



WASPS WIN AGAIN!

The Woodstock Union High School girls hockey team won the DII state championship on March 9. It was the team's second state championship in a row. The team was the first to defend the DII title in over a decade.

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By Victoria Gaither
Halyn McIntyre Captain at Burr and Burton Academy scales the wall.

LOCAL TEAMS WIN STATE CHAMPS

Green Mountain Union High School in Chester won the indoor rock climbing state championship in Rutland on March 11.

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GARDEN PARTY AT SPARKLE BARN IS SATURDAY

The Sparkle Barn in Wallingford is having a garden party Saturday, March 25 in the newly expanded "Bloom Room."

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Changing of the guard: Allaire reflects, Doenges projects

By Katy Savage

David Allaire was surprised when about 30 people showed up at the Rutland City Hall on Friday, March 10, including police officers, city employees and community members, to bid him farewell after six years as mayor.

Allaire lost the election to Mike Doenges 1,710 to 1,317 on Town Meeting Day, March 7. His last day as mayor was Tuesday, March 14.

"It showed that people were so thankful for all those years of service and it really touched me," Allaire said.

More than 100 people commented on Allaire's Facebook page, thanking him for his service.

"You will always be a great part of this city and to all the people who have and will reside here," Bruce Turco said. "Your heart for the city is bigger than anyone before and I'm sure for a while afterward."

Aldermen Lawrence Cupoli, a former state representative, also praised Allaire.

"You have made a difference in our community and you should be proud of your accomplishments," he said.

"You're going to find, especially over the next few months, the vision is a little bit more detailed, that the pace is going to be a little bit faster," Doenges said.

Allaire reflected on his tenure several days after the election. Town Meeting Day saw about 25% of voters turn out — low for a mayoral race where typically at least 30% of registered voters go to the polls.

"I don't think it would have changed the outcome, but I think it would have made me feel a little bit better that there was a bigger representation of voters," Allaire said from his

home on Friday, March 17.

Allaire served the city for 25 years. He started on the Board of Aldermen back in 1988, when he was 42. Some of Allaire's friends had been Aldermen before him and encouraged him to campaign.

Mayor → 3

Killington Select Board denies separate department for KSAR, stands with new chief

By Katy Savage

Seventeen current and former members of the Killington Search and Rescue team resigned in a letter to town officials on March 12 saying the new fire chief created a toxic work environment and mistreated women, but the Select Board largely dismissed the claims at a meeting on March 20.

The male town officials dominated the conversation at the two-plus hour Select Board meeting, telling KSAR members their claims were unfounded, despite KSAR's vote of "no confidence" in fire Chief Chris LaHart, who stepped into his role in January.

Board members met in executive session for over an hour before voting to stand behind the fire chief.

"We give full confidence in you to run the department," Select Board member Jim Haff told the chief when they came back to session. "Hopefully everybody here can work things out, get back together being a team."

The motion was approved, with Select Board member Steve Finneron abstaining.

"I don't feel strongly one way or another," Finneron said. "I'm certainly not opposed to Chris LaHart."

About half of departments 40 members said they have no intention of volunteering under LaHart.

"I won't stand for these people being disrespected," Dave Coppack, one of the leaders of KSAR, said the day after the meeting. "Some of the best members of our team are women, they're the teachers, they're the experts."

About 70 people attended the Select Board meeting, both in person and on Zoom.

KSAR members told the board the chief was toxic toward women, explaining he, on one occasion, only asked male members of KSAR to serve on the fire department and deliberately skipped over talking to women volunteers.

KSAR → 7

The EPA has proposed new drinking water standards for 'forever chemicals.' What does that mean for Vermont?

By Emma Cotton/VTDigger

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the first-ever drinking water standard for PFAS, a group of chemicals linked to some cancers and other negative health impacts.

While Vermont is one of several states with an existing drinking water standard for PFAS, the federal agency's proposed standard — which is now subject to public comment and expected to be finalized by the end of the year — is much lower, and would likely require Vermont's drinking water utilities to remove more of the chemicals.

Vermont regulates five PFAS compounds. Its drinking water standard is currently 20 parts per trillion for the sum of those five. But Vermont's standard must match the standard or be stricter, so if the national standard is finalized, the state must follow suit.

The proposed standard would set the maximum contaminant limit for two of the most harmful chemicals, PFOS and PFOA, at

4 parts per trillion, which is nearly the smallest detectable amount.

As many as 60 of Vermont's roughly 700 public drinking water systems have detectable levels of PFAS that are below the state's current standard, according to John Schmeltzer, deputy commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Many of those utilities would be subject to the new regulation. Vermont has been allocated \$25 million in federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help water systems address emerging contaminants.

The proposed regulation would require operators of public water systems to monitor for the chemicals and alert consumers if levels exceed the standard. Then, the utility would need to reduce the amount of PFAS in the drinking water.

"EPA anticipates that over time, if fully implemented, the rule will reduce tens of

Forever chemicals → 6



By Victoria Gaither

Maple open house weekends begins

Almost sugarhouses across the state will open their doors and welcome visitors this weekend and next. See page 16.

Woodstock girls' hockey wins state championships, again

Staff report

Woodstock Union High School girls' hockey won the Division II State Championship at UVM's Gutterson Fieldhouse in Burlington on March 9, 2023. It was their second championship win in a row and the first time a Vermont D-II girls hockey team has defended a championship win since

Montpelier's U-32 did it back in 2010 and 2011. Woodstock beat the Kingdom Blades (a program combining Lyndon Institute, North Country Union High School, and St. Johnsbury Academy), 4-1, but throughout most of the game the Wasps led by just a single goal.

Wasps Head Coach Ian Coates has been leading the team for 10 years. Prior to his arrival the team hadn't made the D-II playoffs for three years and hadn't reached the quarterfinals since 2009. Over the past five years, his teams have made it to three final games, winning two of them, stack-

ing up impressive wins along the way with a record of 21-1 last season and 19-4 record this year. The Wasps are now the ones to beat. However, the team will lose co-captains Isabel Konijnenberg and Lily Gubbins who are seniors. Coates will be looking to replace that leadership next season.



By Paul Balfe

National forest closes local cliffs for peregrine nesting

Two prominent cliff sites in the Green Mountain National Forest are once again temporarily closed to protect critical nesting habitat for peregrine falcons.

As of March 15, the Rattlesnake Cliff Area (Salisbury) and the Mount Horrid/Great Cliff Area (Rochester) are closed until Aug. 1.

The falcons are already migrating back to Vermont to their nesting sites, and the closure of these areas as well as cliff access trails prevents disturbance to the falcons while they nest and raise their young.

Trail and habitat monitoring in

2022 determined that human activities continued to disturb nesting sites during the closure periods. This disruption can cause the falcons to abandon their nests or interrupt the care of their young.

Disturbance of peregrine falcons and/or these nesting grounds is a violation of federal law and may result in a fine up to \$5,000 and 6 months in jail.

Peregrine falcon populations suffered declines due to the use of DDT in the 1940s but have rebounded since their reintroduction in the 1980s. While peregrines are now considered a recovered species in Vermont, it is

critical to minimize human disturbance so that recovery continues.

Across Vermont, last year 29 nesting pairs produced 63 young that fledged from their cliff nests although the number of nesting pairs was lower in 2022 than in some recent years.

The U.S. Forest Service, Audubon Vermont, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and other non-profit organizations collaborate to protect peregrine falcons.

For more information visit: fpr.vermont.gov. To report a harassment of nesting peregrine falcons call: 1-800-75ALERT.



By Victoria Gaither

Students from around Vermont participated in the indoor rock climbing competition on March 11.

Chester students win rock climbing state championship

By Victoria Gaither

Before rock climbing was made cool through Instagram and Facebook, Vermont climbers already had a footing in this now-popular sport.

"I have been climbing for a year now. I love the sport; it is awesome," said Joshua Buckley, a Green Mountain Union High School senior from Chester.

Buckley is one of many students from around the state participating in the Vermont State High School Jr. High and High School Indoor Climbing Team State Championship.

The event was held on Saturday, March 11, in Rutland at the Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center. Green Mountain Union High School won the event.

Steve Lulek, who started the event in 1999, said it has grown.

"We started with two high schools, and we have eight high schools, six junior high schools, and seven elementary schools," said Lulek, who owns Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center.

Lulek added that the sport builds confidence. "Climbing is this creative mind-body experience where you get stronger and better balance, and then you also grow in confidence about who you are and what you can do," he said.

Halyn McIntyre, the captain of her Burr and Burton Academy team, came to the competition from Manchester.

McIntyre, who showed off her climbing skills, said climbing creates bonds because, "It's a sport that requires a lot of trust and communication with other people. It's great for building relationships."

She also explained that the work that goes into training for climbing requires strength and dedication.

"Most teams climb year-round," she said. "We climb in the winter, summer, and fall. We have a rigorous workout schedule. We are working out three times a week, and it's mainly upper body workouts and balance."

At the competition, you count the points that day for states; whoever gets the most points wins.

But rock climbing coach Jennifer Tinsman said each student-athlete cheers the others on in rock climbing.

"What is incredible about this sport is that each of these athletes is competing against each other and encouraging each other, and they just want everyone to do their best."

Tinsman, a coach at Otter Valley Union Middle and High School in Brandon, said the climbing community is a supportive group of parents, teachers, coaches, students, and fans who love the sport.

For student-athlete Joshua Buckley, it's about the feeling of climbing and accomplishment.

"I like it because there is a sense of achievement every time you get a good climb, and you are proud of yourself."



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Sherburne UCC "Little White Church," Killington, VT

Mendon woman dies in house fire

The Vermont State Police is investigating the death of a woman in a fire at her Mendon home late Saturday, March 18. The death of 52-year-old Helvi Abatiell Furlan is not considered suspicious.

Emergency responders received a call at about 11:42 p.m. Saturday from a woman who said she was in a structure fire, and then stopped responding to the dispatcher. The dispatcher was able to determine that the address of the call was 176 Old Stockbridge Path in Mendon. Vermont State Police, Regional Ambulance Service, and numerous local fire departments responded.

Emergency crews including two state troopers and members of the Rutland Fire Department located Furlan inside the home and carried her out of the burning residence and to an ambulance. A 17-year-old boy and 11-year-old girl who had been in the home survived the fire without injury, along with the family dog. Abatiell Furlan was taken by Regional Ambulance Service to Rutland Regional Medical Center, where she died at about 1:30 a.m. Sunday, March 19. Her body was taken to the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Burlington for an autopsy to determine the cause and manner of death.

The Dept. of Public Safety Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit was called in to investigate the origin and cause of the fire. The fire appears to be accidental, and the origin is believed to be in or around the wood burning furnace and chimney. The specific cause is classified as undetermined.

Responding fire departments included agencies from Rutland City, Rutland Town, Killington, Chittenden, Proctor and Pittsford. The Vermont State Police Victim Services Unit also responded to provide assistance.

← Mayor:

from page 1

"I got to the point in my life where I thought I was going to stay here, raise my family here, I wanted to see what I could do to give back to the community and it was suggested that I take a run for the board and I did and I was successful and the rest is history," Allaire said.

He became interested in being mayor in 2011, when Christopher Louras was mayor.

"I wasn't really agreeing with the mayor at the time and decided the best way to address my concerns was to give a shot for running for mayor," he said.

Allaire was unsuccessful in his campaign against Louras in 2013 and unsuccessful again in 2015. Allaire finally defeated Louras and another challenger, Downtown Rutland Partnership Executive Director Michael Coppinger, in 2017. Louras had just announced that Rutland would be welcoming 100 Syrian and Iraqi refugees, which divided the city. The fire department was also facing budget woes from restructuring.

"I was proud of the fact I was able to bring the community together in 2017 after the election, which was very divisive," Allaire said. "There was a lot of angst over the Syrian refugees and a lot of angst and a lot of discontent at the fire department."

Prior to entering politics, Allaire spent 30 years as a salesman. He worked 20 years for a company that contracted to fundraise for the Vermont State Police, then became a salesman at the Vermont Eagle newspaper. Prior to getting elected, he was the sales manager of Interstate Batteries in Rutland.

Allaire's proud of what he accomplished as mayor. He was often the first person in the office at 6:30 a.m.

"Everyday was a very busy day," he said. "It was 24/7. I always had my phone with me."

The city debuted a new six-lane, 75-foot competition pool at White's Memorial Park in 2018 under Allaire's leadership. The city also acquired the former College of St. Joseph athletic facility for \$1.8 million in 2021 after the college closed in 2019.

Allaire said he's still busy outside of his mayorship. He serves on a number of boards.

He attended a Vermont Rail Advisory Council meeting in Montpelier on Thursday, March 16. The rail council is governor-appointed board that Allaire's served on for the past 15 years.

He's also on the Vermont Downtown Development Board, which meets monthly to review tax credits from around the state and award funds. Allaire, who has long been interested in railroads, is also on the Vermont Rail Action Network, a nonprofit that deals with rail issues.

"I've still got enough to keep busy for at least part of the time," he said. "I've been sitting here thinking about what I want to do next because I want to continue to work... I kind of still like government service," he said. "We'll see what's available and what's out there. I'm going to keep my options open."

Allaire and Doenges ran similar campaigns and had similar views. Allaire couldn't pinpoint what led to Doenges' success but guessed the city simply wanted a change — particularly in the wake of increased crime in Rutland and the number of homeless people staying in hotels.

"I think people felt as a lot of good things were going on there was some concern about crime and the hotel situation," he said.

Allaire wished Doenges success.

"I want him to succeed because I want my community to succeed," Allaire said.

Doenges was sworn in on Wednesday, March 15.

"I was stoked," Doenges said. "I felt we ran such a great campaign that it wasn't surprising that I won, but I was shocked that we won by such a good margin."

Doenges said his vision for Rutland's future contributed to his success.

"Dave was really good at keeping the status quo operating in the city and keeping things running, just not necessarily planning for the future," Doenges said. "You're going to find, especially over the next few months, the vision is a little bit more detailed, that the pace is going to be a little bit faster and that the things we're targeting are going to be informed based on what Rutland wants to see done."

Doenges spent his first day moving the offices to the first floor— a campaign promise to make the mayor's office more accessible. The human resources office moved upstairs.

"I need a vacuum," Doenges said the day after he was sworn in.

"The hope is to get some volunteers in here to greet people at the front door and be able to have that constant communication with the public as they come into City Hall. I want to be accessible and present and someone that can be easily reached by the public."

The mayor oversees 170 city employees and about 15,000 residents.

"I'm thrown right into the thick of it," Doenges said. "There's no delay here."

The city clerk handed him paperwork to get started. He spent his first few days in meetings, reviewing about two inches of paperwork.

"There's zero formal training. And, that's OK," Doenges said. "It's the job of running the business of the city. That's going to be different not only everyday, but almost every 20 minutes it's something different."

Doenges floated the idea of adding a position to expand grant writing capabilities.

He also might hire a new city attorney to expand hours. The current city attorney, Matt Bloomer, will be submitting a proposal.

"If the proposal is good and it's financially feasible, it may be viable to stay with the contract that we have just expanded to cover more services," Doenges said.

Doenges, the former president of the Board of Aldermen, attended his first Aldermen meeting as mayor on March 20.

Doenges told the board he met with the owner of a movie theater business about possibly coming to Rutland.

He said he's been reviewing contracts, including internet and cell phone to find savings to add new positions.

"I've got a couple of positions that I'd like to create here in short order," he said. "We need to do that with money that we've been given not just for the next three months, but for the next 15 months."

Doenges said he wants to work with state leaders on the hotel problem.

"We have to work with other cities in the state," Doenges said.

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Assessing National Women's History Month: Is 'know your value' or 'expect to win' realistic for everyone?

Throughout March, organizations around the world celebrated International Women's Day and, in the U.S., National Women's History Month. Experts from the arts, politics, business, science, medicine, and social justice, weighed in. Most offered optimistic ideas regarding challenges women deal with every day. Others brandished banalities like "know your value," "expect to win," and "you are a badass."

#Embrace equity — the official hashtag of International Women's Day — is far more meaningful. Or perhaps something like "good enough" or "better late than never" for women who are doing their best.

To that point, following are some of the most pressing issues that emerged over the past month, and hopeful examples of real women driving progress, especially in Vermont. As more Boomers retire, Gen-X and Millennials will be the ones leading the charge toward increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion. This Boomer, for one, hopes to continue learning from them.

Economic recovery

Economic recovery for many wom-

Persistent sexism, combined with ageism, affects women far more than men, but many women are no longer tolerating it.

en remains difficult in the aftermath of Covid. According to a recent U.S. Census Bureau report, women faced steeper job losses than men during the pandemic, and their financial recovery has been slower. Swift shutdowns in Vermont (and nearby states) impacted women-dominant industries, like hospitality and retail, the most.

The reasons women are not returning to work include childcare responsibilities; fear for health in high-contact jobs; retirement or changing careers, and dual-income households. The Census report suggests, "Employers should consider this disparity and local conditions while developing strategies to assist women who want to return to work and encourage those not in the labor force to rejoin."

Sexism and ageism

Persistent sexism, combined with ageism, affects women far more than men, but many women are no longer tolerating it. A few examples:

More than two dozen states now ban or partially limit access to abortion, and women are mobilizing protests and boycotting businesses

that advocate those bans.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis's claim that Silicon Valley Bank collapsed because its managers were too distracted by "woke culture and DEI" should be alarming to all, coming from a likely candidate for president. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellin and financial guru Suze Orman, among other experts, publicly denounced DeSantis's claim.

When former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley announced her run for president, CNN co-anchor Don Lemon declared she is "past her prime." (Haley is 51; Lemon is 57.) CNN pulled Lemon off the air for a few days, to attend "training;" as ratings continue plummeting, a major shakeup is underway. Meanwhile, Haley is referencing Lemon's slur on the campaign trail, and even Michele Yeoh, the 60-year-old winner of the Best Actress Oscar for "Everything Everywhere All At Once," alluded to it in her acceptance speech, advising, "Never let anyone tell you you're past your prime."

To be clear, while Haley and Yeoh have substantive credentials (politics or movie preferences aside), other glamorous celebrities on the world stage sounded trite, as they spouted commands like

"know your value." Savvy women are well aware these celebrities earn millions and have entourages bigger than most women's extended families. Their "advocacy" platforms are meticulously executed, by agents, business managers, publicists and legions of others.

In contrast, three bestselling books — "Why We Can't Sleep," "Overwhelmed," and "Good Enough," plus thousands of mom-blogs, depict more realistic situations and offer sensible advice.

Local leaders

Stories of real women persevering abound right here in Vermont, especially in the Killington-Rutland area. These are women who are devising solutions to issues that affect real people, regardless of age, gender or sexual expression. Over the past few years, Vermont media outlets, including this one, have increased their coverage of these women. They include:

- Lifelong Rutland resident Sen. Cheryl Mazzariello Hooker, now a Rutland City alderman, who advocates for affordable

housing.

- NewStory Center's Avaloy Lanning helps survivors of domestic abuse.
- Strategic change consultant Joan Gamble tirelessly raises funds for the local chapter of entertainer Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which provides Rutland-area children with a free high-quality book each month.
- Rutland's Dr. Marie Pavini inspires awe around the world. Her brilliant ingenuity led to her patented Exersides™ Refrains™ system that help bedridden patients stay safe while retaining some mobility.
- And, this month, 67-year-old Jan Reynolds, the Stowe adventurer, writer, and photographer, was inducted into the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame.
- Then there are the gifted schoolteachers, such as Abby Brodowski, who teaches English at Rutland High and matches students with local businesses.
- Likewise, the seemingly boundless generosity of Christy Coloutti, principal of Northwest Primary School, to her students, transcends her official duties and responsibilities.
- Another teacher many Rutlanders cherish is Sister Shirley Davis. The Catholic nun's career has spanned more than 50 years, beginning as a math and religion teacher at Christ the King School, followed by more than three decades at Mount St. Joseph Academy, and later as principal. She retired only a few years ago, in her 80s.

Gen-Xers and Millennials alike are more than energized about pushing past the sexism and ageism, to "embrace equity" and foster diversity, equity and inclusion in all their endeavors. If they take advantage of all the resources available to help professionals in every field learn how to become better leaders, at any age, then they'll succeed.

Lastly, there are good reasons why aphorisms like "better late than never" and "good enough" still resonate. They don't diminish, they don't scold, and best of all, they don't require an entourage.

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

Windsor senator is lead sponsor of bill to decriminalize consensual adult sex work in Vermont

Staff report

Sen. Becca White, D-Windsor, was joined by nine co-sponsors, including Sen. Alison Clarkson, D-Windsor, and 13 other representatives on March 14 to introduce S.125, to decriminalize prostitution.

Rep. Taylor Small, P/D-Winooski, is the lead sponsor of the similar House bill, H.372. Each bill has been referred to its chamber's Judiciary Committee.

"Regardless of how one feels about prostitution personally, I hope we can all agree that criminalizing it is wrong for so many reasons," said White in a press release. "Our laws should be rooted in reality and data, instead of ideology. This bill reflects Vermont's commitment to personal and bodily autonomy and individual liberty."

This bill would repeal the state's prostitution laws that prohibit indiscriminate sexual intercourse and consensual engagement in sex work for hire by adults.

"Data has consistently shown that the criminalization of voluntary sex work is associated with increased risk of sexual and physical violence from clients, domestic partners, or other parties; increased risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections; and a disruption of sex workers' support networks, workplace safety, and risk reduction strategies, resulting in reduced physical and emotional health for sex workers," according to the bill.

The bill cites a 2018 study from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health analysis of 130 studies which found the criminalization of sex work is harmful.

"Criminalization compromises access to resources, endangers public health, and allows violence against sex workers to go unchecked," said Small. "Criminalization also fails to protect trafficking survivors. Decriminalization is a well-

Criminalization ... endangers public health.

researched, practical, and simple step we can take in the fight against trafficking, while we work to address the nuanced causes of trafficking and invest in meaningful resources that support victims."

The press release said the World Health Organization, the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, Human Rights Watch and other human rights groups support the decriminalization of consensual adult sex work in order to address human trafficking worldwide.

"We all share a common goal of protecting our most vulnerable residents from trafficking, violence, and exploitation and it's clear that criminalizing and stigmatizing the sex trade does not do this," said Windsor County State's Attorney Ward Goodenough, who is Alison Clarkson's son. "Those of us trusted with the power to make, change, and enforce laws have a duty to pay attention to evidence that shows us when we can do better. Modernizing our prostitution laws only reinforces our commitment to fighting trafficking and exploitation."

Henri Bynx, co-founder of The Ishtar Collective, Vermont's only organization run by and for consensual adult sex workers and survivors of human trafficking, also supported the bill.

"Through the decriminalization of consensual adult sex work, Vermont has a powerful opportunity to put its values into action," Bynx said in the press release. "Those values are autonomy, community safety, and the recognition of the inherent dignity and humanity of all individuals. The best way to keep somebody trapped in a system of oppression is to keep them in a cycle of criminality and stigma. I want to get old, and I want to see my friends get old. I want us to live and thrive not under scrutiny, but in mutual respect and real community care."

Crossover has begun

St. Patrick's Day, March 17, marked the deadline for crossover in the Vermont Legislature. This is the date that all bills, which hope to be enacted this session, must have passed out of their committees of jurisdiction. Crossover signals the mid-way point in the Session – and, as all bills must be passed by both the House and the Senate, it marks the moment when one chamber must send their bills on to the next. Many bills will have a stop in one of the money committees (Appropriations and/or Finance/Ways and Means), and then they are on to the floor to be debated and voted on to either send or not send on to the other chamber.

Both chambers were in a flurry of activity last week finishing up their work on must pass bills. As far as I know, all the bills that were expected to be acted upon were passed. This sets up a very busy schedule for the four money committees as they must now address several pieces of major legislation with some sizable financial impacts: childcare, housing, paid family leave, sports betting, Vermont basic needs budget, ranked choice voting, health insurance, unemployment insurance and the bottle bill — all of which needs to be voted out by Friday, March 24.

Indicative of the 'crossover' activity, my afternoon committee, Senate Government Operations, passed out six bills this week. We passed: 1) a ranked choice voting bill (S.32) which allows municipalities to adopt ranked choice voting without a charter change and establishes a taskforce to create a plan for state and federal ranked choice voting in Vermont; 2) S.17 is a bill which



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

begins the process of improving oversight, regulation, accountability and uniformity across our sheriff departments — any changes regarding eligibility requirements to be elected and serve as sheriff will need a constitutional amendment; 3) S.104 is a bill which designates Aug. 31 as overdose awareness day and allows for the lowering of all state flags to memorialize the lives lost to the opioid overdose crisis; 4) after 20 years, we are finally tackling updating and modernizing legislative compensation (S.39). This will make the general assembly more accessible and diverse, reducing some financial barriers Vermonters face as they consider serving; 5) S.42 establishes a plan to responsibly reduce Vermont's fossil fuel investments held by our pension funds over time; and 6) an SGO committee bill, which modernizes Vermont's public safety communications and tackles the 53-year challenge of emergency service dispatch across the state.

This is just one committee's work from last week. All these bills will continue to be worked on in the House. I encourage you to follow their progress and be in touch with concerns.

Other Senate Committees passed important bills: on childcare S.56 (increasing support for families, childcare workers and centers and providing a 12-week parental leave benefit), a shield bill S. 37 (which further protects health care and reproductive liberties for providers and patients who come to Vermont for care) and two labor bills: S.102 which protects employees from being forced to attend employer's political or religious meetings, adds protections for labor organizing, and allows agricultural and domestic workers to organize and S.103 allows employees in all protected classes, to bring lawsuits for harassment & discrimination.

Sen. Clarkson can be reached by email: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at the Statehouse (Tues-Fri) 802-828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) 802-457-4627. For more information, visit: legislature.vermont.gov.

Dan French, Agency of Education secretary to depart next month

Agency of Education Sec. Dan French is leaving his job leading the Vermont Agency of Education next month to take a senior leadership role at the Council of Chief State School Officers.

Gov. Phil Scott announced French's department on March 17.

"Secretary French has been a critical member of my team for over four years, leading the Agency through unimaginable challenges in the wake of the pandemic," said Scott. "I could always count on Dan to provide sound advice, putting the needs of students, parents and educators at the forefront. He has dedicated his life to public service, first in the U.S. Army, then as an educator and as a public school administrator. I'm confident he will excel in his new role, bringing his experienced leadership to the national level."

French has served Vermont and its students for years, first as a high school social studies teacher, then a K-12 principal. He served over a decade as a superintendent first in Canaan, Vt. and then for the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union from 2007-2016, where he was recognized as Superintendent of the Year in 2009. He also served as president of the Vermont Superintendents Association.

French was a critical leader serving on the core leadership team of the Governor's pandemic response task force. He has served as secretary of the Agency of Education since 2018.

French said. "It has been a privilege to serve as Secretary of Education for a Governor who is deeply committed to the future success of all of our students. I am incredibly grateful to have served with such a hardworking team at AOE, and for having the opportunity to work with Vermont educators."

Deputy Secretary Heather Bouchey will serve as interim secretary at the agency.

March Madness!

We think of March Madness as the college basketball NCAA tournament and the many friendly bracket competitions that take place among family and friends. The State House is no different with a record 99 participants playing this year in the men's games and 17 in the women's.

Well, there is also a March Madness of sorts that comes to the Legislature when the mid-March deadline arrives for policy committees to get bills voted out of committee (March 17). The deadline can cause a flurry of activity as advocates and legislators scramble to get their priority initiatives moving. And if those policy bills have funding involved, they need to advance from one of the money committees by March 24.

No doubt, Appropriation Committee members will have many long days ahead (and several new friends in the hallways as supporters of various bills ask about their status), as they strive to make the numbers in the overall state budget bill work.

There are a couple of notable bills, which might signify some differences in priorities between the House and Senate. One is the childcare bill in the Senate, S.56, with an estimated price tag of \$190

The deadline can cause a flurry of activity as advocates and legislators scramble to get their priority initiatives moving.

million annually. Senators have not yet indicated which taxes will be raised to pay for the measure. The legislation also includes a pared down parental leave benefit for Vermont employees.

The House, on the other hand, is advancing an up to 12-week family leave benefit, which would be one of the most generous in the country, if enacted. That bill, H.66, has projected startup costs of \$117 million and ongoing costs of over \$100 million annually, including the hiring of over 40 new employees for the Treasurer's office. It is proposed to be funded by a new payroll tax on employers and employees.

The governor is likely to oppose both measures as proposed, as they both require new taxes. He included a significant increase in childcare subsidies in the budget, but not to the tune of what the Senate would like and a voluntary leave plan, not a taxpayer funded program the House wants.

Other bills moving this past week from a fairly long list include:

- The House Education Committee voted out legislation that will establish new requirements on

independent schools that accept public tuition payments from school choice towns.

- Senate Government Operations Committee advanced S.32, which would allow municipalities to institute ranked choice voting and explore how the state could adopt it for state and Federal elections in Vermont.
- Senate Government Operations also advanced S.17, which would add health care and childcare benefits to legislators and review their compensation.
- Universal school meals, H.165, was advanced by the House Ways & Means Committee. The estimated \$30 million annual cost will be covered by the Education Fund, which will likely increase property taxes.
- Senate Judiciary wants to study the concept of eliminating cash bail in S.27.
- Sports betting, H.127, was advanced by a second House committee last week and is expected to reach the House floor (if approved by House Appropriations) in the coming week. Vermont is currently the only New England state that doesn't allow on-line sports betting. It is expected to net the state between \$4 and \$10 million annually.
- The House Judiciary Committee advanced a bill to address concerns raised by the hospitality industry on the difficulty in finding affordable liquor liability insurance. The bill, H.288, amends the state's dram shop law.
- Expanding Vermont's bottle deposit law to juice drinks, water and wine, H.158, has been approved by two House committees thus far.
- Senate committees have advanced a bill, S.36, that increases the penalties for assaults against health care workers.
- Two labor protection bills, S.102 and S.103, were advanced by the Senate Economic Development Committee quickly on Friday.
- The House Government Operations Committee advanced H.270, which includes doubling the THC limit in cannabis products.
- Housing legislation, S.100, is moving in the Senate. The Senate Natural Resources Committee removed some of the Act 250 exemptions the Senate Economic Development Committee had included to reduce barriers to housing development.

The legislature has completed 10 weeks out of its normal 18. The March Madness segment of the session will hopefully be over soon!

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



By Rep. Jim Harrison

Forever chemicals:

from page 1

thousands of PFAS attributable illnesses or deaths,” the agency said in a fact sheet about the new rule.

Four other compounds — PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS and HFPO-DA (also referred to as GenX chemicals) — would be regulated using a hazard index, which would be based on harmful combinations of the chemicals.

The regulation would only affect public water supplies, and Schmeltzer suggested that any Vermonters concerned about private drinking water supplies should contact the department.

Schmeltzer said he isn’t sure yet how the state will respond to the proposal, but that state officials plan to file comments in the coming months.

“This isn’t the first time that they’ve proposed new standards for contaminants in drinking water,” he said. “There have been instances where stan-

dards have changed based on the public comment. So I think it’s important to let this process go through and see what kind of information comes out during this public comment period.”

Environmental groups including the Vermont Natural Resources Council, Vermont Conservation Voters and Vermont Public Interest Research Group lauded the Biden administration’s decision while urging the agency to regulate more of the chemicals.

Around 9,000 PFAS compounds have been identified in total, according to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

“EPA and the state of Vermont need to take steps to address the entire class of PFAS chemicals,” Jon Groveman, policy and water program director for the Vermont Natural Resources Council, said in a press release.

At small levels, PFAS are found almost everywhere in the environment. Known for making products nonstick and resistant to water and fire, the chemicals are commonly detected in household items such as rain jackets, pots and pans, food packaging, cleaning products, shampoo and more.

The so-called “forever chemicals” take thousands of years to break down. Repeated exposure can cause some PFAS to build up in the body.

Known for making products nonstick and resistant to water and fire, the chemicals are commonly detected in household items such as rain jackets, pots and pans, food packaging, cleaning products, shampoo and more.

In 2016, Vermont officials identified PFOA contamination in North Bennington, where nearly 3,000 households and 8,000 residents’ wells tested positive for the chemical due to pollution from a nearby Teflon plant. Some residents had astoundingly high levels of the chemical in their water, and some have linked health impacts to the contamination — though it’s impossible to know for sure whether a link exists.

The event spurred a statewide response. Officials have been monitoring the chemicals across Vermont ever since.

In 2019, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) identified PFAS of 25 parts per trillion at Killington Mountain School, which serves 125 users in Killington. Subsequently over a dozen other businesses along Killington Road were tested and identified as having PFAS over the legal limit.

“We’re the only state in the nation that does the ‘do not drink’ if they’re above 20 (parts per trillion),” Schmeltzer said.

PFAS has also been a source of tension at Vermont’s only landfill in Coventry. Liquid from decomposing trash, which often contains the chemicals, is eventually sent through municipal wastewater treatment systems, which do not remove PFAS from the effluent before it’s released

into local waterways.

Currently, leachate from the Coventry landfill is treated in Montpelier and discharged to the Winooski River, which eventually empties into Lake Champlain. The state has required Casella, the company that owns the landfill, to treat leachate for PFAS, but the proposal has also sparked controversy among locals who argue that the project marks another expansion of a landfill they’ve long been fighting against.

Asked how residents should respond to the news that such a small amount of exposure is considered by the federal government to be unsafe, Schmeltzer said the state is working to address the contaminants.

“I think we’re doing everything possible that we can to help people drink clean water,” he said. “PFAS is challenging, right. And that’s why we are investing monies and resources into providing systems that will address PFAS and emerging contaminants.”



Courtesy Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Finding and quickly fixing leaks helps to save water, reduce treatment costs, avoid outages, and protect public health.

State’s leak detection services helped save 30.4 million gallons of water

For the eighth year in a row, the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) offered free leak detection services to Vermont’s public water systems. Water systems serve homes, schools, and businesses and offer Vermonters clean, safe drinking water.

In 2022, DEC helped 17 systems find and fix 21 leaks which saved 30.4 million gallons of water a year, according to a news release by the department March 8.

“With small, proactive fixes, water systems across Vermont saved enough water in one year to fill 46 Olympic-size swimming pools,” said DEC Commissioner John Beling. “By finding and quickly repairing leaks, we not only save water, but communities are also able to reduce treatment costs, avoid outages, and protect public health.”

Water leaks often go undetected until there is a significant problem. That is why it’s important for water districts

“We will be able to double the funding for proactive leak detection services from \$50,000 to \$100,000 this summer and help more Vermont communities,” Lochhead said.

and municipalities to conduct leak detection surveys every one to three years.

Fixing leaks often increases the life of a water system’s assets, such as pumps and filters. It also reduces the risk of costly emergencies, outages, damage, contamination, and legal fees.

To encourage proactive water-saving fixes at the local level and save communities money, DEC offers free leak detection services to water systems. As part of the process, DEC will follow up with system administrators to ensure leaks get fixed or there is an implementation plan.

“Our free leak detection services are very popular — and water systems are thrilled with the results,” said DEC Capacity Development Specialist Joshua Lochhead. “With new funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we will be able to double the funding for proactive leak detection services from \$50,000 to \$100,000 this summer and help more Vermont communities.”

For more information visit: dec.vermont.gov.



By Riley Robinson/VT Digger

PFAS has been a source of tension at Vermont’s only landfill in Coventry. Liquid from decomposing trash, which often contains the chemicals, is eventually sent through municipal wastewater treatment systems, which do not remove PFAS from the effluent before it’s released into local waterways.



Courtesy KSAR

KSAR: from page 1

KSAR members claimed LaHart dismissed two females in leadership positions, one of which was Denise Coriell, a 15-year volunteer and head of first response.

Coriell said there was a March 7 meeting in which Police Chief Whit Montgomery and Bob Giolito, KSAR's original founders, were mistakenly introduced by LaHart's wife Leslie as the new heads of KSAR. KSAR members later learned Montgomery and Giolito were only there to evaluate KSAR's equipment, but the misunderstanding caused a rift.

"I stood up and said, 'this is ridiculous,'" Coriell told Select Board members. Coriell said she told LaHart, "You're taking our autonomy away, you're taking our house away."

LaHart then dismissed her, Coriell said.

"He looked at me and said, 'I want your resignation, put it on my desk,'" Coriell said. "I have never felt unsafe, disrespected and discriminated against as an employee as I have experienced in the last seven weeks by the new chief Lahart and his wife, Leslie."

Coriell said the fire chief later reversed his decision and claimed he never asked for a resignation.

In a March 16 letter to the Select Board (and printed on page 9), LaHart further emphasized Coriell was not dismissed. He called Coriell an "asset" but her "outburst" at the March 7 meeting was "not allowed."

Select Board members, who were not part of the KSAR meeting, told Coriell she was not asked to resign.

"Nobody ever talks about you resigning," Haff told Coriell.

When KSAR members tried to speak about discrimination, town officials shot them down.

"That part of it is personnel and it doesn't get discussed in open meetings," Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth said.

KSAR members explained the new fire chief bullied them and frequently interrupted their meetings. But, Haff (who spoke for most at the meeting) explained there was a chain of command that KSAR needed to follow.

"I don't think it's fair saying the chief interrupted your meeting," Haff said.

KSAR members pushed back.

"The problem was the way in which he did it," said Ashley Murray, a new member of KSAR. "He was unwilling to work with (KSAR) and it seemed very much like he just wanted to start from scratch. I didn't feel like it was a fair situation to watch my superiors be put in."

Jen Robinson, who was the technical leader of KSAR, could not attend the Select Board meeting. She said by phone she was fired after a couple of interactions with the fire chief.

Robinson said a few weeks before she was fired, she noticed the door to KSAR equipment,

which is usually open, was locked. Robinson confronted Bob Schlachter, one of the leaders of KSAR, about it.

"Chris was standing right beside me," Robinson said. I had not met Chris yet. Chris interrupted my discussion with Bob and demanded to know who I was."

Robinson admitted her response to the new chief was "a little snarky."

Robinson said she was disciplined by LaHart the next time she was in the office, where the chief called her disrespectful and insubordinate.

Robinson later apologized to Schlachter, with LaHart listening to the conversation. LaHart reprimanded Robinson again and called her apology to Schlachter condescending.

LaHart then asked Schlachter to fire Robinson. "I have a good relationship with Bob," Robinson said. "He said it was probably the hardest thing he's had to do."

Robinson echoed concerns from other women about LaHart.

"I feel he does not tolerate women in leadership positions," Robinson said.

LaHart explained Robinson's dismissal in his March 16 letter, saying he pleaded with male members of KSAR to "reign her in" or he would let Robinson go.

LaHart said Robinson was "rude" to Montgomery and Giolito on March 7.

"I dismissed her for disrespectful behavior that jeopardizes order and discipline," LaHart wrote in his letter. "I have not bullied anyone."

LaHart admitted to making changes to both KSAR and the fire department, explaining he spent his first 90 days in the position evaluating the equipment and standards.

"My hangup with KSAR is two fold," LaHart said at the meeting, Monday night.

First, he said he tried to gather information about KSAR's gear and he requested KSAR members' certification for liability purposes. But KSAR members never provided it.

"The firehouse... the record keeping, it's not up to where I think it should be," LaHart said.

LaHart took KSAR offline on March 9 due to liability concerns, preventing them from searching and rescuing any more people.

After KSAR departed, LaHart asked the City of Rutland Search and Rescue team to evaluate KSAR's equipment. The city found the ropes and training logs kept by KSAR weren't up to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

"It did not provide a roster of names, total time of the actual training event or training subject matter," the evaluation letter from Deputy Chief Daniel Gedney said on March 18.

The evaluation found there were no formal certification documents on file for KSAR members. And, rope equipment used by KSAR to rescue people was outdated.

But KSAR members pushed back about the NFPA standards.

"You're holding us to a level that we haven't held to before," former KSAR member Steve Finer said.

Much of what KSAR does is search for people who ski out of bounds in the backcountry at Killington Resort. Members are also trained to do high angle rope rescues on Deer Leap, which is a popular rock climbing location.

Drew Clymer, the state search and rescue coordinator, said NFPA standards are difficult to meet. And, Stowe Search and Rescue — considered one of the best in the nation — likely doesn't even meet all NFPA standards.

"There's high technical rescue and there's backcountry search and rescue," Clymer said. "Those are completely different skill sets and I think they're becoming conflated. The gap that's currently existing in your region is backcountry rescue."

Clymer said there have been six skiers lost in the backcountry since KSAR was taken offline.

"I lost an asset in the area and I'd like to see how this is going to play out," he said. "There's a glaring hole in the backcountry rescue right now."

LaHart, who moved from North Carolina with decades of experience from a 200-person fire department, declined to comment on the issues presented by KSAR members when contacted by the Mountain Times.

He said prior to KSAR's departure that he wanted to have a roster of 100 volunteers.

"I have removed some of the residential constraints," he said, explaining the department formerly had a residency requirement of members to live in a town that bordered Killington.

"If you can give 4-5 hours of time to learn what we do and show up and respond... I'm willing to train you," LaHart said prior to the meeting.

LaHart emphasized Monday night that KSAR members are not equipped to do high angle rescues.

"The ropes and the technical rescues, they're not prepared to do it," he said. "I'm not saying they're not passionate about it. I've never taken that away from them."

LaHart said the backcountry rescue could resume. "I know their knowledge of the woods is intimate," he said. "I think the ground pounding element is something that's easily fixed with some basic training."

But, leaders of KSAR said they likely wouldn't return. Coriell said KSAR members are exploring possibilities elsewhere.

"I would not go back with that chief," Coriell said, explaining KSAR's voices weren't heard at the meeting.

"I don't think we got very far," she said. "Some of the issues really weren't addressed the way we were hoping."

Longtime Woodstock police chief to retire

Woodstock Police Chief Robbie Blish is retiring from the Woodstock Police Department. His last day on the job will be July 16.

"Since July 15, 2011, I have had the privilege of being entrusted with leading the Woodstock Police Department as its chief of police," Blish said in a statement. "Throughout this time, I have served with a group of extraordinary people who daily demonstrate their professionalism and commitment to the citizens and visitors of Woodstock. During the last several months, as I have reflected on this remarkable opportunity and honor, I have determined that it is time to step away from this profession, of which I've been a proud member for nearly 35 years."

Woodstock Municipal Manager Eric Duffy announced Blish's retirement on March 14.

Blish is a United States Marine Corps veteran and a graduate of Norwich University. He began his policing career in 1988 with the Springfield Police Department in Vermont, serving the Springfield community until 1995. He served 16 years with the Ft. Lauderdale Police Department serving in various units and in various supervisory roles before retiring in 2011 and becoming Chief of Police of the Woodstock Police Department. Since becoming chief in Woodstock in 2011 Blish served as president of the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police and sits on the VACOP's executive board. He has also represented Vermont on the New England Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Board and he sat on the VT Criminal Justice Training Council's Use of Force Committee, Domestic Violence Training Committee and the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police Representative on the state's Domestic Violence Council.

GUEST EDITORIAL

A missed opportunity

What is the ideal structure for public safety?

By Polly Mikula

Monday night over 70 people attended the select board meeting (in person and online). The recent riff between Killington Search and Rescue (KSAR) and the newly hired Chief of Killington Fire and Rescue Chris LaHart, spurred the spike in attendance.

Unfortunately, the three-plus hour long meeting was mostly comprised of in-the-weeds he-said/she-said contradictions and recounting the history of KSAR. That's not to say that some of the assertions weren't important, just that they took the discussion in a direction that wasn't ultimately fruitful (in that nothing changed.) It could have been fruitful if, instead, the primary discussion focused on finding the ideal structure for public safety in Killington.

There are many ways public safety departments are organized; a discussion of the pros and cons to find out what's best for our town and community would have been far more helpful for all.

Currently, there are two separate departments that occupy the Public Safety Building in Killington, police and fire (which includes EMS and KSAR). Each has a chief and works side by side in mutual aid when needed.

In Stowe, by way of example, there are five separate departments within public safety, listed on the town website as: police dept., emergency medical services, fire dept. mountain rescue, and emergency management.

Stowe Mountain Rescue, founded in 1980, is widely regarded as the gold standard for search and rescue squads in New England. It used to be under the Stowe Fire Department, but split (apparently as a result of leadership conflicts similar to Killington's), and has grown into the optimal department it is today.

On the state level, the jurisdictional authority for all backcountry search and rescues lives in the Dept. of Public Safety (DPS), which works with a dozens of volunteer search and rescue teams across the state, in addition to local first responders, ski patrols, local law enforcement, game wardens and others in a collaborative approach to locate and evacuate lost subjects.

The state DPS Search & Rescue Coordinator Drew Clymer, who is also a member of Stowe Mountain Rescue, attended Monday's meeting in Killington and provided useful information for the town to consider.

He also refuted some key assumptions that seemed to be tripping points for the town leaders who were worried about undue liability risk due to improper documentation for training and equipment. Clymer explained that there are varying levels of requirements depending on the technicality of the job. In other words, mobilizing a large team of search and rescue folks without specific training or documentation is how most SAR organizations work throughout the state. However, once more technical skills are required — such as medical needs or ropes used for rescue — then properly trained personnel must be employed to protect both the rescue worker and the rescue subject.

Thus, liability risk for "pound and ground" search and rescue is not as significant as Chief LaHart led the select board to believe.

Presumably, LaHart did not know about the variability in Public safety → 9

A separate dept... is a path we should be open-minded enough to consider.



Environmental Mental by Guy Parsons, PoliticalCartoons.com

LETTERS

Level the playing field for schools

Dear Editor,

Vermont taxpayers fund Vermont public education. In addition, the taxpayers also fund Vermont's town tuition program, which helps to educate students who live in towns that do not operate their own public schools. One would assume that taxpayer dollars which are diverted to independent or private schools through the town tuition program would be administered and monitored as those dollars that go directly to public schools — but that has not always been the case, and until recently Vermont had the right to deny funds to certain educational institutions for a variety of reasons.

Consider when someone wants to purchase a home. Most buyers typically look to obtain a mortgage from a lender. The lender sets out a list of requirements and obligations that the borrower must agree to in order to obtain the mortgage. If the buyer does not wish to comply with those requirements, the buyer is free to walk away from the lender and find another way to fund the purchase. Similarly, if private or independent schools want to use taxpayer funds to operate their institutions, they must

Playing field → 28

Bear hunting not useful tactic

Dear Editor,

Human-wildlife conflict poses a major challenge for the conservation of carnivore species globally. Today black bears inhabit only about 60% of their historic range in North America, mostly due to human persecution. Large home territories and a varied diet can easily lead them into conflict with humans. Wildlife agencies consider bear hunting to be a means of deterring these incidents but there is little evidence to support this.

In fact, there is evidence that hunting bears is counterproductive as a means of reducing human-bear conflicts. A recent extensive study, using data from 2004 through 2019, concluded that the most effective way to manage bear and human interactions is through coexistence and proper management of attractants. (See the study in the Journal of Wildlife Management at doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.22363).

The comprehensive study, conducted in Ontario, Canada, investigated the relationship between the hunting of black bears and the number of negative human-bear encounters. Data was collected on human-bear interactions

before and after a new spring bear hunting season was introduced in selected wildlife management units in addition to the existing fall hunt. Reported negative incidents were studied before (2012 and 2013) and after (2014 and 2015) the spring season was added both in the selected hunting areas and in control areas with no spring hunt. In 2016 a spring season was implemented in the entire province. Data from 2004-2019 was analyzed to establish long-term patterns of confrontations before, during, and after this spring season was universally implemented.

Results showed that more bears were killed when the spring season was implemented, but there was no reduction in the number of human-bear interactions; in fact, there were more conflicts in areas with the new spring hunt than in control areas without hunting. The study's authors conclude that: "Regulated, presumably sustainable harvest was ineffective at reducing human-bear interactions and incidents in the near-term and might have increased both."

Factors influencing the Bears → 24

Thanks for community support

Dear Editor,

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

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

A special thanks to Rob Merrill who prepared and cooked the lasagna, to the Killington Resort who donated the bread and butter, take out boxes, lettuce, and brownies.

To the many volunteers who braved the cold directing traffic and fulfilling orders as well as the many "behind the scenes" volunteers that prepared and assembled the meals.

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

Nan Salamon, Killington, Sherburne United Church of Christ

CAPITAL QUOTES

Former President Donald Trump, who is running in the 2024 election, may be arrested this week with possible criminal charges in New York relating to a hush money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels in 2016...

“They can do what they want. At that point, this is an all-out war. He’ll be there loud and proud, and there’s nobody that’s gonna make him cower,”

Trump lawyer **Joe Tacopina** said of the possible indictment in an interview with former Trump adviser Kimberly Guilfoye.

“If this is to happen we want calmness out there ... no violence or harm to anyone else,”

Speaker **Kevin McCarthy** said.

“I (had) coffee this morning with some folks, and none of them were big Trump supporters, but they all said they felt like he was being attacked,”

said New Hampshire Republican Gov. **Chris Sununu**.

“Nobody in our nation is or should be above the law. I would hope that, if they brought charges, that they have a strong case, because this is ... unprecedented. And there are certainly risks involved here,”

said Arizona Democratic Sen. **Mark Kelly**.

LETTER

Killington Fire & Rescue Chief LaHart responds to allocations from KSAR

Editor's note: On Thursday, March 16, Killington Fire & Rescue Chief Chris LaHart sent the following letter to Killington Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth detailing his response to a Killington Search and Rescue (KSAR) letter expressing concerns about his leadership and protocol last week, which were then addressed at the select board meeting Monday, March 20 (see story page 1). Below is the chief's letter as submitted to the town manager.

Chet:

I am providing the following as referenced in the Mountain Times WRT Letter to the editor Ed 15-21 March 2023.

Paragraph 1: I do not dispute the validity of the claim that the SAR unit has been a volunteer organization prior to the transition to a municipal organization.

Certain members have in fact provided their respective certifications concerning Wilderness First Response. A majority of the members have professed ability but have provided no documentation to substantiate their claim. I do not dispute their passion, desire to serve, and corporate knowledge of the local terrain.

The organization has provided me no frame of reference concerning the SAR Standard. I received a locally written KSAR policy from 2019 on 10 March 2023. I have emailed Mr. Coppock since Dec. 2022 asking for this type of document. Since my arrival in January, Asst. Fire Chief Schlachter has been in many discussions two meetings in February alone. In those meetings I have outlined the requirement for membership. Mr. Blumenthal, and Mr. Coppock have been involved and engaged with me on the team's development through the transition.

The transition has been difficult as the organization's record keeping and tracking is one that is mostly non-existent. I received the following for the transition.

A box containing mostly outdated information on personnel and incomplete training records.

- 1 Chiefs Badge 2 Knox Box keys, and a building key in December from Chief Roth. He later accused me of stealing those items.
- 1 Portable Radio
- No Administrative access to key programs E-Dispatch and IamResponding.
- Incomplete maintenance and testing WRT to Fire and Nothing WRT SAR.

Paragraph 2: I dispute their claim that the relationship was cohesive under Chief Roth. To paraphrase Chief Roth the fire relationship was one that was supportive when asked. My position as a public safety manager is one that is proactive. When a call comes out, it's a call for service for the entire organization. We are co-dependent, especially when SAR is activated.

I do not dispute the team's relationship with other organizations and appreciate their efforts in assisting fire during the wildfire event prior to my arrival. I do not dispute their training schedule. However, I have asked for consultation on training events for schedule deconflicts and approving the training. I have received intermittent support from KSAR on that request. As the head of the organization, I am accountable to the team and the town for the team's activities.

Paragraph 3: The teams claim that it would operate as normal is true. I did advise the organization in December and again in January after my arrival in Killington, that I wanted to learn how they do things and observe their integration with other members, agencies, and the public. However, more than 60 days my requests for information went unabated by the team members and their leadership. The claim that the team was blindsided on March 6th is false. The team leader Asst. Chief Schlachter was advised two weeks earlier that I intended to sideline the team for lack of movement with regards to the requests. If the team was blindsided, that is on the team's leadership.

On Monday, March 6, around noon I was advised by Officer Roy of the KPD that Pico Ski Services was searching for a missing skier. Ski Services had contact with the skier and requested no assistance. By almost 1500 [3 p.m.] the situation had changed. Officer Roy was on his way to Pico to meet ski services and based on the lack of movement I advised him I would mobilize the team and be prepared to deploy on his order. The notification was delayed as both heads didn't answer their phones. I had Fire and EMS toned out and shortly after Mr. Coppock and Chief Schlachter called in to report the team members were responding. I maintained command of the Killington portion of the response until Chief Schlachter arrived. I passed command to him. The team was not taken offline to NOT provide service. The skier was located, and no assistance was required by Killington Fire and Rescue Services. Evidenced in NFIRS Incident 23-000103 as input by Chief Schlachter. However after the incident was resolved, I did place team out of service with the State and Town, enforcing the previous deadline.

I would also like to note that Mrs. Harvey during our March 10 meeting stated that the above referenced incident, was textbook on how the team operates. She didn't understand why I placed the team out of service. I explained my rationale that the deadline established had passed and she needed to speak with her leadership.

Additionally, the only documentation provided came from "The Box". The data is incomplete or missing in entirety. The data provided during the initial transition contained nothing that could substantiate the claims as to responsibilities and procedures. That was a driving force behind the data call as the department organized. I received on March 10 the first KSAR documentation and while it has information with how the group recruits and operates it has nothing with regards to how they procure, inspect, test, and maintain their life safety equipment.

Paragraph 4: Denise Coriell dismissal: She was not dismissed, however her outburst on LaHart → 30



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By Polly Mikula

Killington's Public Safety Building is home to the police and fire (with EMS and KSAR) depts.



Thoughtfully made TOYS
that inspire creative play!



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Public safety: from page 8

rescue requirements and associated liability — and was simply doing his job looking out for the town.

LaHart did get a second opinion on the status of KSAR's equipment, credentials and training records from officers at the Rutland City Fire Dept. with SAR's training, who agreed with him that KSAR's current practices do not meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. But is that standard necessary? Most search and rescue operations are not required to meet NFPA, and most volunteer SAR organizations throughout the state do not, according to Clymer.

A one-size-fits-all approach to standards between fire departments and SAR is certainly too simplistic

to be effective — and could cause harm if volunteers are sidelined because of it. Until rules catch up with reality, a practical interpretation is the most prudent approach.

LaHart calling KSAR off duty earlier this month until they filed the forms he requested, is also extreme and could have even put public safety at risk. While it seems there was a miscommunication about the lost skier March 6 at Pico (she was found and that was the reason KSAR was called off), they remained "off duty."

"After the incident was resolved, I did place [the] team out of service with the state and town, enforcing the previous deadline," LaHart wrote in a letter to Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth on March 16, referencing the deadline he set for their paperwork to be complete (which it still hasn't been, according to LaHart).

There have been at least six additional lost skiers over that time, Clymer said. The fact that KSAR has not been available to aid in those searches "is a significant void," he emphasized. Adding that he attended the meeting Monday mostly to find out how long he may be without KSAR as a resource.

A better solution to getting forms filed should certainly be expected.

Transitions, however, are always an adjustment. Moving the fire department (with KSAR) to a town agency and hiring a paid chief are all new. The select board hired LaHart over a field of other candidates and should support him as he navigates the new job. It is reasonable that they did not accept KSAR's request to be a separate department on Monday, but rather seek to try to make the current structure work first.

No doubt LaHart and the board heard concerns voiced Monday that they ought to take seriously, including many allegations of exclusion, which, if true, could become a much bigger legal liability than those LaHart is concerning himself with. Additionally, examples of over-regulation and inapplicable standards for safety, training, record-keeping and equipment, should also be watched as it could prove costly to taxpayers for little gain.

But KSAR should not walk out. They should try harder to work with the town and LaHart. It's reasonable for the town to ask for records to be kept up-to-date for trainings, credentials and equipment. And they should take the town up on its offer to pay for certifica-

It's early in the process and restructuring the town's public safety structure should not be undertaken lightly.


tions needed. Only three months in, it's early in the process and restructuring the town's public safety structure should not be undertaken lightly.

Monday's discussion perhaps was the kickoff to further exploration of the pros and cons of varying structures for public safety. Let's regroup, refocus and start aspiring to what our public services could be at their best. Which structure creates optimal capacity to save lives? Which create efficiency? How much more (if any) would it cost taxpayers for KSAR to be a separate town department?

A thoughtful and thorough discussion, without the emotion and accusations of Monday night's meeting, is the best way forward.

KSAR — and all its members with skills and a willingness to volunteer — are valuable assets to the town, our visitors and the region. In the immediate future, we need them back on duty ASAP. But we also need to use this as an opportunity to pursue a better path. KSAR and the fire department have never been a perfect fit; becoming a separate dept. would have new challenges of course, too, but it's a path we should be open-minded enough to consider.

It's a call to true community service for all involved: put aside egos, promises, cliques, chains of command, wounds of past disrespect, etc. and try to work together for the betterment of our community. And if it doesn't work over time, then put it to the townspeople and let the taxpayers vote on how they want to be best served.



TOWN OF
KILLINGTON
VERMONT

NOTICE

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**Intent to Apply for USDA Rural Development Loan
for Killington Road Improvements**

MARCH 27, 2023

The Killington Forward Initiative is a comprehensive plan proposed by the Town of Killington that consists of multiple integrated components, including enhancements to municipal water infrastructure and the reconstruction of portions of Killington Road to support current and future businesses, properties, schools and workforce and community housing.

The Town intends to file an application to U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development for a Community Facilities Program loan to support the design and construction of the Killington Road improvements, which are proposed to include a multi-use path, sidewalks, bus pullouts, pedestrian crosswalks, intersection improvements, lighting and landscaping improvements, and the reconstruction of the road south of the VT-100 / US-4 intersection to eliminate the steep grade. The Town will hold a Public Information Meeting to present the project and answer questions from the public.

The meeting will occur at the Selectboard Meeting scheduled for
March 27, 2023 at 6:30 PM
at the Killington Public Safety Building at 800 Killington Road.

WORDPLAY

'RAINY WEATHER' word search: Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

SUDOKU

Solutions → 20

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

- CLOUDY
DAMP
DEW POINT
DRIZZLE
- GALOSHES
GUSTS
HUMIDITY
INDOORS
- JACKET
OVERCAST
PROTECTION
PUDDLES
- RAINFALL
SLIPPERY
SLUGGISH
SOGGY
- UMBRELLA
VISIBILITY
WET
WINDY

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 20

CLUES ACROSS

1. Belonging to a thing
4. Pass or go by
10. Partner to cheese
11. Subjects
12. U.S. State (abbr.)
14. Bits per inch
15. Forest-dwelling deer
16. Illinois city
18. A salt or ester of acetic acid
22. Wholly un-harmed
23. Cuddled
24. Bane
26. Global investment bank (abbr.)
27. Oh my gosh!
28. Arrive
30. Famed Spanish artist
31. Home of "Front-line"
34. Group of quill feathers
36. Keyboard key
37. Army training group
39. Detail
40. Pole with flat blade
41. Football play

42. Makes unhappy
48. Island in Hawaii
50. Back in business
51. Of an individual
52. Painful chest condition
53. Tropical American monkey
54. Matchstick game
55. For instance
56. Even again
58. Popular beverage
59. Evaluate
60. Time units (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Stain one's hands
2. Nocturnal hoofed animals
3. Back condition
4. Popular movie alien
5. City of Angels
6. Peaks
7. Infantry weapons
8. Left
9. Atomic #99
12. Told a good yarn
13. Vale
17. Resistance unit
19. Aquatic plant
20. Bluish greens
21. About some Norse poems

25. Reinforces
29. Egyptian mythological goddess
31. Supportive material
32. Subatomic particle
33. Expired bread

35. Cereal grain
38. Goes against
41. Walkie ____
43. One who does not accept
44. Beliefs
45. Indicates near

46. Brazilian NBA star
47. Grab quickly
49. Romantic poet
56. College dorm worker
57. Set of data

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Louisiana on March 22, 1976. I became a fashion model for a TV advertisement at the age of 7. My various screen roles have kept me busy. One movie in particular helped me earn several awards.

Answer: Reese Witherspoon

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WEDNESDAY MARCH 22

Early Literacy Playgroup

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

Name that Fish Stew! Cooking Class

12-3 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$95. Chef Ted will teach the skills to create a delicious New England seafood stew with shellfish and vegetables. For more info visit odysseyeventsvt.com

Mending Circle

2-3 p.m. The Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. A stitch in time saves nine. Mend, patch, darn, and hem those items languishing in your wardrobe for want of a button or create your own darning sampler – simple or ornate – to practice the stitches. We'll explore the mending books in the library's collection and tap into each other's expertise to expand our skills. For more info visit: normanwilliams.org.

Zentangle Workshop with Jenny Dembinski

2-4 p.m. The Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. We will use 3.5-inch-square art paper and micron pens and pencils to create several different repetitive patterns or "tangles." Nothing is planned and there are no mistakes. For more info visit: normanwilliams.org.

Introduction to Clay: Beads, Buttons, & Jewelry

5-6:30 P.M. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Members \$45; Non-members \$60. Join us at THE MINT for a two-part session on making small pieces that can become wearable art! Learn to make beads, buttons, pendants, and earrings of clay and glaze them. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

THURSDAY MARCH 23

Bone Builders with Mendon Seniors

10 a.m. Roadside Chapel, 1680 Townline Road, Mendon. Free. Join Mendon Seniors for their bone building session every Tuesday and Thursday. For more info call Pat 802-422-3368.

Circle of Parents

10 a.m. Virtual. Free. Circle of Parents is a professionally facilitated, peer led self-help support group for parents and other caregivers. Participants meet weekly for 60-90 minutes online in virtual meetings. For more info and to join a group contact Amber at amenard@pcavt.org or 802-498-0603.

Storytime at Rutland Free Library: 'Mud Season!'

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

Killington Bone Builders

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

Toddler StoryTime: Thursdays

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

Ukelele Group

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

Drive-up-pick-up Meals

12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$3.50 donation ages 65+, \$6 fee under age 65. Reservations required. Godnick Center, in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, is providing drive-up pick-up meals on Mondays and Thursdays at noon at the Godnick Center. For more info. visit namivt.org/support/peer-support-groups.

Draw Cartoons with Elizabeth Scales

1-3 p.m. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St., Springfield. Free. Let's take advantage of a Springfield Schools early release day to draw cartoons! Elizabeth is a recent graduate from the Center for Cartoon Studies who is so excited to share her cartooning skills with you. We'll meet upstairs in the Springfield Library. Workshop is free but please do sign up. Sponsored by Gallery at the VAULT and Claremont Savings Bank. For more info visit: galleryvault.org/workshops.

Entrepreneurial Legal Lab, 'Demystifying Intellectual Property'

2-3 p.m. The Hub CoWorks, 67 Merchants Row, Suite 201, Rutland. StartUp Rutland, the region's technology-driven business incubator located at The Hub CoWorks, is pleased to launch a partnership with the Entrepreneurial Legal Lab, a program of Vermont Law and Graduate School. "Demystifying Intellectual Property" is the first of a series of discussions for those who are launching a new business based on their intellectual property, those who are considering applying to StartUp Rutland's first cohort, all current or would-be business owners and leaders in the Rutland region who want to learn more about intellectual property issues. Our discussion will be lead by VLS's Oliver Goodenough. To register now for this Seminar: fb.me/e/2FtUPTurx. To request a Zoom link to attend: email Director Scott M. Graves scott@rutlandeconomy.com.

Tips for Healthy Aging

2-3 p.m. The Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St., Castleton. The Castleton Community Center will host two programs that can help older adults age well. Free. The first presentation features EB Sheldon-Morris, a Physician Assistant with over 10 years of experience working in primary care. She will offer tips for getting the most out of your health care visits, ways to communicate effectively, topics to make sure are addressed during the visit and tips for aging well. The second program, immediately following the first discussion, is sponsored by the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging. It will feature a nutrition education presentation about portion control and MyPlate, a U.S. Dept. of Agriculture program that helps you build healthy eating habits. For additional information call 802-468-3093.

Circle of Parents in Recovery

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

NAMI Connection peer support group

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

Circle of Parents for Grandparents

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

K-6th Open Gym: Basketball

4-5:30 p.m. Former Castleton Village School, 47 Mechanic St., Castleton. Free or \$2 donation optional. A limited amount of basketballs will be provided, or bring your own. Please ask the supervisor if you're interested in using: air pump, bandaids/ice-packs/first-aid, cones (various sizes), or pinnies. Please be respectful of the space and equipment provided. For more info visit: <https://allevents.in/castleton/k-6th-open-gym-basketball>.

Stone Valley Arts: Kids and Adults Ballroom

Classes with Patti Panebianco

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

Sip-N-Dip

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

Adult Open Hockey

6-8:30 p.m. Johnson Recreation Ice Rink, 2706 River Road, Killington. For more info visit: killingtonrec.com for updates on rink conditions.

Stone Valley Arts: Community Music Jam

6-7:30 p.m. Green Mountain Community School, Whitney Hall/ The Buttery in Poultney. Donations appreciated. Come join us every Thursday afternoon for an acoustic music jam. Bring your instruments, your voices, and your ideas. We'll take turns, teaching each other new song numbers while keeping it simple. We follow bluegrass jam rules butrock, folk, blues, Americana: as long as everybody can join in! Please RSVP Bennett at bennett_lovet_graff@hotmail.com.



That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class

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

Castleton University Theater Arts Department

Presents 'The IT Girl'

7 p.m. Casella Theater, Castleton State College. Cost is \$10-\$15. Castleton University Theater Arts Department presents its spring musical, "The IT Girl" at Casella Theater. Betty Lou Spence is a shop girl who falls in love with her boss, initially winning him over because she has the illusive quality, IT. When class differences divide Betty from her beau, she triumphs by putting her sense of justice—and her special charms—to good use. Inspired by the language and melodies of the silent movie era, and based on the 1927 Paramount Pictures, "IT," the new musical offers today's audiences a light-hearted escape from life's complexities—just as silent films once gave to audiences in the Roaring '20s. For more info visit: castleton.edu/arts.

MNFF Vermont Tour 2022: "Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest"

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Tickets: \$12 + tax/fees. Day-of-show: \$15 + tax/fees. The remarkable story of Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, the indigenous trailblazer who battled racism, gender discrimination and political opposition in her quest to become the first Nepali woman to summit Mount Everest. Her courageous and astonishing journey would greatly move her country, inspiring new generations of Nepalese women to reach for their rights. Producer Christy McGill will attend the screening and do a Q&A following the film. For more info visit: paramountvt.org.

Open Gym: Basketball

7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run until March. Thursdays will be basketball. The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.

FRIDAY MAR. 24

Stone Valley Arts: Rosemary Moser WoodSpryte

Early Learning Adventures

9:30-10:30 a.m. Green Mountain Community School, Whitney Hall/ The Buttery in Poultney. Cost is \$12 per class. Literacy-based learning adventures for the very young! We read high-quality engaging children's stories, then bring them to life through the arts—visual art, music, movement, drama—as well as activities in science, cooking, gardening, history, social & emotional learning, & more! For more info visit: stonevalleyarts.org.

Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info
from page 12

Woodspryte Early Learning Adventures - Arts for the Very Young

9:30-10:30 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost is \$20 per class or sign up for 4 classes at \$60. 2 Sessions by Age: 18 mos. to 4, 9:30-10:30 a.m. and 10:45 am - 12:15 pm, ages 5 - 8. A high quality picture book is the foundation of each WoodSpryte Arts class. Students enjoy music & movement, science and math, visual art & dramatic play, social & emotional learning and more, all linked to the book. For more info visit: chaffeeartcenter.org.

All About the Arts

11 a.m.-12 p.m. on Fridays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St. in Rutland. Free for ages 3-5. Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more! One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week. For more info visit: chaffeeartcenter.org

Learn to Crochet

12-1:30 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Suite E in Rutland. Cost is \$20. Join Ruth to learn how to crochet! This class is for complete newbies to crocheting. Participants will begin a simple crochet project in the class to learn basic stitches, terminology, and pattern reading. You will need a size H crochet hook and worsted weight yarn for the class. Use the dropdown box to select the date of the class you wish to attend. For more info visit: greenmountainfibers.com.

Pysanky: Ukrainian Egg Decorating

Drop-in session, 1-4 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Small reimbursement fee. Create beautiful, decorated eggs and celebrate this Ukrainian tradition! If you know the basic techniques, join us around the table to write eggs together. Danelle Sims will set up a workstation and be available for assistance. For more info visit: normanwilliams.org or email programs@normanwilliams.org for questions.

Sherburne/Killington Historical Society Presents

History of Pico

4-6 p.m. Pico Last Run Lounge (in Pico base Lodge) at Pico Ski Resort. Free. A special presentation about the history of Pico Mountain. Shelburne/Killington historians will be on hand, and a distinguished guest panel including Karl Acker, Frank Heald, Justin Lindholm, and David Wright will speak about the beginnings of Vermont's third oldest ski area. For more info visit: picomountain.com/things-to-do/events/calendar/the-history-of-pico.

Stone Valley Arts Open Mic

7-8:15 p.m. Green Mountain Community School, Whitney Hall/ The Buttery in Poultney. Free. Poets, storytellers, spoken word artists, writers in all genres are invited to perform your original work, poems, slam pieces, classics, "minutes" or favorite literary works. Serials and/or excerpts of longer works of fiction and other genres are also appreciated. Moth-style (first person true stories) are always a hit, as are folk tales and other stories. Musicians and singer-songwriters are also welcome. Performers can RSVP via email to reserve a spot (stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com), or a sign-up sheet will be available on arrival for performers. This event is free, so come and bring a friend or two. Audience is always welcome! For more info visit: stonevalleyarts.org.

MNFF Vermont Tour-Ruth Stone's vast library of the female mind

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Tickets: \$12 + tax/fees Day-of-show: \$15 + tax/fee. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Vermont Tour. Twelve years in the making, Vermont filmmaker Nora Jacobson captures the essence of beloved poet Ruth Stone, winner of the National Book Award for Poetry. After tragedy struck, Stone retreated to the margins of the literary world, working tirelessly to provide for her children and transforming her grief into poetry, using simple, startling language. Jacobson combines verité footage, interviews and animation done by the poet's granddaughter to paint a portrait of Stone's life in Vermont. Director Nora Jacobson will attend the screening and do a Q&A following the film.

'Black Brilliance': A celebration of black composers

7:30 p.m. Old South Church, 146 Main St., Windsor. Cost is \$9-\$20. Join us for this very special program to help us celebrate Black History Month. This concert features some wonderful works for violin, cello, and piano by some neglected black composers, including some fun ragtime arrangements by Scott Joplin; two suites of spiritual arrangements by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Undine Smith Moore; and Blues-inspired pieces by Florence Price and William Grant Still. For more info visit: https://classiciopia.org/concert/black-brilliance.

BarnArts Presents 'The Good Doctor'

7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Cost: \$20 adults; \$15 students. "The Good Doctor" begins with a narrator, a Chekhov-like writer, who leads the audience through nine scenes that go from ridiculous to absurd to charming and back again as the narrator reflects on the creative process, popping in and out of the stories. For more info visit: info@barnarts.org

SATURDAY MARCH 25

Smith Maple Crest Farm: Open Sugar House

8 a.m.-4 p.m. Smith Maple Crest Farm, 2450 Lincoln Hill Rd., Shrewsbury. Come celebrate and sample the sweetness of the Vermont maple season! We look forward to your stopping by and experiencing the tradition that has been carried through by our family for generations. Come stock up on maple syrup and grassfed beef at local farm pricing. Sample our award winning syrup, syrup boiling demo (weather permitting), sugar on snow, maple cotton candy, refreshments. Pancake breakfast by and in support of Shrewsbury Community Sharing Project. Enjoy our maple syrup on a stack of their pancakes. For more info visit: yourplaceinvermont.com/event/smith-maple-crest-farm-open-sugerhouse or vermontmaple.org/mohw.

Build Your Own Ukelele

9 a.m.-3 p.m. The MINT Makerspace, 112 Quality Ln. in Rutland. Cost (includes materials): MINT members \$500; non-members \$600. This is a beginning-level workshop for folks who want to experience the joy and personal satisfaction of building your own concert ukulele. This is a four-session class, taking place on Saturdays: March 4, 11, 18, 25. (brown bag lunch) For more info visit: rutlandmint.org/events.

Maple Open House Weekend, Baird Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Baird Farm, 65 West Road, North Chittenden. Free. Free sugorhouse tours, Boiling, maple tastings, free rosemary waffles, activities, giveaways and more. https://www.bairdfarm.com/

In Full Bloom Garden Party

10-6 p.m. The Sparkle Barn, 1509, U.S. Rt. 7, Wallingford. Free. You don't have to wait for spring to attend a garden party! Come help get a jump start on Spring and help us celebrate our bigger and bloomier "Bloom Room!" If you love flowers, color, and whimsy you are in for a treat! Sit in a petal chair and drink in all the fabulous color! Cookies and lemonade will be served. For more info visit: thesparklebarn.com.

Learn to Make Socks with Magic Loop

10:30 a.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Ave., Suite E in Rutland. Cost is \$45.

Do you want to learn to knit your own socks? Are you curious about the magic loop method for knitting small circumference projects in the round? In this class, you will do both! You will be knitting a worsted weight baby sock in order to get through all of the steps in sock making. Participants should be comfortable casting on, knitting, and purling as well as have some experience of knitting in the round. You will need 25g of worsted weight yarn as well as 24" circular needles in a US size 7. Preregistration is required. For more info visit: greenmountainfibers.com.

Alyx Magic: a Family Magic Show!

1--11 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Join us for a magic morning with Alyx the Magician! Expect to be left in awe, and don't forget that she'll probably need volunteers. Great for all ages! For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

Winter Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Franklin Conference Center, 1 Scale Ave., Suite 92, Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, and the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. The farmers' market bring together as many as 60 vendors. With a seasonal variety of produce, local grass-fed meat, eggs, artisan cheeses, freshly baked breads, jellies and jams, maple products, honey, CBD products, delicious hot foods, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland Railroad Museum & Model Club

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

Chinese Calligraphy and Poetry

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Gallery at the Vault, 68 Main St., Springfield. Cost is \$35. Study Chinese poetry and its relation to Chinese calligraphy. Selected poems will be provided, along with an analysis of several basic styles. Calligraphy is a meditative practice which focuses the spirit into the brush, each stroke reflecting the state of mind of the writer. Brush, Ink, paper weight, and felt mat will be provided but you can bring your own. Register by March 22. Materials fee \$5. For more info visit: galleryvault@vermontel.net.

Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson

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

BarnArts Presents 'The Good Doctor'

7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Cost: \$20 adults; \$15 students. The Good Doctor begins with a narrator, a Chekhov-like writer, who leads the audience through nine scenes that go from ridiculous to absurd to charming and back again as the narrator reflects on the creative process, popping in and out of the stories. For more info visit: info@barnarts.org

SUNDAY MARCH 26

Saskadena Six Passholder Day

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sakedena Six Ski Resort. Join us for our Season Passholder Appreciation Day at Saskadena Six! End the season with soft, spring conditions and a complimentary BBQ on the deck. For more info visit: woodstockinn.com/do/events/saskadena-six-passholder-day.

Maple Open House Weekend at Baird Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Baird Farm, 65 West Road, North Chittenden. Free. Sugurhouse tours, boiling, maple tastings, free rosemary waffles, activities, giveaways and more. For more info visit: bairdfarm.com.

Pico Season Passholder Appreciation Party

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Pico deck (weather permitting) at Pico Ski Resort. Free. Calling all Pico season passholders! Thank you for another great season of skiing and riding at Pico. As a token of our appreciation, all passholders are invited to receive a free lunch. We'll also have complimentary s'mores available outside at the slope side firepit. Make sure you stick around for a passholder-exclusive raffle with free giveaways including Pico logowear! After lunch, hang out upstairs in the Last Run Lounge for live music from Duane Carleton starting at 1:00 p.m. Hope to see you there! For more info visit: picomountain.com/things-to-do/events/calendar/passholder-appreciation-party-pico.

The Soufflé Also Rises and Apple-Tart Cooking Class

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

Amphibian Adventure: the Spring Migration

1-2 p.m. The VINS Nature Center. Why did the salamander cross the road? Join a VINS educator to find out on an amphibian adventure! Learn what makes amphibians such amazing animals by playing games to see if you can hop as far as a frog or if you can find your way to a vernal pool. Then get ready for the annual spring migration! Practice how to help amphibians safely cross roads to get to their breeding grounds. Info@vinsweb.org.

Pride Walk on the Whipple Hollow Trail

1-3 p.m. West Rutland marsh, Whipple Hollow Rd., West Rutland. Rutland County Audubon, Outright Vermont and Come Alive Outside lead a low-key nature sojourn for LGBTQ community members and allies. For more info visit: rutlandcountyaudubon.org.



**SASKADENA SIX
PASSHOLDER DAY**

10 AM-3 PM

Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 13

Open Gym: Intermediate/Advanced Pickleball

2-4 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run until March. Sundays will be pickleball (for intermediate/ advanced level players). The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.

Champlain Philharmonic Spring Concert Series

4-5 p.m. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St., Rutland. Cost is \$5-\$15. The Champlain Philharmonic will return to to perform it's spring concert series entitled, "Nostalgia." The program will feature the world premiere of a new work by VT Composer Kyle Saulnier, entitled "the Sun Upon a Hill." Vermont vocalist Stefanie Weigand will be the featured soloist who will also perform Rachmaninoff's "vocalise." The rest of the program will include Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," Beethoven's "Egmont" Overture, Grieg's "Symphonic Dances," and a medley of Duke Ellington hits. More info at www.champlainphilharmonic.org.



**MAPLE OPEN
WEEKEND**

FRI - SUN

BarnArts Presents 'The Good Doctor'

2 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Cost: \$20 adults; \$15 students. The Good Doctor begins with a narrator, a Chekhov-like writer, who leads the audience through nine scenes that go from ridiculous to absurd to charming and back again as the narrator reflects on the creative process, popping in and out of the stories. For more info visit: info@barnarts.org

**MONDAY
MARCH 27**

Babies and Toddler Rock

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

A Community of Parents

10 a.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St., Rutland. Free. The community meets from 10-11:30 a.m. at Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Snacks provided, siblings welcome. Find connection, education, and a community to share with. They're here to support you during the transition of adding a new baby or child to your family —or whenever you need a community of parents to listen! All parents including expecting parents and caregivers welcome. For more info visit bit.ly/frontlineworkersupport.

Killington Bone Builders

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

Drive-up-pick-up Meals

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

Bingo

1:15 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., in Rutland. Cost varies. Come play bingo at the Godnick Center in Rutland on Mondays at 1:15 p.m.

This is a drop-in activity.

Knit Night

6 p.m. Kimball Library, 67. N Main St., Randolph. Free. Bring your knitting—or other handicraft—and enjoy an evening of crafting and socializing. For all ages and experience levels. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

Champions Dinner in Celebration of Meals-On-Wheels

6-8 p.m. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Cost is \$30/person. Godnick Adult Center will host Champions Dinner, a fundraising event locally catered in celebration of the 21st annual March for Meals—a month-long, nationwide celebration of Meal on Wheels and our senior neighbors who rely on this essential service to remain healthy and independent at home, now even more so amid a lingering pandemic and high inflation. For more info visit: rutlandrec.com/godnick-events.

Open Gym: Indoor Soccer

7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run Mondays until March for indoor soccer. The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.

NAMI Connection Peer Support Group

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

**TUESDAY
MARCH 28**

Stories on a String

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

Bone Builders Mendon Seniors

10 a.m. Roadside Chapel, 1680 Townline Road in Mendon. Free. Join Mendon Seniors for their bone building session every Tuesday and Thursday.

Chess Club

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

K-6th Open Gym: Basketball

4-5:30 p.m. Former Castleton Village School, 47 Mechanic St., Castleton. Free or \$2 donation optional. A limited amount of basketballs will be provided, or bring your own. Please ask the supervisor if you're interested in using: air pump, bandaids/ice-packs/first-aid, cones (various sizes), or pinnies. Please be respectful of the space and equipment provided. For more info visit: allevents.in/castleton/k-6th-open-gym-basketball.

Children's Dance and Creative Movement with

Alicia Hollister

4-6 p.m. Feick Center, 1 Brennan Cir., Poultney. \$10 drop in or \$80 for 10 week session. This Jazz/Creative Movement class will focus on Jazz technique while also giving students the opportunity to explore creative movement in a structured forum. For more info visit: tone-valley-arts.

Introduction to MIG Welding

5:30-7:30 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Memebers \$15; Non-members \$30. In this fun and comfortable environment you will learn the awesome skill of how to use a MIG Welder, one of the most versatile welding tools. No previous experience is necessary, all are

welcome! For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

Circle of Parents in Recovery

5:30 p.m. Virtual. Free. Virtual support group. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info visit: pcavt.org.

Learn to Create Top-Notch Veggie Dishes, Cooking Class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$75. Award-winning chef shows you how to create beautiful veggie dishes. Perfect for vegans—or carnivores looking for special accompaniments! Learn hands-on how to prepare beautiful vegetable dishes. This is a perfect class for vegetarians or vegans who want to learn how to make special dishes and for carnivores who are looking for unique vegetable accompaniments—and for everyone a delightful lunch or light supper. BYOB and eat what you make. Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513; info@odysseyeventsvt.com

Open Gym: Beginner Pickleball

7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run until March. Tuesdays: pickleball for beginner level players. Cost: \$5 at the door or 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch



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WED 3/22

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Silas McPrior

6 p.m. Rivershed – April Cushman

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – King Arthur Jr

LUDLOW

7 p.m. Off The Rails – Morgan Clark

QUECHEE

6 p.m. The Public House – Kim Wilcox

POULTNEY

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

RANDOLPH

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

RUTLAND

5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Ryan Fuller

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

THURS 3/23

BRANDON

6 p.m. Ripton Mountain Distillery – Open Jam

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Josh Jakab

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

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

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

5 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

5 p.m. The Foundry – Ryan Fuller

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

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Red Daisy Revival

7 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Ryan Montbleau

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jenny Porter & Friends

LUDLOW

8 p.m. Off The Rails – Live Music

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Strangefellows Pub – Trivia Night

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

SOUTH ROYALTON

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

FRI 3/24

BOMOSEEN

5:30 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – Aaron Audet

CASTLETON

5:30 p.m. Castleton Pizza Place & Deli – Name that Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

CHESTER

6:30 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Back O' Town Cajun Band

KILLINGTON

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Pallutto and Prior

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Daniel Brown Trio

4 p.m. The Foundry – Just Jamie

6 p.m. Rivershed – Alex Anthony

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – King Arthur Jr

7 p.m. The Foundry – James Joel

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Erin's Guild

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – White Wedding

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Just Jamie

9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Josh and Silas

LUDLOW

2 p.m. Okemo's Sitting Bull Lounge – Sammy B

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

PITTSFIELD

8 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Breanna Elaine

PROCTORSVILLE

4 p.m. Outer Limits Brewing – Eric King

POULTNEY

7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Eugene Tyler Band

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. The Public House – Duane Carleton

WOODSTOCK

7:30 p.m. Town Hall Theatre – The Good Doctor

SAT 3/25

BETHEL

8 p.m. Babes Bar – George Nostrand

BOMOSEEN

5:30 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – Ryan Fuller

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Show

KILLINGTON

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Aaron Audet

1 p.m. Skyship Base Lodge – Silas McPrior

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris P Trio

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Gully Boys

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Acoustik Ruckus

4 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Happy Hour with Jamie's Junk Show and special guest opener Jenny & Liz

4 p.m. The Foundry – Micah Iverson

5 p.m. Mary Lou's – Krishna Guthrie & Bobby Maguire

6 p.m. O'Dwyers Pub – County Down

6 p.m. Rivershed – Alex Anthony

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Ryan Leddick

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Erin's Guild

8 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet Duo

9 p.m. Pickle Barrel – White Wedding

LUDLOW

2 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Apres Afternoon with White Steer, Free Smores, Games and Fire Pits

6 p.m. Calcuttas – James Joel

7 p.m. The Killarney – Silas McPrior

8 p.m. Eight Oh Brew – Nick Bredice

8:30 p.m. Off The Rails – DJ Dance Party with Maddy

POULTNEY

6 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Christine Malcolm & the Kate Brook Romp

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. The Public House – FROGZ

RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. The Listening Room – Mega March Birthday Bash: Suburban Samurai, NRVs, What Makes Sense

WOODSTOCK

7:30 p.m. Town Hall Theatre – The Good Doctor

SUN 3/26

KILLINGTON

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Alex Anthony

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Gully Boys

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

5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed - Trivia

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Open Mic with Indigenous Entertainment

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Baked Shrimp

LUDLOW

7 p.m. Off The Rails – Karaoke

RUTLAND

4 p.m. Grace Church – Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra

WOODSTOCK

2 p.m. Town Hall Theatre – The Good Doctor

MON 3/27

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

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

5 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Casey

6 p.m. The Foundry – Blues Night with the Chris P Trio

8 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Josh Jakab

LUDLOW

7 p.m. Off The Rails – Sammy B

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

WOODSTOCK

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

TUES 3/28

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

5 p.m. Mary Lou's – Mountain Music with Bow Thayer & Krishna Guthrie

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Name That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

LUDLOW

8 p.m. Off The Rails – SINGO

PITTSFIELD

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

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

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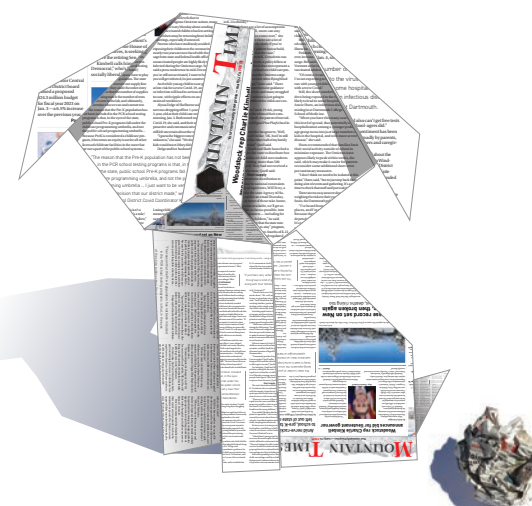
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Spring Maple Open Houses held March 25-26 and April 1-2

It's sugaring season and Vermont Maple Sugar Makers throughout the state invite you into their sugarhouses! Come out and celebrate the 2023 crop and Vermont Sugar Makers will teach you all you want to know about this time honored Vermont tradition. Enjoy pancake breakfasts, sugar-on-snow, horse-drawn wagon rides, sugarhouse tours, maple syrup and maple product samples and so much more! Have you ever tried maple beer, maple hard cider, or smoked wings with maple bbq sauce? You'll soon see that maple is a staple for everyone's table. We'll see you in the woods! Local sugar houses include:

Baird Farm 59 West Road N. Chittenden, Vermont 05763 802-558-8443	Cuttin' It Sweet 4556 Monument Hill Road Hubbardton, Vermont 05735 802-558-3108	Green Mt Sugar House VT-100 Ludlow, Vermont 05149 802-228-7151	Macintosh Hill Maple Works 1756 Tatro Hill Road Randolph, Vermont 05060 802-728-4381	Papa John's Sugar Shack 221 Healdville Road Mount Holly, Vermont 05758 802-259-7800	Sugarbush Farm Inc 591 Sugarbush Farm Road Woodstock, Vermont 05091 802-457-1757
Bourdon Maple Farm 112 Bourdon Road Woodstock, Vermont 05091 802-300-3203	Dutton Berry Farm 2083 Depot St. Manchester Center, Ver- mont 05255 802-380-3894	Green's Sugarhouse 1846 Finel Hollow Road Poultney, Vermont 05764 802-287-5745	Mahar Maple Farm 9 Mountain Road Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757 802-353-9863	Rocky Ridge Sugarworks 2219 Frazier Hill Road Benson, Vermont 05473 802-353-7006	Thrall Road Maple 552 Thrall Road Poultney, Vermont 05764 802-884-0655
Brassard Sugarworks and Maple Supply LLC 6996 VT-66 E, East Randolph, Vermont 05041 802-839-9939	Elm Grove Farm 3488 Cloudland Rd Woodstock, Vermont 05091 802-457-3888	Kevin C Spencer 860 East St. North Clarendon, Ver- mont 05759 802-236-7497	Maple Farmers 3340 Christian Hill Road Bethel, Vermont 05032 802-280-5056	Silloway Maple 1303 Boudro Road Randolph Center, Ver- mont 05061 802-272-6249	Village Mapleworks 505 Main St. Orwell, Vermont 05760
Choice Maple 185 Equestrian Way White River Junction, Vermont 05001 802-281-0952	Foxglove Farm 777 Delorm Road Leicester, Vermont 05733 802-247-4379	Liberty Hill Farm (Lodging with Dining for Guests) 511 Liberty Hill Road Rochester, Vermont 05767 802-767-3926	Millers Sap House 2955 East Wells Road Wells, Vermont 05774 802-325-2259	Silver Lake Syrups 5613 Stage Road Barnard, Vermont 05031 802-234-1647	Woods Vermont Syrup Co. 780 Hebard Hill Road Randolph, Vermont 05060 802-565-0309
				Smith Maple Crest Farm 2450 Lincoln Hill Road Shrewsbury, VT 05738 802-492-2151	



Maplefest takes place all over Poultney

Saturday and Sunday, March 25-26—POULTNEY—Head to Poultney this Saturday to experience a full day of Maplefest — it literally takes place all over town bringing Vermonters and visitors together to celebrate the maple seasons and the return of spring!

This year's event features a fun ride, official tree tapping, and crowning of the Maple Prince and Princess (chosen through an art contest). The event also offers a pictures with Sugar Bear, a pancake breakfast, story time, craft and food fair, Historical Society exhibit, free horse-drawn wagon rides, sugarhouse tours, maple bake sales, special foods at local restaurants, and a maple ham dinner.

Sugarhouses are open for tours Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participating sugarhouses include: Greens Sugarhouse, Verlaska Farm, Marshall's Maple, Thrall Road Maple, Mahar Maple, Miller's Sap House, and Cuttin' It Sweet.

Schedule:

8-11 a.m. Pancake breakfast at the Poultney Methodist Church. The community break-fast is free, donations are accepted, and they'll be serving until 11 a.m.

10 a.m. The Official Tree Tapping begins on the lawn at the former Green Mountain College, with a mystery guest squaring off against Poultney's Citizen of the Year Rebecca

Cook to see who can tap the tree first. Immediately afterwards, the Golden and Amber winners of the Poultney 4th Grade Art Contest will be announced and given their prizes.

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Horse-drawn wagon rides leave from the back of the former bank parking lLot, by the new Poultney Village Office. Rides are free.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. The MapleFest Craft and Food Fair will be held again at the Poultney high school gym — come see the quality crafts, delicious food, and whimsical gifts.

10 a.m. For those of you just raring to get outside, Analog Cycles will hold its 5th annual Ride and Race event, with the ride starting at 10 a.m., and the race at 11 a.m. Sign up on-line at bikereg.com/analog-fifth-season-ramble.

11:30 a.m. Storytime at the Poultney Public Library.

12-3 p.m. The historical society will be passing out free maple cookies at the the old East Poultney Schoolhouse on East Main Street.

4:30-7 p.m. a maple ham dinner will be held at the Poultney Young At Heart Senior Center on Furnace Street. Cost is \$8 for adults; \$5 for kids 12 and under. For more information, visit: PoultneyAreaChamber.com.



Submitted

A pot of sap boils down to produce syrup at a sap house on Maplefest Weekend.



Submitted

A Maplefest Weekend sap house draws fans of maple syrup to taste the treats.

Outdoor recreation is at the center of Vermont Tourism Day

Wednesday, March 22 — MONTPELIER — On the heels of one of Vermont's largest snowfalls of the season, while skiers and snowboarders from neighboring states revel in fresh powder, Vermont will be celebrating Tourism Day at the State House on March 22. Throughout the day, industry leaders will engage with legislators and the Governor to raise awareness to the collective contributions of the outdoor and visitor economy.

Whether it's hiking the Long Trail, biking in the Northeast Kingdom, camping at Gifford Woods State Park, skiing at Smuggler's Notch Resort, or sailing on Lake Champlain, visitors and future Vermonters come to our state to enjoy the world class outdoor recreation landscape, which is at the center of Vermont's visitor economy.

Among the 60+ million tourists who live within a day's drive, many visit the scenic Green Mountains, then stay overnight at local lodges, dine at local restaurants, and shop at local retailers, helping to sustain the small businesses that make up the fabric of our communities. Visitor spending creates jobs, generates tax revenue, drives growth in the state's overall economy, and helps maintain our natural landscape as a vital economic resource.

"The ripple effect of outdoor recreation is visible in our vibrant downtowns and village centers with Vermonters and visitors focused on healthy outdoor pursuits and innovative businesses attracting employees to be part of building the communities we want to live in," said Kelly Ault, executive director of the Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance. "This highly diversified outdoor sector is partnering with nonprofit organizations and the public sector to strengthen all that we value."

With 8,000+ miles of public access trails, including the Appalachian, Long, Catamount and Cross Vermont trails, along with the newly open 93-mile Lamoille Valley Rail Trail; 40 Alpine and Nordic ski areas with over 8,800 skiable miles; hundreds of navigable waterways; a growing hut sys-

tem and the Velomont trail, Vermont is rich in recreational opportunities and assets. But, in order to maintain their environmental quality, while ensuring people will continue to have access to the trails and landscape of Vermont into the future, these assets require sustainable investment to provide thoughtful stewardship.

"The stewardship of our recreational assets has largely been led by non-profit organizations who are dependent on volunteers to keep these trails and waterways open for public access," said Nick Bennette, co-chair of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council. "It will take coordinated investment in these organizations and long-term visioning with stakeholders to maintain trails as critical infrastructure for Vermont communities that provide better health, sustainable economies, and an increased commitment to conservation."

Investing in outdoor recreation at the community level can continue to foster Vermont's visitor economy, through support for workforce recruitment and retention, bike and pedestrian friendly infrastructure, and the small businesses that provide needed services to our visitors. Vermont can continue to create communities that are resilient, diverse, and offer a high quality of life through this support.

"Increasing participation opportunities for the broad spectrum of communities visiting Vermont and the diverse communities that live in our State is the key to our growth and sustainability," said Jackie Dagger, program manager for the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative. "By investing in our recreation resources at the community level and strengthening partnerships between stakeholder groups in the outdoor recreation economy we can do a better job of providing access to those who are historically underserved and attract more visitors to a welcoming Vermont."

March
22

The Hub CoWorks hosts discussion: 'Demystifying Intellectual Property'

Thursday, March 23 at 2 p.m. — RUTLAND — StartUp Rutland, the region's technology-driven business incubator located at The Hub CoWorks is pleased to launch a partnership with the Entrepreneurial Legal Lab, a program of Vermont Law and Graduate School (VLS).

"Demystifying Intellectual Property," the first of a series of discussions will take place on March 23, from 2-3 p.m. This is an in-person event with an online option to attend.

The discussion will be led by VLS's Oliver Goodenough. Who should attend?

- Those who are launching a new business based on their intellectual property
- Those who are considering applying to StartUp Rutland's first cohort
- All current or would-be business owners and leaders in the Rutland region who want to learn more about intellectual property issues.

The Entrepreneurial Legal Lab will also hold office hours hosted by The Hub CoWorks from 1-2 p.m. at Hub offices, located at 67 Merchants Row Suite 201 in downtown Rutland.

To register visit: fb.me/e/2FtUPTurx

To request a Zoom link to attend or request time during open office hours: email Director Scott M. Graves at: scott@rutlandeconomy.com.



A view inside of office space at The Hub on Merchants Row in downtown Rutland.

Courtesy of the Hub

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“In Full Bloom” garden party to be held Saturday

Saturday, March 25—WALLINGFORD—Sparkle Barn is having an “In Full Bloom” garden party in the newly expanded Bloom Room! this Saturday. It’s an all day event from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission is free. Drop in anytime! They’ll be serving flower cookies and lemonade. It’ll be a great way to get a big dose of color therapy and get your Sparkle Spring on!

The Sparkle Barn is located at 1509 Route 7 south in Wallingford. For more information, visit: thesparklebarn.com.



Submitted

Sparkle Barn will be alive with refreshing palettes of vibrant spring colors this Saturday at the “In Full Bloom” garden party at the Sparkle Barn on 1509 Route 7S in Wallingford.

The history of Pico

Join us on Friday, March 24th, 4-6 p.m. in the Last Run Lounge at Pico Base Lodge for a special presentation about the history of Pico Mountain. Shelburne/Killington historians will be on hand, and a distinguished guest panel including Karl Acker, Frank Heald, Justin Lindholm, and David Wright will speak about the beginnings of Vermont’s 3rd oldest ski area.

To read more about the history of Pico Mountain, click here.

On Thanksgiving morning in 1937, Pico Mountain came to life with a 1,200 foot rope-tow, powered by a Hudson Motor Car Engine, and a lot of love.

Much has changed since then, but the love that began more than 70 years ago for this mountain still lives today — and it’s as strong as ever. No other big mountain has as much small mountain charm, and no athletes love their mountain quite like Pico skiers and riders.

Families, ski racers and locals-in-the-know now enjoy 58 trails serviced by seven lifts, including two high-speed detachable quads. Gentle learning terrain, smooth cruisers and classically-narrow New England steeps can all be found at Pico Mountain. Even the most discerning skiers and riders will be impressed by Pico’s vertical drop of 1,967’—taller than 80% of Vermont ski areas.

Whether you prefer gorgeous glades or gentle, winding trails, Pico Mountain has it all. And, if you’re willing, we can teach you how to enjoy it even more. Our Snow Sports School offers specialized learning programs for everyone from children and first timers to seasoned pros, all created with quality and value in mind.

Pico’s central base area features a cozy lodge and stone fireplaces – just another reason why this mountain is so special. With all trails converging into one area, it’s

easy to stay connected with friends and family throughout the day. And when it’s time to recharge, you’ll find a variety of tasty treats, including homemade waffles, sandwiches, kid-friendly favorites and more.

For those seeking a social atmosphere, Last Run Lounge on the third floor of the lodge is the spot for lunch and après entertainment on the weekends. With its

laid-back pub atmosphere, crackling fireplace and views of the sun setting on the mountain, it’s the perfect place to end a day of skiing in Vermont.

Visit the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum at Pico.

Pico Mountain’s rich racing history dates back to 1937, when Brad and Janet Mead first opened the mountain. It’s here

they raised their daughter,

ski prodigy and two-time Olympic Gold Medalist Andrea, skiing the same trails we race on today. Pico now hosts a collection of memorabilia from the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum to commemorate this tradition.

Pico Mountain locals have donated to the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum’s collection over the years, and we are proud to display their memorabilia in one-of-a-kind celebration of skiing and snowboarding history. Guests at Pico Mountain can learn first-hand how Pico impacted the fabric of ski history and explore nearly 150 items on display, from vintage equipment and ski lifts, to clothing and accessories.

We hope our guests and local ski and snowboard historians appreciate these displays and gain an understanding of Pico’s deep connection to the history of skiing and ski racing. Those inspired to learn more can also visit the official Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum at One South Main St., in Stowe, Vermont.



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Champions dinner event celebrates 21st annual March for Meals Deadline for reservations is March 20

Monday, March 27, at 6 p.m.—RUTLAND—Godnick Adult Center will host Champions Dinner a fundraising event locally catered in celebration of the 21st Annual March for Meals on Monday. March for Meals is a month-long, nationwide celebration of Meal on Wheels and our senior neighbors who rely on this essential service to remain healthy and independent at home, now even more so amid a lingering pandemic and high inflation.

The Champions Dinner event tickets are available for \$30/person at the Godnick Adult Center, by phone 802-773-1853 or online at RutlandRec.com/Godnick. The menu includes the following main course options: rib eye (14 oz), stuffed chicken breast, or stuffed portabella mushrooms. All meals include salad, rolls, baked potato, and dessert. All proceeds will be donated to Meals on Wheels to support our community members to remain healthy through access to nutritious food through delivered and congregate meals.

Limited tickets are available. The deadline for reservations is Monday, March 20.

The Godnick Adult Center is one of the Rutland Recreation and Parks' year-round facilities serving adults in the community through events/activities focused on health, wellness, and social engagement. The Godnick Adult Center is a congregate and pick-up meals site for Meals on Wheels through collaboration with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging.

The annual March for Meals commemorates the historic day in March 1972 when President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older. This March, Meals on Wheels programs from across the country are joining forces to celebrate more than 50 years of success and garner the support needed to ensure these critical programs can continue to address food insecurity and malnutrition, combat social isolation, enable independence, and improve health for years to come.

The Champions Dinner event will be held at the Godnick Adult Center located at 1 Deer Street in Rutland. For more information visit: RutlandRec.com/Godnick.



Submitted

A Meals On Wheels volunteer is seen here, delivering a nutritious meal to a happy customer.

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Dream Maker Bakers

Dream Maker Bakers is an all-butter, from-scratch bakery making breads, bagels, croissants, cakes and more daily. It serves soups, salads and sandwiches and offers seating with free Wifi. At 5501 US Route 4, Killington, VT. No time to wait? Call ahead. Curb-side pick up available. dreammakerbakers.com, 802-422-5950.

Killington Market

Take breakfast, lunch or dinner on the go at Killington Market, Killington's on-mountain grocery store for the last 30 years. Choose from breakfast sandwiches, hand carved dinners, pizza, daily fresh hot panini, roast chicken, salad and specialty sandwiches. Vermont products, maple syrup, fresh meat and produce along with wine and beer are also for sale. killingtonmarket.com 802-422-7736 or 802-422-7594.

McGrath's Irish Pub

Looking for something a little different? Hit up McGrath's Irish Pub for a perfectly poured pint of Guinness, live music on the weekends and delicious food. Guinness not your favorite? They also have Vermont's largest Irish Whiskey selection. Visit innatlongtrail.com, 802-775-7181.

Liquid Art

Relax in the warm atmosphere at Liquid Art. Look for artfully served lattes from their La Marzocco espresso machine, or if you want something stronger, try their signature cocktails. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, they focus on healthy fare and provide you with a delicious meal different than anything else on the mountain. liquidartvt.com, (802) 422-2787.

Lookout Tavern

A place for fun, friends and good times here in Killington! Everything from soup to nuts for lunch and dinner; juicy burgers, fresh salads, delicious sandwiches and K-Town's best wings. Your first stop after a full day on the Mountain for a cold beer or specialty drink and a great meal! lookoutvt.com, 802-422-5665.

Moguls

Voted the best ribs and burger in Killington, Moguls is a great place for the whole family. Soups, onion rings, mozzarella sticks, chicken fingers, buckets of chicken wings, salads, subs and pasta are just some of the food that's on the menu. Free shuttle and take away and delivery options are available. mogulssportspub.com 802-422-4777.

Sugar and Spice

Stop on by to Sugar and Spice for a home style breakfast or lunch served up right. Try six different kinds of pancakes and/or waffles or order up some eggs and home fries. For lunch they offer a Filmore salad, grilled roast beef, burgers and sandwiches. Take away available. www.vtsugarandspice.com 802-773-7832.

Sushi Yoshi

Sushi Yoshi is Killington's true culinary adventure. With Hibachi, Sushi, Chinese and Japanese, we have something for every age and palate. Private Tatame rooms and large party seating available. We boast a full bar with 20 craft beers on draft. We are chef-owned and operated. Serving lunch and dinner. Delivery or take away option available. Now open year round. www.vermontsushi.com 802-422-4241.

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← PUZZLES page 11

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

B	U	S	H		C	R	E	M	E	S		
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7	3	1	5	2	6	8	9	4

← GUESS THE ALBUM COVER page 15 answer: The Clash, London Calling

Rockin' with Ryan Montbleau

Ryan Montbleau is bringing his band to the Pickle Barrel this Thursday for a show not to be missed. I've seen Ryan a few times in the past, both at festivals and in Killington, and I've been looking forward to this since I first saw it on the calendar. This will be the first show of their tour and first with this new lineup. Ryan is pumped about the band and said, "It's a killer lineup, I have a serious band coming with me."

Ryan has a long history of being a singer/songwriter who plays solo acoustic but also has a band. He said this is the best lineup he's ever had. There's a great funk band out there called Turquaz and Ryan has two members in his band. On drums is Michelangelo Carubba and on guitar is Craig Brodhead. His long time bass player is Michael Friedman from The Slip which is a band Ryan used to pay to go see and said he still will when they play. Ryan said Michael is amazing. Paul Philipponne from West End Blend is on keys, and this will be Ryan's first time playing with him. Ryan said, "I've basically collected some of my favorite people and players I've met over my whole career. It's more than just hired guns; people are emotionally invested in this. I think it's going to be a pretty special band."

Ryan is excited about this band. They rehearsed a bunch in January and rehearsed last week in Burlington where Ryan now calls home. Ryan said, "I'm trying to get them when they're not doing other things but they're committed to this, they're really into it." They've been learning Ryan's catalog from the past twenty years. Ryan is proud of whatever band he gets to play with and has played with a lot of amazing musicians over the years.

It's been a while since Ryan played in Killington. Back in 2010, he did Snoe Down with moe. and remembers playing another time at the base of the mountain. He said he's been a proud Vermont resident for the past six years, having bought a house in Burlington.

Ryan has been on the road, touring across the U.S. for the past twenty years. This month marks twenty years in the music business. It was March of 2003 that he left his Substitute Teaching job to become a full-time musician. He said, "My music is lyrically driven, it's the centerpiece of everything. If the show goes great, I've made you cry, I've made you laugh, dance, have fun and contemplate things. I'm trying to get all the experience into the music and into shows. I try to pour my heart and soul into writing tunes. If I do that right, I can connect with other people's truth and tug at their heart strings. Put words to the feelings that we all have. I've built my whole life around trying to do this. With the band, I can hopefully do that and move you viscerally; move your butts, move the

room, move the air and I got some killer players to do that. When it works, everyone gets what they came for. If you want to dance, you can dance. If you want to sit there and listen, you can sit there and listen, but everyone finds the space and gets down. We sculpt the show so we don't take too much of one thing or another. We kind of take you on a ride."



Ryan Montbleau will bring his band to the Pickle Barrel Night Club in Killington.

A Ryan Montbleau show is an experience. There really is something for everyone. You can chill or you can dance but I believe it's all enjoyable. Ryan said, "We've never been a straight party band or just a funk band but we'll throw the dance party, but I'll also make you think, try to feel this whole truth that I'm trying to get across."

Martin Sexton is a big musical influence on Ryan and they've become friends. Ryan said, "He's become one of my heroes." Others for him are; Deb Talan, Paul Simon, Stevie Wonder, Medeski, Martin & Wood, De La Soul. He added, "I've been affected by a lot of music. I don't know how much of that you hear in my music, but it affects me big time."

When Ryan started out, he was playing six nights a week around Boston. He knew when he graduated Villanova in 1999, this is what he wanted to do. He went in a chemical engineering major and came out an English major. Throughout his four years, he was writing a bunch of songs, studying poetry and playing a lot of guitar. His senior year, he started singing. He said, "When I got out, I knew I wanted to make music. It all formed as I was getting out of college. I had no doubt this is what I was going to do." Ryan has worked various jobs in the past but it was just a means to an end. He added, "It was all to figure out how to do music. Music was always the number one."

He played everywhere he could when he was starting out. He played open mics, sports bars, Harvard Square, on subways, TGI Fridays, Starbucks. He said, "Whatever awful gig I could get, just to do it, all while working my day job. Eventually he started working with a guy who put him out on the road. He added, "That's when my first band got together. We did 10 years, in a van with a trailer, doing 200 shows a year."

Over the last two years, Ryan has put out four EP's: "Wood," "Fire," "Water" and "Air." Just last week they were released as one, full collection with two bonus tracks. Ryan said, "That's been a labor of love for the past few years that's just been totally released to the world. I'm already starting to work on the next one. You can find that and him on all the social platforms and on his website www.ryanmontbleau.com.

Ryan said it's all about connections. "If a tree falls in the forest and nobody hears it, does it make a sound? I can write all these great songs that I think are great but if they don't connect with anyone, it doesn't matter. You almost like to think you're this artist in a vacuum

and you don't need feedback but screw that, I need to feel that people feel it. There's nothing like moving the air in a room together and feeling something together with these songs. That's the whole thing. I try to be aware of what's going on in the room, be in the moment. The best performances are in the moment."



Rockin' the Region
By Dave Hoffenberg

"We've never been a straight party band or just a funk band but we'll throw the dance party, but I'll also make you think, try to feel this whole truth that I'm trying to get across."



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Rutland County Humane Society



PERCY

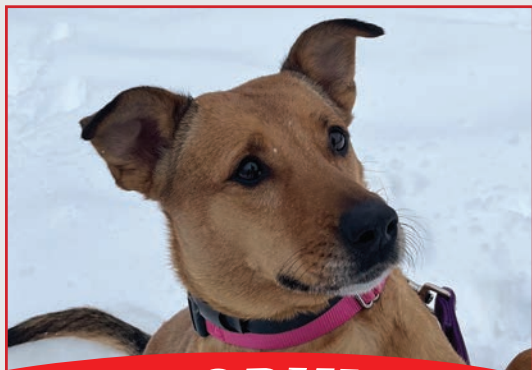
Percy got all dressed up hoping for a Valentines date, but sadly it never came. Percy's perfect home would include another playful dog, and loving people that like to train and give him yummy treats! Percy is amazing with other dogs, and befriends every dog he meets! His sweet and loving personality will quickly win you over too! If you are a feline free home and want to adopt this handsome boy go to our website spfldhumane.org and fill out an application or call 802-885-3397. March 28 at 1 p.m. we will have a Zoom on separation anxiety in dogs. For more information check out our Facebook Springfield Humane Society.

This pet is available for adoption at

Springfield Humane Society

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

***Open by appointment only.** spfldhumane.org



SOPHIE

I'm a 5-year-old spayed female. I'm a real sweetheart that came to Lucy Mackenzie not too long ago. Lots of things have happened since I've been here, but most importantly, I've made lots and lots of human friends. Adult people are very important to me and I'm happiest when around them! I've lived with a few different families in my young life and would love nothing more than to find my final forever home. What I envision (and need) is a home where I'm the only animal (I don't do well with other dogs or cats) and also a home where there are no children.

This pet is available for adoption at

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society

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& Thurs. 12-7 p.m. • lucymac.org

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Winston—4-year-old. Neutered male. Pit bull/boxer mix. Brindle with white. Winston is pretty shut-down in the shelter environment. He has done well around other dogs and cats.



Carlos—9-month-old. Male. Cattle dog mix. Brown/white. Carlos needs someone who will give him the structure and exercise he needs. He is an affectionate boy.



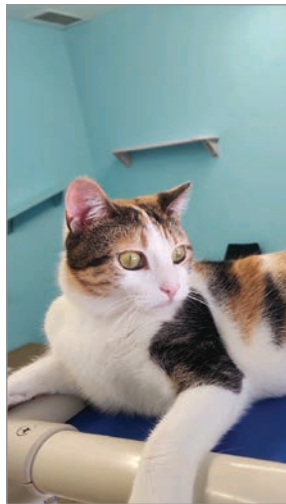
Naya—6-year-old. Spayed female. German Shepherd dog. Black and tan. Naya loves everyone and greets you with a tail wag. Naya needs a home without other doggies.



Nitro—1-year-old. Male. Lab/Pit mix. Black. Nitro is a sweet and goofy boy. He does best in a structured routine. He has done well with children.



Foxy—3-year-old. Female. Pit bull mix. Tan and White. Foxy is a happy and charming pup! She will greet you with butt wiggles and a very happy tail! She will need regular walks and hikes.



Petunia—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Calico. Petunia loves to explore everywhere and everything.



Zoey—5-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic medium hair. Brown torbie w/ white. Zoey does well with other cats. She enjoys purring on your lap.



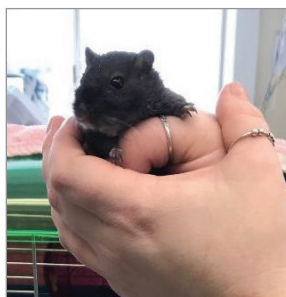
Softy—1-year-old. Female. Holland lop. Calico. Softy and Pyeball have been very well socialized. They have lived with kids and did well.



Pyeball—1-year-old. Female. Holland lop. Black and white. Pyeball and Softy have been very well socialized. They have lived with kids and did well.



Jimmy—2-year-old. Female Gerbil. Tan. They like to eat seeds, fruits, vegetables, and even insects. They both like to be petted.



Choo—2-year-old. Female gerbil. Black. They like to play with their toys. They like to eat seeds, fruits, vegetables, and even insects. They both like to be petted.



MAX

Max—4-year-old. Neutered male. Lab mix. Black with white. Everyone loves a happy-go-lucky pup whose favorite place in the world is with his people. Max has lived with both dogs and cats, and he did well with both. Max does not handle being alone well. He loves to be with his people.

All of these pets are available for adoption at

Rutland County Humane Society

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Tues. - Sat. 11-5 p.m. for adoptions

***(By appointment only at this time.)**

Closed Sun. & Mon. • www.rchsvt.org

Make sure your pet has identification

Losing a pet is a very emotional thing. It's really important that all animals have identification so they can be returned to their owners. An ID tag on your pet's collar is the easiest method. The tag should include your name, address, telephone number, and the pet's name. If there's extra space, the phone number of the veterinarian is also a good idea. If you move, make sure you get a new tag for your animal with your new contact information. Some companies embroider your pet's name and phone number on the collar. Pets can also be microchipped. Many humane societies and veterinarians have a scanner which identifies if an animal has a microchip. If there's a microchip, a phone call is made to identify the owner. You must update your registration with the microchip company if you move.

Cosmic Catalogue

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Aries

March 21 - April 20

It's all about you this week and what it is that you want out of your personal and domestic life. Things are really changing for you after a period of being a little bit dazed and confused. The important thing to remember is, you don't have to have all the answers, you just need to keep moving forward. Rather than obtaining more information, it's time to act on the information you already have. Intuition is everything now.



Leo

July 21 - August 20

Looking at life from a big picture perspective can help you see any problems with a different point of view. If you've got to a stage where you might be wondering about your lot in life, you can either take action to improve things or dwell in a pit of emotional turmoil about it. If you choose to look at things from the bright side, the sky supports you now. Be open to opportunities, even if they involve effort on your part.



Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

This could be an exceptionally refreshing and joyful week for you as the Aries New Moon happens alongside your personal planet Jupiter. If your current lust for life has been reduced to Netflix and domestic duties, ask yourself – am I even living? Any limitations or frustrations you may be feeling can easily be addressed with that one simple question. So, if you're not living your best life, then it might be time to set it on fire in all the right ways.



Taurus

April 21 - May 20

Much of the exciting astrology of this week is happening in the background of your life. Thus, meditation and reflection will help you navigate the shifting tides ahead. What do you want out of your professional life or your life in general? Do you need to make adjustments? Do you need to get out of the passenger's seat and into the driver's seat? Whatever you choose to do, your powers of attraction are strong now, so choose with intention.



Virgo

August 21 - September 20

Do you need a change in your fortunes? This could be financially, emotionally or just in need of more support in general. If that's what you need, then be honest with yourself about it. Talk to someone you trust in either a professional or personal setting. It might not seem like it, but if you can get out of your own head about the problems you've got, there's quite a lot of people around you willing to help.



Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

Who am I? What kind of life am I leading? These may be profound explorations as Pluto leaves your sign for the first time in fifteen years! At the same time, your domestic and relationship life becomes infused with potent sky weather. All of a sudden, you may not quite feel like the lone mountain goat you've been for such a long time. Have a little fun this week and you might be surprised by how quick everything changes.



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

The luckiest New Moon of the year arrives for you this week. It really is a "make a wish" type of energy. That said, be careful what you wish for. This isn't a warning, but more about defining what it is you really want. There's a lot of luck on your side right now so you don't want to go for the low hanging fruit. Instead, go for the proverbial jugular and watch your life change in dramatic and exciting ways.



Libra

September 21 - October 20

Fresh starts and new beginnings are now possible in all kinds of relationships – personal or professional. Your challenge is to become less of the diplomat and take action on the things you want – or don't want. No one is coming to save you and no one can read your mind. If you want something, it may be a case of God helps those who help themselves. Sounds harsh compared with your usual method of operation, but it's the medicine you need now.



Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

This week, and the next few months, will introduce you to the kind of powerful and profound changes you'll embody over the next two decades. So, if you're feeling uneasy or damn well frightened, it's not surprising as not everyone gets to experience Pluto in their sign. But here you are, beginning to build a solid set of wings that will see you soar like an eagle. Make a few choices and changes now that will put the wind back beneath your wings.



Cancer

June 21 - July 20

So much of the astrology right now impacts the top half of your solar horoscope, encouraging you to think more "big picture" or about your worldly ambitions rather than your emotional or personal life. A New Moon in your life direction zone, plus, active Mars in your sign suggests that stars are truly aligning for you. The feeling is, what you want also wants you – believe in that. You just need to go out there and claim it!



Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

The sky is potent for you this week as Pluto begins a lengthy process of excavation in your home, family and domestic life. With time, this process will likely ricochet through other areas of your life. Profound changes and revelations will be a part of this story. As your ruling planet changes signs, you might see your past and your history from a new angle. Relationships are something to lean into as well, there's quite a bit of support for you there.



Pisces

February 21 - March 20

If you're feeling totally nourished and all warm and fuzzy, then it's not surprising as your stars are really great now. Sure, Saturn brings an element of weight and responsibility but what is life without the chance to flex your muscles a bit? A New Moon in your money zone may bring a flush of cash which may also give you a little bit of wiggle room to have more fun and enjoy yourself a bit more now too.



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

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Don't get caught in the details

It's here! The new world that has been promised for some time has arrived. The Aries New Moon kickstarts the astrological New Year. Pluto arrives in Aquarius for the first time in 200 years. Finally, Mars completes his extra long tour in the busy Gemini that began August 2022 and cools off in Cancer for the next two months.

To say the landscape is changing is an understatement. As chapters close, new ones open and it is actually quite exciting.

That said, change can be daunting and uncertain and generally speaking, hu-

mans are not too fond of change. It's a case of the more things change, the more they stay the same. Life is funny like that. With an influx of cardinal energies this week, it would certainly be wise to set an intention of directionality, adjust one's sails and embrace this new cycle. Look toward the distant horizon, even if it's not yet in sight, and trust in your ability to get from where you are to where you want to be. Don't get too caught up in the details, just go in head first, knowing that if you believe in your abil-

ity and have a little bit of faith, you'll get there.



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

← Bears: from page 8

numbers of bears killed by hunters and the causes of human-bear conflicts were also studied. The results echo those of several other studies conducted in the U.S. and Canada demonstrating the negative impact of hunting large carnivores on controlling negative interactions with humans or livestock. According to the authors, "Programs promoting coexistence between people and wildlife, including education, capacity building, and management of unnatural food sources are likely to be the most successful at reducing conflicts between people and bears."

Several independent studies show that bears generally avoid people when natural food is available to them. In Ontario and many U.S. states bears are hunted primarily with bait. In Vermont, baiting bears is prohibited but other unnatural attractants, such as unprotected corn fields or beehives, bird feeders, and accessible animal feed may attract bears just as effectively.

Because bears are opportunistic feeders these practices reinforce and condition them to seek unnatural food sources. This is especially pronounced in the spring when bears emerge

hungry from hibernation, and continues into the summer months as they forage for the calories necessary to fatten up for the winter. The data affirms that "there were indeed greater rates of conflict between bears and people ... after the initiation of the spring season."

Hunting bears is ineffective as a conflict deterrent and may make the problem worse. The authors conclude: "A suite of measures promoting coexistence including

hunted and killed in the last couple of years. Many hunters use the excuse of reducing bear conflicts as justification for the hunt. But research clearly proves that to be wrong. Close to half of the bears killed in Vermont each year are females, many of them probably have cubs or yearlings. When these orphans lose the protection and guidance of their mothers, they may become the very "nuisance" bears we hear complaints about.

A recent extensive study, using data from 2004 through 2019, concluded that the most effective way to manage bear and human interactions is through coexistence and proper management of attractants.

attractant management, education, enforcement of regulations on securing attractants, and local capacity building for management of conflicts will help to ensure viable populations of carnivores while limiting the potential negative effects on human safety and livelihoods."

In Vermont, 20% of the bear population has been

There is much to consider when it comes to killing and managing these animals, including social dynamics, habitat loss and fragmentation, the impact of climate change, and the role of human behavior. I urge Vermont Fish & Wildlife to consider this science seriously when recommending policy.

*Jennifer Lovett,
Starksboro*

The unsung music of birds

With spring creeping closer, our year-round avian residents such as cardinals and titmice are already raising their voices. But there's more than one way to make music, and birds have evolved means for using everything at their disposal to fill our forests with whistles, twitters, and booms – no voice needed.

Early spring is the perfect time to catch a bug-eyed, comically plump creature demonstrating birds' potential as instrumentalists. In March, male American woodcocks stake out turf along the edges of forests and in clearings, where they put on a show each evening, shortly after sunset.

Their performance has three acts, combining visual and auditory cues. First, a minute of urgent, nasal *peent* calls from the ground. Then a spiraling, twittering flight upward. And, finally, a steep descent accompanied by rapid, chirrupy sound. The first sound is vocal—videos abound online of woodcocks throwing their heads back and beaks wide to produce a *peent* call, which seems to be a whole-body effort. Once the bird takes off, however, that airy twitter is created by the three foremost primary feathers of its stubby wings as it beats its way skyward. These feathers are narrower and stiffer than the rest of its primaries, with greater space between them. During the display flight, they act like the reed in a clarinet, vibrating rapidly to produce a high-pitched sound. Interestingly, the same feathers on females and immature males are not as narrow, probably because they don't need to use them as noisemakers.

Musical feathers can do more than serenade a potential mate. If you've ever startled—and been startled by—a mourning dove, you'll know they make a distinctive high-pitched flutter on takeoff. Like woodcocks, they have specialized noise-making feathers, but for the doves this sound acts as a built-in alarm system that may momentarily confuse predators — and let other

doves know it's time to skedaddle. Though it sounds to human ears like doves make the same panicky whistles every time they take off, experiments have shown that other birds can recognize the difference between a casual takeoff and a hawk-induced flight.

Whistles aren't the only sound feathers can make. Another secretive, round-bodied bird, the ruffed grouse, performs a "drumming" display that uses the entire wing—and serves to both mark his territory and attract mates. Drumming begins in late spring. A male grouse finds a good log to stand on, fans his tail, and flares the namesake ruff of chocolate-colored feathers around his neck in a collar that would make Shakespeare jealous. He stretches to his full height, pauses as if to gather his strength, and begins to pump his stumpy wings in what looks like an attempted clap. He quickly accelerates, and what starts as a few weak *whuffs* quickly builds to a hearty *whumph*-ing, a noise akin to the chug of a gas-powered mower. Each whumph is the sound of air collapsing into the tiny vacuums created by the bird's whipping wings. During a single 10-second performance, a ruffed grouse might beat its wings 50 times, reaching a peak speed of almost 20 beats per second.

Of course, feathers are just one of the tools birds use to make noise. Big, hard beaks also have great potential as instruments. The most obvious example is the staccato stylings of woodpeckers. By taking advantage of the natural acoustics of hollowed-out snags, even the little downy woodpecker can fill the forest with its territorial announcements. But birds don't need extremely specialized pecking hardware to send a message: ravens, with heavy but general-purpose beaks, are an excellent example. Dominant females will often follow-up their "knocking" call with a loud bill snap. The champion of beak-based communication must be the African shoebill – a.k.a. the "whale-headed stork" – a 5-foot-tall bird with a truly massive shovel-shaped beak. When it rattles its bill, the resulting sound is like machine-gun fire.

All of these unsung (literally) sounds illustrate an important aspect of evolution via natural selection: it works with what it's got. Feathers' primary purpose, in evolutionary terms, was probably insulation and, later, enabling flight. Likewise, beaks did not originally arise as biomechanical castanets. But communication is essential for both survival and reproduction, the twin imperatives of evolution, and sound is a very effective way to communicate. All the attention goes to the vocalists, but bird bodies are full of musical potential: a fact that evolution has exploited with aplomb.

Kenrick Vezina is a freelance writer, naturalist, and raconteur based in the Greater Boston area. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the N.H. Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



The Outside Story
By Kenrick Vezina



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Things are heating up

I was finishing up a run the other day when my neighbor motioned me over to his house. I walked across the street and met him in his yard where he proceeded to pull out the name and number of a tree service that I had inquired about the day before.

I thanked him and was ready to head home, but he insisted that I see his new motorcycle that was parked in the garage. I'm not much of a motorcycle guy, but he was obviously excited, so I obliged him.

We walked around the side of his house and headed into the garage where I saw his beautiful new Harley Davidson. I circled the shiny specimen and asked a variety of questions that he was more than happy to answer.

Once the excitement of that conversation settled, I couldn't help but notice how warm it was in his garage. I finally inquired where the heat was coming from, thinking he might have a wood stove or electric heater running. He laughed and then sheepishly admitted that his garage was heated on the same system that heated his house.

We finished our talk and then I headed home. As I walked back, I couldn't help but think what a luxury it would be to have a heated garage.

My garage is not heated. I don't mind that much, other than the fact that I have a room above the garage that suffers because of it.

When I originally moved into my current home, the room above the garage was a main selling point for me. It was spacious and well-lit and screamed music studio, which is something I'd always dreamed of having. I have a ton of music equipment and every gadget you can imagine, but these external items do not equate to me being an accomplished musician. But I have a lot of fun trying.

So, I made half the room into a music studio and the other half a lounging area with a large leather couch and big screen television. A few years later, my son became a drummer and a bass player, so I made room for his kit as well as our growing number of guitars and basses.

However, there was one problem: whenever it got cold, that room felt like a refrigerator. I could turn up the thermostat, but I quickly learned that, given the poor design and lack of proper insulation, the

room barely held the heat.

Over time, I went up there less and less. Conversely, my son, who is never cold, slowly took the space over and made it his domain. He played music up there, watched his TV shows, and hung out with his pals whenever they came over.

Soon, my son was inviting friends from his music class over to jam since all the equipment to make noise was readily available. In a way, I felt alienated from my dream, but deep down I was happy he had a creative space to explore in.

Occasionally, when I heard something recognizable, I'd go up with my phone and video them playing. I have a fun backlog of videos that clearly shows my son's progression from barely capable of functioning on an instrument to being a legit musician.

I can't tell you how many burgeoning and wannabe musicians have visited my home, but it's been in the dozens. Most have been average, but occasionally a kid would come over who had legitimate chops.

There were a few times when some girls would show up. They have generally been singers and often much better suited to the activity than the boys. The worst scenario is when you get some kid who thinks he can sing but clearly can't. Those sessions tested my patience more than anything else.

Nowadays, the jamming has dissipated a bit as other interests and the ability to drive away in a car have made the sessions less frequent. I guess the room above the garage served its purpose. Maybe I'll take it back when he finally leaves, but not until the heating situation is fixed.

This week's feature, a mini-series called "Daisy Jones and the Six," is a fictional story about

one of those ragtag garage bands that actually makes it to the bigtime.

Based on the best-selling book of the same name, "Daisy Jones and the Six" imagines a Fleetwood Mac-type trajectory both in story and character. Set in Los Angeles during the 1970s, each episode traverses the seedy music scene that exemplified the era. But it also delves into the creative forces that help manifest memorable art.

If you love music and enjoy the interplay of characters as they look for meaning and purpose, definitely give this series a try. And it doesn't hurt that the songs are really good.

A rockin' "B+" for "Daisy Jones and the Six," now available for viewing on Amazon Prime.

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



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Dream of snow

Floating along, wiggling your body to the rhythm of the ridiculously buried natural features that only two days ago would have absolutely ripped a nasty core shot into your bases. But not today. Today, you cannot see any of that and are just floating through the woods, grabbing all the fresh, untouched you can at a speed that would make Lewis Hamilton proud. It is glorious, the fresh powder sitting atop everything and anything, a dream world where the white blanket is so thick you begin to wonder how Mother Nature ever came up with the idea.

But you don't have time to think about that, as there's so much snow the trees haven't often been trimmed this high, especially since you're skiing in places that you only get to go a few times in your lifetime. You've got to focus, protecting your face from the branches whipping around you. It's not a regular snowstorm on top of a sad base, it's a multi-day storm on top of a very good base.

And then — poof! One turn sends you

deeper into the snow that you could possibly have imagined. You feel like perhaps you have jumped off the diving board into a pool of goose feathers, but even that doesn't describe the feeling of floating along until you sink all the way to a bottom that isn't really there anyway.

Your weight gets shifted into the front, fast and hard as your skis pause for a moment in the poof while your body keeps going. Maybe some would call it a hole in the otherwise perfect snow, a curve in the landscape that is now so buried in snow it matches the rest of the terrain. The blanket is so thick it has changed the topography of the landscape. What had rollers only days ago, is now a blank slate.

And so you poof. That magical feeling of getting pitted into snow so deep that it sits in your lap, or hits you in the chest or wraps itself around your neck and over your head. A luxurious reminder that snow is just a variable form of water and moves in pretty much the same way when there is enough of it. Which we of course don't see

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Livin' the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

Bulb flowers: Extending their bloom time

When the second half of March rolls around I start checking my flower gardens looking for signs of future flowers. I can usually see something making an attempt to burst forth.

In my gardens snowdrops win the prize for blooming first. They are a bulb flower so the cold of winter provides the dormant period that they need. The warmer weather forces their blooms. My snowdrops are in a protected area and late March is when they come to life. I planted them in a section near our bird feeders. On a sunny day I like to bring a chair over there and read. My "feathered friends" entertain me. When they get "chatty," I can't resist looking up from my book to see what is going on.

Soon after the snowdrops burst forth the hellebores (Lenten rose) appear. I have two colors of that flower, cream and deep mauve. It's exciting to see color after the white snow of winter. It's a sign of things to come!

An assortment of colors is indicative of spring. That happens when crocuses come into bloom. Among the color choices are: yellow, blue, purple, lavender, cream and variegated. Planted in large groups they are striking. They require little maintenance and natural spreading provides even more color as years go by.

Dwarf irises are one of my favorites. The "Katharine Hodgkin" variety with blue as the dominant color and blotches of yellow is a flower that I look forward to seeing every year. They are an early bloomer like the

crocuses.

Bulb flowers have a short life span but there is always another type to follow what is currently in bloom.

In my garden the daffodils are next to burst through. They are available in early, mid- and late season varieties. I especially enjoy those with one color on the petals and another color for the cup of the flower. Among the two-color daffodils choices are: yellow and orange, white and orange, pink and orange, white and yellow. Some varieties even have ruffled edges, which are a striking feature. In spite of all the fancy options my favorite is a basic yellow daffodil

because they are like a burst of sunshine after a cold dark winter.

More color is abundant once hyacinth and tulips come into bloom. The fragrance of hyacinth is something I look forward to each year. I place a group of them near the city sidewalk to be enjoyed by people who walk by. Pink, blue, apricot and yellow are my favorite colors. Those shades show off nicely in the garden.

Tulips are also available in early, mid and late varieties. They can be enjoyed a few weeks longer when you take advantage of those options. There are probably more tulip colors than any other bulb flower. You can grow double blossoms and even ruffled tulips.

Muscari (grape hyacinth) is another attractive blub flower. Pink, blue, purple and white are your color choices. They create a drift effect when planted in large groups. Placing the blue variety in front of yellow

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Looking Forward
By Mary Ellen Shaw

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Living the Dream: from page 25

too often around here. I mean, three interrupted days of a snowstorm without any other “weather events” in between? Almost two feet of snow in three days— midweek? It was almost too good to be true ... which is why it had to rain on Friday. Which meant we had three days to ski as much dream powder as possible. Three days to do all the things, to ski all the trails and to spend as many hours searching for the white room as possible.

It's exhausting, these powder days with poof moments. We're more used to a few inches of dust on a nice firm crust rather than this fluffy, deep snow. It was like the K-Cloud got stuck overhead and forgot what it was doing for a moment. Not that I'm complaining for an instant, but man, was this past week a variation of Mad River Glen's motto. It wasn't skiing if you can, but when you can. And oh man, did we ever. From bell to bell with granola bars in our pockets, we skied as much as we possibly could and were amazed to find fresh, untracked snow on each and every single run. We had to move fast. Not because there were people taking all the powder, but that Mother Nature would be. If we didn't ski it now, the quarter-inch of expected rain would ruin everything.

It's funny, you know. They say we only dream of those big fluffy powder days but I dream about the frozen ungrooved snow, too. Maybe they are more like nightmares where your entire body is vibrating instead of floating, but that variability is part of who we are. You have to ski the hideous in order to understand the sweetness of the float. You have to go down the darkest of tunnels to see the light at the end of it. Otherwise, how do we know how far we have come or how far we still have left to go?

Skiing is life, we know this. And every day, every condition, every run, every turn teaches us new things about ourselves and the world. What happens when we're floating along through life, having the most wonderful time, we sink up to our waist and get pitted? Shouldn't that be a beautiful, poof moment of glory rather than a dark time of sadness and frustration?



Photo courtesy of Marissa Sherman
Skiers enjoyed the bountiful snowstorm that brought close to two feet of snow in three days.



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Killington Valley Real Estate welcomes Laura Derderian

Killington Valley Real Estate has a new real estate agent — Laura Derderian. After more than a decade of success providing executive support in the investment management industry in the Boston area, Laura looks forward to directing her client-focused mindset and keen eye for detail toward her new role at one of Killington's premier agencies.

Born and raised in Massachusetts, Derderian holds a B.S. in marketing with a minor in Communications from Plymouth State University (formerly Plymouth State College). Derderian, her husband Arra, and their three children recently moved to Killington, and have quickly immersed themselves in Killington's vibrant and engaging community. In addition to her work with Killington Valley Real Estate, Derderian works part-time at Killington Daycare and as a substitute teacher at Killington Elementary School, where she also volunteers with the Trailblaz-



Photo courtesy of KVRE

Laura Derderian

ers youth ski program. Her three children attend Killington Elementary School, and actively participate in the Pico Ski Team, the Killington Sharks Swim Team, and the local youth soccer and baseball programs. The Derderian family belongs to the Pico Ski Club, and Laura and her husband were instrumental in the recent development and construction of the ice rink on River Road.

"We are so pleased to have Laura on the Killington Valley team. Her professional experience, attention to detail and commitment to the Killington community will strengthen our position in the market and ensure her success," said Bret Williamson, principal broker of Killington Valley Real Estate.

With its strong focus on the Killington area, Killington Valley Real Estate is your go-to resource for any questions you might have about renting or purchasing property in Killington. Stop in and say hello to Laura or call 802-422-3610 to learn more.

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← Playing field: from page 8

abide by the same requirements as public schools, including requirements such as transparency of budgets, accreditation of educators, and practicing non-discrimination with regard to race, gender, religion, special needs, etc. If certain public or independent schools do not want to abide by such requirements, they are free to find other means by which to

fund their operations — but they cannot demand the use of taxpayer funds to do so.

Currently before the Vermont Legislature are two bills — H.258 and S.66 — which address the issue of continuing the town tuition program while operating within the legal requirements of the Vermont Constitution (Ch. 1, Art. 3 — "... no

person ... can be compelled to ... support any place of worship ... contrary to the dictates of conscience"), as well as the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Carson v. Makin* (requiring that any state that publicly funds independent or private schools to also fund religious private schools). These bills reform the town tuition program in ways that respect local control,

historic academies that were created by legislative charter, and align legally with both the United States and Vermont Constitutions. Please let your legislators know that you support the idea that all institutions which rely on taxpayer funds should play by the same rules.

Mark Koenig, Vergennes, VSBA Board Member, AN-WSD Board Member

← Looking Forward: from page 25

or pink flowers really shows off their charm. The bulbs multiply giving you more each season.

Alliums are unique as they can be tall or short, come in white, yellow, pink, purple or blue and bloom from spring until mid-summer depending on the variety. I have cranberry color alliums whose clusters look stunning against the petals of light colored flowers arranged in a pretty vase.

Keep in mind that critters like bulbs as much as we like the flowers. There are numerous ways to lessen their damage such as planting each bulb in a wire cage, using critter repellents such as garlic or red pepper flakes. But I take my chances and do nothing. I always see evi-

dence that bulbs have been removed but the critters are kind enough to leave plenty to be enjoyed in the spring. I plant over 100 bulbs each fall and that increases the odds of being rewarded by lots of color in the spring.

I plant over 100 bulbs each fall and that increases the odds of being rewarded by lots of color in the spring.

You will need to wait until next fall to plant your spring bulbs. But soon you will have the opportunity to take a look at some public gardens and get ideas for your own garden next spring.

Any unusual bulbs, which can't be found in local garden centers, should be ordered by June. Most places will not ship your order until it's

planting time in Vermont.

Enjoy the array of garden colors which will be coming our way soon!


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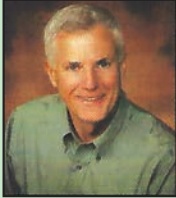
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LaHart:

from page 9

March 7 in front of guests and members did result in my directing her to take her issue outside the facility. She left and did not return. She was upset, I provided her the option of resigning. She was not dismissed. She is AEMT who has supported EMS as the head of that program. She is an asset, and I understand her passion with KSAR, however, she is not allowed to disrupt the operations of the organization. She has tendered a resignation, and I accept it with reservation.

Jen Robinson dismissal: I dismissed her as result of several negative interactions. While a passionate outdoor and certainly qualified outdoor guide, she has not provided the organization with any documentation as it relates to technical rescue and ability to teach. She has continually questioned officers of the department in front of the group. While she did apologize to Mr. Schlachter, I am not accountable to her and refuse to be interviewed by her. I pleaded with Mr. Schlachter, Mr. Blumenthal, and Mr. Coppock to reign her in or I would dismiss her. On the 7th she was rude to our guests, Mr. Giolitto and Mr. Montgomery. I dismissed her for disrespectful behavior that jeopardizes order and discipline.

I have not bullied anyone.

With regards to delivering of discipline. Killington Fire and Rescue Services is divided into three programs. Fire, EMS, and SAR. Each program has a head. SAR is headed Mr. Schlachter. Yes I advised him to dismiss her and collect her equipment. Should Ms. Robinson want to appeal that decision, I would be the first point in the chain prior to going to the town. She had opportunity to appeal it and chose not to.

Due process is outlined in town policy, and she is an At-Will Employee. As the chief of the organization I took an appropriate action based on behavior.

As the
chief of the
organization
I took an
appropriate
action based
on behavior.

Paragraph 5: I was aware of the meeting March 7. I set the evaluation of equipment so that SAR members were present. It is my belief SAR members feel that I must run my decisions by them for approval. I am sure Mr. Giolitto and Mr. Montgomery can attest to the professionalism displayed by Ms. Robinson and Mrs. Corielle.

My wife Leslie was present and admittedly misspoke. I have been told that Mr. Giolitto and Mr. Montgomery also cleared the air after I corrected her. The town is aware that Leslie is assisting me with the administrative side of the files. She is an office manager and has experience with personnel matters. I have briefed the membership on her roll several times. Mr. Schalchter and Mrs. Corielle are aware of that. They chose to remain and reenforce the personal attack.

The claim that the team must accept the chief's directives is true. I have issued two directives only one effects SAR. That directive was posted in February regarding the public safety building traffic flow pattern. The other was turn out gear which only effects Fire and EMS. Emergency services is complex and rules are on going and consist of Administrative Procedures, Operational Guidelines, and other regulatory compliance. The lack of movement toward forming those for SAR is a mitigating factor in why I placed the team out of service.

The March 10 meeting I stand by the fact that not adhering to standards and policy is grounds for possible dismissal or suspension. I have replaced Mr. Schlachter as the head of SAR. I elected to do that shield him as a volunteer as I knew the decision was unpopular. Additionally the claim that I have no SAR experience is not totally true. I have SAR as relates to Seaborne rescue, missing children, and rough terrain off airport crash rescue. I am currently certified as an incident commander, ICS 300 and 400, Officer 3, Instructor II, and NREMT. I have commanded high angle

extractions and confined space rescue. I am more than qualified to be a branch manager for a rescue and incident commander. On March 6, I demonstrated proper command transfer to Asst Chief Schlachter.

The allegation that I dismissed women in leadership rolls is false. Mrs. Corielle resigned. She was not dismissed or the town would have been aware as evidenced in the case of Ms. Robinson. Mrs. Corielle made a choice as is her right. She was the only program head to resign. As evidenced by the March 8 email to Mrs. Corielle by Mr. Riquier, I had heard my own rumors that she quit and her status was unknown to me as noted in the email.

That the environment is toxic for women is false. Mrs. Corielle was appointed by the town with my endorsement as the head of EMS. She was invited, accepted and unable to attend due personal demands to be part of the EMS gear appropriations as women were under represented with procurement. Another female member was engaged and made a recommendation.

Ms. Robinson is not a formal leader. I have not empowered her in any form to leadership. It is a carryover from transition. She is a leader as Vice President of the corporation. The corporation holds no power or authority with KFRS operations or training.

The soliciting of males for classes is false. All training is posted and no females have applied for any classes. Additionally, to ensure the widest dissemination the opportunities were emailed to the membership body.

It is my recommendation that SAR continue as the state has competing demands. However, the rules, clubhouse environment, and clique established by my predecessors, has no basis for the service they wish to provide. It is a liability.

In the interest of public safety, member safety, and town liability I stand behind my comments.

Chris LaHart, Chief
Killington Fire & Rescue Services



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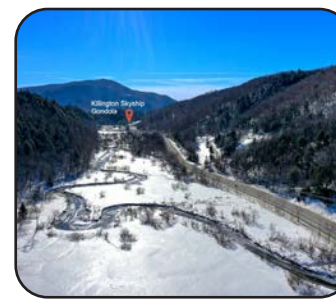
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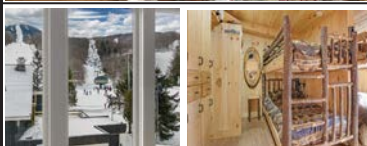


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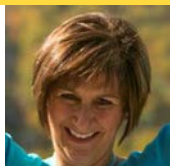
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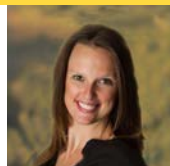


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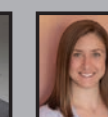
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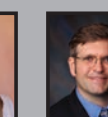
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