrescovt.com.
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Solutions

From page 15

Crossword

T	E	G	G				M	T	V		T	R	A	M				
A	B	O	U	T			A	H	A		H	E	B	E				
T	A	B	L	E	T		R	U	M		E	L	I	S				
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Sudoku

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

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Rutland County Humane Society



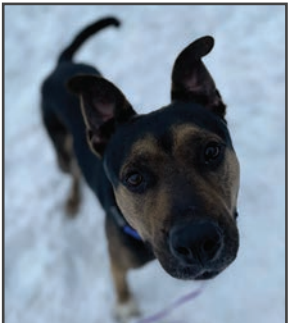
Chuck—adult. Male. Hamster.



Mischief—1-year-old. Spayed female. Pit bull terrier.



Mila—2.5-year-old. Female. Pitbull mix.



Rocky—3-year-old. Neutered male. Pit bull terrier/husky mix.



Lady—11-month-old. Spayed female. Coonhound.

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

Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed Sun. & Mon. • www.rchsvt.org



Diesel—2-year-old. Neutered male. Pit bull terrier.



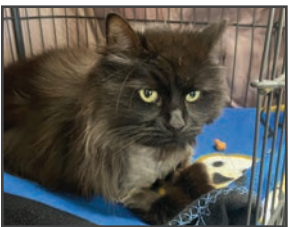
Taco—4-month-old. Male. Coonhound/pit bull terrier mix.



Harry—6-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Theo—1-year-old. Neutered male. Retriever mix.



Luna—4-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic long hair.



Bob—1-year-old. Neutered male. Australian kelpie/border collie mix.



Piggy—2-year-old. Spayed female. Pit bull terrier mix.

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society

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Ginger—5-year-old. Female. Red ticked hound.

Springfield Humane Society

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

*Open by appointment only. spfldhumane.org



Dottie—5-year-old. Male.

Cosmic Catalogue

Aries March 21 - April 20

Have you heard of the phrase "don't cling to a mistake just because you spent a long time making it." I'm not suggesting you've made a mistake as such. However, you really need to ask yourself what you must let go of. Is it the way you're spending your time? Your unhealthy habits? Maybe it's just your headstrong attitude that needs a new approach. Try and fix these issues now while you still can because it will soon be harder for you.

Leo July 21 - August 20

If you're continually repeating patterns either with money or the type of energy you attract into your life, then you need to break some patterns. If you're in a state of dissatisfaction despite how hard you try to be happy, then you really do need to look at things differently. You can point the finger at everyone else or you can do the inner work to create the abundance you want to create in your life. Money, people, energy, vibrations – everything!

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

An eclipse will happen in your Career and Life Direction Zone this week. This will help you realign with what is right for you in this area of life. This is a cleansing type of eclipse where you may notice that if something simply no longer works for you, you'll be less likely to be able to put up with it. If you can focus on a sense of joy and happiness, that will naturally filter into all areas of your life.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

So much has changed for you over the past seven years or so. As you've discovered your authenticity and what's true for you, you might recognize that what you once called fun, you no longer do. This could be about hobbies, pastimes, romance, children, and what you enjoy doing in your spare time. If you need more happiness in your life, you might need to ditch what you've been doing and try something new. Change can be a good thing!

Virgo August 21 - September 20

In the dating and relationship scene, you hear a lot about the concept of boundaries. This can be confusing because it sounds like you have to create a wall or barrier in order to protect yourself. This isn't correct. Boundaries are about setting the standard that's right for you. This includes what you want and how you want to be treated. This week, you'll get the chance to look at the patterns within you that haven't got this balance quite right.

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

One of life's biggest lessons is correcting course when you feel the urge to. There are times when you really have to double down on your discipline and stick to the choices you make. Then, there are other times when you have to quit while you're ahead. This is the dilemma you're facing right now. Your best bet is not to focus on making choices now but just observe how you feel and let your intuition and higher power guide you.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

There is a sense of tension or pressure as your world prepares to undergo profound changes. This week sees an eclipse in your home zone, indicating a new chapter in this area of life. One door closes, and another one opens, as they say. There may be some stress involved, but be certain that things are only being churned up for your benefit. This is the cleansing process before things become shiny, new, and exciting again.

Libra September 21 - October 20

You can either grin or bear it in terms of the relationship situation you're faced with. You could also see this as a symptom that something isn't quite right and something needs to give. If you've been constantly giving in the hope of getting the same in return, you need to change tactics. It's up to you to set the standard and allow other people the opportunity to meet you. It's counterintuitive to how you operate. Do give it a try, though.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

If you're feeling less than impressed with your financial situation or that your ability to attract what you want is lacking, then you can realign this week. All you need to do is recommit to the habits that work well and let go of the ones that don't. You may need to rely on yourself more than someone else right now. If you need to pay down debt or someone needs to repay you, you can balance the ledger this week.

Cancer June 21 - July 20

You can focus on the lack of clarity and confusion this week will likely bring. You could also focus on having faith and reinforcing your sense of meaning and purpose. The skies are undergoing a process of flux and change. You're likely to get caught up in it, being the sensitive type you are. This will only drain your energy, though. You need to focus on your mission and your big picture. Everything else is minutiae.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

If your friendship circle feels a bit like a revolving door at the moment, then that is due to an eclipse happening this week. You might see someone in particular or a group you're involved with in a new light. This isn't the time to make any hard or fast choices regarding the company you keep. Instead, just watch and observe. You're probably better off focusing on the work you need to be doing for yourself anyway.

Pisces February 21 - March 20

An eclipse will illuminate your Relationship Zone this week. You may see your partner or other people in general in a different light. Do let go of criticism or any other attitudes you hold that project judgment. If someone is getting under your skin, look at what isn't healed within you. Communication and connection aren't at their best right now. So avoid pushing the issue; instead, just be patient and compassionate. This, too, shall pass.

Embrace the shift



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

We are now midway through March. The first 10 weeks of 2025 have felt arduous, to say the least. Unless you are versed in astrology, you'd be forgiven for thinking a few months ago that this was going to be your year.

The astrology of March is nothing short of next level, so much so that it's actually difficult to articulate. The energy is messy. It's one step forward and two steps back. Old cycles ending. New cycles beginning. Confusion. Uncertainty. Letting go of old habits and attitudes. The resurrection of the past. The salt in the wounds. The tears. The severing.

Just when you thought you got a handle on this cycle, the first eclipse of 2025 arrives. A full moon lunar eclipse attached to the South Node happens on Friday. At the same time, Mercury, the eclipse ruler, stations retrograde in Aries – where Venus has already been reversing.

This week, avoid trying to figure things out. Don't waste your time wondering why people do the things they do or don't do. Don't expect accountability from those who aren't capable of it. Instead, set your own boundaries and standards and settle for nothing less. The pain you feel today is the strength you'll feel tomorrow.

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

Marauding the moon: Total lunar eclipse

While many are still basking in the afterglow of the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, a lunar eclipse is about to have its day in the sun. In the early hours of March 14, 2025, a total lunar eclipse will be visible across North America. The entire eclipse will start just before midnight and last 6 hours. Earth's shadow will take a gradually larger bite out of the reddish-orange Blood Moon, reaching totality between 2:26 and 3:31 a.m.

In these times, a lunar eclipse is regarded as an extraordinary but explainable astronomical event. That was not always so. More than 5,000 years have passed since the oldest record of an eclipse was carved into stone at what is now known as the Loughcrew Megalithic Monument in County Meath, Ireland. Over the millennia, it was believed the moon occasionally disappeared because it was attacked by demons or, in the case of the Incas, eaten by a jaguar. As the moon bled, it became a rusty hue, causing what we now call a Blood Moon. In order to prevent the jaguar from falling to Earth and pouncing on the people, it was driven away by making noises and brandishing weapons. Some Wabanaki groups of the northeastern United States and eastern Canada mark an eclipse with fasting and celebration to express gratitude for gifts that Grandmother Moon and Grandfather Sun give to the people.

About 2,300 years ago, the ancient Greeks deduced that a lunar eclipse occurred when Earth passed between the sun and moon. The shape of the Earth's shadow projected across the face of the moon confirmed that the Earth was round, and the duration of the eclipse inspired one Greek astronomer, Aristarchus from Samos, to calculate that the moon's diameter was one-third that of Earth.

We have a lunar eclipse when Earth passes between the sun and a full moon. During a total eclipse, the moon passes through the umbra, the dark center of Earth's shadow, from which the sun cannot

be seen. Earth's umbra, at the distance of the moon (some 240,000 miles), is about 5,600 miles wide, and it can take the moon 1 1/2 hours or more to pass through it. Because the size of the umbral shadow that Earth casts on the moon during an eclipse is smaller than our planet's actual diameter, Aristarchus was a bit off: the moon is actually about one-fourth the diameter of Earth. (Comparatively, during a total solar eclipse, the moon's umbral shadow on Earth is about 115 miles wide, so the sun is only blocked out entirely for a few minutes along the path of totality.)

New England's most recent total lunar eclipses were visible in September 2015, January 2019, and May and November 2022. Following the March 14, 2025 event, the next total moon eclipse will be visible from northern New England on March 3, 2026; in 2026 it will begin at 6:04 a.m. and last until 7:02 a.m., but the moon will fade just before it sets around 6:20 a.m.

The recent runs of springtime astronomical phenomena are not unusual. "Eclipses take place during 'eclipse seasons,' when the alignment between Earth, Moon, and Sun is favorable for eclipses," explained Catherine Miller, observatory specialist at Middlebury College.

These happen around every six months and are just over a month in duration. Eclipses occur during a new or full moon when the Earth, moon, and sun fall on a straight line, known as a syzygy.

"Solar eclipses happen during the new moon, while lunar eclipses happen during the full moon, and these phases occur approximately 15 days apart," said Miller.

If you miss this total lunar eclipse on March 14, you'll have another eclipse opportunity two weeks later. In the early morning of March 29, a partial solar eclipse will cross the Northeast. In the Upper Valley, the sun will rise around 6:35 a.m., just minutes before the eclipse reaches its maximum, and nearly half of the sun is obscured.

While solar eclipse viewing varies greatly by location and requires safety precautions to protect the eyes from injury, everyone in the Northeast will be able to view the total lunar eclipse during the wee morning hours on March 14, if the sky is clear, simply by stepping outside and looking up.

Michael J. Caduto is a writer, ecologist, and storyteller who lives in Reading, Vermont. He is the author of "Through a Naturalist's Eyes: Exploring the Nature of New England." Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



The Outside Story
By Michael J. Caduto



A salty attitude

I have a bad habit of buying useless gifts for my wife and son. This reckless activity manifests most visibly during Christmastime when I generally go overboard in the purchase of unneeded items. I have always loved seeing my wife's and son's eyes light up when they are met with the motherlode of wrapped presents.

Some of the presents are legit, like new headphones, a gift certificate for a massage, or a coveted article of clothing. But a large percentage of the haul will undoubtedly be useless filler – things like Pez dispensers, SpongeBob underwear, or an exploding golf ball.

Inevitably, a good chunk of the crap that I buy ends up in the garbage pail or in a donation box to Goodwill. This fact always gives me pause but does little to deter me during the next gift-buying opportunity.

This past weekend, I was collecting some household items for donation when my son walked into the garage holding the salt lamp I had given him on his birthday last year. He said it didn't work anymore at which point I

plugged it into the wall outlet and turned it on. The bulb inside lit up normally, causing me to look at him with contempt.

"Dad, I'll be honest," he squirmed. "It's just not my thing."

The lamp looked like a large pink rock (likely derived from the Himalayan region where it was carved), set atop a small wooden base. It wasn't necessarily ugly, but it wasn't altogether appealing, either. I bought the lamp because it claimed it would "purify the air, improve mental health, and ward off asthma." None of us have asthma, but I'm always game for purified air and a clearer head.

I stared at the lamp for a moment, considering whether I wanted to bring it to my office or find another spot around the house to display it. I decided neither was appropriate, then tossed it into the donation box.

As I was waiting in line to donate my items, the salt lamp weighed heavy on my mind. I was considering keeping it. Maybe a coworker would want it? Maybe it would be nice to have in one of the bathrooms? I then grabbed my

The Movie Diary → 36



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi

The swamp of sadness

The sign went up this week: a beautiful diamond sign, construction orange with a reflective black border. In many ways, the sign brings uncertainty, a harbinger of what will come over the next few weeks and months. We don't really know how big the monster it warns of will be—or how long it will be around.

Mud season is upon us. First, the brutal rain, then a freeze, and now two weeks of warm weather. There is already a vast tire trench on River Road from someone sneaking in and almost getting eaten by the road before the sign went up. That trench then froze over last weekend and is now sitting silently, a cautionary reminder to all to stay closer to the middle and to look out for the soggy bits.

But you can't tell now, can you? The soggy bits move about underneath the gravel, and you have no idea where you will sink or when you will get pulled down deep into the depths of the road. We talk about snow snakes all the time, but the mud monster lies dormant, waiting for his few weeks of glory. And with the amount of snow we've had combined with the temps of the next few weeks, this is going to be one glorious mud season.

River Road in Killington is already a mess. The water rushes down the mountain, getting trapped on the wrong side of the road. There is no way under the road since that part is pretty much floating in

the water from the Ottaquechee anyway. So, the melting snow must go over the road in its attempt to reach the river instead of under it, like through a culvert or something.

The locals love this. It adds an element of adventure to an otherwise normal day of driving—for life on a first road. And it gets the sign put up! Let's face it: the beginning of mud season is the worst because it catches so many unaware. That first big truck that isn't paying attention to the weather, and the runout destroys that road for weeks on end. We will never get that first trench out until the road is dry enough to run the grader.

This sign is a savior. If you've ever been caught on River Road during mud season, either because you live on a paved road,

so you don't realize the danger, or your dirt road isn't sitting in an actual river, you appreciate this sign. You don't want to destroy the underbelly of your car just to get to the town office. Or risk getting sucked into the mud.

Because when the mud monster takes control of the wheel, there's that moment where you wonder if you are Artax and will end up being sucked into the Swamp of Sadness like in "The Never-ending Story." You've seen the photos of cars sucked in way past their bellies, and the tow truck can barely make it to the scene, never mind find enough gravel

Living the Dream → 37



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

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TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

Highway Maintenance Crew Member

The Town of Killington Public Works Department is looking for a Full-Time Highway Maintenance Crew Member. Maintenance workers are responsible for routine maintenance and repair work of Town highways. Duties typically require the use of a variety of tools and vehicles. Overtime work is required, particularly during the winter months, and is considered a condition of employment. A newly hired employee must complete all training and safety requirements and demonstrate knowledge and skills in the areas of maintenance and/or construction activities. Work is performed under the supervision of the Highway Foreman.

Minimum qualifications include having a high school diploma (or equivalent); a Class B Commercial Driver's License (or obtain within 6 months at town expense); knowledge of the methods, materials, tools and equipment used in the maintenance, repair and maintenance of highways, bridges and other related highway and facilities operations including safety precautions.

Starting pay is between \$21 and \$25/hour depending on experience and qualifications. The Town of Killington offers a robust benefits package including paid time off; medical, dental, vision, and life insurance; retirement benefits through the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System; uniforms; golf privileges at the Green Mountain National Golf Course; and membership with the Killington Pico Area Association.

For a full job description, please visit www.killingtontown.com/jobs or request it by calling 802- 422-3241 ext. 7. To apply, please send a resume to Kevin Hewitt, Highway Foreman, kevinh@killingtontown.com, or PO Box 429, 2706 River Road, Killington, VT 05751. The position will remain open until filled.

The Town of Killington is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.



TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

Water System Operator – Class 3

The Town of Killington Public Works Department is looking for a Full-Time Class 3 Water System Operator.

The Killington Water System is under construction, with the first connections anticipated to be online in 2026 and a total of approximately 770 connections when the system is fully operational. The ideal candidate for this position would be a currently certified and experienced Class 3 Water System Operator to become familiar with the system as it is being constructed and to assist in the connection of users to the system. Once the system is fully operational, this position will evolve into the typical activities associated with operation and maintenance of a Public Community Water System and the Water Operator will be responsible for the daily operations. Work is performed under the supervision of the Director of Public Works.

Minimum qualifications include having a high school diploma (or equivalent); a Class 3 Water Operator Certification with at least 3 years of experience working in a Public Community Water System; current Motor Vehicle Operator's License; working knowledge of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, as well as ability to interpret technical manuals, schematics, and blueprints.

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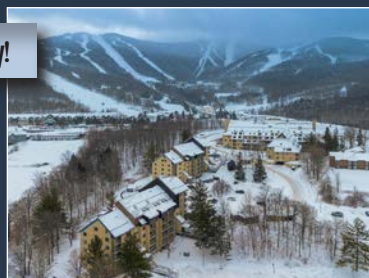
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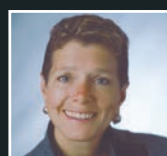
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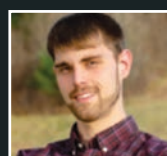
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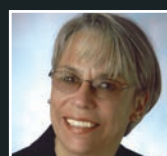
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← **Movie Diary:**
from page 33

phone and, after a few clicks, found myself researching the uses of salt, the history of salt, and famous locations around the earth that produce salt.

One of the places I discovered was the Wieliczka Salt Mine in Kraków, Poland, which turned out to be utterly fascinating.

With a history dating back to the 13th Century, the Wieliczka Salt Mine has played a crucial role in Poland's economy, culture, and heritage. Over the centuries, it has transformed from a major center of salt production into a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a popular tourist attraction.

The mine's origins date back to the early Middle Ages when rock salt deposits were discovered in the area. The Polish monarchy quickly recognized the value of salt, which was a highly valuable commodity at the time (often referred to as "white gold"). Under King Casimir III the Great, the mine expanded significantly, contributing substantial revenue to the Polish crown while becoming a key economic asset for the nation.

For centuries, miners excavated salt using primitive tools, creating an extensive underground labyrinth. As mining techniques improved, deeper shafts were dug, expanding the mine to a depth of over 1,000 feet, with a network of tunnels stretching more than 178 miles. Over time, miners began sculpting intricate carvings and statues from the rock salt, turning the mine into an underground artistic masterpiece, complete with its own

lake.

One of its most remarkable features is the Chapel of St. Kinga, a vast underground church carved entirely from salt, including altars, chandeliers, and intricate religious sculptures. The chapel remains an active place of worship and is a testament to the artistic talent of the miners who created it.

This week's feature, "A Real Pain," takes a trip to that exact location of the world where two mismatched cousins decide to honor their deceased grandmother by rediscovering their shared heritage.

Actor Jesse Eisenberg wrote, produced, directed, and starred in "A Real Pain," but costar Kieran Culkin walked away with the Oscar for Best Actor, and deservedly so. Both Culkin and Eisenberg were fantastic in their roles, but Culkin, with his witty demeanor and off-kilter sensibility, stole the show.

"A Real Pain" is a heady film; it's an emotional story that subtly reveals its main characters' angst without dumping all the reasons onto the viewer. The result is a project that makes you think about its conclusion – something films lack today.

Check this out if you're in the mood for a potent little film featuring great acting and a wistful cadence.

A "B+" for "A Real Pain," now available to stream on Amazon Prime.

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

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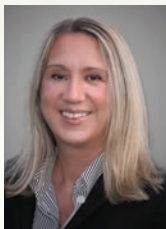
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You still owe me \$5

Hello readers! I'm Uncle Matty, here for your help, but please be advised to swim at your own risk. I am not a doctor, therapist, lawyer, or man of the cloth. My professional certifications are limited to slinging cocktails and umpiring. If you have serious medical, financial, legal, or faith-based questions, please seek more appropriate help.

I am guilty of making many questionable life decisions. The hope is to pass along my hard learned wisdom so that my mistakes are not replicated. For so many reasons, it may be difficult to ask for advice, whether it be from close friends or relatives. So, if you have nothing to lose, why not ask Uncle Matty?

For the first few columns, I have solicited questions from friends and family.

Uncle Matty,
My wife usually falls asleep (I don't) when we watch a movie or tv show together at night, and then she gets mad at me if I don't want to replay it (because I just watched it!). What should I do?

Anonymous
P.S. You still owe me \$5
Dear Anonymous,
I think we've all been there, except

possibly my uncle Sven, who's been unlucky in love because he works so much running the herring cannery. Thankfully, he's always had his roommate Bill to keep him company. Such good friends, they seem to do everything together!

Anyway, I understand your struggle. My lady friend Doris (from the cleaners) and I enjoyed nothing more than to snuggle together and watch reruns of "The



Ask Uncle Matty
By Matt Anderson

I should have done the right thing, which would have been to pause the show and gone home.

longer talks to me, having smelled the intoxicating blend of Aunt Gert's stingers, Salem Lights and witch-hazel on my favorite Hawaiian shirt when I dropped it off at her cleaners. I'll always appreciate the time we spent together.

Pause the show, then turn to The History Channel or a ballgame.

P.S. I don't owe you \$5, that last putt was a gimme.

Rockford Files," over at her Aunt Gert's place, where she stayed. Doris was an unsung beauty, and no one looked better in men's Carhartts. A kind woman, she always had a covered dish for sick neighbors.

"The Rockford Files" was a favorite of ours, and the sight of Jim Garner in a brown blazer was usually enough to start the fire for Doris. To my misfortune, she often fell asleep mid-show. An accomplished hunter and trapper, with the nose of a bloodhound, Doris was an early riser because she liked to check her traps before work.

One night, instead of turning off the tv, giving Doris a blanket and going home, I stuck around and kept watching while she slept. While Doris was snoring like a cartoon bear, Aunt Gert asked me to come downstairs because she saw a big spider. When I got down to her basement bar, the spider was gone, and Aunt Gert was pressed next to me in her housedress with a pitcher of stingers, French-inhaling a Salem Light 100.

I should have done the right thing, which would have been to pause the show and gone home. Doris deserved better. Instead, Doris no

Living the Dream: from page 32

firm enough to stabilize the truck to pull you out. This is not a joke.

As long as the traffic stays light, there's a fighting chance for River Road. The trenches don't settle in and the lighter cars of residents can gently plod along as softly as possible. With a few trenches, only the weak spots become dangerous, and all of us who live down here know where those are. They are like the soft spots on a baby's head that you protect and gentle, not ram your truck through like it's a four-wheeler road and disrespect all the others that must now suffer your ruts.

Don't make ruts. Don't get sucked into ruts. Tread gently, or don't tread at all. Don't slam on your brakes or make any sudden movements. Keep your wheels as straight as possible unless you get stuck, and then wiggle them slowly. Mud is sneaky, and you can never tell how deep it is until someone makes a rut. You've seen the movies.

And even then, you still don't know.

These are the golden rules of driving on dirt roads that were built in rivers. I always found it ironic that the Green Mountain Club has all kinds of rules to protect our hiking trails, but there are no rules about driving on dirt roads until we put up an orange sign telling you it's Closed to Thru Traffic. Please be kind to the folks who live on dirt roads and keep the traffic to a minimum. Plan to go around. We need to all work together to maintain the road. It's going to be beautiful over the next few weeks, but if you need the library, transfer station, or the town office, might I suggest using the paved side of the road instead?

Merisa Sherman is a longtime Killington resident, global real estate advisor, town official, and Coach PomPom. She can be found in the mountains or at Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.



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← **Woman's history:**
from page 4

are women, including Rutland Regional Medical Center, Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports, New Story Center, Rutland Community Cupboard, Cornerstone Housing Partners, Rutland County Parent/Child Center, Habitat for Humanity, Wonderfeet Kids Museum, and Come Alive Outside.

In Academia, women hold key leadership positions, such as Cathy Kozlik, dean of the College of Business at Vermont State University's Castleton campus, and women also form the backbone of early childhood education, advocating for accessible childcare.

In the burgeoning tech sector, initiatives like "Code Club Vermont" are nurturing future female tech leaders.

Code was founded by India native and UVM alumna Nidhi Singh, who now works in Dartmouth College's Information, Technology and Consulting Organization (ITC). Singh advocates for girls' coding education, emphasizing its importance in bridging the gap between human and machine language.

Resources for Women – Made by Vermonters

As noted at the top of this article, Downtown Rutland Partnership is sponsoring a mingle-and-learn mixer on Wednesday, March 26. It will be held from 5-8 p.m., at The Mad Rose, 42 Center St., Rutland. It is the first of a series of events the DRP is holding this year, to celebrate and empower women-owned and -led businesses.

For more information, visit: downtownrutland.com/womeninbusinessevents.

Other organizations in Vermont offering myriad resources that support women in their entrepreneurial and professional endeavors include:

- Vermont Women's Business Center: The VWBC provides training, counseling, and resources to women entrepreneurs, helping them start and grow their businesses: cweonline.org/our-centers/cwe-vermont/our-impact-cwe-vermont-womens-business-center
- Vermont Commission on Women: VCW advocates for women's rights and promotes gender equality through policy initiatives, education, and outreach: vermont.gov/business-entrepreneurship
- Change The Story VT: A multi-year, multi-partner initiative to advance women's economic equity in Vermont: vermontwomensfund.org/impact/change-the-story
- Local Chambers of Commerce and Networking Groups: The Killington Chamber of Commerce (killingtonpico.org), and CEDRR - Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland region (rutlandvermont.com), provide numerous opportunities for women to connect. CEDRR also oversees Start-up Rutland, a mentorship and education initiative for early-stage enterprises: startuprutland.org.
- Vermont Small Business Development Center: Provides no-cost advising and training for small businesses: vtsbdc.org.

Women's History Month celebrates the achievements of women, challenges gender stereotypes, and inspires future generations. Here's hoping more Vermont women will be inspired to envision what's possible, seek out resources that champion their dreams, and ultimately, become the architects of their own historic achievements.

Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is a strategic growth specialist, nonprofit leader, business educator, and author. Her L3C consulting firm works exclusively with charities and educational institutions, on strategic planning, organizational development, and fundraising: lizdimarcoweinmann.com.

← **Transforming ed:**
from page 13

region to region is staggering, and getting wider.

Which brings us to the third area, sustainability.

One reason our quality isn't where it should be — and opportunity varies from community to community — is due to the way we fund our schools. Right now, every school district sets their own budget, and if the voters pass it, the state must fund it. That goes for high spending towns who pass budgets year after year, and more frugal communities (who probably need resources the most) that try to keep budgets lean in hopes of a lower tax increase. The problem is it all gets paid out of the same pot. So, higher spending in more affluent towns can increase the costs for those trying to live within their means.

And because budgeting happens every year, lower spending towns have less to cut. Often eliminating programs and services to balance books. Add in declining student populations across the state and increased costs of operating larger buildings originally built for more kids, and it's not hard to see why the current funding model causes inequity.

These problems aren't new and have worsened over the years as our demographics have shifted. Act 68 and Act 46 were designed to solve the same problems we're facing today. But they weren't as successful as they needed to be because we weren't addressing the underlying structural issues.

And let's be honest: Just putting a new coat of paint on this crumbling foundation won't raise scores or reduce costs.

It's time to do what we should have done a while ago and build a system that prioritizes our kids over our nostalgia. We are well aware that our plan is bold.

It creates much larger and more efficient districts, which is a big change for us. It completely overhauls how we fund schools, sets higher educational standards and creates savings for taxpayers.

As expected, we've received criticism from some who are genuinely fearful of any change from the status quo. We've also heard from special interest groups, using talking points from national political playbooks, claiming we don't have a spending problem.

But as I said, we expected that.

Which is why it's been important to have the Speaker of the House and the Senate *pro tem*, along with their teams, at the table as we've laid out our plan. Now, we haven't agreed on everything, but we do agree on the urgency, scope and the need to find a path forward together, and for that I'm very grateful.

The role of a school is to educate our children and prepare them for the future as best it can.

To open doors to the world around them and fascinate them with the wonders of science, nature, literature, art, music, math, and the lessons of history.

Schools are there for our kids to learn — in a safe and welcoming environment — how to be good citizens and help them navigate a path to a bright and successful future.

Schools are about our kids and that's why we've all been willing to take this on.

It's time to make sure the \$2.5 billion dollars Vermonters spend creates one of the best systems in the country to pay our teachers what they deserve no matter where they choose to teach, lift our rural communities, revitalize our cities, raise our standards and lower the crushing and unending burden on those who foot the bill.

I know we can do all of that, and more, if we have the courage do the tough work, and be brave together.



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